

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2025

The AMGA Advisory Council met on May 6, 2025 at the Clanton Recreational Center in Clanton, Alabama.

Chairman Skeeter (Edwin) Sims called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The MG of Walker County Association was given special recognition. With much hard work this association is restarting. After active recruiting, the group has tripled in size. Also, a group of Master Gardeners in Talladega County is working on restarting an association there. Twenty-nine associations were represented. Secretary Cynthia Kershaw informed the group on corrections made to the February 4 meeting minutes. Minutes from the February 4, 2025 meeting were approved.

Chairman Sims notified the council of the need for a nominating committee for the Advisory Council. Anyone interested would need to speak with him after the meeting. The Vice Chairman and secretary will need to be replaced.

President's Report

Debbie Boutelier thanked everyone for selecting her as AMGA President. She introduced the AMGA Board members in attendance.

Vice President's Report

Julie Conrey recognized Susan Hagen the Mary Lou McNabb Award recipient. Susan was unable to attend the state conference.

Julie recognized the chairpersons for the conferences to give a report.

- 2025 AMGA Conference chair Sondra Henley reported the committee was finishing their reports which are due May 15. She will have a full report at the State Board meeting in June.
- 2026 AMGA Conference, Huntsville, May 6-8, 2026, "Gardening to the Moon and Back." Soozie Pine reported that the planning committee is working on the fund-raising aspect and the packet has been approved. Brochures for the Conferences would be available after the meeting.
- 2027 AMGA Conference, Homewood, April 7-9, 2027, "Forging a Garden Oasis." Katherine Ennis reported a venue has been secured and they are in the process of securing speakers.

Extension Update

Kerry Smith

- A handout of the AMGA Conference 2025 Extension Report presentation was provided for the representatives. She highlighted several items including the lack of members reporting their service hours and CEUs. She requested the association to provide the

contact information for the Service Report Coordinator. She is planning a Zoom meeting for these coordinators in assisting and encouraging the members to report their hours.

- As part of the Five-Year Plan, a new fund will be established: the Extension Endowment Fund.
- Devonne Ellis is author of a new ACES publication that highlights teamwork—" Standing Strong: A Successful Extension Master Gardener Program."
- Grow More Give More is expanding. Two positions are available for volunteers in this area: Garden Insight Coordinators and Produce Drop-Off Station Coordinators. The flyers for these positions will be located on the state website.

Announcements:

- Elizabeth York announced the Alabama Extension Master Gardener 2025 Fall Seminar will be September 16, 2025, at First Baptist Church of Columbiana. The Shelby County Association will be hosts. Registration will close at 200.
- Susan Hagen chair of the Speakers Bureau stated there has been interest in programs on various aspects of organizing and conducting meetings. Please contact her at amgaspeakers@gmail.com if you have an idea or would like to assist.
- Sherilyn Osborne announced the Blount County Fall Conference will be October 2. Registration will close at 200. She stated "we are halfway there."
- Sheila Bolen, Pathways editor provided information on Patricia Peoples, long time editor of the Pathways. She is now living in Azalea Terrance in Auburn.
- Kate Vogel, Projects Funding chair, reminded the membership to be considering what project their association could submit for project funding consideration.

AMGA Bylaws Update

Debbie Boutelier gave a presentation from the Document Review Committee. She addressed areas of concern that were presented at the AMGA conference. After review of new language for the bylaws, with revisions, she will present the recommendations at the AMGA Board meeting in June. All updates plus new approved bylaws will be placed on the website so local associations can have them by their July meetings. They will be voted on at the Advisory Council meeting in August. AMGA members can vote by proxy.

The Advisory Council August 5 meeting will be at Petals from the Past in Jemison at 10 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Cynthia Kershaw
Advisory Council Secretary