

AMGA Advisory Council

Minutes

November 2, 2021

Sondra Henley opened the November meeting of the AMGA Advisory Council at Petals from the Past in Jemison, Alabama at 10 a.m. after a short social time. Someone brought Italian squash to share; Limestone County Association brought notecards to purchase; and Calhoun County brought blue bird houses and banjo bird houses to purchase. If you are interested in buying birdhouses, call Skeeter Sims at 757-560-3885 or skeetere2c@aol.com or Linda McDaniel at 678-427-4788, lamty@bellsouth.net.

Sondra introduced Michael Durdin, head of the Agricultural Center, located in Chilton County. This complex will be built for all the agricultural needs including horse shows, dog shows, cattle shows, RV shows, boat shows, meeting space, livestock stalls, and 2 show arenas among others. With all the rain in the last year and the Covid epidemic, building this is taking much longer than anticipated. They hope to have Phase 1 open by 2023. It is expected to be a draw for folks across the US.

Elouisa Stokes, AC secretary, read the roll call. Twenty-five associations were present.

Approval of the minutes. Elouisa Stokes reported that she had received two changes to the minutes as distributed. Under the AMGA Board Report the sentence "It should save \$500 for AMGA" should read "It should cost \$500 for AMGA." Under Announcements "Community Education Coordinator" should read "Outreach Coordinator." Myra Lassere made a motion that the corrected minutes be approved. Debbie Boutelier seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Sondra thanked Elouisa for the work she has taken these two years as secretary.

Deborah Harris presented the slate of officers: Debbie Boutelier for Chair, for Vice Chair, as Secretary, and Fletcher Harvey as Parliamentarian. Sondra asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Harriet Jackson made a motion the we accept the nominations. The motion was seconded by Jim Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

Myra reminded everyone that dues were due by December 31 and should be sent to the treasurer, Sunita, as soon as they are accepted. Please have your treasurer put the association name on the check so Sunita can post it to the correct association. Roger Clarke recently received a lifetime membership from Jefferson County for his long work with that association. Associations need to inform the AMGA treasurer of any others who have been given that.

Roger Clark gave an enthusiastic speech about the new Transformation Garden at Auburn. He said this garden will be the best addition to Alabama in our lifetime. He challenged Master

Gardeners to give toward a Master Garden Way, a pathway throughout the gardens. He offered to come to any association to talk with them about how valuable this garden is. He also reminded us that there are naming rights. Just contact Auburn to find out more about them. This will be a world class facility.

Debbie Boutelier thanked Autauga County for their Fall Seminar which had over 100 visitors. Everyone who came thought the speakers who presented were the best any seminar has had.

Myra Lassere, president of AMGA, reported that AMGA now has a new host for their web site. You will need to access it as alabamamga.org. The host is Go Daddy and it was just brought on line today, November 2. She also reminded folks that the articles for the Garden Pathways can only be 250 words long and only one picture. The newsletter deadline is December 2 but the newsletter will not be sent until about mid-January. We have nominations and an assistant treasurer who will be soon announced.

The 2022 AMGA Conference will be held on May 2-4, 2022 in Montgomery. They have their pamphlet and vendors complete. There will be a registration form in the next Garden Pathways. They are looking for other silent auction donations, especially money to fill in gaps. They are offering vendors a one-day show on May 3. Registration online is preferred but paper registration is available. Contact the association for more details. Janice Jackson, janice.jackson.al@gmail.com or Margaret Cully, mtc1@knology.net

The 2023 AMGA Conference will be held on April 3-5 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. It will all take place there so there won't be lots of moving around. The theme is "Home Grown in Alabama. Felder Rushing will be one of the speakers.

Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES): Kerry Smith reported that she had a few 40th Anniversary large t-shirts left. Contact Kerry if you need one. She also gave out some small goodie bags from the party.

Project Search for Excellence would like to have some more nominees. You can find the rules at mg.aces.edu/resources. The deadline is January 1.

A follow-up on the Strategic Assessment Survey taken last year is still in the works. You may hear more about that survey in the coming months. Please respond if asked.

One of the things that came out with Kerry's Steering Committee was that the Master Gardener mission statement is boring. They are now working on a more creative mission statement. This group is now having monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. The link is in the latest Vol Opps Bulletin. All members should have received the Vol Opps Bulletin last week. Please check your computers "trash" or "spam" to be sure it is not in those files.

The state-wide project for the next few years will be finishing up the food and transitioning to Horticultural Therapy. Harvest for Health will be complete in 2023 although the hope is it will be continuing within associations.

The Steering Committee, who brought us Zooming Zinnias, is working on another project to excite people about gardening. It may include another seed giveaway. Look out for this new development.

The Document Library has had a lot of technology glitches but ACES is working hard on making on-line shared material between associations. They hope to have the first draft available in a couple of months.

Intern fees for registration have gone up. Early registration, November 3 through December 19th will be \$150 and after December 19 the cost will be \$200. Classes for 2022 will be virtual with hands-on materials added by local associations and Extension Agents.

Announcements: Every association should make sure their officers and AC personnel are marked on Dues Tracker. This includes the President, Treasurer, Garden Pathways authors, AC Representatives, and Alternates. Please have your person who does the Dues Tracker, fill in who your association officers are. Any time you change officers or AC representatives, change them on Dues Tracker.

Sondra thanked Lyn Web and her fantastic committee for the wonderful job they did decorating our tables and laying out the food for our pot luck lunch. It was incredible.

Sondra turned over the gavel to Debbie Boutelier who will serve as chair for 2022.

Sincerely yours,

Elouisa Stokes

Advisory Council Secretary