

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2023

The Master Gardener Advisory Council met on May 2, 2023, at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. The meeting was called to order at 10 am.

Debbie Boutelier explained she has been elected/installed as AMGA Vice-President. Skeeter Sims, Vice Chair Advisory Council, has assumed the duties of Advisory Council Chair.

Roll call: Thirty (30) county associations were represented.

The minutes from February 3, 2023, were approved as published on the AMGA website.

AMGA Report: Devone Ellis, AMGA President, welcomed those attending and encouraged members to bring others to meetings.

AMGA Conferences: Debbie Boutelier, AMGA Vice-President, reported that the 2023 Conference was successful with a profit of approximately \$28,000. Wanda Smith, Tuscaloosa Master Gardeners, reported there are still some outstanding payments due, so the final amount is pending.

Baldwin County will host the 2024 Conference, "Paradise Found", at the Daphne Civic Center, April 22-24, 2024. They are working on fundraising. Pre-conference activities will include a tour of an adaptive garden. There will be a coastal menu, highlighting Baldwin County. Silent Auction items are needed. Further guidance will be provided regarding the need for items donated or monetary donations.

There is a fee associated with PayPal and PlanetReg. It was suggested that payment for future conferences be mailed. Early payments are appreciated. Registration can be made online with checks mailed.

The 2025 Conference will be hosted by Autauga County. Sondra Henley reported they are in the beginning planning stages. The conference will be April 3-5, 2025.

Debbie Boutelier encouraged associations to consider hosting the 2026 Conference.

Extension Update: Kerry Smith, State Master Gardener Program Coordinator, discussed plans for sharing stories of what Master Gardeners are doing in their communities and promoting their efforts locally and statewide. Efforts are ongoing to pare down 24 categories into something easier to use.

Sondra Henley, Autauga County, shared that Autauga County has prepared a booklet, "Gardening Buzz for Autauga County" which presents information about Master Gardener projects and activities in Autauga County. It is to be made available to realtors, at plant sales and to the community. Copies were available for \$5.00.

Emily Bornstein, Volunteer Training Coordinator, stated there will be a ZOOM meeting on May 22, 2023 at 1 PM for a Graduate Student Project by Marianna Harding, “Connecting People and Plants”. Three (3) CEUS are available for those who participate. Further information will be forwarded once approved by the IRB.

Registration for Intern Training will be June 1 – June 30, 2023. Interested individuals may call their local Extension Office or scan the QR Code on the flyer. Fall classes will be from August 10-November 9, 2023. A map of locations for fall classes will be sent. Classes will be hybrid, including in person and online.

Leadership Training is planned for August 7, 9:30 am-3:30 pm and August 8, 2023, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. The format will be Webinar. Training materials will be provided. “Watch parties” will be scheduled around the state for those who choose to gather to view the Webinar. Additional information will be provided prior to registration, which will be from June 15, 2023-July 13, 2023. The cost is \$25.00 which covers training materials. The Webinar will also be available to watch from home.

A Statewide Intern Graduation will be held in Auburn sometime during the week of December 11, 2023. Attendance will be optional. Badges will be distributed at this time.

Contact Information Privacy: Skeeter Sims discussed the sharing of information which is an important part of Advisory Council. AMGA/Advisory Council has a commitment to sharing information safely and correctly. Representatives may specify if they are willing to share contact information with other counties.

Transformation Garden: Roger Clarke discussed the Transformation Gardens. He and Anthony Yarbrough are willing to talk with members about the garden.

Future tax Workshops (Sales Tax and Incorporating): Roger Clarke provided further information about groups becoming a 501c3, incorporation and sales tax. He encouraged considering this as it is needed for donations, grants, etc. The latest tax ZOOM is available on the website.

Announcements: Sondra Henley, AMGA Nominating Committee Chair, encouraged members to notify nominating committee members if they would be willing to serve as an officer or on a committee. She also discussed the benefits of having contact information available and giving interns the option of opting in/out of sharing information. The AMGA Nominating Committee consists of Sondra Henley, Chair, Doc Sheffler and Phyllis Clay.

Next Meeting – August 1, 2023, at 10 AM at Petals from the Past.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Submitted by:

Amanda Redman

Advisory Council Secretary