

## **January 15, 2016. General Board Meeting**

Called to order by Carole Teja, GCMGA President at 10:30a.m.

In attendance:

Carole Teja, Jessica Miller, Wes Nettleton, Becky Wolary, Virginia Schofield, Maria Alleyne, Karen McGinty, Lori Prosser, Jackie Kujawa, Shirley Bohm, Becky Panetta, Jane Burke, Kathy Parent, Tim Daly  
Wes Nettleton, Treasurer presented the 2016 budget. After a question by Karen McGinty on a redlined item, Jessica Miller moved to approve the 2016 budget and Lori Prosser seconded. Motion carried.

Budget was approved.

President's Report -

Next two membership meetings will occur on legal holidays when Extension office is closed, so arrangements were discussed and determined for bringing projector and laptop to meetings for speakers to use. Wes Nettleton will supervise. Carole reminded the group that reservations for meeting space at the Extension Office must go through Sharon Cassidy and that the calendar was crowded due to other groups usage. Consequently, the next General Board Meeting, April 16, will be held at 1:00p.m. Instead of the usual morning time.

Vice President/Program Chair's Report -

Jessica has speakers lined up through May and she is working on securing Felder Rushing as a speaker later in the year. At Becky Panetta's suggestion, Jessica agreed to have July's meeting focus solely on the Photography contest.

Carole Teja introduced the new committee members: Jessica Miller, Vice President; Wes Nettleton, Treasurer; Virginia Schofield, Recording Secretary; Maria Alleyne, Field Trip Chair.

Treasurer's Report -

Wes confirmed that books were audited and the 2015 checking and savings accounts were in order. Turning to 2016 budget, Shirley Bohm, Hospitality Chair, raised question about allocation for Hospitality, noting that attendance at meetings had increased. Treasurer pointed out that expenditure for this committee had been under for last two years, so allocation should suffice. Following a discussion about lunch time meetings, Board voted by a show of hands to only serve hot drinks and water at lunch meetings.

After a question regarding creation of a 'slush' fund for unanticipated expenditures expenditures, Robert's Rules of Order was invoked. Jessica Miller moved we add \$100 to a 'slush' fund category; seconded by Shirley Bohm. Following discussion, Jackie Kujawa moved to take \$250 from reserve and designate as a 'slush' fund. Shirley Bohm seconded. Budget, as amended, was approved via voice vote. Becky Wolary, Past President, reported there would be a meeting next week (week of January 18, 2016) to continue work on new Constitution and by-laws. She did not know if new members would be added to committee.

Extension Agent's Report- Tim Daly thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged members to log their volunteer hours. He discussed participation by several Master Gardeners in the new STEM program started by Gwinnett County Public Schools and looked forward to some day having Master Gardeners involved in all Gwinnett School gardens. He also reported on his recent attendance at a conference held at Rock Eagle on Community Gardens and hopes for even more involvement from Master Gardeners in the future. Looking forward to the spring he noted there will be Farmer's Markets starting back in Suwanee, Snellville, Grayson, Lilburn, and Hamilton Mill and discussed plans for Master Gardeners to increase their presence at each one.

Tim said the Speakers Program is doing well but he hopes there will be more opportunities to come. A new color flyer is being produced to promote the Speakers Program.

Jane Burke raised a question about rotating speakers instead of just sending emails to all those on the list. Tim said he would consider alternate plans for assigning speakers and thanked all who have been participating.

Wes Nettleton expressed a desire for all Community Gardeners to get together to share ideas. Kathy Parent said the Gwinnett County Community Garden Coalition meets quarterly, but that some may not know of this resource and she would work to make sure everyone did. Jane Burke added it would be great if those involved in school gardens could communicate and share resources as well. Carole Teja expressed the hope that the new Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) would address that need. Jessica Miller reminded everyone that April's speaker, Sherri Dorne, will be sharing information on 'Sprouts,' the Master Gardener program used with school children.

Kathy Parent reported that the deadline for turning in volunteer hours for 2015 had been extended until January 29th. She and several volunteers are trying to contact those who have yet to turn in any hours for 2015. Turning in less than 25 hours places an individual on the inactive list. MG Karen McGinty will talk about turning in volunteer hours at the upcoming Monday meeting.

Kathy also questioned the Grant application deadline being in January, stating that a February deadline better accommodated teachers. Carole related several reasons for moving the deadline to January, but promised the decision would be revisited next year.

Tim Daly had to leave the meeting at this point, but related an upcoming opportunity he will have with other county agents to visit the Bonnie Plant Farm in Union Springs, Alabama.

Committee Chair Reports -

(Carole Teja thanked those who sent reports. See attachments.)

Workshops - Due to Susan Varlamoff's health issues no report was sent. Hopefully, there will be a calendar event in February.

Field Trips - Maria Alleyne reported plans in progress to visit Premier Growers, Chateau Élan and a private garden. She asked for suggestions on media exposure for Premier Growers and feedback on including a wine tasting with the tour at Chateau Élan. Consensus was to include the wine tasting. She was asked to keep Susan Varlamoff apprised of dates of planned trips to avoid conflict with workshops.

Weed and Feed - Jackie Kujawa reported no weed and feeds are currently planned. Plan to send only sympathy cards and not get well cards was clarified. Discussion was held on need for parameters for Weed and Feed events. The same people should not benefit repeatedly. All in agreement.

Lori Prosser noted that in addition to assisting Master Gardeners in difficult circumstances the Weed and Feeds promoted fellowship among volunteers.

Public Relations - Faye Sisson was not present. No report given.

Plant Sale - Shirley Bohm reported there was still not a firm place and date. Gwinnett Tech has failed to follow through on planning, but potential is still there for holding sale at that location and she hopes it will work out. She is working on lining up alternative locations. Tentative date is April 30- one day only. Carole Teja encouraged everyone to do something to help with the Plant Sale, stating it is our major fund raiser. Only 23 people potted plants for the last sale. We need to increase that number. Plant Sale Committee meets the first Monday of every month. A plea was made for volunteers to help with Garden Art for the sale. Jane Burke asked about potting soil being provided for those potting up plants. Jessica Miller suggested soil (or money to purchase) could be donated by those unable to pot up plants. Home

Depot and Lowes may have potting soil available at half price for our organization. There will be a discount table at the Plant Sale for less healthy plants and used garden items. Jessica Miller said members will be encouraged to bring their unwanted garden items for this table instead of offering them for meeting door prizes. There will be two door prizes (at most three) per meeting and she will procure those. We have copies of the Southern Living Garden Book and speakers' books to use as door prizes as well. Shirley Bohm encouraged members to suggest locations for plant digs for the sale. Grants - Rosalie Tubre was not present. Carole Teja said the committee meets next Tuesday in Suwanee to finalize the short list of accepted applicants which will be sent to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Hospitality - Shirley Bohm reported the committee plans to try to personally introduce new members to various officers and committee chairs at the monthly meetings. Virginia Schofield suggested Committee Chairs might wear

ribbons on their badges to identify them. Shirley asked for someone to take responsibility for class reunion organization of this year's holiday meeting in November. She said the committee was working on arranging a tour of the old house at MacDaniel Farm Park at the members picnic in September.

Trainee Breakfast - Karen McGinty encouraged donated food items, but said they did not need muffins. A list of suggested items will be prepared for the membership. Decision has been made for volunteers to leave after the mid morning break, consequently lunch items will be sold at the break. Lori Prosser, GCMGA Historian will once again take photos of the trainees as a group and individually.

Website - In Aaron Tulin's absence, Becky Wolary reported that meeting information, as well as recaps of recent speakers, workshops and field trips, is on the website.

Photo Contest - Becky Panetta reported entries for 2015 photographs must be submitted by the first Sunday in June, 2016. Categories for "First time entry," "Phone Photographs," and "Vacation Photos" will be added to the contest. Hazel Berger will conduct a workshop explaining resizing and labeling photographs for submission. Information on workshop will be on GCMGA website and Kathy will include in list serve email.

Seed Exchange - Jane Burke reported it was going smoothly, but participation was low.

Facebook - Jane Burke had volunteered to administer our Facebook page, but deferred to Shannon Pable's offer to take responsibility for same.

Walking tour of Vines Botanical Garden lead by Lori Prosser and Janet Neusinger(?) was announced for February 6 at 10:00p.m. Everyone was encouraged to participate.

New Business - Carole advised that the Executive Committee had met and decided that the President would send out two notices per month, one a week before monthly meeting and one a week after.

Members will need to get information to her prior to those scheduled notices.

At 12:19 Jackie Kujawa moved meeting be adjourned, seconded by Jessica Miller. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Virginia Schofield - Recording Secretary