

**West Virginia Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 5, 2008**

The Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of the West Virginia Master Gardener Association was held on April 5, 2008 at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

President, Polly Reynolds, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were 37 members present.

The President announced the January 2008 minutes had been made available on the WVMG website. The president called for corrections and /or additions. With none, a motion was made (John Griggs) and duly seconded (Ted Boggess) that the January minutes of the West Virginia Master Gardener Board of Directors be approved as written. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for January through March 2008 was accepted and placed on file.

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. She stressed the importance of Board members familiarizing themselves with the bylaws and bringing a copy to each meeting. She also shared that the proposed bylaw changes were distributed at the local level as outlined in the current bylaws and that members would vote on these changes at the Annual Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2008. 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.

Finance Committee- No report.

At the next Board meeting, the committee should be prepared to make recommendations relative to possible uses for auction money.
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Voluntary Activities Committee- Pat Izzo, Chairperson, reported that the WVMGA currently has one statewide project, the WV State Fair Grounds Garden. The WV State Fair will be held August 8-16, 2008. Volunteers are needed to work the Garden. All Master Gardener volunteers are admitted to the fairgrounds free and can work shifts in increments of two hours. If interested, members should contact Pat or Willa Izzo.

It was moved and seconded that the WVMGA give the Greenbrier Master Gardener Association \$500. to assist with supplies needed for the WV Master Gardener Association Demonstration Garden at the WV State Fair. The motion was passed.

The question was raised that the 2011 International Conference should be considered a statewide project, since this is a state commitment and will require involvement of all local master gardeners to accomplish all tasks associated with hosting an international conference.

After some discussion, the President charged the committee to define what would constitute as a “statewide project” and to come back to the Board with recommendations.

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. Approximately one-half of this will be derived from conference registration, but the remainder must be raised through sponsorships, donations and “in-kind” gifts. 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:

Contribution to the WVMG State Coordinator's Travel Fund- The President stated it has been the pleasure of the WVMGA Board of Directors to make a contribution to the State Coordinator's Travel fund annually. It has customarily been done at the April meeting. It was moved by Jean Dawson, seconded by Ted Boggess that we contribute \$500 to the travel fund. This motion was amended by Ted Boggess to increase the amount to \$600. This motion was seconded, and defeated.

Roger Van Horn moved we contribute \$1500 to the travel fund. This motion was seconded and approved.

New Business- none

Good of the Order:

2008 Annual Meeting- Sunday, April 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting- July 12, 2008 at Jackson's Mill.

With no further business and a motion for adjournment (Ted Boggess), the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Higginbotham, Secretary