

Outagamie County Master Gardener Association
Members Annual General Meeting
November 17, 2011
Fox Valley Technical College – Agriculture Department

Meeting began at 6:30pm.

The previous month's minutes were approved as recorded.

The first portion of the meeting consisted of annual elections.

President – VP Gail cast a unanimous vote on behalf of the group to have Mary continue as our President. There were no objections.

Treasurer – Mary Learman noted that our current treasurer, Pam Hagen, has done an incredible job for us this past year, however, her term is up. Chris Schaefer has a financial background and has expressed interest in this position. No other nominees came forward. There was a unanimous vote for Chris to fill this position.

Member at Large – Current incumbent, Steve Schultz, was the only nominee for this position. He received a unanimous vote to continue to serve in the Member at Large position.

State Representative – Mary recognized Lynn Coffeen for the nine years of service she has given to this position. Lynn is unable to run again since her term has expired, but she provided a brief overview of the position's responsibilities. There were no nominees, so attendees unanimously approved President Mary Learman to serve as our temporary representative. If anyone is interested in this position, at any point during the year, they are asked to please contact Mary and the vote will be brought to the group.

Speaker - Kevin Jarek provided an overview of the 2012 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, including an historic overview of the event and how the OCMGA involvement might look. The event is scheduled to take place July 17-19, 2012 at Sugar Creek Farm and Heideman Farms in New London, Wisconsin. A general brochure of the event was available as well as a brochure providing details of the various event committees in need of our assistance. Kevin

introduced Ann Marie Karweick who is the contact person for the Family Living Committee and attended tonight's meeting to help provide information about the event. Attendees were encouraged to review the list and decide where they may wish to help. The list includes contact information for each event committee, which is where inquiries can be directed. Web site.

Treasurer's Report – available upon request.

State Representative – Lynn Coffeen. Shared that Bob Tomisch, WIMGA Educational Director, recently passed away. In addition, Ron Richter, who helped to create the Master Gardener Program, and Helen Harrison have retired. Doris Naygar is the new district representative. Brown bag meetings no longer take place at the Extension office, as these are now available online. Check WIMGA. Conferences are set through 2014. Next year's event is scheduled to take place in 2013 – Rock Prairie, 2014 – here.

Education Committee – Gail reported progress is being made on class topics for next year. It is expected that many of next year's classes will be more hands-on. Gail added that Judy Miller will present a slide show on her work in Nicaragua. February we will be reviewing initial plans for the annual plant sale. March's meeting topic will be vegetables, and April will cover the topic of trees.

Three individuals attended the last Executive Board Meeting to present potential sanctioned projects. All were approved. This included a project by Tom Wenzel called On the road with Master Gardeners. Each month, for four months, a different Master Gardener will provide a presentation on the various places/gardens they have enjoyed. For example, Rachel Seppi_ will provide a tour of Montana wild flowers, Tom Wenzel will cover New Orleans, Carol VandeBerg - Vancouver, and Dale Schaber will share his travels on the Ice Age trail.

Fund Raising Committee - Judy Peters reported 2695 bulbs were ordered; 1615 of those were pre-ordered during our OCMGA member bulb sale, making the event success; more a perk than a significant financial benefit. Plans are in place for another Fall bulb sale next year, with longer term plans for this event to eventually roll out to the public. Plans are also underway for a garden item rummage sale in 2012. We will be selective as to what will be accepted for this sale. In addition, the decision has been made to add vendors at our annual plant sale in the coming year. The vendors will be chosen to complement, not compete with the existing efforts of our organization.

Communication Committee: Colleen Reed reported that the committee has developed an email distribution list for people who are not Master Gardeners. The list currently consists of approximately 574 individual and is used to for notification of the various Master Gardener-related events happening in our area.

There is a new section in the member newsletter that will spotlight a different MG member in each edition. If you are interested in being featured so your fellow members may get to learn more about you, please contact a member of the Communication Committee. Those interested are provided 15 questions, of which they are asked to answer only 5. Work continues toward development of a new web site. Web site efforts will eventually become a subcommittee. Anyone interested in participating on that subcommittee are encouraged to notify the Communication Committee. No computer/web experience is needed; just ideas, suggestions, and a willingness to help.

Jessica Wickland provided highlights of her many accomplishment from the past year that have supported the OCMGA. The items included:

- Secured a new projector, so we now have two available for use. Both are located at the Extension office and are available to be checked out
- Obtained a credit card for our program so individuals will no longer have to put items on their personal cards.
- Working on establishing 503C status (non-profit) status, as soon as approval is received from the board
- Developed MG basic training program, including attendance at classes, developing binders, and compiling hours/dues at the end of the year.

These are just a few highlights. A complete list of accomplishment is available and may be requested directly through Jess.

Mary shared that she has a number of educational notices to share with everyone and will be sure to list those in her next email edition of What's Growing On.

There will be no member meeting in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 2012 at FVTC Agriculture Department.

Meeting adjourned – 8:15pm

Attendance: 39

Support Hours = 1hr 45mins (+ travel time)