

ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES DRAFT
August 6, 2024

The AMGA Advisory Council met on August 6, 2024 at Petals from the Past, Jemison, Alabama. Chairman, Edwin (Skeeter) Simms called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. There were 29 counties represented. Minutes from the May 7, 2024 meeting were approved as published on the AMGA website. Skeeter informed the Advisory Council the Hospitality Chairman for the Advisory Council will need to be filled for 2025. He also stated the LMGA Information to the Advisory Council Contact sheet would be requesting information on each association officers' term: year (odd or even), length of term and month the officers begin their terms.

President's Report-

Devonne Ellis recognized the great attendance at the meeting. She awarded representatives who drove the farthest and the association with the most members present, Autauga County.

Vice President's Report-

Debby Boutelier recognized Deborah Marriott, AC Representative from Baldwin County to receive the association's profit from hosting the 2024 conference. Cicilia Adams, AMGA Treasurer, presented Deborah a check for \$22,704.44. Debby had also received the 2024 Conference notebook from Baldwin County which she would be giving it to the 2025 Tri County conference committee.

- Sondra Henley reported on the 2025 AMGA Conference. She had the brochures for the conference and would distribute them to the representatives. The conference will be April 3-5, 2025 at the First Baptist Church, Prattville. To promote an apron preconference workshop, a member of the conference committee showed the finished apron to the members. Registration will begin on January 1, 2025.
- Soozie Pline, chair for the Tri County 2026 AMGA Conference hosted by Limestone, Morgan, and North Alabama Master Gardeners, explained the process for selecting a logo for the conference. She showed the representatives the three logos and colors to determine the one to use.
- 2027 AMGA Conference—To be Determined. Debby is looking for an association to volunteer.

Extension Update—

Kerry Smith announced there were still about 100 spaces left for the AMAG Fall Seminar, "The Transformation Garden," October 10 at Auburn University. Kerry announced two

tours have been added for Wednesday, Oct 9. There are only 80 spaces available for the tours. Additional information will be sent in the confirmation email.

--The Fall Intern class begins on Thursday, August 8. Spring Intern Class registration will begin November 1. The Early Bird registration price (first two weeks of November) is \$150. The registration for the last two weeks of November is \$175.

--Kerry distributed sheets for information on volunteer hours manager, social media manager, local website manager, and projects approval manager from each association. She is planning on meetings with these people this fall.

--Caroline Etheriedge presented information on local associations migrating their local websites to the AMGA website. If an association wants to continue with its on website, its link will be listed on the AMGA website. ACES will provide training for associations' liaisons on migrating the information.

Caroline's contact information is amganewsletter@gmail.com.

--Bill Holland presented a report from 2024-2026 Program Steering Committee established to look at the information from the 2023 working groups tasked with developing a 5-Year Strategic Plan. Bill stated many times steering committees develop a strategic plan for an organization but there is no follow up on the plans. There are four areas EMG Program Committee is addressing during 2024-2026:

- Social media policy and training
- Helpline Coordination and training
- Program Guidelines
- Advanced EMG certification Expansion

--Anita Reeves stated the Program Steering Committee is seeking information on the local associations' use of social media to increase awareness of EMGs. There is a need for social media policy and guidelines to reflect the goals of EMGs.

--Joyce Christiansen reported the committee is seeking information on the process local associations use to determine projects for approval and what forms LMGA's use.

--The information received from the sheets will help to assist the Program Steering Committee in implementing the four specific areas addressed.

At the May 7 meeting, Kerry inquired if the representatives would be interested in an Online store to purchase merchandise to promote Alabama Master Gardeners. Dena Morris (205-310-6817) from Lawrence County presented various types of merchandise to the Advisory Council that she had purchased from Vistaprint. Representatives asked about purchasing individually or through the LMGA's president. She stated county specific items could not be purchased at the AMGA store. Other guidelines for ordering are being developed.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee—Doc Scheffler, chairperson, stated he and his committee have the task of finding members to fill seven state officers' positions to be approved at the 2025 Conference. To educate the AMGA members on the duties of each position, the next three issues of Pathways will provide information on each position, expectations of the position, and contact information for each position for interested members.

Awards Committee—Julie Conrey, chairperson, and Amanda Redman spoke on the importance of submitting award nominees by January 31. Julie also stressed that each association needs to review the requirements for each state award that is posted on the AMGA website before submitting a nominee.

Project Committee—Kate Vogel, chairperson, announced she is looking for people to be on the project committee. Applications for AMGA Projects are due by December 31. Projects are to be submitted online. The committee will meet to discuss the projects via Zoom and select the recipients.

Membership Committee—Rose McCauley, chairperson, reported the updated Service Report is almost finished. It will be launching soon. The revised Service Report will allow the associations to receive information from each other. It will also provide the opportunity for each association to retrieve information easier to create reports, i.e. sort by hours, badges, and pins awards.

Sherilyn Osborne reported there are still seats available for the Blount County Fall Conference, October 3 at Locust Fork Baptist Church.

The Advisory Council will meet Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Petals from the Past in Jemison. There will be round table discussions and lunch. Contact Skeeter to volunteer to bring soups/chili, breads, salads, drinks, or dessert.

A motion to adjourn made by Jim Harris and seconded by Cindy Lindblom.

Submitted by

Cynthia Kershaw, Advisory Council Secretary