

MINUTES OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum of board members was not present; therefore, an informal meeting of the RCMG was held at the UT/TSU Extension Offices in Murfreesboro, TN, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with President Ken Roberge presiding.

Current officers present: President Ken Roberge, Treasurer Marilyn Rogan.

2015 Officers present: President Linda Stevens, Vice President Richard Lee, Secretaries Frank and Dee Crawford, and Treasurer Joy Anderton.

Other members that attended: Janie Becker, Jack Smith, Nancy Nelson.

November minutes were not available.

The Christmas party is arranged. Chicken fingers and pulled pork will be provided with members providing side dishes and desserts. No business is to be done at party – only announcements. Awards have been purchased for \$270. There have been seventeen new members certified and seventeen members have recorded more than one hundred hours each. There will be two drawings for \$25 each: (1) people who submitted articles to our newsletter, (2) people who worked in demonstration garden. Nancy Nelson will purchase these two gift cards.

Ken had advice for the new slate of officers as follows:

COMMITTEES: Appoint heads of committees and ask for heads to submit budgets to reconcile with the Association's fund balance. Ask Assn. to approve 2015 budget. Board can approve up to \$00 expenditure without getting approval of Assn. Committee heads can spend their budget which was approved by Assn. If more funds are needed, approval must be obtained from Assn. A list of the fourteen committees and their chairmen has been sent out by Linda Lindquist. Some recipients have had trouble opening this list. Let Janie know if you have difficulty.

Janie stated she has been unable to reach the Webmaster, David Cornwell.

Ken stated DUES are to be paid by January 1, 2015, and will be considered late if not paid by the 31<sup>st</sup>. MEMBERSHIP CARDS are usually printed by the President on Avery smooth edge cards and a free label making program is available on Avery software. The password is changed annually to the Assn. website and is printed in very small letters on the back of each card. Also on the back of the cards are discounts available to members, ex: South Branch Nursery provides 10% discount to MG's.

Ken re EDUCATION: The first quarter of the year has three courses – Garden Basics, 1/22 – 2/19; Master Gardening Course, 1/10 – 3/24; and Winter School, 2/26-

27. Ken suggested that the president and officers be presented to attendees and welcome the attendees sometime during the courses.

COMMUNICATION: Website keeps records; 50% of hits on our website are from Russia. Website needs to be kept up to date. At present Ken and Mark Murphy do this. There is a web blog on the website.

There is to be a FINANCIAL AUDIT due in January.

An annual MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT has to be signed by each certified MG so that a UT representative can activate all in the super to include all under UT's insurance. All new officers need to get on UT website and enter their profiles to indicate they are officers.

There are lots of KEYS TO STORAGE CABINETS. Janie has a list of who has them. We need to assess who needs them and redistribute.

ASSN MEETING SPEAKERS need to be set up for each monthly meeting. Richard Lee stated he is working on the speaker for January meeting.

Ken can put the minutes, agendas and financial reports on a CD for new board if it is needed. (end of Ken's recommendations to new Officers.)

Marilyn recommended INSURANCE be purchased for protection of new Treasurer and any MG holding large sums for this Assn. Insurance will cover criminal charges and attorney's fees. It will cost between \$200-\$500 a year as per insurance agent at 11/13/14 Board Meeting. Bank balance now is \$8,805.

Advocacy Board has WINTER SCHOOL set up. Course costs \$80 if paid by 10<sup>th</sup> of February or \$90 if paid after that. There are 17-20 shifts. If a MG works one, he/she gets ½ off registration fee. Will need two floaters probably per shift (morning and afternoon, both days; 4 total). A display board needs to be completed by our assn. There is a new one that is easy to set up. Linda may have it. Two class topics on Friday afternoon are grafting tomatoes and GMO'S.

The GRANT FOR Veterans Recovery Center was approved at \$2000 for vegetable gardens in 2015. This grant was prepared by Linda Lunday and Marilyn Rogan.

There are discount tickets for groups of 10 and seniors to attend Nashville Antiques and Garden Show January 30-31.

Construction of potting table/bench needs to be completed this year. May use barn wood that Richard Lee can donate. Building a kiosk with unbreakable display cases was discussed. If ~~plexiglass~~Plexiglas it would be costly.

TREES – three planted in orchard. Habitat has not picked up any. Ken wants an American Chestnut for his Winter School session on trees.

Janie proposed using MG GROUP FACEBOOK account to improve communications within our assn. She plans to offer it to the 2015 MG interns.

Our new computer will not hook up with the projector. UT is providing a key code to convert from Windows 8 to 7 to remedy this problem.

The following members request to be on an INACTIVE STATUS for various reasons: Pat Richardson, Larry Richardson, Gina Embry and Ken Kizer.

Mark and Janie are planning a ½ day workshop in 2015 on construction of COMPOST BINS at demonstration garden to provide an educational opportunity for community.

The Advocacy Board is in the process of developing uniform definitions for various types of memberships. At the present time our By-Laws cover this but they could be changed.

There was no old or new business for the Board. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Minutes typed and submitted by Frank and Dee Crawford.