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**Minutes of The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

August 12, 2000

Staunton, VA

Attendance

Jim Scibek (Fauquier), Peggy Bouchard (Goochland/Powhatan), Fran Gregory (North Shenandoah Valley), Syd Self (Bedford), Sybil Przybek (York), Gary Bill (Newport news), Marty Klein (Arlington), Kerry Goldmeyer (Chesapeake), Susie McCrea (Montgomery), Frank Reilly (Prince William), Mary Simpson(Gloucester), Jessica O'Connor(Virginia Beach), June Rosini(Chesterfield), Tom Geer(Prince George), Ann Gorrell(Central Rappahannock), Iantha Peterson(Nelson), Anne Anderson(Charlotte), Tom Park(Central Shenandoah Valley), Pamela Armstrong(Hanover), Cheri Haggerty(Hanover), George C. Simpson(Gloucester), Evelyn Parker(Hanover), Caroline and Chuck Norrington(Rockbridge and Bath), KarenSacasky(Lynchburg, Amhearst, Campbell), Barbara Brouse(Williamsburg/James City), Lee Allain(Northern Neck). **Secretary's note:** Others were in attendance but failed to sign the attendance sheet.

Call to Order

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:07AM. She thanked all of those who attended the meeting for making the effort. Those present introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes were accepted with correction of a few typos, and the addition of the name of Mike Ferris to the nominating committee.

Treasurers Report:

Gary Bill reported that our net worth is \$16,159,60. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter

Tom Park suggested we develop regional reporters (review regional map) and develop some sort of calendar with unit upcoming events and points of contact. He also requested we publish a list of due dates(deadlines) for inclusion in newsletters,and possibly have a Christmas and MG College special edition. The newsletter should be available on the 15th of the odd month prior to board meetings.

Membership

Gary Bill reported that we have 303 regular members, 37 life members and 8 new members for a total of 348. This, plus 96 non renewables gives us a total of 444 members. Sybil Przypek has received 16 renewals. For recruitment of membership, it was suggested that we provide copies of the newsletter to training classes along with an application for the VMGA.

Communication

Education

No events are scheduled in September. Pat Reilly has a list of volunteers for the education committee. She will get it all together with Ann Gorrell and come up with a year plan. There was a suggestion that we offer the same topics in more than one location around the state. Chuck Norrington, Fran and Bud Gregory agreed to review a check list. The Horticulture Conference in January and the Virginia Flower and Garden Show will both be held at the Virginia Beach Pavillion.

State Fair

Evelyn Parker reported that the state fair was booked full.

Unit Support

Ann Gorrell is to coordinate. Unit support belongs to all of us. It was suggested we have a form to be filled out by the unit reps,

Long Range Planning

Kerry Goldmeyer will E-mail a survey to members, snail mail to those who don't have e-mail, then follow up with snail mail to non-respondents.

Extension Liaison Report

Dianne Relf was not available to attend. Pat Reilly announced that the new coordinator is Sarah Lineberger and will be starting on September 5, 2000. Sarah has a B.S. in Agricultural Education and an M.S. in Horticulture. Dianne Relf and Sarah Lineberger will be meeting at various locations around the state in late October and in November.

Old Business

HISTORY- Karen Sacasky has turned in to Pat Reilly the history through 1993.

New Business

BUDGET- Gary Bill presented the proposed FY01 budget (June 1,2000 to May 31,2001). The budget was accepted.

NEXT MEETING- It was suggested that the unit reps report on what is going on in their unit, preferably in writing, so that it could be given as a handout when doing the introductions at the beginning of the meeting. If unit rep can not attend the meeting a report should be sent (preferably by e-mail) to Pat Reilly by Thursday prior to the meeting.

HORTICULTURE GARDENS AT VA TECH- Sybil Przypek asked if we wanted to donate to the gardens and if so, how much? A motion was passed to donate \$500 and to copy Dr. Umberger, Dr. Barrett, Extension agents and the Web page regarding the donation.

Announcements

Pat Reilly provided information and mshowed the award for Millenium Gardens. She also shared pictures taken at this year's MG College.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05PM followed by lunch and a discussion on effective ways to raise the awareness of funding sources about MG's on the local and state level and what is VMGA's role.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Scibek
Secretary
VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the October Regularly Scheduled Meeting
of the Virginia Master Gardener Association
Charlotte Court House, Virginia
October 14, 2000**

Attendance:

William McCaleb (Halifax), Susan Wingfield, Betty Drinkard, Catherine Powers, Karen Sacasky (Lynchburg, Campbell, Amherst), Julie Cochran, Peggy Bouchard (Goochland, Powhatan), Pat Reilly, Scott Cochran (Prince William), Frank Reilly (Fauquier), Ann Gorell (Fredericksburg, Stafford, King George, Caroline, Spotsylvania), William J Rea, Lorraine Rea (Bedford), Kathy Pruden (Suffolk), Jack Slapcinsky (Fairfax), Alice Nicolson (Arlington, Alexandria), Gary Bill (Newport News), Sybil Przypek (York), Kerry Goldmeyer (Chesapeake), Cheri Haggerty, Pamela Armstrong (Hanover), Chuck Norrington, Caroline Norrington (Rockbridge, Bath), Shelby Snyder, Tina Green (Roanoke), Tom Geer (Prince George), Kerry Reynolds, Sherri Hughes (Charlotte), Sarah Lineberger (Virginia Cooperative Extension).

Introductions

Kerry Reynolds, the President of the Charlotte County MGs, welcomed us and gave us a brief history of their MG program. They now have 27 members. They do several projects including a Yard of the Month award where they feel like Ed McMahon giving an award to a local gardener in the county. They help with 4-H and several school projects like bird and butterfly gardens, an ecology day, and a wildlife habitat. They work with the elderly at a local retirement home where they give a choice of either a tomato plant or a flowering plant to individuals and prepare planters for the lobby. They have an educational herb garden at their Extension Office and another educational garden at the library. Recently they were approached by the County Administrator for help to maintain the character of the landscaping for the historic office of the county clerk. Those present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Call to Order:

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:09 in Charlotte Court House, VA.

Minutes:

The minutes of the August Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the VMGA were approved as written.

Treasurer:

Sybil Przypek reported that we have a total balance of \$16,026.41

Presidents Report:

Pat Reilly reported on her progress towards more committee involvement. The Education Committee is progressing that way. The loss of Tom Park as the editor of

the *VMGA Report* was quite a blow in that there was no committee to take up the tasks. A steep learning curve, and a loss of continuity is the price that is paid when the chairperson of a committee of one needs to be replaced.

Gary Bill, Alice Nicholson, Pat and Frank Reilly recently attended the NE MG Conference in Wheeling WV. She and Frank Reilly gave a presentation regarding volunteer retention, and it hit home for her as she was giving it. One of the suggestions for retaining volunteers is recognition of those who put forth extraordinary effort. So she is instituting a VMGA Star program. She recognized the first VMGA Stars for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty. Frank Reilly, Ann Gorrell, Joan Clements (who sent out the Education flyer), Angela Cahn and Barbara Shorts (who helped Joan), and Jude Serevino who jumped to the rescue of the *VMGA Report* were recognized for their efforts in support of the VMGA.

Committee Reports:

Education

Ann Gorrell reported as the *de facto* chair. She recognized some of those VMGA Stars already mentioned above as Education Committee Volunteers, and added the names of Roddy Jones who is organizing the local arrangements, Margaret Van Winkle, and Debbie Green.

The Education Committee has scheduled a mini conference November 18th in Henrico. She requested that anyone who has a Hort Hook plan on attending, and sharing. She defined Hort Hooks as some way that encourages the youth to learn more about the environment, etc. These will be presented in conjunction with lunch at the conference.

There has been considerable interest in the conference already by non-VMGA members, and even non-MG folks. So please, if you plan to attend, get your advanced registration in ASAP. Remember that one of our benefits of membership is early notice, but later this week the notice will be sent to all the Unit offices in the state, and be advertised on the MG listserve, and on the 4-H listserve.

After the conference there will be a social hour for more networking.

The committee also plans to have a meeting in late November in order to plan the rest of the year's activity. Please come if you have any interest, and share your ideas with them.

Newsletter

The next deadline for the *VMGA Report* is October 28th. Jude Serevino will edit this next one, because there is still not a chance to catch up with a staff. Bob Avery will be the Assistant Editor. There are regional editors who will prepare local news segments. Sally LaCava will help with the production.

Alice Nicolson asked if we will return to the bulk-mail. Pat replied that the highest priority is to get the *VMGA Report* out to the members. Some discussion ensued about the advantages/disadvantages of various postal plans. First class is faster, and corrections or bad addresses are returned by the post office. Bulk rates may seem a little less expensive, but we never know who is not getting the *VMGA Report*.

We still need someone to take the reigns of this already functioning and highly talented committee.

Membership

Gary Bill reported that our membership is 388 active members, of that 35 are lifetime members. We culled out just less than 100 names of those who are no longer active, or deceased.

One of the requirements of the bylaws is the publication of the membership list. Prices for this printing seems to range from about \$1.00/ea professionally done to the use of a city printer who will do it for a total of \$250.00 or about half of the rate. If there are any corrections they have to go to Gary Bill ASAP.

Pat and Gary have already addressed several classes of new MG Trainees. One of the things that most of them don't understand is the relationship of VMGA with VCE, and with local Units. So he would like to add a section to the membership directory explaining these things.

Trying to find the name of the local Units is also difficult. He has tried to find out the names of all of the Units served by each local association. So far has only been able to associate 25 Units with their local associations, although there are MGs in over 70 counties. The problem with association names is that they do not identify the area served to anyone other than the members that are familiar with their own geography.

Communications:

Frank Reilly reported that the Communications Committee is recruiting. If you have any time, and are even moderately proficient with ANY word processor, VMGA Communications can use your help. No special web skills are needed to help. He introduced his committee – Julie Cochran.

The Committee has added more news items than ever before, and plans to continue adding information and news items as they come up. In the past two months the web page has been updated over 20 times - on the average of an update every day and a half!

He plans to revamp the web page in the coming months so that it will load more quickly, and print more easily. The committee will be adding a links page, so send in links of interest; especially those that point to things that MGs are doing in each unit. The links can be to association sites, VCE sites, county or city sites, or to links of interest.

Coupling this information with the information obtained from each unit in its Unit report will allow MGs around the state to get the help they need, but it will also allow the public to find MG and Extension activities and information in their area. Eventually this information will be accessed by clicking on a map of VA, and being led to information about local Units.

Also planned is an interactive calendar, a list server for VMGA, and a virtual board room on the web page that acts like a chat room.

As a result of his plea for help Alice Nicolson, Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snyder and Sherri Hughes volunteered to join the committee immediately.

Unit Support

Pat reported about speaking with several local MG groups. Kerry Goldmeyer met with Isle of Wight MGs and their organizations. There is a new group of MGs in Onancock. They could use a mentor to help them get organized. Peggy Noel Bouchard volunteered to help mentor them. Bill McCaleb reported that New Brunswick/Mecklenburg has a new ANR Agent, and they are trying to get a training program for this spring. They will probably run concurrently with the Halifax MGs to share resources. Karen Sacasky has been to the Nelson County MG training class to talk to them about VCE and MGs.

Ann Gorrell pointed out that the Unit data sheets are still needed from many Units. Please submit this information.

State Fair

Cheri Haggerty reported about State Fair since Evelyn Parker was unable to attend. She pointed out that it wasn't an official report, but she had been to the Fair. She had made handouts for websites and over 800 were distributed at the booth before supplies ran out. The peabrain game went very well, but some counties really excelled

at roping people into the peabrain game. Frank Reilly was singled out for praise since he was able to use a whole roll of peabrain stickers during his stint at the VMGA booth at the fair.

Pat reported that Bill Bonwell is considering changing the approach so that units volunteer for a day until 5:00 PM, and then the MGs from nearby counties can work the evening hours, making travel a little easier.

The Fair will be at the same site again next year, and then probably move to a new site that is under construction now. The new site will have a lake, and a flat racing track.

Long Range Planning

Kerry has gotten 35 surveys back, and would like more. She is entering the info into a Data Base. The results so far indicate that most folks think that meetings should still be Saturday and commence at 10:00. The *VMGA Report*, and Educational Events are getting kudos. More data will be presented later after all of the results have been received and tabulated.

Unit Reports

Pat showed a report that the state of NJ MGs prepared. It was an executive summary of what all the counties are doing (have done) in the past year. It has narrative, but also has the total number of hours (to date as well as annual update) and the dollar value. There is also a section about significant cost saving programs. This helps them toot their horn especially with funding agencies.

Following this, those Unit Representatives present made brief presentations about their MG Units' activities, contacts, etc. This information will be collated, and eventually be the basis of the Unit section of the VMGA web site.

Report of the discussion at the August Mtg. Pat passed around a draft for review. She asked for changes, comments or additions, and she will get it collated.

Extension Liaison Report

Sarah Lineberger thanked us for her welcome here, and enjoyed meeting us.

Updates:

1. The Water Steward manual is nearing completion and under review.
2. She is revising the MG Coordinators manual.
3. She is working on the VA MG policy manual addition to the MG Handbook.
4. VCE is updating the MG slide presentation. It is revised, shortened, and now comes with a script.
5. She is scheduling each of the districts to have an update/coordinators' training in each of the VCE Districts.
6. The volunteer hours reporting software is nearly done and will be taught at the above meetings.
7. She is conducting a survey for a MG web site. She sees a need for a way to direct the public to our local activities.
8. She is available to us via email (slineber@vt.edu) or telephone (540-231-2714).
9. She has the most updated list of Unit Coordinators.

Unfinished Business

We received a thank you note from the Hort Gardens at TECH for our donation to their expansion of the Hort Garden.

New Business

Dues were questioned. Should there be a family dues rate? Discussion was tabled until next years' dues discussion.

December Regularly Scheduled Meeting. James City Co/Williamsburg will be the site of our December meeting on the 9th.

VMGA Officers will meet with VCE leadership on the 8th of Dec. Communicate to her your concerns and issues for discussion at their meeting.

Editorial Changes to the *Pest Management Guide* and *MG Handbook* will now be coordinated by Tom Geer. He will funnel concerns about the MG training manual, and the PMG. If there are concerns get them to Tom ASAP, since the MG manual will be put to bed by Nov 1.

Cost of MG Handbook Updates. Sherri Hughes raised the issue of the cost for the updates for the *MG Handbook*. It seems to be \$35, and this is too much to buy. Sarah Lineberger will look into it.

Announcements

Long-Range Planning Survey. Kerry Goldmeyer pleaded to get the survey within the next three weeks.

The official meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Scibek,
Secretary VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting
of the Virginia Master Gardener Association
James City County/Williamsburg, VA
December 9, 2000**

Attendance

(Amherst, Campbell, & Lynchburg) Catherine Powers, Karen Sacasky; (Arlington) Marti Klein, Alice C. Nicolson, Sharon Young; (Chesapeake) Kerry Goldmeyer; (Fairfax) Jack Slapcinsky; (Fauquier) Frank Reilly, Jim Scibek; (Fredericksburg) Ann Gorrell; (Gloucester) George Simpson, Mary Simpson, Jane Smith; (Goochland-Powhatan), Nancy Krause Golden; (Hanover), Pamela Armstrong, Cheri Haggerty; (James City County/Williamsburg) Eleanor Brennan, Arlene Bartlett, Tim Coyne, Bill Hopkins; (Newport News) Gary Bill; (Prince William) Pat Reilly, Jude Serevino, (Roanoke) Jerry Crum, Shelby Snider; (Suffolk) Kathy Pinder; (Virginia Beach) Barbara Browley; (Virginia Tech) Sarah Lineberger; (York) Evelyn Parker, Sybil Przypek-Treasurer were the attendees who signed in. Others may have been in attendance.

Call to Order President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM in James City County/Williamsburg, VA. She thanked all of those who attended the meeting for making the effort.

Introductions James City County Master Gardener President and members were introduced, and an overview of their program was given.

Minutes The minutes of the October meeting were approved as written. Alice Nicolson Requested that future minutes have the attendees listed alphabetically by county. Secretary agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Sybil Przypek reported that we have a total balance of \$16,731.22. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

President's Report VMGA Stars were presented with little star pins. The "Stars" are: Frank Reilly for helping with everything; Ann Gorrell for doing VP jobs and running the education committee; Jude

Serevino for editing the newsletter while a new editor was being identified, and the education event; Joan Clements for doing the flyer and registration; Angela Cahn and Barbara Schultz for jumping in to help Joan get the flyer out; Pamela Armstrong and Cheri Haggarty for handling refreshments and set up; Peggy Bouchard and Kit Davison for doing the social hour; and Karen Carter for giving up her Saturday to help us with the room set up and clean up, and equipment. Thanks to all! The meeting with VCE Director Dave Barrett and Associate Director Steve Umberger has been postponed until late January. Letters of thanks for the VMGA donation to the VT Horticulture Gardens were received from Dr. Alex Niemiera and Mtt Thacker of the Gardens, and Dean Andy Swiger. Andrew Gerachis will be leaving Virginia to be with the love of his life. Andrew's letter was read. The Annual Meeting of the membership of VMGA will be held during Master Gardener College on Saturday night, June 23, at 7 PM. Instead of hosting a garden party while the silent auction is held, VMGA will sponsor a reception to honor the recipients of state level service awards, immediately after the awards presentations. The awards presentation will be on Saturday night at 8PM. Your VMGA President has been elected to the Board of the State Arboretum at Blandly. Sites for the 2001/2002 Board meetings are being lined up. If any unit would like to host a Board meeting, please contact Pat Reilly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Ann Gorrell reported that the VMGA training - "Educating Youth in Horticulture" was presented on November 18, 2000, at the Henrico County Human Services Center. 78 people enrolled and 76 attended including Master Gardeners, 4H leaders, teachers, and VCE employees. The mini-conference consisted of 8 presenters. The topics were: Squirmy Worms & Bug Mania: Roots and Shoots: Resources & SOL's: Ready, Set, Grow; and Junior Master Gardeners. Sarah Lineberger also spoke. There was great support from the MG's in Henrico and Tidewater. Special thanks to: Cheri Haggerty, Pamela Armstrong, and Peggy Bouchard for food and décor during social times, and their team; Jean Clements for the flyer and registration; Roddey Jones for on site registration; and Pat Reilly for a multitude of chores. The program was well received, informative, and fun. Result of the day was 18 new members and possibly more.

Newsletter Jude Serevino reported we are getting a new and steady editor - Maria Papadakis. (She is a professor at VA Tech.) She can be reached at PAPANAMC@RICA.NET or 47 Rural Drive, Mt. Solon, VA 22843. Regional contacts are: Northern - Jude Serevino JLSTR@aol.com Central - Bill McCaleb Northeast - Nancy Golden Northwest - Bob Avery Southeast - Laurel Glasco Southwest -

Membership Gary Bill reported an increase of 32 members. Pat Reilly mentioned that VCE employees are eligible for membership.

Communications Chair Frank Reilly reported the following: members of his committee: Alice Nicolson, Julie Cochran, Shelby Snyder, Sherie Hughes, Cheri Haggerty, Janice Stone, and Barbie Hoysa (AKA VTB). 1.) New items on the web page Links pages on the web site Links to local associations are up, thanks to Julie Cochran. About 5 local associations have links on our page Roanoke has posted pictures of their association's activities We will help host/incubate local associations web sites Links to important resource sites like bugs, weeds, MG Programatic sites, etc. - very close to being up, thanks to Cheri Haggerty. Member links section links to Shelby Snyder's Natural Garden Web site - if you haven't gone there yet you really should. Syd Self's grand adventure page will also be linked soon. News page is up and is where we will post news items as they occur. As always an underutilized venue is the forum - where you can vent or announce

2.) Coming soon: Links to and from the MG web site at Tech - Sarah Lineberger is revamping it now. Calendar Page - Alice Nicolson will be our dates clearing house - she will collect dates and we will post them on the site. New resource - weekly updated "Glick's Picks" from Barry Glick - he describes a lesser-known plant that is worthy of some attention. We will continue the Hort Update from Chuck Hoysa - when the growing season resumes March or April. New Hort help page being run by Barbie Hoysa AKA VTB Resource pages like Obtaining Tax-free status.

3.) History: I noticed some older VMGA Reports - in 1997 the Report was 2-4 pages but now is 6-8 pages, or 50-100% more. Earlier, the Report was produced quarterly - now every other month, or 50% more. Now we have a web site There has been no increase in dues since the inception of VMGA! Pretty good, huh!

. State Fair Evelyn Parker reported that the Fair will be in the same place and same time for 2001. Hopefully next year it will be at the new Fairgrounds. Groups volunteering need to have 10-12 people total, 3-4 per shift. This year people were packing up at 5 PM. This is unacceptable since it forces local units to cover the time from 5 PM to 8 PM. Units volunteering should plan to stay until the end. Participation this year was about 138 people.

Long Range Planning Kerry Goldmeyer reported that the LRP survey results showed very strong support for education and the newsletter. The comments about the newsletter show a very large need for communication. Specifically information about horticulture events in the mid Atlantic, current information about invasive plants, endangered plants, insects and pesticides was desired. Most respondents were in favor of VMGA acting as an advocate for Master Gardeners statewide and want to continue to strengthen the relationship with VCE. Members indicated it would be a bonus to receive discounts at retail locations. The current meeting day and time, Saturdays at 10 AM was the only time many of the respondents could come to meetings.

There was strong support for spending extra funds for education. An endowment fund whose income is used for education was proposed. During committee discussion it was suggested that at least \$5000 be designated as the beginning of such a fund with 80% of all VMGA interest income, any specific donations and when possible a portion of unused operating income be used for scholarships or grants for education. Before a committee to give away money is formed the financial status of VMGA should be reviewed. The most important areas to use our discretionary dollars were grants that would support unit projects, attendance at MG College and local and regional public projects.

Some of the respondents needed financial support to attend meetings. Discussion led to the conclusion that that was a local unit issue. That is if a unit representative needs help with travel, it would be appropriate to approach the local unit for help.

Unit Reports Those unit representatives present made brief presentations about their MG units' activities, contacts, etc.

Extension Liaison Report Sarah Lineberger reported: 1.) District meetings have been going on with MG Coordinators, Agents, and MG Record keepers. 2.) List of coordinators will be on the intranet soon - it should be really up-to-date, since the info came from these meetings. 3.) Still working - but nearly ready for the record-keeping system. 4.) The MG Handbook is no longer in storage - it has been revamped with the addition of the Welcome to MG section and the color page on plant diagnostics. Since the handbook

is printed on demand in batches - agents, coordinators and trainers having training classes need to get their orders into Sarah as soon as they are able so there is no problem getting the manuals. 5.) Working on dorm and meeting rooms for the MG College. Suggestions have been received, and others can be sent to Sarah. 6.) Friday classes will have more program development. 7.) Saturday will again have five themes on sustainable landscape as last year but the subjects will be different than last year. 8.) Leadership Development Newsletter will be coming out in January. 9.) Website is developed and under review at the current time. She will also be updating the intranet web site soon. 10.) There are a lot of questions about dealing with youth. There will be a 4-H training with the agents, so perhaps there will be some training for them about dealing with MGs - a lot of questions about the junior MG program that will be discussed at that training. Remember to set up a relationship with the 4-H agent before embarking on any youth programming. When dealing with youth we are teaching horticulture to youth who are the 4-H clients and audience. We must coordinate with them. There is special Risk management training that also is needed.

Youth Ed Discussion - and Roadblock 1.) 4-H is in charge of ALL youth. But funding is hard to come by for Hort programs since 4-H can raise money for clubs, but youth hort ed is not a club. a. Jane Smith pointed out that in their case - they provided the herbs, but the 4-H Agent provided all the hard goods and soils. b. She pointed out that in another case, parks and rec supplied the materials. c. Gary Bill pointed out that the school system provides the growing media etc. through the school resource center. The MGs provide the list to the school. The school requisitions the stuff; the school resource center provides the stuff to the school. d. Nancy Golden points out that their Gooch/Pow MGs buy the stuff out of their own personal pockets. e. In Lynchburg, Master Gardeners provide grant money to the schools to do our programs. f. Arlington/Alexandria, York, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Suffolk respond to teacher's requests - put a plan together, then approach PTA, or parents or local nursery for the funding. g. Hanover will teach planting from donations they get - but MGs mostly do just the teaching. 2.) Is risk management training difficult a. Arlington - 4-H agent says they will provide the training. No problem b. Gooch/Pow has a 4-H agent in charge of their activities but he has never offered the training. c. Fairfax is incorporating it into its MG training. d. Suffolk the same, and the agent has requested that this portion of the training be made for ALL volunteers since almost all VCE activities sometime come in contact with children. e. Gary Bill made the suggestion that RM training should be part of every MG's annual renewal training. f. Boy Scouts require extensive RM training exposure to police and other training officers. g. Chesapeake, Fredericksburg, Stafford etc., Newport News, James City County, Gloucester, VA Beach, Arlington, Alexandria, Fauquier, York have brought it up h. Suffolk, Hanover, Lynchburg, and Prince William - Hanover is doing it as part of MG training or have special additional training. i. Sarah will see about getting some of this stuff on the web site.

Unfinished Business History - Pat pointed out interesting parts in the "History of the Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. (VMGA) 1988-1993" compiled from minutes and historical records by Karen L. Sacasky and printed August 2000. Name Tags - Sarah stated that a person has been assigned to work on it.

New business Debit card - approval was given for Sybil to get a debit card. Card to be controlled by the treasurer.

Announcements Germana College - Fredericksburg - is offering a 15 hour horticulture program starting in January. New VMGA members - As of today - membership dues will cover 18 months (till June '02). Next board meeting - Warrenton - February 10, 2001

The official meeting was adjourned at 1:52PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Scibek Secretary VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the February Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
February 10, 2001, Fauquier County/Warrenton, VA**

Attendance

(Amherst, Campbell, & Lynchburg) Karen Sacasky; Susan Wingfield; (Arlington) Marti Klein, Alice C. Nicolson; (Blacksburg - VA Tech) Sarah Lineberger; (Charlotte) Anne Anderson; (Chesapeake) Kerry Goldmeyer; (Chesterfield) Peggy Johnston, June Rosini; (Culpeper) Ed Tyner; (Fauquier) Frank Reilly, Jim Scibek; (Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline) Ann Gorrell; (Gloucester) George Simpson, Mary Simpson; (Goochland), Julie Cochran; (Hanover), Cheri Haggerty, Evelyn Parker; (North Shenandoah Valley) A. Gregory, Fran Gregory; (Prince George) Tom Geer; (Prince William) Scott Cochran, Pat Reilly; (Roanoke) Shelby Snider; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman, Kathryn Pruden; (Virginia Beach) Jessica O'Connor.

Call to Order President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM in Fauquier County/Warrenton, VA. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Introductions

Fauquier County Extension Agent Chuck Hoysa and Fauquier Master Gardeners were introduced, and an overview of their program was given. VT Barbie was introduced to Scuba Ken.

Minutes The minutes of the December meeting were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Reilly reported for Sybil Przypek. The treasury has a balance of \$16,062.02. Interest earned through 2000 was 379.49. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

President's Report Pat Reilly wished Happy Birthday to the VMGA. Yesterday was the 11th anniversary. In January she attended a Recognition Gala of the Central Rappahannock Area. It was a very nice event.

Ann Gorrell gave the following report on the Master Gardeners Association of the Rappahannock Area's Gala and Unit Report. MGACRA had its annual Awards Gala on January 16, 2001. We recognized 96 Master Gardeners for reaching milestone hours totaling over 18,400 hours. In addition, 31 individuals completed the requirements to become Master Gardeners along with 36 who received their internship certificates having successfully completed the Master Gardener course. MG Handbook was updated and handed out, and clipper pins were presented to those meeting basic requirements. The annual calendar has been completed for the first Saturdays in the Garden events for 2001. The first event, which was in February, included lectures at Mary Washington College on Native Plants; 122 people attended. Our 2000 programs were very successful; we expect greater success in 2001. A core VA group of Master Gardeners have begun forming the Fredericksburg Area Chapter of the Native Plants Society. There is

much interest in native plants in our area and we expect many opportunities for Master Gardeners to develop and participate in major projects.

Pat had a meeting with Dr. Barrett and Dr. Umberger in January at the Petersburg campus of VA State. Name tags - 85 different classifications of volunteers that volunteer with Extension. Master Gardeners and 4-H will be the only Extension volunteers separated out with that engraved on their name tags. Even Extension Agent tags will be generic. We may see the new name tags in June. Dr. Barrett reported that any budget cuts will not be seen at the agent or volunteer level. There are plans for retraining agents and for attracting new agents. There is a new recruiting brochure. In southern states, for Extension Virginia is about 3rd for salaries. Youth Education - funding is not a real big issue. Most Master Gardeners feel good about their working relationship with 4-H agents. Both Drs. Umberger and Barrett were concerned about how risk management was not being addressed and Master Gardeners working with youth had not received 4-H Leader Risk Management Training. Junior Master Gardener program - Materials won't be available until things have been ironed out about how to implement the program. Dr. Barrett made it clear that with local units it may or may not be a priority of the 4-H agent to implement the Junior MG programs. Some issues regarding the price of the books. Leader's book is about \$60; workbook for children runs about \$20. In the March/April time frame, districts will receive an overview of the program. At this meeting we reported that Sarah was doing a fabulous job; please give her pats on the back; please give her a raise; please don't let her leave. We'll meet again on June 21st at MG College. Sarah and Pat had talked about how to enhance cooperation between VMGA and Sarah's office such as helping the Office of Environmental Horticulture in promoting MG College. Presentation of 2 more stars - for her work on the History Report - Karen Sacasky, and for continuing work on Long Range Planning - Kerry Goldmeyer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Ann Gorrell - Focusing on new training for Wildlife Habitat. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help, contact Ann or Pat.

Newsletter Pat - Marie Papadakis became our new editor. (She is a professor at VA Tech.) She had good response from regional reporters. Newsletter is ready to go and will be a March/April issue. Pat will mail out a one page report for February. We will have our own stationery for the VMGA report. New masthead, new look to it. Still need a regional contact for the Southwest region.

Membership No report..

Communications Chair Frank Reilly reported the following: I apologize for getting the December minutes mounted on the website so late. I mounted them late the week before last, but for some reason they didn't take. They have been up since Thursday 02/08/01. I have gotten some questions since the last meeting regarding the web site updates. The web site is updated on a frequent, though irregular basis. If you visit the web page, and it doesn't look changed, consider either using your browser's refresh button, or cleaning out your browser's history folder. Most browsers have a switch in them somewhere that tells the browser how often to update your view of a page. So the page may have changed, but your browser may be displaying an old copy of the page saved on your computer. Since the last meeting there have been 3 main updates to the Web page. The History of VMGA has been added. It was written by Karen Sacasky. You can find a link to it on the web site. The links page is up. Cheri Haggerty has gathered interesting links. If you have any suggestions, please send them to her. The Calendar is up.

Alice Nicolson writes it. Send her your event data. We have had more than 1500 visits since the December meeting. I know your visits haven't been VMGA members because I mounted a bogus page called the December minutes, and only three of you wrote to me saying that you read the page. George Graine (AKA the Graine Thumb) won the contest as most observant Master Gardener by being the first to catch the ruse. We got a nice email message and a request for some help from the New Mexico MG Association. They had seen our website, and are in the process of building their own. 4.) I have been having some problems sending email messages. I sent a notice of the meeting, and announcement that the minutes were updated on the website. I sent over 400 messages, and got about 100 bad address replies. An email address is an address; I would appreciate it if folks kept their addresses current. I can't be sure that you are informed of our activities if I can't send a message to an existing email address. We are offering some incubator hosting for local associations. Julie Cochran and I will be developing a template, and hopefully we will be able to allow you to edit your pages. A representative from local associations that are interested in having a VMGA-sponsored web page could contact Julie for details. Julie Cochran has prepared a power point presentation that touts MG College. It was previewed after lunch, and will be available to local associations to show to inform people about MG College. It will be set up on a CD, and will not require any special software. (You don't need your own copy of MS PowerPoint to run the presentation.) Shelby Snyder has added some VMGA and MG photos to her web page. If you have pictures for us to see, send them to Shelby Snyder. This is a good way to share your MG experience with others.

. Unit Support Communications to put chart up on website. Get minutes out as soon as possible. 8 hard copies are mailed out. Have 8 to 10 hard copies available at the meeting.

State Fair Evelyn Parker - August 1st is the deadline for everything. If your unit can't do a full day, let Evelyn know so that arrangements can be made with local units to cover the rest of the time. Dates of the fair are the 20th to 30th of September. Gloucester wants the 27th of September, all day.

Extension Liaison Report Sarah Lineberger reported: Photo pages for MG Handbook have been sent out to the coordinators. Extras are available for 50 cents each. Leadership Development Newsletter was mailed out. MG College - speakers are being finalized. Info to agents and coordinators around the 1st of March. No "Sounds of the Night" this year. Junior MG program - Preliminary info - optional program. To be a leader of Junior MG program, you have to be a 4-H leader, must be a current and active VT Master Gardener or a volunteer that has demonstrated a knowledge of horticulture and, if not an MG, look for a Master Gardener in their area to serve as an advisor. This will not be strictly a 4-H program. There will be a connection to Master Gardeners. Training will be one day, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, slated for April. Program for children will consist of about 25 hours of lessons and 25 hours of service. Title may be something like Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Master Gardener since Junior Master Gardener is a trademark name. Ages targeted - 3rd through 5th grades (ages 8-11)

Unfinished Business Long Range Planning Committee investigated endowment. Suggest taking 80% of interest income and disperse as a scholarship, etc. Endowment Exploration Committee - Kerry - Every year since 1994 we have taken in more than the expenditures. Suggest \$5K endowment, \$5K carryover, disburse approximately \$6K over next 3-5 years toward education. A motion was made and approved to "Designate \$5K Education Endowment Fund and establish a committee to determine disbursement methods of 80% of all interest and leftover operating funds to promote education and other VMGA interest.'

New business None.

Announcements

George - Daffodil Festival first weekend in April (7th and 8th) and 350th anniversary of Gloucester County. MG's have planted bulbs at all of the schools. Membership Directory - Gary - hasn't responded yet. 3.) Next board meeting - Yorktown - April 21, 2001. Meeting site is close to the Extension Office.

The official meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Scibek Secretary VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the April Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
April 21, 2001
Yorktown, VA**

Attendance

(Arlington) Marti Klein; (Blacksburg - VA Tech) Sarah Lineberger; (Chesapeake) Kerry Goldmeyer; (Fauquier) Frank Reilly, Jim Scibek; (Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline) Ann Gorrell; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty, Evelyn Parker; (Newport News) Gary Bill; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Barbara Shultz; (Prince George) Cheryl Elmore, Tom Geer; (Prince William) Pat Reilly; (Roanoke) Jerry Crumb; (Rockbridge/Bath) Caroline Norrington, Chuck Norrington; (Stafford) Cheryl Bunting, Betty Freedman; (York) Mary Frances Baker, Norma Jackson, Janet Ledebuhr, Bernice Little, Jim Orband, Sybil Przypek, Diane Short.

Call to Order President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 1003, 1403 GMT, in York County, Yorktown, VA. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Introductions

Pat introduced Sybil Przypek who introduced York County attendees. A video was shown about York County Master Gardeners and their programs. The video was produced by the MG's of York County and goes out on the airways of the local government station and is played during times of breaks between different programs. Also shared was a flow chart/organizational diagram of their MG organization. Jim Orband, Extension Agent for York County, was introduced.

Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sybil Przypek reported a total balance of \$16,459.15. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

President's Report

(Pat skipped to the Newsletter committee report prior to giving the President's report.) 1.) Name tags - White on top engraved with your name and Master Gardener Volunteer. Bottom is forest green. Has VCE and logo on bottom. We are the only group, out of 85 Extension volunteers, that state what type of volunteer on the name tag (i.e. Master Gardener). All others just say Extension Volunteer. Qualification added - those name tags to go to volunteer with continuing responsibility. Each unit to decide who the volunteers are with continuing responsibility. Units and agents to determine requirements of continuing responsibility. These are special name tags. 2.) Pat has not gotten any requests for tables for Brag Night. Let her know if your unit wants one. She will send out a reminder on May 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

Ann Gorrell - Education Committee will meet at Shoney's on May 15th at 1800 on Rt. 3 east of I-95 towards Fredericksburg. This is a planning meeting.

Newsletter

Pat reported some initial problems. The one being mailed out is about 10 pages long. Passed around an example. Still need reporters for Northern and Southeast District. Pat asked for volunteers to take notes (report news) on VMGA meeting (presentations given, chitchat, etc., not minutes) and send to Maria to include in newsletter as a report of the VMGA board meeting. Kerry Goldmeyer volunteered to do this for today's meeting. Items for inclusion in the newsletter can be sent to Maria at papadamc@rica.net. Discussion on possibility of designing one newsletter per year to go to the Legislature, probably in January time frame.

Membership

Gary Bill - 38 Life members, 404 Regular members. Total 442 members. Need help on Membership Committee. Year runs June through May. Publish new membership booklet in October. A reception will be set up after the Award Ceremony at MG College. Bring a bottle of sparkling cider or something.

Communications

Chair Frank Reilly reported - committee members are Shelby Snider, Cheri Haggerty, Julie Cochran, Alice Nicolson, and Frank Reilly. 1) Biggest activity is the web page. a) Since the last meeting, we had 972 different visitors to the web page. b) The page has been updated 6 times and has a new look. Buttons are now at the bottom of each page. This allows easier printing of contents. c.) Later this summer, the site will be reorganized to decrease the number of clicks to get to each page. d.) Alice Nicolson is accepting entries for the calendar page which also has a new look, provided by Julie Cochran. e.) Cheri Haggerty has updated the links page with all correct web addresses. f.) Shelby Snider has added some pictures from MG College to the picture part of the web page. g.) MG's of Central Rappahannock have a

new web page and we have provided a link to it. 2) Since the last meeting we received a request for help in forming an association or corporation from the Hampton Roads MG secretary. We were able to offer good information due to the article by Alice Nicolson concerning obtaining the exempt status. 3) Hope to update some of the contact telephone numbers in that piece and mount it on the web site before MG College. 4) Shelby Snider is handling requests for MG window clings. These are decal appliques without the glue. They can be reapplied as desired. They are 4" X 12" on clear background with green print, hand is tan, soil brown. Cost is about \$1.00 each. Contact Shelby to order. 5) The CD that was going to be prepared advertising MG College that was shown at the last meeting - Julie Cochran's hard drive crashed. She is back on it again. Delivery date to be announced.

. Unit Support

There was a general discussion on Tidewater.

State Fair

Evelyn Parker - Get your spokesperson, give Evelyn a call, set up a date, pick your people. August 15th is the deadline.

Extension Liaison Report

Sarah Lineberger reported: 1) MG College is June 21st - 24th. Information was sent to the Extension agents and coordinators the 1st of March. Trying to get registrations in by May 14th to give people in housing a month beforehand on how many rooms we are requiring. This year housing is separate. Only thing that has to be prepaid is the cost of College. 2) Has copies of information on International Master Gardener Conference in Orlando, May 28th to June 1st. 3) Record keeping system is almost finished. Now it has an editing function. Only thing left is to add more reports. 4) Youth MG program - Title we will use is "VCE 4-H Youth Master Gardener Program" and it is based on curriculum out of Texas and adapted for Virginia. It is a youth 4-H horticulture program. Works in cooperation with 4-H leaders, 4-H agent and VCE Master Gardeners and ANR Environmental Hort Agent. Training will be held throughout the state in May and June. Have to preregister for it through the 4-H agent. Dates are: 5-2-01 Northwest 5-15-01 Southeast 5-16-01 Central 5-31-01 Northeast 6-4-01 Southwest 6-6-01 Northern Working on having it at MG College on Sturday or at least an introduction. The way the program is set up, each group will have 2 leaders - both must demonstrate knowledge of horticulture and, if not Master Gardeners, will have to find a MG advisor. The difference from the original JMG curriculum is there are a bit fewer activities. JMG has 98 to complete. We will have 48 different individual or group activities to do. Must have at least 25 hours of training, then there will be 25 hours of service. Any units, 4-H agent, and volunteers that go to training and say "yes" they want to start within a year will receive a free copy of the leaders' guide and youth handbook. Each unit can get up to 3 copies. To earn a certificate, all seven chapters are done in one year. Geared for 3rd through 5th grades. 5) Putting together an MG College Advisory Committee, and is looking for people that would be interested. Probably meet twice a year, once Sunday morning at Master Gardener College and perhaps once in the fall in a central location. Purpose is to help in planning and deciding on speakers. It shouldn't involve too much time. If interested, contact Sarah.

Unfinished Business

Education Endowment Committee -

Now consists of Susan Wingfield, Bud Gregory, and Chuck Walters. Probably will have Pat or one of the officers sit in also. If anyone else is interested, let Pat know.

New business

Pat Reilly stated that without Diane Relf there would be no Master Gardeners. A proposal was made to make her a lifetime member of the VMGA. Approval was given to have a plaque made up and worded as follows: "In honor of your many years of support and service to the Virginia Master Gardeners, the Virginia Master Gardener Association presents to Dr. Diane Relf a Lifetime membership." Present it to her at Awards Night.

Announcements

1) Next board meeting is in Blacksburg on Thursday, June 21, 2001, at 1130 in Litton Reeves. 2) Annual meeting - Saturday June 23, 2001. 1900-2000 Annual meeting 2000-2100 Awards ceremony 2100-VMGA reception - Honoring award recipients (bring sparkling cider and snacks) 3.) Officers of VMGA will be meeting with Drs. Barrett and Umberger on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at 1500. 4.) Prince William is having their Spring Fling on 4-28-01 from 0900-1600 at Prince William County Fair Grounds. 5.) Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Northern Shenandoah will be staffing a Master Gardener booth at the State Arboretum on Mother's Day weekend 5-12-01 & 5-13-01. 6.) Ginter having plant sale yesterday and today. 7.) Rockbridge area Master Gardener plant sale in Lexington on 5-12-01. 8.) York County plant sale May 5th, 0900-1200.

The official meeting was adjourned at 1320, 1720 GMT.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Scibek Secretary VMGA, Inc.

Minutes of the June Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.

June 21, 2001

Blacksburg, VA

Attendance

(Arlington) Marti Klein; (Blacksburg - VA Tech, SMGC) Sarah Lineberger; (Fairfax) Sandy Flowers; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Goochland/Powhatan) Julie Cochran; (Halifax) Fred Lindholm, W. H. McCaleb; (Hampton) Lisa Yeau; (Lynchburg, Amhearst, Campbell) Karen Sacasky; (Montgomery) Susie McCrea; (Prince William) Pat Reilly, Frank Reilly; (Rockbridge/Bath) Chuck Norrington; (Shenandoah) Chuck Walters; (York) Sybil Przypek.

Call to Order

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 11:33, in Litton Reeves Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sybil Przypek reported a total balance of \$16,157.98. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

President's Report

Pat Reilly announced that the officers have a meeting with Dr. Barrett and Dr. Umberger this afternoon and asked for any input. Some of the issues we will be bringing up are;

- 1) Our goals of strengthening our ties with VCE, Agents, and Master Gardeners.
- 2) Talk about ways to encourage more agent support at MG College.
- 3) Give attaboys for new name tags, they are quite popular, and what is to be done about people that aren't yet in the category of continuing responsibility as Master Gardeners.
- 4) Continue to have the PMG available to Master Gardeners at the reduced rate of \$10.00.
- 5) Give Sarah a pat on the back.
- 6) Make sure Sarah has all the support she needs.
- 7) Try to get a Virginia Master Gardener Representative on the state ELC.
- 8) Where are we on risk management?

The committee for the endowment fund on how to disburse interest earned currently consists of Chuck Walters, Bud Gregory, and Susan Wingfield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit

Audit will be done before Saturday evening.

Education

Pat Reilly for Ann Gorrell- A flyer will be available announcing the upcoming educational event put on by DCR on Nutrient Management plans. DCR would like to have Master Gardeners certified to write Nutrient Management Plans. This training is for Master Gardeners who are currently working under an agent's Plan of Work in water quality. The pilot will be held on Saturday July 28th at the Bull Run Regional Library in Manassas. The agenda will consist of DCR training on how to write plans, etc.

Newsletter

Pat reported that the next newsletter would probably be out in the next week. Still lacking Northern and Southwest reporters. Also needs someone who would serve as assistant editor and could take over if Maria is out of town.

Membership

Gary Bill reported that the membership is at 451 as of 31 May 2001.

Communications

Committee members are: Janis Stone, Cheri Haggerty, Julie Cochran, Alice Nicolson, and Chair-Frank Reilly.

- 1) Since the last meeting there have been about 1000 visitors to the web page.
- 2) The web page has been updated on 15 separate occasions..
- 3) The Hort Updates by Chuck Hoysa, Fauquier County Agent, have resumed and are currently up to date – thanks to Julie Cochran and her high-speed access.
- 4) Alice Nicolson is currently accepting changes to the calendar, and has provided numerous updates since the last meeting. If you find submitting calendar updates to Alice too slow or cumbersome for your event, you are always free to place announcements on the VMGA.net forum page. You can find a link to that on the front page.
- 5) Cheri Haggerty has updated the links page. If you have any interesting gardening links to add, send them to her. She'll get them and edit the page accordingly.
- 6) Julie and Frank have worked to bring a brand new look to the web page.
 - a. The buttons have been removed from the side of all pages to make downloading and printing easier.
 - b. The entire site has been revamped for ease of navigation. Now we have a members' section where our officers, minutes, etc. reside, and a public section where our resources like Hort Updates, Glick's Picks, etc. reside.

7) Janis Stone has had a critical look at our web site, and made some suggestions. One thing she noticed was that our page doesn't view well using the Netscape browser. Apparently most of the buttons and marques that we have been using do not show up in Netscape. If you see something that looks wrong, have trouble reading a page, or find something missing on the web site, please send an email to webmaster@vmga.net. so that we can look into the problem. We will be editing those errors for Netscape users next week.

8) Sarah Lineberger has totally revamped the MG website at Tech. It is extremely user-friendly, and if you haven't already done so, you should visit. One of the friendliest things that she has done has been to install a link to our web site. You can find links to the MG page on our front page. We have also linked to her pages throughout our web site wherever it is appropriate.

Unit Support

There has been no activity to report since the last regularly scheduled meeting.

State Fair

Evelyn Parker will be here later this week. The fair is 27 September thru 7 October and there are still dates available. Arrangements can be made with local units to work evenings if necessary.

Extension Liaison Report

Sarah Lineberger had nothing specific to report at this time.

Unfinished Business

Changes in By-Laws, that were started two years ago and are mainly cosmetic, have been approved by the board and acceptance is recommended. Gary Bill will make a motion at Saturday nights annual meeting that the changes be accepted.

New business

Budget to be reviewed. Discussed and approved at the August meeting. A copy will be on the web site for review.

Name tags – new volunteers being given new name tags without having fulfilled their 50 hours or having continuing responsibilities. Diane Relf questioned whether maybe we should have a policy statewide and that this needs to be addressed by Sarah. Question was also brought up of having the name tags returned when someone is no longer a Master Gardener.

Announcements

The next board meeting is in Prince William Co., August 11, 2001, at 1000 in the McCoart county building.

The official meeting was adjourned at 1230.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Scibek

Secretary, VMGA, Inc.

Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting,

June 23, 2001

Call to Order

Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 1910 on June 23, 2001 in the theater of Litton Reeves on the Campus of VA Tech. And welcomed those attending.

Minutes

The minutes of Annual Meeting 2000 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Sybil Przypek reported that at the end of VMGA's Fiscal Year 2001 our net worth is \$16,157,98. The report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Audit

The audit committee reported through Kerry Goldmeyer that on June 23, 2001 the books, for Fiscal 2000-2001 of VMGA, Inc were reviewed and compared. It was their opinion that the books fairly and materially represent the financial position of the VMGA, Inc.

Education

Pat Reilly reported that Ann Gorrell is the acting chairperson. People serving on the committee include Margaret Van Winkle, Debbie Hamilton, Anna Moore, Lenoire Plissner, and Roddey Jones.

One event was held last year, in November, titled Educating Youth in Horticulture. The event drew 84 participants including Master Gardeners, 4-H Agents, ANR Agents, 4-H Leaders, and Teachers.

Newsletter

Pat Reilly commented on the new newsletter. There are still some problems with regularity of publication. Still need someone to cover northern and southwest districts.

Membership

Gary Bill reported that we have 38 life members, 407 regular members for a total of 445 members as of 31 May 2001.

A presentation, with a plaque, of a life membership was made to Diane Relf.

Pat Reilly asked for volunteers to help with computer files, etc. The following people volunteered, Susie McCrea, Gregory Evans, Deborah Watts, and Sallie LaCava.

Communications/Unit Support

The duties of Unit Support were rolled into the Communication Committee just prior to last year's Annual Meeting. In the past year we have been asked to help with selections of By-Laws to one new local association, and asked to help with incorporation and tax questions with three others.

Members of the Communication Committee are: Julie Cochran, Cheri Haggerty, Alice Nicolson, Janis Stone, and Chair-Frank Reilly.

- 1) The web site of VMGA, Inc has grown from less than 10 pages last year to more 80 pages.
- 2) The web site costs \$249.00 annually for rent at the server, and \$15.00 per year for our name registration.
- 3) The web site has been visited more than 5000 times this year.
- 4) The web site sponsors links to local associations, and will provide a limited amount of space and help to start any local MG web pages. Use the webmaster@vmga.net email address to ask for help.
- 5) The web page sponsors a forum that may be useful for discussions that seem inappropriate for the MG Listserv administered by Tech.
- 6) The Committee has been contacted by MG groups in four other states for help with web page issues. The states were New Mexico, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Michigan.
- 7) Our minutes, budgets, directions to meetings, contact information, by-laws, even a copy of The History of VMGA produced by Karen Sacasky are all available at the web site.
- 8) We also currently archive more than 20 pages of Hort Updates on our web site, and they will soon be searchable. That makes our site VERY useful for MG as well as gardening problem solving.
- 9) Send your questions, suggestions, etc. to webmaster@vmga.net.

State Fair

Evelyn Parker – The state fair is September 27 thru October 7, 2001 and there are still some dates available.

Unfinished Business

The changes in the by-laws were approved.

New Business

At the August meeting we will discuss and approve the budget.

Announcements

The next Board meeting will be August 11, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the McCoart building in Prince William Co.

Goochland-Powhattan challenges Virginia Beach to bring the most people to next years MG College.

The meeting was adjourned at 1959.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Scibek,

Secretary, VMGA, Inc.