

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED
April 21, 2026

The AMGA Advisory Council met on April 21, 2026 at Clanton Recreation Center, Clanton, Alabama.

Chairman Tony Wallace called the meeting to order and welcomed the members. He asked for the roll call of the associations. There were 28 associations present.

The minutes from the February 3 meeting were approved with one change. The change will be made and the updated minutes will be posted as approved on the AMGA website.

President's Report

Debbie Boutelier welcomed everyone and announced that all relevant documents are available on the AMGA website, www.alabamamga.org.

All bylaws have been reviewed and will be voted upon at the annual meeting at the conference. If necessary, members may vote by proxy by May 1. Contact AMGA Secretary Amanda Redman at amandar991@aol.com for assistance in voting by proxy.

Vice President's Report

Julie Conrey recognized the planning committees for the upcoming state conferences.

- 2026: Huntsville, May 6-8, Westin Hotel, Bridge Street Town Center
Is filled to capacity. Registrants attending offsite tours on Wednesday should go directly to the tour site where they can sign in
- 2027: Homewood, April 7-9, Rosewood Hall
No report
- 2028: Dothan, May 4-6
Preparations are moving along

Extension Update

Kerry Smith presented several updates.

- The Fall AMGA seminar will take place on October 8 and 9 at Auburn. Registrants can visit the Raptor Center on October 8, and the main event October 9 will provide information on new Transformation Garden projects. Registration opens August 1.
- The American Horticultural Society offers pre-approved CEU opportunities for Extension Master Gardeners. Learn more at <https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-live-series/>
- Association Hours Managers should be on the lookout for an email from Kerry about Zoom meetings. The objective is to learn which dominant activities members are doing, to hopefully ease reporting.

Communications

Send information that needs to be disseminated to Angela Wharton at lswbsn@hotmail.com

Membership

Rose McCauley reported that members that have not paid for 2026 need to be unpublished from the directory on DuesTracker.

Project Funding

Kate Vogel reported that all of the funding of \$16,000 for local EMG projects was awarded, and grants will be announced at the conference.

Endowment

Money in the amount of \$10,402 was distributed from the graduate and undergraduate endowment. Scholarships were presented to 2 graduate and 6 undergraduate students.

New Business

The Blount County Fall conference will take place on October 1, with the theme of "Happiness in the Garden." Registration is now open. Contact Sherilyn Osborne at 205-382-0791 and leave a message.

The suggestion was made that perhaps there would be ways to facilitate Extension Master Gardener Certification to younger people, since many of them are working or involved in raising families. Garden University was mentioned as a self-paced program that is a good introduction to the facts that are part of the Extension Master Gardener program. This is useful for re-certifying prior Extension Master Gardeners or transferring those Certified Master Gardeners who have moved from out of state. There are no service requirements for Garden U, but the program is not a substitute for the current program. Certification would be required upon the completion of Garden U. Information is available on the ACES website, but bear in mind that Garden U will be taken offline for updating and is expected to be available again in July. Some associations mentioned ways of promoting the program and offering activities that are not as physically demanding.

Due to the AMGA Conference and Business Meeting, this Advisory Council meeting was held on April 21 in Clanton. The next meeting will be at the regular time, August 4 at 10 am at Petals from the Past in Jemison.

The meeting adjourned with refreshments and fellowship.

Anne Ness

Advisory Council Secretary