

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2022

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The AMGA Advisory Council met on February 1, 2022, at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. The meeting was called to order by Advisory Council Chair, Deborah Boutelier.

WELCOME

Deborah thanked Deborah Harris (Blount County Master Gardeners) for organizing the refreshments. Calhoun County and Limestone County Associations had items for sale and there were 40th Anniversary T-shirts available for \$5.00 each.

Council members were reminded that updated contact information is needed for each county association.

The purpose of the Advisory Council was reviewed. Members serve as a liaison between the local association, state board and Program Director to bring questions, concerns, and other issues for discussion. It is an opportunity to network and serve to identify people who would be willing to serve on the State Board and in other positions.

The April meeting will be an opportunity for a round table discussion of concerns identified in the November 2021 meeting

ROLL CALL There were 26 Associations represented. There were 37 members and 27 guests attending for a total of 64 in attendance.

MINUTES The November 2021 minutes were sent by e-mail. Sheila Bolen moved for approval of the minutes, as written. Second by Harriett Jackson. The minutes were approved.

AMGA REPORT Myra Lassere, AMGA President, encouraged members to edit contact information in the Volunteer Service Report (My Page) if they have not received an electronic/paper copy of the January 2022 *Pathways*. If a list of current contacts is needed to make corrections/additions, contact Patricia Peoples (amganewsletter@gmail.com)

Myra Lassere welcomed Ron Mercer from Lawrence County Association, a newly formed group of Master Gardeners.

There are new appointees:

Webmaster: Caroline Etheriedge

PATHWAYS Apprentice: Terry Sheffler

Transformation Garden Chair: Roger Clark

Cookbook Committee: Sondra Henley

The AMGA Board has proposed moving the Fall 2022 -Seminar to Auburn.

The Advisory Council will compile a list of Plant Sale dates and locations. Members were encouraged to submit their plant sale information which would be published on the MGA website and in *Pathways*.

AMGA CONFERENCE Devonne Ellis, AMGA Vice-President, encouraged members to register for the 2022 AMGA Conference as soon as possible. The conference, sponsored by Capital City and Central Alabama, will be at the Embassy Suites, May 2-4, 2022. Margaret Culley (Capital City Association) and Janice Jackson (Central Alabama Association) provided additional information.

Early Bird registration until February 28, 2022

Regular Registration, March 1-31, 2022

Late Registration, April 1-20, 2022

Meals are included in the registration. Guest meals should be paid for with meal choices indicated. Guest names are needed as they will need a ticket to enter. Snacks will be available at the Train Shed. Parking is available during the day at the city lot behind the hotel. T-shirt deadline is March 31, 2022.

Thank you to Mobile County and Calhoun County for items for the Silent Auction. Cash donations are appreciated to fill in some “gaps” in certain items.

2023 Conference-Tuscaloosa, AL

Speakers have been identified. They are working on a schedule and will be asking for donations. The Conference is April 3-5, 2023, at the Bryant Conference Center.

2024 Conference, Baldwin County

Planning is in progress.

ACES REPORT

Emily Bornstein, Volunteer Training Coordinator, presented for Kerry Smith, Program Director.

Emily has been in this position for 2 weeks.

APT's *Spotlight on Ag* series will highlight “Grow More, Give More” on February 24, 2022, at 9 pm.

Harriett Jackson presented a proposed Mission and Vision Statement from the Steering Committee. Members were encouraged to send comments/suggestions to Harriett (hwdrrl@yahoo.com) who will compile and forward to Kerry Smith.

Amanda Redman reported from the Steering Committee on the Social Media project, “Zooming Zinnias.” The name has changed to “Zooming Zinnias & More.” Seeds will be available for distribution at fairs, Farmers Markets, Plant Sales, etc. Notify Amanda Redman (amandar991@aol.com) with seed requests.

LMGA General Discussion

Advisory Council Representative: There was discussion about the duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Council Representative. In addition to previously mentioned responsibilities, representatives are responsible for taking information back to their associations and sharing with the group. If unable to attend a meeting, the representative should notify the Chair or Secretary and assure someone attends in their place. Each association gets one (1) vote. Additional information is available in the SOP.

Deborah introduced new officers, Vice-Chair, Skeeter Sims (Calhoun County) and Secretary, Amanda Redman (Blount County).

Dues Tracker: Mary Howe, AMGA Membership Chair discussed the Dues Tracker changes. If needed, the Treasurer or President should send an e-mail to mary.howe67@gmail.com requesting access. It is important to update information on “My Page.” Lifetime memberships (\$150) should be sent to AMGA Treasurer, Sunita Graves.

QuickBooks: Cecelia Adams, AMGA Assistant Treasurer discussed the use of QuickBooks for bookkeeping/budgeting. There was discussion about the advantages and challenges as well as other tools that could be used. The April meeting will provide an opportunity for discussion of what each county is currently using for bookkeeping/budgeting. For questions, contact Cecelia Adams at adams2cs@gmail.com or call/text 904-910-7764.

AMGA Treasurer, Sunita Graves, reported that checks should be made out to AMGA only and should include the name/email address of the person submitting the payment. She will acknowledge receipt of the payment if this information is included. Information needed is number of members and new Lifetime memberships.

Jason Powell, Petals from the Past, stopped by to welcome the group. He reported that Chilton County is currently at 800 chill hours for the peach crop which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the amount needed.

The next meeting is April 5, 2022, at 10 am at Petals from the Past. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.

Submitted by:
Amanda Redman

Advisory Council Secretary