

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The AMGA Advisory Council met on November 7, 2023 at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. The meeting was called to order at 10 am by Chairman, Skeeter Sims. There were twenty-six (26) counties represented. Minutes from the August 2023 meeting were approved as published on the AMGA website.

Attendees introduced themselves. An updated membership list will be distributed at the February meeting. New information should be forwarded to Skeeter Sims at skeeterE2c@aol.com.

The Advisory Council Nominating Committee (Carol Dorsey, Lyn Webb and Amanda Redman) submitted the following names for 2024-2026 officers: Skeeter Sims- Chairman, Tony Wallace-Co-Chairman, Cynthia Kershaw-Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of officers was accepted, as presented.

President's Report-Devonne Ellis

Devonne Ellis recognized Interns from Jefferson County, Etowah County and Lamar County.

Etowah County received a gift card for having the most people present at the meeting. Autauga County and Calhoun County also received gift cards for having the second highest number of people present. Members were encouraged to invite others to attend the Advisory Council meetings.

Vice-President's Report-Debbie Boutelier

Updates on Alabama Master Gardener Conferences were provided.

2024-Baldwin County-April 22-24, 2024

The conference will be at the Daphne Civic Center. The theme is "Paradise Foun" with the focus on the lifelong gardener. There will be garden tours, workshops, and vendors. Additional information will be available in the next Pathways. Registration will begin in January.

2025-Autauga County

Sondra Henley reported plans are underway for the 2025 conference “Fountains of Knowledge: Learn, Grow, Share” which will be April 3-5, 2025. The conference will be held at the First Baptist Church-Prattville, AL.

2026-MGNA, Limestone County and Madison County

MG of North Alabama, Limestone County and Madison County will host the “Gardening to the Moon and Back” conference which will be held May 6-8, 2026. Committees are forming and they are looking for a venue.

Extension Update-Kerry Smith and Emily Bornstein

The Strategic Assessment documents are available on the AMGA website and include the revised Mission State and Vision.

She also discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Extension Master Gardeners. The MOU (formerly MOA) has been a part of Intern registration and training for many decades. From its inception, the intent was to establish a common ground for everyone in the Program. The additions list specifics about Intern training and certified Extension MG volunteer status levels. It now includes a middle volunteer level in the service report (Alum). Levels will include:

- Certified Active – paying dues and volunteering/reporting hours
- Alum – paying dues but not reporting volunteer hours
- Certified Inactive – not paying dues and not reporting/volunteering.

The MOU includes a process for Interns to follow if there is a need for delayed certification. The MOU will “pop-up” on initial login this January. Members will be asked to review and sign. In subsequent years, there will be a reminder to review, if needed.

Emily Bornstein reported that registration is now open (November 1- November 30) for the 2024 Spring Extension Master Gardener classes. Classes will be held January 18-April 11, 2024.

Intern Graduation is December 15 in Auburn, AL from 11-1. Interns who choose to attend will be recognized for completing the class. Lunch is provided free for Interns. Guests’ lunch will be \$20.00. There will be optional ours from 9-10.

A Master Naturalist Course (22 modules) has launched. The course is online. It is continuous and registration can be at any time. There will be field trips scheduled later next year. The cost is \$135.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Projects Committee is accepting applications for the Project grant. Information is available on the AMGA website. Questions may be forwarded to Sheriyn Osborne.

Amy Weis, Jefferson County Master Gardener President, discussed the need for the ability to download an accurate membership list, to assure all membership information is available in the download and to accurately calculate hours for "Reach for the Stars". She has discussed with Kerry Smith and a Programmer at Auburn and this is available and would cost approximately \$1100. If Associations are interested in supporting this financially, please contact Amy Weis amym426@gmail.com by January 31, 2024. She will also explore this with the AMGA Board.

Harriett Jackson encouraged members to submit suggestions for names for the Transformation Garden Pathway to mg2023MBT@gmail.com.

Jason Powell, Petals from the Past, thanked Master Gardeners for their support and for sharing information about Fall gardening. He recently participated in three (3) Master Gardener programs. He thanked Sherilyn Osborne for inviting him to the Blount County Master Gardener Fall Conference.

The meeting was adjourned. A covered dish luncheon of soup, salad, and dessert was served.

Submitted by:
Amanda Redman, Secretary