

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2024

The AMGA Advisory Council met on May 7, 2024 at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. Vice Chairman, Tony Wallace called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. There were twenty-four (24) counties represented. Autauga and Blount counties each had 5 people present. Minutes from the February 6, 2024 meeting were approved as published on the AMGA website.

### **President's Report-**

Devonne Ellis thanked the Baldwin County Master Gardeners for a good conference. She was greatly pleased with the attendance by the AMGA members.

### **Vice President's Report-**

Debby Boutelier encouraged the conference attendees to complete the evaluation survey. Feedback is important in planning the next conference. The Baldwin County Steering committee is finishing their evaluation of the conference and will compile information for the Autauga and the Tri-County County Conferences.

- Sondra Henley reported that Autauga Master Gardener members distributed flyers for the 2025 AMGA Conference and there were additional flyers for the Advisory Council. The conference will be April 3-5, 2025 at the First Baptist Church, Prattville. The theme is "Fountains of Knowledge: Learn, Grow, Share."
  
- Soozie Pline, chair for the Tri County 2026 AMGA Conference, reported the theme is Gardening to the Moon and Back. It will be May 6-8, 2026 at the Westin Hotel in Huntsville. They are in the process of securing speakers. She also stated there would not be any breakout sessions, only main sessions.

### **Extension Update—**

Emily Burchfield distributed cards with information on the Monthly EMG Update, which is the last Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. There will not be an update in May due to Memorial Day Observance. Emily stated the name badges will be damaged when hairspray or perfume comes in contact with them.

---Registration for the Fall Intern classes will be from June 1 to June 30. Classes will start on August 8. The state wide graduation for spring and fall interns will be December 16 in Auburn.

Kerry Smith distributed the 2023 Master Gardener Impact. Information obtained from the Service Report provided material for the Impact report. The information is located on ANR-3061.

---The AMGA Fall Seminar will be at Auburn University School of Nursing on October 10. Registration begins August 1.

---Kerry presented the opportunity for an AMGA/EMG Merchandise Store online which would provide an opportunity for associations to purchase signage, tablecloths, and other various items. There was interest shown by Advisory Council representatives who had questions about the store. This proposal will be presented at the State Board meeting in June.

---Kerry also answered questions about the Service report: 1) there is not a place to report contacts from plant sale events 2) clarification on the procedure to change someone from “alumni” to “active.”

### **Newsletter Committee**

Terri Scheffler reported the summer issue of The Pathways will have a different look. There will be three sections: Pathways—with state officers’ reporters; Happenings—with local reports; and Conference information—with information on the state conference in the January issue. The link will be on the website and a person will have the ability to access each section on the one link.

### **Announcements**

Sherilyn Osborne reported the Blount County Fall Seminar will be October 3 at First Baptist Church, Locust Fork. Registration is still open; only 100 have registered and they would like 200.

Susan Hagen encouraged associations to utilize the Speakers’ Bureau for not their programs but for use by other organizations in their area. For Master Gardeners working on the advanced certification, signing up of the Speakers’ Bureau is a great way to obtain presentation hours.

Doc Scheffler from the Nominating Committee asked for help in identifying nominees for new board members and officers for the 2025 term.

Cicilia Adams State Treasurer requested members to cash any checks from AMGA.

Devonne Ellis introduced new members to the AMGA Board:

Amanda Redman, Treasurer  
Janell Diggs, Board Member at Large  
Kinbery Johnson, Board Member at Large  
Susan Steele, Board Member at Large  
Amy Weis, Nominating Committee

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6 at 10 a.m. at Petals from the Past.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by  
Cynthia Kershaw, Secretary