

RUTHERFORD CO. MASTER GARDENER EXEC. BOARD MEETING: February 6, 2018

RCMG BOARD MEETING:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. in the small conference room at the Community Center at the Lane Agriculture Park.
- Officers in attendance: (7) President Jack Smith, 1st VP Jennifer Salter, VP of Education Warren Anderson, VP of Demonstration Gardens Linda Linqvist, VP of Outreach Susie Hawkins, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, and Secretary Lecia Anderson.
- Other members: (2) Keith Miller and Floyd Adams
- Total Attendance: 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jack Smith

- Jack impressed upon the Board members to make sure reports to the Association are given in a short and concise manner in an effort to make meetings less lengthy.
- This month's Association meeting will consist of recruiting members for the various projects planned for 2018. The meeting will be called to order then Rachel will take over.
- We are a 501(c)(3) organization which means we are Federal and State income tax exempt. There was discussion regarding filing an informational income tax return. In 2017, the Board advised Keith that items purchased for resale at the Farmer's Market concessions must be purchased by paying sales tax. Keith questioned this item. Master Gardeners have also sold some merchandise at the Farmer's Market.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lee Etta Cadotte

- There was a problem in Lee Etta's absence at the January Association meeting because some of the members paid \$35 for their dues as a single member instead of \$30. It was decided that it would be presented to the Membership that they could ask for a \$5.00 refund or it can go in the treasury as a donation.
- Lee Etta also brought up Lifetime members who have 10 years of continuous service are not required to pay dues, although most of them do. Susie was told that if she did not pay dues she would not be in the directory, which is not the case. In an effort for clarification, if a member takes a leave of absence that time is not counted towards years of service. There was discussion on contacting inactive members.

- Jack gave Lee Etta \$150 from Ken Roberge for Garden Basics. Lee Etta had received an e-mail from Ken saying there was \$1,330 collected. Lee Etta has only received \$100 from front office along with this \$150.
- Lee Etta mentioned peer financial review needs to be done as outlined in the Rutherford County Guide Handbook. An audit committee needs to be appointed.

VP OF EDUCATION: Warren Anderson

- All the project leaders will be reporting at this month's Association meeting.
- The grape vines have been pruned. Dozens of people showed to help in the pruning and the project was completed in 4 hours. A few of the vines were left untouched and marked so that Dr. Lockwood could use them for training purposes along with the fruit trees.

VP OF DEMONSTRATION GARDENS: Linda Linnquist

- Each individual garden manager will be briefly discussing what they plan for their garden at the next Association meeting.
- Last year the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Saturday were designated as work days. Most people just came and worked individually on their own instead of coming to the work days. A covered frame is being made to go on the shed that will allow us to write what needs to be done in the gardens. It will also be posted on Facebook.
- Due to conflicts, our spring clean up work day will be the last Sunday in March with weather permitting.

VP OF OUTREACH: Susie Hawkins

- Susie will be making sure that the public is aware of our upcoming Plant Swap in April.
- Jack wants to make sure that outreach promotes the Master Gardener program to the general public in Rutherford County. Education of the public is our mission as master gardeners. Keith stressed the importance of the master gardener table at the Farmer's Market. It needs to be manned at all times and is a great outreach tool along with local newspaper and WGNS radio.

OTHER BUSINESS;

- Keith reported that \$500 from the concession sales at the farmer's market is given annually to 4-H toward scholarships for camp. The concession stand has always operated in the black so he asked if the amount that we donate could be increased.

Linda mentioned we might be able to pay toward the camper's t-shirt and bus travel since it is paid for directly by the Extension and not covered by the camper's fees.

- Linda asked how the concession stand supports the mission of the master gardeners. Keith explained that it gives us the opportunity to explain to the patrons the master gardening program and to direct them toward the master gardener table. At the association meeting Keith will be stressing that this table needs to be manned at every market. We have the tools in place but need to better coordinate our efforts.
- Floyd asked that if we have anything that we feel the public would be interested in to please post it to the public Facebook page instead of our private page.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jennifer Salter

- Reggie Reeves would like to have the picnic at his home again this year but would like to have it preferably in early June instead of July. This will be in lieu of the Association meeting. He will also be giving a tour of his gardens.
- Jennifer has contacted the Iris Society, Mary's Greenhouse, Bloomsbury Farm, and Stones River National Battlefield to speak at the Association meetings. Jack mentioned contacting Matt Veer with Colorburst Plant Farm. Jennifer will also get in touch with the Larry Richardson regarding speaking on roses as well as Emily Arnold to speak on houseplants. Susie mentioned Polly Rucker to speak on birds. Also, Rachel is getting in touch with the speaker regarding bat boxes. Linda mentioned Cheekwood and George Bennett from Bennett's nursery in Huntsville. Jennifer also is contacting a speaker on hydroponics.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.