

**Advisory Council  
Petals from the Past  
Jemison, Alabama  
November 5, 2019  
Minutes**

**Welcome:** Sondra Henley, AC Chair, opened the meeting at 10 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the November meeting. Each member present introduced themselves and took a number for a door prize.

Sondra handed out a sheet of all dates for the Advisory Council 2020 meetings. She also gave each person a card to put any questions about recording hours for Kerry. We will have a program on using the ACES Dues Tracker so please bring your Master Gardener Membership Chair. Since it is cold and miserable in February, Sondra suggested a Crock Pot Lunch asking us to sign up to bring a crock pot, bread, cheese, or dessert that day. The next meeting will be on February 4 at 10 a.m. at Petals from the Past. Please let her know.

Sondra thanked everyone who brought food and helped set up for this meeting.

**New Officers:** Sondra Henley reported that we should have had a nominating committee at our August meeting. Since we have not had a nominating committee, she reported that she was willing to serve another year as were Fletcher Harvey as Vice Chair and Elouisa Stokes as Secretary. Sondra asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Jim Wakefield made a motion to accept these nominations and Jim Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Sondra also reported that Debbie Boutelier from Autauga will serve as Parliamentarian.

Myra Lassere reported that a committee to help associations with their technology was set up by the AMGA and made recommendations. As a result, Robert Page will be doing Quick Books training in the upper, middle, and lower part of the state. Please contact Sondra if you are interested in hosting a training class.

Please contact Sondra Henley if you are interested in hosting such training. The facility needs to have access for 10 computers.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting and the August 6<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved as emailed. Devonne Ellis made a motion that we accept these minutes which was seconded by Andy Stout. They were approved unanimously.

There was a long discussion about putting the minutes on the web as soon as Elouisa edits them. It was decided to send the first draft to Sondra who would disseminate them as soon as she and Harvey and Kerry saw them but they would be marked DRAFT until they were approved. She is going to talk with Sue Khoury our web master about rules for web access.

**AMGA Board Report:** Michael Thompson, president of Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA), gave a report from the Board of Directors. He reported sad news that Bob McNabb, Alabama's Mary Lou McNabb's husband died on Sunday. She is at 2060 Dug Hill Road, Brownsboro, AL 35741.

The board formed a committee of Myra Lassere, Sondra Henley, Devonne Ellis, Frieda Romanchek, and Sue Khoury to look at the Conference Manual and changed the name to Conference Guidelines. There will no longer be a Fundraising Chair at the AMGA level. All fundraising will be done by the local host. However, the host must get approval to ask any state-wide or national companies. That approval will come through the Vice President and Treasurer. The committee also asked to receive the

conference after action report within 30 days. The profits will now be split 50-50% between the state and the local host. When a conference is over, the host will send the records to the next conference host (usually two years away). The board is still looking for an Assistant Treasurer to help Roger Clark. Fletcher Harvey asked everyone to pray for Roger as he heals from extensive surgery, as well as for his wife Beth.

Devonne Ellis asked that we please send nominations for awards early because the conference is early this year. She also said the categories for the Newsletter Award have changed. 1. Associations with no web access; 2. Associations with fewer than 59 members; 3. Associations with 60+ members.

**ACES Report:** Kerry Smith thanked Blount County for the great Fall Seminar they put on.

Kerry asked who was receiving the Vol Ops bulletin she sends out every month. Most of us were receiving it. She has changed the format to Mail Chimp. If you are not getting it, email Kerry with your email address. With the changes at Extension, this bulletin is trying to give us real stories about real folks within the Extension community. Sondra said she would send the latest one to everyone. While Pathways is a journal of what we do as associations, Vol Ops is a bulletin of people we interact with. Kerry would like every association to send at least one story a year. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Check your junk mail if you have not received the Vol Ops bulletin.

#### **Open Discussion:**

Margaret Culley from Capitol City Association said they are going to have some name tag pins made that say "Mentor for their members." The name tag pins cost \$2 for 20 of them. She wondered if other associations would like to have some also. Sondra said she would email the address of the company when Margaret sends it to her.

Kerry gave out the annual Survey of Associations. Kerry needs the information by the start of the new year. One new theme for Extension this year is "return of investment." This is a quantitative amount for what we each do as Master Gardeners. For instance, if you plant trees, we can breathe better. That is a return on investment.

Kerry again suggested that we each check the newest Master Gardener Intern applications to see what the interns have to include to be an Intern Master Gardener and what they hope to accomplish from the classes.

Autauga County has put together a cookbook which was available at the meeting.

Kerry Smith's Steering Committee has put together a Resources Page on the ACES website. Please check it out. It has 3 ways to mentor new interns.

Ellen Hall of Cullman County said they have been using Yahoo Groups which said they were sending junk mail and dropped them. They changed to the ACES Web page for Cullman County but it has to be ADA compliant and Cullman County Association does not have anyone to do so. /suggestions were to call Yahoo and explain the situation. Another suggested a gmail account. Lee County has its own website and puts their newsletter in it for \$75 a year.

#### **Conference Announcements:**

1. **2020 Conference** Judy Stout reported that the conference will be held on March 30, 31, and April 1 at the Renaissance Riverside Hotel in Mobile. The Festival of Flowers will be held the weekend before our conference and the Renaissance Hotel has agreed to add the special conference rate early if folks want to come for that, too. Cost for the conference will be \$160 and there will be a cash bar on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be 3 concurrent sessions every day and their theme is "Gardening with Vision." Please plan your Silent Auction item which should cost

about \$50. If you prefer, money can be sent and Mobile will put together the item. You may bring it to the February AC meeting.

2. **2021 Conference** will be held in Anniston, AL April 20-22 with Calhoun County as hosts. The theme is “How Does Your Garden Grow?” They are planning two tours including one to the Master Garden Club House and the Long Leaf Botanical Garden.
3. **2022 Conference** folks are making progress for the conference to be hosted by the Capitol City and the Central Alabama Master Gardeners.

**Announcements:**

Sondra reminded us to send information we learned at this meeting out to your association.

After a 13 minute break to honor the great job Ann Scharko has done the last two years, Kerry began a talk about the ACES Web site. Sondra will send the link.

Kerry pointed out that our purpose is to educate everybody in Alabama about gardening. She said you can find a webinar you are interested in along with other resources. Just check mgaces.edu and go to Resources. All Extension programs must include a return on investment. She suggested we check out ANR 1155. Her explanation of how the hours are reported was very informative and helpful. There were lots of questions and answers.

Sondra Henley closed the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Elouisa Stokes

Advisory Council Secretary