

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT
November 5, 2024

The AMGA Advisory Council met on November 5, 2024 at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL.

Skeeter (Edwin) Sims recognized Devonne Ellis, AMGA President, for a special called business meeting to approve the recommendations for changes in the AMGA Bylaws. Debbie Boutelier made a motion to accept the recommendations for change in the AMGA Bylaws. Harriet Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed. (A copy of the changes to the bylaws will be attached to the minutes.)

Chairman Skeeter Sims called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. There were 27 associations present. Minutes from the August 6, 2024 meeting were approved as published on the AMGA website.

Kerry Smith distributed "Ask Me About" buttons and the Alabama Master Gardeners Volunteer brochure to the associations that would be hosting Spring Intern classed. Associations not represented will have them mailed to them.

President's Report

Devonne Ellis reported the Fall Seminar at Auburn was successful.

Vice President's Report

Debbie Boutelier recognized the chairmen for the upcoming state conferences. 2025 AMGA Conference, April 3-5, 2025 at First Baptist Church, Prattville.

- Sondra Henley and Rose McCauley gave an update on the 2025 conference. With the speakers and workshops, there would be opportunities to receive over 10 CEU's. Workshops have been finalized, and the committee is finishing several tours. Jason Powell will be offering a tour at Petals from the Past which will include lunch.

2026 AMGA Conference, May 6-8, 2026 at Weston Town Center, Huntsville, AL.

- Soози Pline announced the committee is working on their budget. The theme is "Gardening to the Moon and Back."

2027 AMGA Conference

Jefferson County is interested, but not definite.

Extension Update—

Kerry Smith

- Devonne Ellis has published an article for the Extension Master Gardeners – [Standing Strong: A Successful Extension Master Gardener Program - Alabama Cooperative Extension System \(aces.edu\)](#) –ANR 3103
- Members were asked to provide information on surveys on the following about their associations.
 - Local procedures for collecting membership dues
 - Yes/No – Should we schedule regular statewide Zoom visits for the groups who work with school gardens – share & compare
- Search for Excellence Awards deadline for submissions is January 1 each year. – Describe and nominate your best volunteer project.
 - See *Search for Excellence Guide*, <http://mg.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/09/SFE-award-guide-from-IMG-2024.pdf>
- A few changes to the EMG Memorandum of Understanding for 2025. If there were no changes, Master Gardeners would not be required to sign for the next year. There were some subtle changes made; therefore, Master Gardeners will need to sign the MOU by January 31. Kerry will send out more information to clarify the changes in advance of the deadline.
- For the counties that have a Helpline office, a table cloth will be distributed to be used to promote the Helpline.

Emily Burchfield

- Alabama Master Gardener Helpline Facebook page has been highlighting local counties and the work of the Master Gardeners.
- She urged counties hosting Intern classes to post on their association's page and have their members share. Early Bird registration (\$150). Deadline is November 15 by 5:00. Regular registration (\$150) deadline is November 30.
- The registration flyer for Intern classes, will need to have the registration link posted in the caption of your post. The URL is not active if clicked on.
- The Alabama Extension Master Gardener Graduation Ceremony will be December 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Auburn. Tours will begin at 9:00 a.m.,

and lunch will follow the graduation ceremony. Other guests will pay their lunch \$25. <https://www.aces.edu/go/2024EMGInternGrad>

Bethany O'Rear spoke on the Grow More, Give More program.

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/about-grow-more-give-more/>

Her PowerPoint presentation will be sent for the associations to use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- EMG Update webinar – Register for free, <https://www.aces.edu/go/EMGMonthlyUpdate>
 - November 25 topic: For Thanksgiving week, we'll celebrate the bounty from Grow More, Give More (GMGM).
 - Edward Pate, Conecuh County EMG, and Bethany O'Rear, Extension Home Grounds REA and GMGM program leader

- Skeeter Sims announced there is a vacant position on the AGMA Nomination Committee. It requires a five-month commitment.
- The round table discussion will be at the February meeting.
- All associations need to send their LMGA Information to Advisory Council Sheet to Skeeter Sims skeetere2c@aol.com or Cynthia Kershaw cbkrshw@comcast.net.

A motion to adjourn was made by Debbie Boutelier and seconded by Jim Harris.

The members enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Submitted by

Cynthia Kershaw, Advisory Council Secretary