

**West Virginia Master Gardener Association
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
April 6, 2008**

The Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Master Gardener Association was held on April 6, 2008 at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

President, Polly Reynolds, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. There were 72 members present.

The President announced the April 2007 Annual Meeting minutes had been made available on the WVMG Website. A motion was made (John Griggs) and duly seconded (Bill Byus) that the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Master Gardener Board of Directors be approved as written. The motion passed.

In the absence of Treasurer Jan Hargate, John Jett, West Virginia Master Gardener Program Coordinator overviewed the treasurer's report. The report will be on file with the quarterly minutes.

WVU Extension Service Report- none

Executive Committee Report- President Polly Reynolds reported that the Executive Committee had drafted proposed bylaw changes that would allow the organization to move forward on the WVMGA Strategic Plan. It was moved (Midge Hollen) and seconded that the Changes to the Bylaws be adopted as proposed. The motion passed. Members were encouraged to be thinking about possible chairpersons for the two new committees (Membership Retention and Education).

State Conference Committee- Vice President/Chairperson of the State Conference Committee, Willa Izzo reported the following:

May 1-3, 2009 State Conference scheduled at the Ramada Inn in Morgantown, and hosted by the Preston & Monongalia County Master Gardeners.

April 16-18, 2010 State Conference tentatively scheduled at the Bridgeport Convention Center, to be hosted by the Harrison County Master Gardeners.

Publicity Committee- Secretary/Chairperson of the Publicity Committee, Diana Higginbotham, Shared that the WVMG Website is current. Minutes of all WVMGA Board Meetings, the current bylaws and the WVMGA Newsletter are posted there. Members were encouraged to bookmark or make the website a "favorite site" with their browsers for ease in locating. The committee will work to continue to post pertinent information on the website, and promote its use by members.

Voluntary Activities Committee- Pat Izzo, Chairperson, reported that the WVMGA currently has one statewide project, the WV Master Gardener Association Demonstration Garden at the WV State Fair. The WV State Fair will be held August 8-16, 2008. Volunteers are needed to work the Garden. Those wishing to serve on the Voluntary Activities Committee or with suggestions for other state projects should contact Pat Izzo.

Awards Committee- Lee Reger, Chairperson, reported the committee has responsibility for two awards- The Golden Trowel Award and the Honorary Master Gardener Award. This year the organization will be awarding the Golden Trowel Award only. There were no nominations for the Honorary Master Gardener Award. Lee encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the Award criteria as posted on the WVMG website, and to begin to consider making any nominations early for 2009. A suggestion was made that the Awards Committee provide a sample nomination to assist local groups in preparing nominations. It was agreed that the Awards Chairperson would work with the Publicity Chairperson to get samples posted on the website.

2011 International Conference Committee- Lee Reger reported the Conference Planning Committee has a conference budget of \$550,000. and is currently in the corporate fund raising phase. Also, the Planning Committee has developed a strategy using regional coordinators to help with various aspects of conference planning. This list was distributed to members. All were ask to familiarize themselves with the coordinator responsible for their respective counties.

All local groups need to identify potential donors and sponsors, and forward these lists to Lee Reger, John Jett, or Delores Barber as soon as possible.

Delores Barber shared that West Virginia Master Gardeners must have a booth at the March 21-23, 2009 International Master Gardener Conference in Las Vegas. It is critical that we have Master Gardener volunteers there to assist with marketing the 2010 Conference.

Old Business:

Next Meeting of the WVMGA Board of Directors will be held July 12, 2008 at Jackson's Mill. The president reminded those in attendance that board meetings are open to all members and extended an invitation to participate when possible.

Appointment of Chairs for New Committees- Members were encouraged to think about possible chairpersons for the Membership Retention Committee and the Education Committee. Appointments to these committees will occur at the July Board of Director's Meeting.

New Business- none

With no further business and a motion for adjournment (John Griggs), and a second, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Higginbotham, Secretary