

VMGA Minutes Aug 2005 – Jun 2006

August 13, 2005

October 8, 2005 [p. 8]

December 10, 2005 [p. 16]

February 11, 2006 [p. 26] (Meeting cancelled – winter storm)

April 8, 2006 [p. 26]

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Annual Meeting June 24, 2006 [p. 40]

**Minutes of the August Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
August 13, 2005
Manassas**

Attendance

(Amherst, Campbell, City of Lynchburg) Al Thompson; (Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway) Nancy Drewry; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux (Fairfax) George Graine, Teri O'Brien; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Goochland/Powhatan) Chuck Miller; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Christy Brennan, Cheri Haggerty; (James City County/Williamsburg) Angela Cingale, Ann DeForest; (Norfolk) Don Snipes; (Northern Shenandoah Valley) Bud and Fran Gregory; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Pat Rogers; (Prince William) Lorrie Andrew-Spear, Sharon Corbin, Leslie Paulson, Barb Peters, Frank and Pat Reilly, Bill and Janet Scott, Paige Thacker, Betty Truax, Jane Wyman ; (Roanoke) Kathryn Debnar, (Stafford) Don Saunders; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech) Dave Close; (York) Jackie Lohr

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introductions

Pat Reilly, representing Prince William County introduced their extension agent, Paige Thacker, who informed us of the work of the MGs in Prince William. They man their clinic phone line year round, answering up to 250 calls a month in the summer months. They conduct clinics at the library weekly during the summer and at garden centers in the spring and fall.

Water Quality is an important goal and working with Public Works who provide funds for some of their programs they are able to provide information to the public. Through their Home Lawn Program they have provided the lime and fertilizer plan to over 2 million sq.ft. of lawns in the county. They also provide Storm Water Best Management information and recommendations to businesses to limit their pollution.

Every spring In April, they have a Spring Fling, a lawn and garden show, which attracted about 2300 people this past year. They also have a Teaching Garden, where they show low maintenance gardening techniques. They provide performance measures to the county in order to make sure they are meeting the needs of the citizens in the county.

Jane Wyman, President of their unit, told us about a program, The Basics of Gardening series, they have been running for the last three years. They target those who want the basic information but don't have the time or want the commitment of a MG volunteer. It is a five-week program on Saturdays, where MGs present a different topic each week and provide a handbook with handouts and valuable information. Averaging 25 to 28 participants. Jane presented a certificate to the first Certified Virginia Gardener as a result of the Basics of Gardening series and hope that other units will consider the same program. She passed out some of their flyers and indicated their willingness to share their information with other units.

Introductions around the room followed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$10,439.39
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4238.27)	\$7,364.30
CD Balance	\$6,494.29
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$24,297.98</u>

Checking Account

Balance as of 5/31/2005 \$6,876.44

Income

FY 06 dues \$934.00

FY07-FY13 dues*	\$370.00
EEF	\$79.00
Fund Raising	\$840.00
CoordEndow	\$5,014.00
Total income	\$7,237.00

Expenses

EEF	-\$500.00
Fundraising	-\$2,500.00
Newsletter	-\$600.05
Membership	-\$74.00
Total expenses	-\$3,674.05

Balance as of 7/31/2005 \$10,439.39

Report was accepted pending annual audit.

Minutes

June minutes were accepted as posted.

President's Report

President Bill McCaleb reported Mark McCann is now Director of Extension and Pat Sobero has left for other activities at the college. The Plant Introduction Program is still on track. Plants should be going out to sites by September 1st. MGs in Southside and Bedford counties are interested and other units should check with their Extension Agent about participating. This is an opportunity to help the Green Industry and ourselves. Once the evaluation is complete, you will know what plants grow best in VA and your particular area. Will include introduction of native species, native cultivars, and some foreign species from groundcovers to trees for the landscape. Some will go on sale for the Jamestown 2007 celebration. There is a two year grant from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission but the grant will be extended. Sites include: Northern VA (Prince William County), Tidewater (Norfolk

Botanical Garden), Lewis Ginter, Halifax, Bedford, Martinsville (propagation site) and Southwest (evaluation site). The goal is 232 different plants. It will involve MGs and school students. Goal for training is mid-September. More information at VNLA website, vnla.org.

Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux, Co-Chairs

Fran Shelton reported they are moving forward with the fall education program at AREC in Virginia Beach, on September 10. Information is on our website

Working with President McCaleb at getting the spring program at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research in Danville. Barbara Geer will have her annual symposium next year and we help sponsor that. The committee is looking for MGs to replace the three Education committee members they have lost. Please contact Pinky or Fran if interested. Committee meetings are usually held in Charlottesville or Fredericksburg, which is central for everyone.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Florace was not present but President McCaleb reported Florace was very appreciative of everyone getting the reports to her on time. Keep the unit reports brief. Pat Reilly reminded everyone when the News across the State section was set up a couple of years ago; it was to talk about something that would help other units. It should be news, something that would improve our Master Gardener efforts.

Membership - Pauline Price, Chair

Pauline was not present but President McCaleb read her report. As of August 12, we have 608 members. On August 31, those non-renewing memberships of 224 will be purged resulting in a September 1, membership roster of 384. Contact Pauline and she will provide your unit with a list of those non-renewing members. The mailing label on your newsletter indicates your membership expiration date.

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair

Unit Support

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Kerry Goldmeyer, Cheri Haggerty and Frank Reilly and whoever else we need.

We have no activity to report since the last meeting.

Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Pinky Derieux, Shelby Snyder, Kathryn Debnar, Betty Truax and Chair Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get.

1. Since the June regularly scheduled meeting there have been 18,673 visitors to VMGA.net. That is about 3000 more visitors than the same period last year.
2. Nearly all of our visitors visit the front page during their stay. This makes it a very productive place to make announcements, and is why most new stuff gets mentioned there.
3. 62 visitors have viewed the educational events page since the notice was put up about our September educational event. Applications for the Continuing Ed event are available at the web site.
4. We have made it to the blogger community. Xanga has sent 426 visitors our way; Google's blog site and several other independent bloggers have sent us more than 300 visitors.
5. Since the June regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 45 separate occasions.
6. I am pleased that many of our external visitors arrive using search terms like river birch and ladybugs, or euonymus and lace bugs or immunox and mites. Most of these searches lead them to the Hort Updates pages.
7. The most popular pages in the last three months have been Hort Updates, Minutes, Unit Reports, MGPW, College, Stewards and News.
8. We sponsored an Essentials of Web Authoring class in association with MG College, and 12 attended. They all constructed their own web site before they left the room. We also answered some questions from Norfolk MGs about them setting up a website.
9. Loudoun County has opened up their web site www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.
10. Kathryn Debnar is currently accepting changes to the calendar. Cheri Haggerty maintains the links page. Our newest committee member Betty Truax, has undertaken a special project to organize the backside of the website. She will also become the point of contact for everyone wishing to post on the website. Her contact information will appear soon on all the appropriate pages.
11. I am interested in getting pictures from MG College so that we can begin to produce the MG College recruiting CD for next year in time for a December delivery.

It was suggested that units who have websites to list them at the bottom of their unit report.

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

Christy showed us some of the handouts they will pass out to the children at State Fair. Handouts and demonstrations are geared to different ages. Units that are participating don't have to provide projects, they will be provided. Expecting 2000 kids. Focus of booth will be starting and maintaining your yard. Will have available the Jamestown 2007 Plant List. Still need volunteers for evening hours.

Finance Committee – Bill Scott, Chair

The finance committee has had no formal activity since the annual meeting. Over the next couple of months they will be reviewing the investment returns.

State Coordinator Endowment Committee – Pat Reilly

Thanks to everyone for their efforts towards the Silent Auction, they raised over \$3400. Special thanks to Angela Cingale and Ann DeForest who collected all kinds of items and created baskets that brought a higher bid. Northern Neck out did themselves with a number of items. Some items that did better than others were unusual plants, the Rocking horse, signed footballs, and Extension straw hat. Letters of acknowledgement are being sent to those who contributed items for the auction.

Committee has three main efforts. One is contacting individual Master Gardeners and signing them up for 50 for 5 (\$50 each year for 5 years). Pledge forms were passed out to take back to the units. Jim Scibek and Angela Cingale are working on the individual effort.

The effort to get all the units to participate is headed by Carol Dixon and Dave Close. Jane Pratt and Pat are working for the foundations. Other committee members include Kathryn Debnar, Al Thompson, Max Bales (office of Development) and Bill McCaleb. Looking for more people to join their efforts. Also looking for someone to run the Silent Auction for next year.

Jim Scibek has signed the Virginia Master Gardener Association up with Food Lion to raise money for the endowment by using your MVP card. Food Lion will donate up to \$350 a quarter to any 501C3 group. Jim passed out cards with information how to sign up. This same Information will be in the next newsletter. He will be checking with other business to see if they have a similar program.

Dave Close mentioned that Norfolk Southern has a program for employees and retirees that they will match any charitable donation by an employee or retiree up to \$1500 a year. If you know of any MG who is an employee or retiree tell them of this program.

Goal of endowment committee is 100% participation from each of the units so when we pursue foundation donations and grants we can show that Virginia Master Gardeners

support this effort one hundred percent. Twenty of the fifty-one units have already contributed to the endowment fund. Carol Dixon or Dave will be contacting the other units through their local rep. Endowment contribution forms were passed out to everyone to take back to units and make copies for distribution. Max Bales and Dave Close will be available for travel to the units to represent the College of Agriculture and specifically represent Master Gardener program through any fund raising efforts.

Fund Raising – Cheri Haggerty

Cheri Haggerty has just a little over 100 flags left from the 233 she ordered. They sell for \$15. New items suggested have been hats and visors. The committee will explore VMGA branded items. Will make more with standard Master Gardener things but need to brand ourselves also. Committee will also look at tote bags, backpacks and carry bags. Keep the ideas coming.

Extension Liaison - reported by Dave Close, MG Coordinator

New Interim Director of VCE – Mark McCann assumed role end of July. Dr. Sobrero has taken on new Responsibilities in CALS. Mark will likely be around one year definitely and possibly two. SOD User Manual – Distributed at the VESA/VCE meeting in Roanoke in mid-April and sent remaining copies to local units via the distribution center. Every Extension office should have a least one copy. Mary Ann Hanson has processed 8 samples this summer for SOD, 2 were submitted via MGs and all 8 samples proved negative. MG College 2005 – had 220 registered participants with speakers and special guests pushing 250+. Leadership Development sessions attended by 45 individuals. 19th Annual MG College scheduled for June 20-25, 2006 and includes day and a half of leadership development training.

LCS Training at MG College - This year we piloted the Land Care Stewardship advanced module organized by Frank Reilly, that will be officially released end of September or first of October. Hanover MGs are already doing a training. Starting next year, every year at MG College an advanced training module will be offered for those interested and they will be rotated each year. Next year it will be Tree or Water. Anticipate in a couple of years we will have a wildlife module on line. Over the course of four or five years you would be able to be trained in any of the advanced modules if your local unit is not able to provide the training. All of this will go through the approval and cooperation of the local agent.

Online delivery of MG training - Nova Scotia had put some of our curriculum on an online delivery system. Dave has spent some time with distance learning and has come to the conclusion that portions of our training will not be conducive to online delivery. Some things you just need in your hands, need to see it face-to-face or need to be outside to see it. There will still be a good opportunity and it will be pursued to make a portion of our training available on line. Will be working with folks in Nova Scotia.

America's Anniversary Garden – Will have displays & brochures at the State Fair to promote Jamestown 2007. Will participate in the Eastern Performance Trials and will have displays at 4 locations in Virginia, three in Tidewater and one in Alexandria at American Hort Society headquarters. Trying to negotiate with AHS to be a partner in promoting the concept. Looking for ideas for logo for Jamestown 2007 brochures and once finalized it will be trademarked and it will be on brochures we will have available at State Fair. Request was sent out by listserv.

Miscellaneous information -

Nametags - If you have placed an order and have not received them after eight weeks, let Dave know as soon as possible. When placing an order and the confirm button is hit, a new window should pop up saying "thank you for placing this order". If this doesn't happen, your order didn't make it to Tech office. Get a printout of the page, so if there is a problem, they can go back to that page and find out what happened. An order for nametags is being placed at least once a month and more often if there is great demand.

Temporary Nametags - Reusable plastic sleeve that you slide in printed name. Meeting with Jim Ridell and hopefully they will be available very soon statewide. When you give them out, in order for the volunteer to get their engraved nametag, they must turn the temporary one back in to be used again.

Garden and Turf Tip Calendar - An idea for a calendar that could be used as a fundraiser for the Master Gardener program and for the local association as a fundraiser. Could be available by late fall.

Emeritus Status – 1,000 hours minimum to receive designation with some latitude with local unit to make some decisions.

Developing new categories - "Friend of the Master Gardener Program" and "Honorary Master Gardener" for special events and occasions for special individuals who support the program.

Standardize name of Horticulture help lines - Came from Dean Sharon Quisenberry for consistency and brand name recognition as an Extension sponsored program. Have results from each unit as to what they call it and now need input from agents to find most comfortable name. Will make final presentation to VCE administration before we go live with standard name.

SRKS – Have identified a couple of individuals to place on committee to work out details and develop scoping document. Looking for more individuals with background in data base management to work on committee. Looking at a half dozen meetings by teleconference and a least one face to face in Blacksburg.

Standard Minimum class size – Don't have the intent to standardize this and impose policy statewide. Had only asked the question at MG College for sake of discussion to see if anyone had a minimum cut-off. There's no way to create a standard for the state.

Unit Reports –

Motion was made to dispense with reading of the unit reports and limit it to announcements. Motion was seconded and carried. All reports will be posted on the website at <http://www.VMGA.net> and printed in the next newsletter.

Cheri Haggerty (Hanover) reported Hanover has started the first Landcare Steward Program with a class of ten Master Gardeners.

Unfinished Business

Don Snipes (Norfolk) reported only 50 requests for Master Gardener license plates. President McCaleb handed out application forms to take back to units and forms are also available on the website.

New Business

The Spring Educational Program will be in Southside and they are trying to work with the Institute for Advanced Learning Research in Danville for a lower cost.

America's Anniversary Garden - Dave Close and Bonnie Appleton are working on this and President McCaleb has talked to Ward Burton, NASCAR driver, as he is a spokesman for Virginia State Parks. In 2007, we hope to see red, white and blue gardens at the entrances to our state parks.

Dave Close announced if any of us are working in our local communities with a Jamestown 2007 committee, or if we know people working on these committees, to suggest developing a planting corridor following this America's Anniversary Garden Theme. Dave has been commissioned to encourage more community involvement and the best way for him to do that is through us. He is contacting the extension agents asking them to encourage MGs to position themselves with these community groups or to talk to them about promoting this theme. To date, only about 120 communities have signed on with Jamestown 2007 as an official community partner. Looking for a lot more involvement and adding this horticulture component to their local celebration. Jamestown 2007 website has list of community partners.

Announcements

Paul Campbell (Virginia Beach) announced the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners will be hosting the VMGA Educational Program at the Hampton Roads AREC September 10th. On the 15th of September, the AREC has their annual Field Day. It is primarily for commercial people but MGs are invited to attend for a small nominal fee. And on the 17th, Virginia Beach MGs will have their 6th Annual Community Gardening Festival. Information is on their website, vbmga.org.

Ann DeForest (James City County/Williamsburg) reported that after Master Gardener College they raised another \$422 for the Endowment at their own silent auction.

Pat Reilly reported they have a few more hypertufa kits for sale. The coordinator endowment committee will meet following the board meeting.

Next Board Meeting - Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 10:00a.m. in Virginia Beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers

VMGA Secretary

**Minutes of the October Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
October 8, 2005
Virginia Beach**

Attendance

(Bedford) Patty Gamache; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux, Pauline Price; (Eastern Shore) Alice Megerlin; (Fairfax) George Graine, Gwen Graine; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Goochland/Powhatan) Chuck Miller; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb, Shirley McCaleb; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty; (Isle of Wight, Southampton, Sussex) Betty Jo Hendrix; (James City County/Williamsburg) Ann DeForest; (Nelson) Milly Colella, Miriam Corcoran, Maudie Ratliff; (Norfolk) Tom Bolt, Don Snipes; (Northern Shenandoah Valley) Bud and Fran Gregory; (Northumberland) Pat Rogers; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera, Lynette Spencer; (Prince William) Frank and Pat Reilly; (Rockbridge/Bath) Ted Jenks; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Susan French, Mary Ann and Jim Kincaid, Liz Mauer, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech) David Close; (York) Jackie Lohr

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

Paul Campbell, President of the Virginia Beach MG Association welcomed everyone to Virginia Beach. Paul presented a check from the VBMGA to President McCaleb for the Endowment Fund. Paul introduced the VB horticulture extension agent, Susan French who informed us of the work of MGs in VB. VB is the largest city in the state with 439,000 people and the urban horticulture needs of the people are filled by MGs. There are about 200 active MGs in Virginia Beach who contribute a minimum of 40 hours each year to volunteer service. They have twenty-three program areas and have contributed over 55,000 volunteer hours in the last three years. The MG program has been active in Virginia Beach for almost twenty-five years. MGs have made over 43,000 contacts with city residents over the last three years. Some of the top

projects include a Ready-Set Grow program for 1st and 2nd graders reaching over 5,000 students in the last three years. Last year MGs started two new programs, Tree Dormancy and Change for 3rd graders, and Why Do We Celebrate Arbor Day for 4th graders. MGs also maintain a Horticulture Helpline called The Growline and have reached 2000 residents and 400 email responses in last three years. About 4000 citizens have benefited from the Speakers Bureau presentations in the last three years. Since March 2003 the VB website has received over 8000 hits. MGs plant, design and maintain the demonstration Display Gardens and maintain the Tidewater Arboretum at the Hampton Roads AREC where they have hosted their sixth annual Community Gardening Festival with over 2000 participants in the last three years. They also participate in the Virginia Flower and Garden Show each January, Arbor Day in April, and in October, Farm Days and Harvest Fair at the Farmers Market. Come back again to visit.

Introductions followed around the room.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$8,483.92
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4238.27)	\$7,637.40
CD Balance	\$6,494.29
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$22,615.61</u>

Balance as of 7/31/2005	\$10,439.39
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Income

FY 06 dues	\$1,780.00
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FY07-FY13 dues	\$812.00
EEF	\$50.00
Fund Raising	\$585.00
CoordEndow	\$450.00
Education	\$1,143.59
Total income	\$4,820.59

Expenses

Membership	-\$165.06
Newsletter	-\$868.36
Fundraising (Silent Auction)	-\$3,487.00
CoordEndow	-\$1,072.00
Education	-\$1,153.10
President	-\$20.00
Secretary	-\$10.54
Total expenses	-\$6,776.06

Balance as of 10/8/2005	\$8,483.92
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Pat explained that the money made from the Silent Auction, \$3,487.00 was moved to the Va Tech Foundation for the Coordinator Endowment and shows here as an expense. The CoordEndow amount is from checks written to the VMGA and passed through our account to the Va Tech Foundation.

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06 is attached. Need to concentrate on increasing membership to cover expenses. As we start new MG trainee classes, encourage the new interns to join VMGA.

Report was accepted pending annual audit.

Minutes

August minutes were accepted with spelling correction of attendee, Teri O'Brien.

Extension Liaison - reported by Dave Close, MG Coordinator

Temporary nametags - ordered and should be available later this fall through your Extension Office.

America's Anniversary Garden – logo has been trademarked. Anyone wanting to use the logo will need to sign a licensing agreement and that will be handled through Bonnie Appleton, Horticulture Specialist at Hampton Roads AREC. She is a member of a four-person committee that includes Dave, Joyce Latimer (Extension Project Leader at VaTech), and Leanne DuBois (Extension Agent for James City County). They have received a license which was funded by Jamestown 2007 Foundation to develop educational materials. Will be applying for an apparel license for the logo which will be funded by VNLA. First publication is out with brief explanation, the scope of the project and what is to be accomplished. Color designs were done by Master Gardener, Liz Maurer who is working with group to develop these materials. A second publication, a corridor publication, will be out this fall targeted to municipalities and communities that have entrance signs to welcome folks to their locality suggesting they incorporate the red, white and blue theme in their plantings. Liz has developed a landscape design for that also. A power point presentation is being prepared that will be available for MGs and Extension to use. Hope MG units will view this as an opportunity to incorporate the information into existing programs and speaker's bureau, presentations to garden clubs and civic leagues, plant clinics, JMG, 4-H, and school plantings. The new director, Mark McCann, is very interested in getting schools and youth groups involved in horticulture.

National Junior Horticultural Association - Joe Hunnings (Extension staff member at VaTech) wants to develop local level associations for youth and have statewide competition to determine who goes to the national competition. For those that already have existing 4-H programs, this is a new opportunity and if you don't have existing program, you might be interested. Information has already been sent to extension agents. It is very similar to the Envirothon program which focuses on the natural sciences. This one has more focus in areas of nursery and landscaping.

Land care Steward Curriculum - officially complete. Closed out grant with National Parks Service on September 30. Two classes have been completed, one at MG College and one by Hanover MGs. There will be more information concerning availability of resources and costs in the future.

Home Football game tailgate events sponsored by College of Agriculture – November 5th, VCE will be highlighted.

MG program to be one of the VCE highlighted programs and would like to display the five winners of the brag night contest at MG College on a single poster.

Meeting with MG Coordinator in WV - in two weeks and the president of their state association, along with David and President McCaleb. They will discuss future potential collaborations and report back at December meeting.

Tree Steward Program - met with Paul Revell (State Urban Forestry Coordinator) to develop an Memo of

Understanding with VA Dept of Forestry regarding the Tree Steward program and future partnerships on trainings (similar to Waynesboro workshop and annual training in Roanoke).

Miscellaneous information -

Garden and Turf Tip Calendar - postponed until next year.

Invasive species training module - working with Alex Niemiera (Horticulture Department) to develop some curriculum material on alien invasive species. Alex has applied for several grants to fund the effort. Intent is to involve MGs as partners in monitoring and reporting populations of alien invasive species.

MG College Advisory Team (MGCAT) - met in mid-September and made good progress on ideas for next year. Will meet again in early December. They are working on ironing out registration problems.

Cheri Haggerty asked about the America's Anniversary Garden trademark and licensing. David explained that the Jamestown 2007 Foundation website already has a merchandise area but groups such as VMGA and local associations will have the opportunity to buy wholesale through this company and can sale at profit. There will be other opportunities to develop other license items.

President's Report

President Bill McCaleb reported there are regional opportunities for grant money to do some of the things that Va Tech, VCE, WVU and their Extension need to do such as updating the handbooks.

The Spring Educational Program will be in Danville at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. Let us know what you want for education programs. November 1st through 3rd there is a program at the Institute for tobacco growers, with experts on greenhouse production (horticulture production) and hydroponics (growing tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots).

Looking to working with the Plant Introduction Program to start a liner industry that will spread into the agriculture area also, especially in Southside VA. All the sites for the Plant Introduction Program are just about ready to go and the training has already started. Once the plants come in, there will be some field training.

Vice President

Cheri Haggerty reported Hanover is doing a booth at Maymont Flower and Garden Show again this year and they would like VMGA to split the cost of the booth which is \$400, (\$360 if paid by October 31). Last year over half of the 24 volunteers came from VMGA and different areas of the state. In the four days there were over 600 contacts. The 2006 show is February 2nd through the 9th. The booth is a plant clinic, offering everything that you have at a plant clinic plus handouts from any unit that sends them about upcoming events in their area. Northern Neck offered to pay \$30 since the budgeted item was only \$150 but a motion was made and carried that VMGA donate half the cost of the booth (\$180).

Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux, Co-Chairs

Fran Shelton reported the fall education program at AREC in Virginia Beach, on September 10 was a huge success. Evaluation responses were favorable. Expenses were \$553, which included microphone, podium and platform rental, speakers' gifts, and donation to AREC and the VATech Foundation for providing the large tent, building and outside facilities. The Good Gardening Symposium will be March 11th. Trying to get the next Educational Program in Danville at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research. Education Committee has lost two members but new members include Angela Cingale, Chuck Miller, Kathryn Debnar, Nancy Drewry, Al Thompson and Joan Clark. Committee will give plans for spring program at next meeting.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Florace was not present but President McCaleb reported Florace was very appreciative of everyone getting the reports to her on time. Only include the real special events when you send your report and don't get too wordy. She has done a super job getting everything together.

Membership - Pauline Price, Chair

Pauline Price reported we have 477 active members, of those 134 are lifetime members. Thanks to Pat Reilly and her volunteers who emailed those who have not renewed. Pauline passed around a list by city of those not renewing for unit reps to check for names in their unit. Since we voted to do away with membership cards, Pauline has been looking for something not very expensive that would be visible to others. She suggested a pin and showed a design that would be very visible to members and might encourage others to join the VMGA. It could be worn on our lanyard. She found cost for 300 would be \$1.50 each. Too late to do anything for 2006 but might look at this next June for 2007. Suggestions included we might sell them or at renewal it could be an option to purchase and have the year on the pin. It

would not cost any more than normal letter cost to mail. Bud Gregory will work with Pauline on this idea to get more information.

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair Unit Support

The committee consists of Pinky Derieux, Kerry Goldmeyer, Karen Sacasky, and Frank Reilly and whoever else they need. Since the last meeting the Unit Support committee has had no activities to report.

Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snyder, Kathryn Debnar, Pat Reilly, Betty Truax and Chair Frank Reilly.

1. Since the August Regularly Scheduled Meeting there have been 14594 visitors to VMGA.net.

2. Since the August regularly Scheduled Meeting, the web page has been updated on 59 separate

occasions.

3. The By-laws have been updated on the web site to reflect the amendments passed at the Annual

meeting.

4. The most popular pages in the last three months have been Hort Updates, Minutes, Unit Reports,

Stewards, and MGPW. The front page has 74% of all visitors, which means that most people (by far)

come in through the front page, AND see the news and announcements that are posted there. If you

have something special going on let Frank know and we will put your announcement on the front page.

5. Newport News, Norfolk, Loudoun County, and Wythe-Bland Region Master Gardeners have opened new

web sites, and Halifax has reopened their web site. All of these sites are linked through our site.

6. They delivered an email solicitation to non-renewing members on the 7th of September. Of the 186 sent

22 emails were returned. Remind people to update their email address.

President McCaleb reported that Appomattox County now has six Master Gardeners and he will make an initial contact and Frank will also contact them.

Finance Committee – Bill Scott, Chair

Bill Scott sent an email to President McCaleb that the finance committee has had no formal activity since the last meeting and have nothing to report. Have begun to work on next year's budget. The committee is looking out for our money to get the best investments possible.

State Coordinator Endowment Committee – Pat Reilly

Pledged to date is \$12,150 and actual balance as of September 30 plus some other deposits that have been sent through VMGA is \$61,359.10 (includes the \$50,000 challenge grant) making a total of \$73,509.10. Remember the challenge grant is \$50,000 if we raise the matching amount in the first year. We are about half way there. Pauline Price's company, Campo Construction, laid down a challenge of \$500 if we made that much at the Silent Auction, which we did. We made \$3,987 on the auction at MG College. Because some of the money went directly to the Foundation, not through VMGA, some units were not recognized in the newsletter. That will be taken care of.

Our biggest effort will be in the 50 for 5 effort. We are asking every Master Gardener to pledge \$50 a year for five years. If every MGs does this, we don't have to worry about any of the rest. Letters will be mailed to every MG in October/November, in January and again in April asking for this type of funding. Asked unit reps to mention the 50 for 5 campaign in their reports and try to get the word out to the units. Pat and her group will be available to visit units and bring a power point presentation (about 10-15 minutes) and give a presentation. Contact Pat or Kathryn Debnar about coming to show the PP presentation. Introduce this to your new Master Gardener class. Don't forget to sign up with the Food Lion program where VMGA gets a certain percentage. Pat's committee will also provide a letter about the 50 for 5 effort to include with VMGA membership letter. They will see about providing parts of the PP presentation on the website for local unit to download.

Fund Raising – Cheri Haggerty

Cheri Haggerty reported they are working on some more ideas. There have been request for visors, hats and license plate frames. Still have 70 flags left at \$15 each. Flags can be used at MG events and at public Plant Clinics.

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) – Paul Campbell

President McCaleb reappointed Paul Campbell as chairman of this committee. It is not too early to start thinking about selections and suggestions for improvements should go to Paul.

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

Cheri Haggerty reported there were 5,000 contacts at the State Fair including 800 school children. This was the first year for the children's program and the State Fair officials were very pleased with the outcome. Pictures of the event will be available at next year's MG College. Focus was America's Anniversary Garden, land care and lawn care. Thousands of pamphlets were passed out. It was very successful and it will be held again in Richmond next year. After that it will be held in Caroline County. Watch next newsletter for full report. Suggestion that there be a session at MG College on working the state fair booth.

Unit Reports –

The Unit reps attending presented oral reports and will e-mail them to the secretary. All reports will be posted on the website at <http://www.VMGA.net> and printed in the next VMGA newsletter.

Dave Close, MG Coordinator

Dave Close had two additional items to bring up. Coordinators manual - developing a tool and process to develop an memo of understanding between local MG associations and local agents; meant to help clarify the role of the agent relative to the association and vice versa; nothing currently exists in the coordinators manual that addresses this relationship; intended to maintain stability regardless of who is in the local extension office as agent. This memo will help clarify what the agent can expect from the association and what the association can expect from the agent. Dave will serve as mediator, call or email him if you need help so both parties can come to an agreement on this MOU. Will not be imposed on everyone, only if you have a need.

Fundraising efforts for the Sate Coordinator Endowment - Will be getting a phone from Dave or Max Bales (Director of Development at College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) about coming to your locality and meeting with your association members and/or leaders, a small group of four or five members. Max has offered to take us to dinner to discuss the endowment, why it is a good thing. If you have not gotten a phone call and are interested, contact Dave and he will set up a time to come visit. This helps people better understand why we are encouraging this. The visit will not involve the PP presentation.

Unfinished Business

Tom Bolt (Norfolk) reported only 71 requests for Master Gardener license plates. Tom will contact by email those who signed the original petition. Visit the Norfolk MG website, www.nvmg.org to get the application and instructions. Any MG or an intern with 50 hours is qualified to purchase the license plates. Have to have 350 applications and money (\$10 each) by the end of December. Contact Tom at tombolt@cox.net for complete details. Applications were passed out.

Tom reminded everyone the April 8th, 2006 VMGA Board meeting would be in Norfolk at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens in Rose Garden Hall.

President McCaleb suggested since fuel costs are rising, that we do away with one of the bi-monthly meetings. Discussion followed and consensus was to continue meeting every two months. Because of weather concerns, Pat Reilly moved that we investigate the possibility of switching the February meeting in Abington with August meeting in Gloucester. Motion was carried.

New Business

America's Anniversary Garden participation - the executive board by email decided to stick with sale of VMGA items. President McCaleb encouraged everyone to get involved with the AAG. We can help support this in a big way. Depending on selection of the plants including trees and shrubs, you can have color twelve months.

Nominating Committee appointment - Jim Scibek will serve as Chairman with the following committee members; Jackie Lohr, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly, Paul Campbell and Shelby Sneider.

Semi Annual Meeting with Directors of Extension - looking at early part of December. Did not meet before MG College because everything we had brought up in previous meeting with Dr. Sobrero and Dean Quesenberry had been taken care of. We are fortunate in Virginia to have such good communication between the MGs and the professional staff at VaTech.

Announcements

Plant Introduction Program Training

Oct 10, 2005 -SW AREC/Rm 240, Higher Ed. Center, Abingdon

Oct 19, 2005 - 9-12 AM Bedford/Claytor NRCS Seminar Rm

Oct 20, 2005 - 6-9pm Prince William Extension, Social Services Conference Rm

Next Board Meeting - December 10, Goochland/Powhatan Master Gardeners

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.
respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers

VMGA Secretary

**Minutes of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
December 10, 2005
Goochland**

Attendance

(Bedford) Bob and Patty Gamache; (Chesterfield) Dawn Lerch; (Eastern Shore) Sara Goffigon; (Fairfax) George Graine; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Bonnie Bernard; (Goochland/Powhatan) Richard Ayers, Sue Cox, Terry Festa, Joe Floring, Nancy Golden,

Alexandria Haselman, Chuck Miller, Phillip Morris, Judy Mucha, Helen Pearson, Charlene Rogers, Nancy Talbert, Henry Waldrop; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Chrisy Brennan, Cheri Haggerty; (Hill City) Al Thompson; (James City County/Williamsburg) Angel Cingale, Ann DeForest; (Norfolk) Tom Bolt, Don Snipes; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Pat Rogers; (Prince William) Frank and Pat Reilly, Bill Scott; (Roanoke) Mildred McDuffie, Shelby Snider; (Rockbridge/Bath) Ted Jenks; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Mary Ann Kincaid, Liz Mauer, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech/VCE) David Close; (York) Jackie Lohr

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

Alexandria Haselman, unit rep from Goochland/Powhatan introduced Henry Waldrop, one of two Emeritus MGs from the unit. Henry welcomed everyone to Goochland and told us some of the history of the area. Goochland County

was formed in 1727 and Powhatan County was formed in 1777. The area then was known primarily for farming and hunting. Today it is known as a bedroom community of Richmond. The first Master Gardener class was in 1988 and Henry was a member of that class. The MGs conduct plant clinics the second Saturday of the month at Southern States and first and last Saturdays at Dirty Hands Garden Center. They held their first Spring Garden Fest in April which was a big success and are making plans for Spring Fest 2006. They maintain a Butterfly Garden at Hidden Rock Park in Goochland and are planning one in Powhatan, adjacent to the Helen Pearson Sensory Garden in Fighting Creek Park where they also installed a trail with native plants. Master Gardeners man the Extension

Office phones where people call in with gardening questions. They do everything they can to help the community, even answering calls at home.

Chuck Miller told everyone there will be brochures out next April that will include Powhatan as part of the Civil War Trails and Lee's Retreat. The area is primarily known for tourist attractions such as bed and breakfasts and old homes. Chuck then showed us a slide show of their Master Gardener Spring Garden Fest. Chuck presented a check to the MG Coordinator Endowment Fund from the Goochland/Powhatan unit.

Introductions followed around the room. Bill recognized the new representative from the Eastern Shore, Sara Goffigon.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$8,289.41
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4238.27)	\$7,638.99
CD Balance	\$6,494.29
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$22,422.69</u>

Balance as of 10/8/2005 \$8,483.92

Income

FY 06 dues	\$660.00
FY07-FY15 dues	\$108.00
Fund Raising	\$270.00
CoordEndow	\$130.00
Total income	\$1,168.00

Expenses

Membership	-\$887.60
Newsletter	-\$192.40
Marketing	-\$200.00
CoordEndow	-\$82.51
Total expenses	-\$1,362.51

Balance as of 11/30/2005 \$8,289.41

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06

Income YTD

Committee	Budget	Income	Remaining
Membership			
Regular	\$5,640.00	\$3,386.00	\$2,254.00
Lifetime	\$1,560.00	\$1,326.00	\$234.00
subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$4,712.00	\$2,488.00
EEF	\$0.00	\$79.00	
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	*
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	\$5,707.00	*
total	\$13,200.00		

Expenses YTD

Committee	Budget	Expense	Remaining
Comm/Support	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
EEF	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Elections	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$360.00
Endowment	\$200.00	-\$89.41	\$110.59
Marketing	\$150.00	-\$180.00	-\$30.00
-			
Membership	\$1,600.00	\$1,300.13	\$299.87
-			
Newsletter	\$3,500.00	\$2,134.16	\$1,365.84
State Fair	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
Fundraising	\$150.00	-\$150.00	\$0.00

Officers Expense

President	\$75.00	-\$20.00	\$55.00
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Secretary	\$35.00	-\$10.54	\$24.46
Treasurer	\$35.00	-\$2.42	\$32.58
subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$3,886.66	\$3,313.34

Education \$3,000.00 \$1,153.10 *

Fundraising \$3,000.00 \$5,587.00 *

total \$13,200.00

	Budget	Income	Expenses	Remaining
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	\$1,153.10	-\$9.51
Fundraising	\$3,000.00			
Auction		\$3,487.00	\$3,487.00	\$0.00
Flags		\$2,220.00	\$2,100.00	\$120.00
		\$5,707.00	\$5,587.00	\$120.00

Anything we can do to help the new membership chairman bring in new members would be appreciated as the membership income is way below budget. Marketing expenses is over budget because we voted to support effort at Maymount.

Report was accepted pending annual audit.

Minutes

Motion made and carried to accept October minutes.

Extension Liaison - reported by Dave Close, MG Coordinator

Temporary nametags - ordered and should be in Blacksburg by Christmas

America's Anniversary Garden - produced resource CD for agents, municipalities, and will be available for commercial/retail businesses; Bonnie Appleton working with Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs to develop a spring and fall bulb collection and publication; working with the VNPS to develop a list of VA native plants with red, white, & blue themes; York State Park and the local chapter of VNPS have begun a list already; t-shirts, polos, baseball hats, and full length aprons are now available to purchase at wholesale prices and sell retail as a local unit fundraiser; suggested projects and fundraisers are listed on the resource CD for agents to share with local VCE/MG units and associations. If you want to sell any retail items you need to go through Bonnie Appleton to sign the license agreement. Her email is bapple@vt.edu. The resource CD has a list of suggested projects that the local unit can do to promote the AAG concept. Incorporate it into your existing projects, use it as a speakers bureau topic or a garden club presentation to help promote the concept.

Tailgate party in early November – handed out a few 'mints' and a handful of brochures about the MG program. Not a lot of traffic that night, only handed out a half dozen brochures but felt it was worth the time.

Meeting with MG Coordinator in WV and the president of their state association went well; good meeting with future potential collaborations on regional issues (water).

Tree Steward Program - Paul Revell, State Urban Forestry Coordinator and Dave will meet in early January to develop language for an MOU with VA DOF regarding the Tree Steward program; future partnerships on trainings (similar to Waynesboro workshop and annual training in Roanoke); Neighborwoods project; discussed Roanoke training with Jon Vest, Hort Agent for Roanoke.

First draft of MOU between local MG associations and local agents has been completed; anyone wanting a copy can email Dave about it.

Standardized name for Green Line/Hort Line/Help Line: Extension Master Gardener Help Desk was the top vote getter by agents. Have given VCE admin an opportunity to voice opinion; unless told otherwise we will go with the branded name of this service as "Extension Master Gardener Help Desk"

MG Handbook – been collecting suggestions on revisions, volunteers to help with the process; first of the year will try to assemble a review team and begin dividing up

responsibilities; wildlife chapter temporarily on hold but will begin working on it again after first of the year

SRKS – Have assembled a team to meet in early January to develop scoping document to revise and rebuild the system; team includes VCE admin, programmers, Dave, VCE MG vols, and one Extension agent. Will start talking about the suggestions Dave has been collecting over eighteen months on how things can be made to make the state record keeping system more user friendly. Will have an update for the February meeting.

Miscellaneous information -

Submitted proposal with Chesapeake Club, UMD, Chesapeake Bay Org to the National Fish & Wildlife Service for \$1 million grant; if we get the grant nearly \$75K will come to VCE & VT to update the Water Steward module and to support MG units in the target areas (NoVA, Richmond area, including Charlottesville, and Tidewater) that are willing to implement nutrient management programs/projects.

National Parks Service - anticipate continued working relationship with NPS as a result of their satisfaction with the Land Care Steward training materials.

College Advisory Team (MGCAT) met in mid-September and made good progress on ideas for next year; will report at February meeting.

Book Donations to MG units in LA & MS - in response to Katrina; 6 Extension offices were completely destroyed in Katrina; subsequently the MG libraries were ruined; can also donate money to assist in rebuilding teaching/demonstration gardens damaged by Katrina & Rita. Dave sent contact information out to coordinators listserv and will share information with local units if interested.

President's Report

President Bill McCaleb reported the Plant Introduction Program will have a patented registered logo called "Beautiful Gardens" that will indicate plants that were propagated and developed in Virginia, for sale in Virginia, out of state and overseas. MGs have been assisting with this program. Training was conducted October 10 at the AREC in Abington with 21 MGs, October 19 in Bedford with 16 MGs, October 20 in Manassas with 19 MGs, October 31 in Halifax for second training for total of 21 MGs.

Visit to WVA with Dave - looking at mutual cooperation in getting MG handbook updated. They were very interested in the Pest Management Guide which they don't have. Their coordinators manual needs updating and they want to know more about our state record keeping system which they don't have. We are still improving the system.

Bill is on the steering committee for the PIP representing all the MGs. This is a great opportunity for MGs to help the Green Industry grow and we get educated as well. Halifax is planning a Teaching Garden as well as Bedford MGs at Lynchburg College. Also, trying to work with J Sargeant Reynolds College and Goochland/Powhatan MGs.

Alternate Cropping to Tobacco - Bill attended a program November 1 - 3 at Institute for Advanced Learning in Danville and came out with a lot of options including hydroponic opportunities.

Extension Leadership Council Meeting November 28 - met with Dr. Mark McCann from VaTech. Joint meeting between VMGA Executive Board and VaTech was canceled because of weather. Will reschedule after first of year.

Bill will be visiting in the next month units in Goochland/Powhatan and Central Rappahannock to make presentations.

Vice President

Cheri Haggerty reported VMGA and Hanover MGs are joint sponsors of a booth at the Maymount Flower Show February 9-12. She passed out signup sheet for manning the booth. AAG will be the focus using plants from the AAG plant list.

Jenny Estell (Northern Neck) asked if PIP plants will be ready to use for AAG theme. Bill said considering the time it takes to develop and market a plant that won't happen. There are some large trees in the field right now but the supply will not meet the demand. Jamestown Maple variety that they planted in Halifax should be a good choice. Leaves change color almost full month earlier than Autumn Glory, drops leaves earlier, not fast growing, with no seeds. Check the website for America's Anniversary Garden information.

Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux, Co-Chairs

Fran Shelton reported they have not been able to put together a program at the Danville Institute for Advanced Learning & Research at this time. If it can not be confirmed by first of year, there will be no spring VMGA education program. The price they have quoted is more than we can pay. Bill will talk with Danville group and see if anything can be worked out and it will be discussed at the VCE/VMGA meeting. We can support the Good Gardening Symposium, the Spring Garden Fest (Goochland/Powhatan) and other gardening programs to get our education hours.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Florace Arnold was not present but President McCaleb reported Florace was very appreciative of everyone getting the reports to her on time. If you have something to

share with everyone, please send it to Florace. Tom Bolt suggested we send newsletter by email to cut down on costs. The Gloucester MGs spend three hours folding and helping Florace get the newsletters out every other month and many of the units already send their newsletter electronically. A committee composed of Mary Ann Kincaid (membership chairman) and Tom Bolt were appointed to work out details at getting newsletter out by email. Any comments good and bad that units have incurred when getting their own newsletters out, please send to Mary Ann and Tom. Please send any changes to your email addresses to Mary Ann.

President McCaleb reminded all if there are changes in officers within local units, please let him and Dave Close know. Dave does not have a complete list of officers from all the units.

Membership - Mary Ann Kincaid, Chair

Mary Ann Kincaid reported we have 525 active members, of those 138 are lifetime members. Mary Ann quoted cost of \$2.69 each for membership pins including design and order of 300. Cost of mailing would be \$4.00 including bubble envelope. Membership cards can be printed unlaminated at \$.06 each. One alternative would be to sell the pins.

Motion was made, seconded and passed than we abandon the idea of pins and go with the membership cards.

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair Unit Support

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Pinky Derieux, Susie McCrea and Frank Reilly and whoever else we need.

The unit support committee answered questions by two units about the role of Advanced Master Gardener in local units and within Extension.

Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Kathryn Debnar, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly and whoever else we can get.

1. November 12th marked our seventh anniversary as VMGA.net. We've grown from a single page giving the minutes of the last meeting to a large web site with more than 220 pages of content and more than 100,000 (111,280) visitors annually.
2. Since the October regularly scheduled meeting there have been 15,241 visitors to VMGA.net. Of that only 3,974 were web bots. Almost all of our visitors come

directly to vmga.net. Many of our visitors come via search engines like Google & Yahoo.

3. Since the October regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 64 separate occasions.
4. The most popular pages in the last two months have been Hort Update, and the minutes; but more than 58% of our page views come in through the front page.
5. Kathryn Debnar is currently accepting changes to the calendar.
6. Cheri Haggerty maintains the links page. She completed a major overhaul of the page, after the October meeting.
7. Membership Applications are available on-line at the Membership page.
8. We are currently working on the MG College Recruiting CD. We could use some photos of activities, and the Sunday going away picnic. Send to Frank or Dave. The CD should be ready in January.

Finance Committee – Bill Scott, Chair

Committee will meet during lunch. Members of committee will be contacting other committee chairs to work with them concerning next year's budget.

State Coordinator Endowment Committee – Pat Reilly, Chair

Cash balance is \$59,301.61. Outstanding pledges are \$11,900, including one for \$10,000 that was pledged at MG College. Contributions in October and November include MG association contributions from Norfolk, Southside (\$101 in memory of Elizabeth Overton's aunt who recently died at 101 years old), Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Charlotte County, Bedford area, Hill City, and heart of Virginia MGs Buckingham, Cumberland and Prince Edward Counties. Committee decided to send out three letters to all MGs because people need to hear something three times before they act on it.

Dave's office and development office will be sending out 4300 pieces of mail. It will include a letter describing the endowment, reasons why and asking MGs to pledge \$50 for 5 years, with a pledge form and return envelope.

With Jane Pratt's help, Pat and Dave visited Jim Green the Program Director for Horticulture of USDA in Washington with an endowment request presentation. He gave them some avenues to pursue and will be very helpful in trying to get the big money. Pat then showed us the Power Point presentation that comes with a script that her committee has put together that MG units can use when requesting donations to the MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. This power point presentation will be available on Dave's website and the VMGA website. There will be instructions on how to download to CD and then show at local meetings and to new training classes. It will be available on website by next week.

Dave reported Ohio is also pursuing an endowment for their coordinator but they are not getting any support from their development office. Virginia is very fortunate to get support from Max Bales and the VaTech Development Office.

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

Christy reported the State Fair will be later next year, September 28 - October 8. Thanks to the committee who helped. We had a good location, right as you came in and we had more units participating this year. If you have any suggestions or comments please get with Christy. 2006 will be the last year in the city, after that the Fair will move to Caroline County. Cheri Haggerty praised Christy's efforts at a successful event.

Nominating Committee - Jim Scibek, Chair

Jim reported the Nominating Committee (Paul Campbell, Jackie Lohr, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly, Shelby Snider, Don Saunders and Jim Scibek) had met and composed the following slate of officers for 2006 -2008. President, Cheri Haggerty (Hanover County); Vice President, Betty Villers (Virginia Beach); Secretary, Angela Cingale (James CityCounty/Williamsburg); and Treasurer, Ted Jenks (Rockbridge County).

President McCaleb asked for further nominations from the floor, there being none, the slate was accepted. Ballots will be mailed to membership in January and installation will take place at MG College in June. Discussion followed whether we could email ballots but the current bylaws state ballots will be mailed. This can be something to consider for next election and change in bylaws.

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) – Paul Campbell, Chair

After last meeting President McCaleb realized he needed a vote to reappoint Paul Campbell as chairman of this committee. Motion was made, seconded and carried that Paul Campbell be chairman of the 2006 Education Endowment Fund Committee. Paul reported that last year VMGA gave 6 - \$100 scholarships from the EEF. This year we only have \$400 in the budget. Additional monies can be donated to the fund. This year's committee members are MGs who have received the scholarships in the past. Motion made and carried for the following committee members: Pinky Derieux (Chesapeake), Chuck Norrington (Rockbridge), Jean Bainbridge (Halifax) Jane Wyman(Prince William) and Paul Campbell (Virginia Beach). They are working to get the application out in January and will have an article in newsletter concerning the education endowment funds. There was concern that over the last few years of the 23 awards given, only 2 awards have been given to units with less than 75 members and there are 21 of these small units. Most of the awards are going to the larger units. Need to educate the coordinator and agents on how to write the letters of nominations.

Fund Raising – Cheri Haggerty

Cheri Haggerty reported she still has 70 flags left at \$15 each. Proceeds go to the

Coordinator's Endowment Fund. Flag can be hung from metal stand and used at project sites. She will be pursuing new ideas

Unit Reports –

Motion made and carried that we dispense with reading of unit reports.

Cheri Haggerty shared news article in Progressive Farmer Magazine's Top 100 Places to Live which listed the number one place to live as Fauquier County, VA. There were six counties in VA that were listed in the top 100 places to live in the United States. All of these counties have active MG units.

Unfinished Business

Tom Bolt (Norfolk) reported he has only 102 requests with checks for Master Gardener license plates after 350 people signed the petition originally for license plates. It was an excellent idea but not enough interest. He will contact all 102 people and destroy the checks instead of mailing them back. Thanks to Tom for his hard work.

Chuck Miller asked if there is a canned program for Ready-Set-Grow that he can copy. Jim Scibek will supply Chuck with information.

New Business

Washington Gardener Magazine - has contacted Bill McCaleb asking for our membership list to send complementary copies of their magazine or they can provide mass copies for some event. It was decided not to send membership list but can include copies of magazine in packet at MG College.

Dave Close said his newsletter, *In Season* will be sent electronically if he has your email address. He will send out a printed copy if you don't have email. .

Al Thompson has list of 114 organizations that tells you how to get through to the organization when you contact them instead of getting the run around. Contact Al at adthompsonmg@verizon.com for the list.

Coordinator Endowment Fund Power Point CD - contact Pat Reilly and someone from her committee will come out to your unit and give the Power Point presentation she showed earlier today.

Announcements

Bedford Extension Office, Saturdays 9-12

March 18 - Water Gardening

March 25 - Bee Keeping

April 1 - Raised Beds and Herbs in the Landscape

Next Board Meeting - February 11, Halifax

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.
respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers
VMGA Secretary

**Minutes of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
February 11, 2006
South Boston**

Meeting was cancelled because of a winter storm. Next meeting will be in Norfolk on April 8, 2006.

**Minutes of the April Regularly Scheduled Meeting of
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.
April 8, 2006
Norfolk**

Attendance

(Bedford) Bob and Patty Gamache; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux; (Fairfax) George Graine; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold, Bonnie Bernard, Mary Simpson; (Goochland/Powhatan) Chuck Miller; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty; (James City County/Williamsburg) Ann DeForest, Anne Odle; (Norfolk) Lynn Adams, Tom Bolt, Jackie Camire, Linder Fox, Paula Griffiths, Marcia Oubre, Don Snipes; (Northern Neck) Bill and Pat Rogers; (North Shenandoah Valley) Bud and Fran Gregory; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Frank and Pat Reilly, Bill and Janet Scott; (Roanoke) Kathryn and Ken Debnar; (Rockbridge/Bath) Ted Jenks; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Mary Ann Kincaid, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech/VCE) David Close; (Western Tidewater) Betty Jo Hendrix; (York) Jackie Lohr

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

Tom Bolt, Norfolk Master Gardener introduced Donald Buma, Executive Director of the Norfolk Botanical Garden, who welcomed us to the Garden and told us some of the projects they are working on, including the new 3-acre Children's Garden, World of Wonders, which is in the construction phase. Everyone was invited to take a tram ride through the Garden after the meeting for a closer view.

Introductions followed around the room.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Reilly

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$7,499.28
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4238.27)	\$7,653.97
CD Balance	\$6,494.29
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$21,647.54</u>

Balance as of 11/30/2005 \$8,289.41

Income

FY 06 dues	\$168.00
Fund Raising	\$45.00
CoordEndow	\$450.00
Total income	\$663.00

Expenses

Membership	-\$194.71
Newsletter	-\$655.09
Elections	-\$361.41
Comm/Unit Support	-\$41.00
State Fair	-\$142.59
President (State Corp Comm)	-\$25.00
Treasurer	-\$33.33
Total	-\$1,453.13

expenses

Balance as of 3/31/2006

\$7,499.28

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06

Income YTD

Committee	Budget	Income	Remaining
Membership			
Regular	\$5,640.00	\$3,530.00	\$2,110.00
Lifetime	\$1,560.00	\$1,530.00	\$30.00
subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$5,060.00	\$2,140.00
EEF	\$0.00	\$179.00	
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	*
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	\$6,152.00	*
total	\$13,200.00		

Expenses YTD

Committee	Budget	Expense	Remaining
Comm/Support	\$450.00	-\$292.35	\$157.65
EEF	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Elections	\$360.00	-\$361.41	-\$1.41
Endowment	\$200.00	-\$89.41	\$110.59
Marketing	\$150.00	-\$180.00	-\$30.00
Membership	\$1,600.00	-\$1,321.37	\$278.63

Newsletter	\$3,500.00	-\$2,537.90	\$962.10
State Fair	\$220.00	-\$142.59	\$77.41
Fundraising	\$150.00	-\$6.90	\$143.10

Officers Expense

President	\$75.00	-\$45.00	\$30.00
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Secretary	\$35.00	-\$10.54	\$24.46
Treasurer	\$35.00	-\$35.75	-\$0.75
subtotal	\$7,200.00	-\$5,023.22	\$2,176.78

Education	\$3,000.00	-\$1,153.10	*
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	-\$2,506.90	*
total	\$13,200.00		

	Budget	Income	Expenses	Remaining
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	\$1,153.10	-\$9.51
Fundraising	\$3,000.00			
Auction		\$3,487.00	-\$6.90	\$3,480.10
Flags		\$2,265.00	\$2,100.00	\$165.00
		\$5,752.00	\$2,106.90	\$3,645.10

Report was accepted pending annual audit.

Pat proposed the budget for next year be based on current year budget. Thanks to Virginia Beach MGA for contribution to the Diane Relf Scholarship in memory of Leonard Kaplan, VBMG who passed away this past year.

Minutes - Betty Villers

December minutes were corrected to read "training for Plant Introduction Program was conducted October 19 in Bedford" instead of Lexington.

Extension Liaison - Dave Close, MG Coordinator

President McCaleb gave Dave's report while Dave was home due to the birth of his daughter.

New VCE logos that will complement the new VT logo (Invent the Future) have been approved both by VT and VSU VCE administration. It is expected (assuming no problems with the vendor) that temporary nametags will be available by the end of summer. Dave expects the new nametags for existing volunteers will be made available close to the same time as the temporary tags.

The AAG Committee (Joyce Latimer, Bonnie Appleton, Leanne Dubois, and Dave Close) held a Green Industry Partners meeting on March 29 in Richmond to discuss their continued involvement with AAG. A separate meeting is being planned for May 4, in Williamsburg at the Jamestown Settlement for our Outreach Partners. Cheri Haggerty, VMGA VP and President-elect has been invited to represent VMGA at this meeting. Continuing to add state agency partners to the project – Department of Social Services, VDOT, Scenic Virginia, The Garden Club of Virginia, Historic Garden Week. Four wholesale merchandise items are now in production and available for MG units and associations to purchase and resell at retail rates. The clothing items include t-shirts, baseball style hats, embroidered aprons, and embroidered polo shirts. The updated list and with wholesale prices were forwarded to the VCE-MGC listserv recently. A potential national partner may be the Junior Master Gardener program. If that works out we may have access to more than 3 million elementary students and more than 200,000 teachers across the nation and will develop an AAG garden contest through the Weekly Reader program. This is all still tentative and hinges on the national JMG office receiving a grant to work out all the details.

Draft MOU was approved by VCE Administration and the template has been shared with ANR agents throughout the Commonwealth.

“Extension Master Gardener Help Desk” – Just a reminder to continue working at phasing this in during the year.

State Record Keeping System – Team (Dave; Sarah Kelley, VCE ANRH-IT; Michelle Prysby of the VA Master

Naturalist program; Peter Warren VCE agent in Albemarle; Marie Taylor, VCE MG in Albemarle; Amol Kaikini VCE MG in Fairfax) met in mid-March and worked through system requirements for the new SRKS. A data model was produced and a prototype system was developed in real time at our meeting. We will invite a few people to test (and try to break) the new system during MG College. Good progress is being made but ANRH-IT will not yet release a timeline for a final product.

Wildlife Chapter for MG Training Manual - Met with Carol Heiser of DGIF in March to discuss the content and format for a wildlife chapter that will be incorporated into the Master Gardener Training manual. Her agency (not by her choice) is requiring a written agreement or understanding with VT. Best case scenario – chapter will be available this fall; Worst case scenario – the chapter will be available early 2007. Carol and Dave determined the content (with the help of suggestions solicited from the Coordinator listserv) and she is working on a rough draft of the chapter.

Endowment Effort – Met with Max Bales and Vernon Meacham (the corporate development office for CALS) to explore some potential corporate donors/sponsors for the endowment. Have made contact with one corporate group and will be making a second one soon. Max and Vernon each have personal contacts with both corporations. They will certainly keep everyone posted on the progress of this effort. They are also planning a couple more dinner meetings with local MG associations. If your local association would like to have one of these meetings to discuss the endowment please let Dave know and he will arrange it.

MG College – Have met with the team from the Office of Sponsored Programs to walk through this year's process; Have also met with the housing folks to iron out some of last year's problems and plan for this year's attendees. There should not be a problem with linens and have asked for additional personnel to speed up check-in.

Tour of VA – Since February, have met with MG associations/groups in Fredericksburg (Central Rappahannock MG Assoc.), Norfolk, and Chesterfield. Was set to meet with Franklin County and the Henry/Martinsville groups but had to cancel. Scheduled to meet with Wise County MGs in early May.

Pod casting – Mike Goatley and a few folks from the Department of Hort are going to begin producing pod casts on a variety of season-specific topics. A prototype of the website is up and running. New podcasts will be posted on a regular basis beginning in the near future. This will also be a way to disseminate some information regarding the MG program (what it is, what it means to be a VCE MG, how to become a VCE MG, impacts of the program, keynote speakers at MG College, etc.) Dave has spoken to the ANRH-IT staff about recording the keynote speakers at College this year and podcasting those once College is over. He doesn't know if there will be a fee for those or not.

Miscellaneous -

MG College Advisory Team (MGCAT) was scheduled to meet on March 31 but the meeting was cancelled and will either be rescheduled or handled via teleconference.

Spring issue of *In Season* - will be sent out via listserv again. A very limited number will actually be printed since it will be the MG College issue and therefore twice as many pages as a normal issue.

2005 VCE MG Annual Report - will be completed this month; hope to print a few copies and also post to the web. 2005 total volunteer hours, contacts, and program highlights for nearly all 53 MG units will be included. Dave hopes to have copies distributed to all delegates and senators.

Southeast MG Conference - Hope to attend in early June but will not make the Northeast MG Conference.

Chesterfield MG group - has scheduled Horticulture Horizons for April 24, 2007. They have expressed an interest in working with VMGA (regarding publicity and having a table to sign up new VMGA members). The Chesterfield Office should have or will be contacting Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux about the event and to discuss VMGA's potential involvement.

Dave's report will be sent by email to unit reps after this meeting.

President's Report - Bill McCaleb

President Bill McCaleb reported he put in letters of support for two grant proposals, one letter directed to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Department of Horticulture, and the other letter directed to the Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Board in support for the VA Nursery and Landscape Association/VCE Plant Introduction Program.

America's Anniversary Garden - agents will have forms to record all activities including contacts, locations and special events. There is a proposal for involvement of Ward Burton as spokesman to promote AAG.

MG College - Registration fee: \$125 (same as last two years); same discounts based on milestone award achievements.

On-campus room and board: \$56.15 plus tax for a single or \$45.65 plus tax for a double.

Meal card with off campus housing: \$20.65/day for all three meals; individual meals are \$4.75 for breakfast, \$7.15 for lunch, and \$8.75 for dinner; you can buy individual meals with cash only, no credit cards.

Inn at VT -- block of rooms set aside at \$99/night.

Other hotels -- the Holiday Inn (across the road from the Inn at VT), AmeriSuites (on Prices Fork just across from the old Red Lion Inn). In Christiansburg (right off 460 and less than 15 minutes from campus there is a Hampton Inn, Microtel Inn & Suites, and a Best Western/Motel 8. Nice B&B's also available.

Schedule includes tours, garden tours, and speakers.

This information and schedule with speakers will be sent by email to unit reps and board members after this meeting.

Plant Introduction Program - Berry Hill Irrigation in Mecklenburg has agreed to put in drip irrigation in all MG evaluation sites. The PIP label means plant was developed, propagated, greenhouse grown or field grown and sold in Virginia. The earliest plants will be released is 2007. Propagation will include cell culture on hellebore from Pine Knot Farms and columbine. Money will be coming back to VCE which will benefit the MGs. Patty Gamache (Bedford) reported they have already put in irrigation there.

Don't forget to send milestone hours by April 14 to Dave Close. Awards night at MG College will be Thursday night.

Would like to include Hort agent training during MG College but it won't happen this year. Working to have the training Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next year. It will be our 20th Anniversary of the MG College in 2007. Are encouraging Hort agents and MG coordinators to attend leadership development training this year Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meeting with Dr. Mark McCann, staff and VMGA executive board, February 20 - we shared our history, where we started, where we've come from, where we're going and talked about the endowment and our programs. with Mark McCann. He reported Virginia has more Hortline people than many states. The VMGA history that Betty Villers gave at the meeting will be included in the next newsletter.

Met with Michael Dirr on March 18th and talked about their MG program in Georgia. March 3rd attended the Virginia Naturalist Program which we will hear more about at MG College.

Vice President - Cheri Haggerty

Our venture with Hanover MGs at Maymont Flower Show in February included thirty three MGs from fourteen units. There were 630 contacts and had more comments on the AAG theme than we could keep track of. In January MGs from Hanover, James City/Williamsburg and Chesterfield attended the state General Assembly to assist the VESA, Virginia Extension Agents group to answer questions. They had about 100

contacts in about six hours in the halls. They will be better prepared next year with numbers to share from Dave Close.

Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux, Co-Chairs

Fran Shelton reported the committee will be working with Cheri Haggerty for the fall program at Maymont in Richmond. More information will be provided at MG College.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Florace Arnold thanked Tom Bolt and Mary Ann Kincaid for putting the newsletter online. It has gone very smooth and response has been great. Instead of the usual folding, stapling and stamping 430 plus newsletters, only 142 were folded with the last issue. Thanks to those that have sent articles for the newsletter. Mary Ann reported a savings of \$900 in printing costs and \$315 for postage for the two electronic email newsletter distributions.

Membership - Mary Ann Kincaid, Chair

Mary Ann Kincaid reported we have 554 active members, of those 138 are lifetime members. Renewal notices will be sent in next few weeks to those with expiring membership in May. Most will go by email and about 60 by mail. Letters will be sent to lifetime members for changes in information. Also included is a form stating if circumstances change and the MG can no longer maintain active status, they can sign up for auxiliary status for \$12.00.

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair Unit Support

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Pinky Derieux, Susie McCrea and Frank Reilly and whomever else we need.

We have no activity to report for this period

Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snyder, Kathryn Debnar and Chair Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get.

Since the December regularly scheduled meeting there have been 32861 visitors to VMGA.net.

1. Since the February regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 57 separate occasions. Included in the edits is a working On-line Membership application thanks to Jim Villers. Also included are PayPal links to pay dues, and to make donations to both of our endowments.

2. The most popular pages have been Endowment, Minutes, Unit Reports and distressingly enough, the Prince William Page we are incubating on our site. Remember that we can help you host your site for awhile under certain conditions.

3. The page of links to local unit/association websites has been updated. It now contains links to 19 local associations. Not all of these sites are being kept current, and at least one of the links is dead. Please check with your unit to see if they have a site, if it is listed, and if the address we have is correct.

4. A new page to promote MG College is now open. It contains information about scholarships, and soon will have links to a recruiting PowerPoint presentation – much shorter this year, and suitable for on-line viewing, as well as a longer version for those who have not been to MG College before.

5. We are searching for some new committee members. We will have to replace Cheri Haggerty since she is assuming the Presidency. Please contact the chair at webmaster@vmga.net.

President McCaleb reported Frank has provided unit support to Pittsylvania County along with support from Danville, Campbell County, Henry County and Bill's help. Appomattox County has 6 Master Gardeners and Bill will be speaking before their group this fall before they start their second class training.

Finance Committee – Bill Scott, Chair

Members: Pat Reilly, Margaret Van Winkle, Ted Jenks, Al Thompson and Bill Scott. Committee is working on budget for next year and committee chairs will be contacted for budget needs. Budget should be ready by early May.

State Coordinator Endowment Committee – Pat Reilly, Chair

Thanks to Western Tidewater MGs for their donation of \$100 in memory of Pat O'Leary. Pat and her husband, Judd gave generously of their time and spirit to the MG program. We received \$9.95 from the Food Lion Lion's Share program to be added to the endowment. Remember to enroll in the Food Lion program and then use your card. Our endowment account balance is \$67,256.70, with outstanding pledges of \$29,185.00 for a total of \$96,441.70. It doesn't include charitable remains annuity (\$100,000 or more) given to endowment by an anonymous Virginia Beach MG. Looking for \$3,560.30 so we can meet the initial \$50,000 challenge. Looking forward to a benchmark celebration at MG College that will include another wine tasting and silent auction.

Remember to sign up for the Food Lion Rewards Program at www.foodlion.com and use the city of Goldvein as the city where you are signing up.

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

Cheri Haggerty reporting for Christy stated the State Fair will be a week later next year,

September 28 - October 8. There will be more information at MG College when Christy will run a one-hour program 'How to volunteer at the State Fair'.

Nominating Committee - Jim Scibek, Chair

Members: Paul Campbell, Jackie Lohr, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly, Shelby Snider, Don Saunders and Jim Scibek. Five hundred twenty-five ballots were mailed in January received back 303 ballots. Results - President, Cheri Haggerty; Vice President, Betty Villers; Secretary, Angela Cingale; and Treasurer, Ted Jenks.

Motion made by Pat Reilly to make bylaw change to allow voting by email was seconded and carried by the membership present. Committee to change wording in bylaws is composed of Pat Reilly, chair, Fran Shelton, Pinky Derieux, Tom Bolt, and Kathryn Debnar.

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) – Paul Campbell, Chair

Paul Campbell reported the scholarship application is on the VMGA website with all the directions and Dave Close has sent it on his listserv. Applications must be submitted by Extension Agent or MG Coordinator for the \$100 scholarships to MG College. There will be at least six scholarships. Applications must be submitted electronically.

Fund Raising – Cheri Haggerty

Cheri Haggerty announced her resignation as Fund Raising Chairman due to other commitments. Pat Reilly reminded us the silent auction is our biggest money maker for the time involved and that perhaps additional sales are not as important. Will need help at MG College for the Silent Auction. Suggestions for this year include having new books, not used or outdated. Pat Reilly has records from last year, what was donated and what brought in the money, so you can direct your solicitations there. We need volunteers to coordinate this. Bill McCaleb has the breakdown of the counties by districts. Also, need some unit to take on responsibility of goodie bags. Bill already has items donated.

Unit Reports –

Unit reports were given at this time. They can be found in the newsletter and on the VMGA website.

Unfinished Business

Tom Bolt (Norfolk) reported the checks for the Master Gardener license plates will be shredded.

New Business

Tom Bolt will gather information on license plate frames for VMGA to sell. He has found plastic frames as low as 77.3 cents. Looking for white frame with dark green letters and VCE Master Gardener wording at bottom with option for local unit to add name to top of frame.

President McCaleb appointed an audit committee composed of Bill Scott, Jim Scibek and Ted Jenks with Bill as chair to report at MG College.

Another fund raiser opportunity for local units includes AAG items. Contact Bill McCaleb by email for more information on sale of AAG t-shirts, polo and collared shirts, and hats. There are flyers available promoting the AAG with plant lists.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting - June, MG College

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.
respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers
VMGA Secretary

Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Board Meeting

June 22, 2006

Blacksburg (Virginia Tech)

Attendance

(Bedford) Patty Gamache; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux; (Fairfax City - Green Spring) Doreen Jagodnik; (Fairfax - Merrifield) George Graine; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Christy Brennan, Cheri Haggerty; (James City County/Williamsburg) Barbara Gustafson; (Luray) Bud and Fran Gregory; (Lynchburg) Karen Sacasky; (Montgomery) Angie Hall; (Norfolk) Elsie Holliday, Josie Remmy, Don Snipes; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell; (Prince William) Pat Reilly, Bill and Janet Scott; (Roanoke) Virginia Craig; (Rockbridge) Ted Jenks; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Mary Ann Kincaid, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech/VCE) David Close; (York) Jackie Lohr.

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM in Torgerson Hall on the Campus of Virginia Tech.

Introductions

President McCaleb welcomed us all to the June board meeting in Blacksburg and introductions followed around the room.

Minutes - Betty Villers

The April minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Reilly

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$9,457.68
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4350.38)	\$7,661.01
CD Balance	\$6,606.40
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$23,725.09</u>

Balance as of 3/31/2006 (reconciled) \$6,860.34

Income

FY 06 dues	\$144.00
FY 07 dues	\$2,136.00
FY 08-16 dues	\$468.00
Fundraising (flag)	\$15.00
EEF	\$150.00
VT Endowment	\$135.95
Elections (returned stamps)	\$3.12
	\$3,052.07

Expenses

Membership	-\$166.58
Newsletter	-\$222.83
President	-\$25.00

Secretary	-\$13.64
Treasurer	-\$26.68

-\$454.73

Balance as of 5/31/2006

\$9,457.68

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06

Income YTD

Committee	Budget	Income
Membership		
FY 06	\$5,640.00	\$3,626.00
FY 07-16	\$1,560.00	\$3,930.00
Subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$7,556.00
EEF	\$0.00	\$229.00
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	\$6,167.00
Communication	\$0.00	\$24.95
Gift for Endow	\$0.00	\$1,717.95
Election	\$0.00	\$3.12
total	\$13,200.00	\$16,841.61

Expenses YTD

Committee	Budget	Expense	Year-End
Comm/Support	\$450.00	-\$292.35	\$182.60

EEF	\$400.00	-\$600.00	\$29.00
Elections	\$360.00	-\$364.53	-\$1.41
Endowment	\$200.00	-\$82.51	\$117.49
Marketing	\$150.00	-\$180.00	-\$30.00
Membership	\$1,600.00	-\$1,493.25	\$106.75
Newsletter	\$3,500.00	-\$2,760.73	\$739.27
State Fair	\$220.00	-\$142.59	\$77.41
Fundraising	\$150.00	-\$6.90	\$143.10
		-\$2,500.00	
Education	\$3,000.00	-\$1,153.10	\$1,846.90
Gift CoordEndow	\$3,000.00	-\$4,552.10	\$1,552.10
Officers Expense			
President	\$75.00	-\$45.00	\$30.00
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Secretary	\$35.00	-\$24.18	\$10.82
Treasurer	\$35.00	-\$68.43	-\$33.43
total	<u>\$13,200.00</u>	-\$14,265.67	

Fundraising

Auction	\$3,887.00	-\$406.90	\$3,480.10
		-	
Flags	\$2,265.00	\$2,100.00	\$165.00
		-	
	\$6,152.00	\$2,506.90	\$3,645.10

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The President's Report and all Committee Reports were deferred to the Annual Meeting, Saturday night, June 24, 2006.

Education - Fran Shelton, Pinky Derieux, Chair

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Membership - Mary Ann Kincaid, Chair

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair

Finance Committee - Bill Scott recommended that the standing rules be changed to reflect change in dues amounts available for expenditure in a fiscal year. This will create restricted funds to reflect dues paid in advance. Motion made and carried that standing rules be changed to reflect the creation of restricted funds in the amount equal to dues paid in advance. Money for future years' dues won't be spent until that year.

A new item will be added to the Standing Rules under Officer Guidelines and Treasurer to read:

5. Will maintain an accounting of dues paid in advance, restricting their use until the fiscal year for which they were paid.

Unit Reports

The Unit reps attending were asked to send their reports to the secretary. They will be posted at www.VMGA.net and printed in the next newsletter.

Extension Liaison - Dave Close, MG Coordinator

Dave deferred his report to the annual meeting on Saturday night.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mary Ann Kincaid has membership reports available for each unit that lists current paid members and those members who have not renewed. Contact these people in your unit and encourage them to renew. Lists also provide results of interest survey for each of the new or renewed members which could be of benefit to leadership in the unit.

Announcements

Don't forget the Brag Boards need to be up and ready by 5:00p.m..

Future Board Meetings:

August 12 - Gloucester, 10:00 a.m.

October 14 - Washington County, 10:00 a.m.

December 9 - York County, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers, Secretary

VMGA

Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

June 24, 2006

(update Draft on August 4, 2006)

Dave Close, State MG Coordinator welcomed everyone to MG College and introduced his lovely wife, Constance and four daughters, Page, Hannah, Molly, and Stacey who were in attendance. He reminded all to fill out the MG College evaluation forms before leaving for home.

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the 2006 Annual VMGA Meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the theater of Torgerson Hall on the Campus of Virginia Tech and welcomed everyone attending.

Minutes - Betty Villers

The minutes from the 2005 Annual Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Reilly

:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance

\$9,457.68

Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$5297.29)	\$7,661.01
CD Balance	\$6,606.40
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$23,725.09</u>

Checking Account

Balance as of 5/31/2005 \$6,881.74

Income

FY 06 Dues	\$3,626.00	
FY 07-16 Dues	\$3,930.00	
EEF	\$229.00	
Education	\$1,143.59	
Fundraising	\$6,167.00	
Communication	\$24.95	
Gift for VT Foundation	\$1,717.95	
Elections	\$3.12	
	total	
	income	\$16,841.61

Expenses

Communication, Unit Support	-\$292.35
EEF	-\$600.00
	-
Education	\$1,153.10
Elections	-\$364.53
Endowment Cmte	-\$82.51
	-
Gift to VT Foundation	\$4,552.10

Marketing	-\$180.00	
	-	
Membership*	\$1,493.25	
	-	
Newsletter	\$2,760.73	
State Fair	-\$142.59	
	-	
Fundraising	\$2,506.90	
Officer - President	-\$45.00	
Officer - Secretary	-\$24.18	
Officer - Treasurer (bank fees)	-\$68.43	
		total
		expenses
		\$14,265.67

*includes \$5.30 from FY05

Balance as of 5/31/2006 \$9,457.68

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06

Income YTD

Committee	Budget	Income
Membership		
FY 06	\$5,640.00	\$3,626.00
FY 07-16	\$1,560.00	\$3,930.00
Subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$7,556.00
EEF	\$0.00	\$229.00
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59

Fundraising	\$3,000.00	\$6,167.00
Communication	\$0.00	\$24.95
Gift for Endow	\$0.00	\$1,717.95
Election	\$0.00	\$3.12
	\$13,	
total	200.00	\$16,841.61

Expenses YTD

Committee	Budget	Expense	Year-End
Comm/Support	\$450.00	-\$292.35	\$182.60
EEF	\$400.00	-\$600.00	\$29.00
Elections	\$360.00	-\$364.53	-\$1.41
Endowment	\$200.00	-\$82.51	\$117.49
Marketing	\$150.00	-\$180.00	-\$30.00
Membership	\$1,600.00	-\$1,493.25	\$106.75
Newsletter	\$3,500.00	-\$2,760.73	\$739.27
State Fair	\$220.00	-\$142.59	\$77.41
Fundraising	\$150.00	-\$6.90	\$143.10
		-\$2,500.00	
Education	\$3,000.00	-\$1,153.10	\$1,846.90
Gift CoordEndow	\$3,000.00	-\$4,552.10	\$1,552.10

Officers Expense

President	\$75.00	-\$45.00	\$30.00
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Secretary	\$35.00	-\$24.18	\$10.82
Treasurer	\$35.00	-\$68.43	-\$33.43

total

\$13,200.00

-
\$14,265.67

Audit - Bill Scott, Chair

The audit committee consisted of Ted Jenks (Rockbridge-Bath), Jim Scibek (Fauquier) and Bill Scott (Prince William). The annual audit was completed June 17, 2006 and is an attachment to these minutes. Committee acknowledged significant improvement in record keeping over the last two years. Motion made and carried to accept Audit Committee report.

President's Report - Bill McCaleb

President Bill McCaleb thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the last two years, it has been a pleasure. He and Dave Close have had the opportunity to visit other states such as W Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Michigan and talk about how they are doing things in their MG program. Arkansas will probable follow VA with a coordinator. They currently have a PhD running their program.

- Have come a long way since 2 years ago. The creation of the endowment is a giant step for MGs to keep the position in perpetuity. We are the first to get it off the ground and running. Could not have done it without help from the University and Max Bales and Kim Christopoulos. Many units and individuals have contributed, with multiple donations from some units.
- Planning brought about a schedule for Board Meetings that everyone was well aware of, well in advance and posted to the website.
- Continuing Education has grown through local units putting on outstanding program opportunities for all those attending.
- Was guest speaker at six functions across the state for graduation and/or annual dinner meetings.
- Helped two new Master Gardener Units to start up in Appomattox and Lee County.
- Now have four membership categories; Active, Lifetime, Auxiliary and Sustaining. Auxiliary membership is open to those who maintain an interest in Virginia Master Gardening but are no longer active. Can be for those people who move out of state but want to keep in touch. Sustaining membership is open to individuals or corporations with an interest in advancing the work of Virginia Master Gardening. These people will be kept informed of what's going on in the MG program.

- Couldn't have done job without help of committee people and officers. Thanks to Cheri Haggerty for organizing our efforts in Richmond to education our legislators on the needs of the University and VCE.
- Tom Bolt tried to bank enough people to get us a Virginia Master Gardener License Plate but not enough people were interested.
- Revamped our Budget to spread out the lifetime fees as they should be.
- MG units across the state have contributed to the hurricane relief effort in Louisiana and Mississippi. VA MGs gave \$1900 to Mississippi Extension to rebuild their program and \$1550 to Louisiana Extension. More has been given from VA but the affiliation was not known.
- Electronic Newsletter now in effect, thanks to Tom Bolt and Florace Arnold.
- Plant Introduction Program or PIP is well into its second year and 100 MGs have volunteered to assist with this evaluation program. This is joint partnership between VaTech, VCE, Lynchburg College, VMGA and VNLA and Norfolk Botanical Garden. We did get a substantial grant in 2005 and got another to carry the program through 2007. July 24th will see a program at the Halifax site with key people from ISSR, Jersey Novak from VaTech, and farmers and growers who are interested in getting into the program.

Vice President's Report - Cheri Haggerty

Vice President Cheri Haggerty reported that in January VMGA partnered with VCE and spent a weekend at the General Assembly in Richmond with MGs from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Danville giving out information about MG contributions to the commonwealth including number of hours and its value to the commonwealth.

VMGA partnered with Hanover MGs at the Maymont Show. Had 30 volunteers from 14 units across the state and made 600 contacts. Theme was America's Anniversary Garden.

We have same number of units represented as last year, 41, but they are different. We lost one and gained one. Looking to add unit reps from Louisa, Portsmouth and Arlington. The unit representatives report at Board Meetings what their unit is doing and hear what's happening in other units. You can go to the VMGA.net website and contact any officer and say you want to be the rep from your unit if you don't already have a rep.

Thanks to Patty Gamache (Bedford) for taking over the goodies bags for MG College. Also, thanks to Jim Revell for getting the bags to Blacksburg.

Standing Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Deriuex, Co-Chairs

Last fall the Education Committee sponsored a program at the Hampton Roads AREC with seven speakers and only 58 people in attendance.

This fall, Friday, October 27 the program will be at Maymont in Richmond. Peggy Singlemann from Maymont will be speaking followed by LeAnne DeBois, Williamsburg Extension Agent. Cost is \$12 for VMGA members and \$22 for nonmembers plus cost of lunch. There will be an extra charge for guided tours of the house and the gardens or you can tour on your own at no charge. There will be tram available for those who have difficulty walking.

Any unit can post their continuing education program on the VMGA website by contacting Kathryn Debnar and in return can get information about other programs in their area from the website.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Bill McCaleb reported for Florace. Continue to send unit reports and current news from your unit.

Membership - Mary Ann Kincaid, Chair

As of today, there are 413 current members of VMGA. Of these 264 are active members, 6 auxiliary members and 143 life members. We are awaiting renewal of 193 members whose memberships expired 5/31/06.

Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Kerry Goldmeyer, Pinky Derieux, Frank Reilly and whomever else we need.

- Answered question from local unit concerning use of local association funds and whether required VCE wording should appear if paid by the association funds.
- If your unit has any questions about membership, taxation or any other question go the web page and contact Unit Support.

Communication Committee - Frank Reilly, Chair

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Kathryn Debnar, Shelby Snyder, Paul Campbell, Tom Bolt and Chair, Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get.

- Last fall marked our seventh anniversary as VMGA.net. We've grown from a single page giving the minutes of the last meeting to a large web site with more than 300 pages of content and nearly 100,000 visitors annually.
- Since the last Annual Meeting there have been 104,498 visitors to VMGA.net.
- The most popular pages in the last year have been Hort Update, Minutes, Calendar, News, Education, and Membership.

· Remember that we can help you host your site for a while under certain conditions.

Finance - Bill Scott, Chair

Members are Pat Reilly, Al Thompson, Margaret VanWinkle, Ted Jenks, and Bill Scott. The committee reviewed the financial stability of the VMGA investments and is continuing to look at restructuring the investments to improve yield. They have prepared a budget for 2006-07 which is attached. Changes from 2006 Budget include Membership Dues Income that is more consistent with what is actually received. On the Expense side the Newsletter cost will be considerably less due to electronic distribution of the newsletter. Since Lifetime Dues are paid in a lump sum the Finance Committee proposed and the Board approved not spending the future years' dues until that year. Motion made and carried that the 2007 Budget be accepted as presented by the Finance Committee.

Special Committee Reports

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

We had 4416 contacts last year at the State Fair, an increase of 15 percent. A total of 19 counties participated with 150 volunteers. We were one of the first to use the red, white and blue displays for the America's Anniversary Garden (AAG) theme and people were very interested.

This year the State Fair will be September 28th through October 8th again at the Richmond Raceway Complex at Strawberry Hill. Looking for volunteers to staff the booth. The booth is part of a classroom tour and school children will be coming by. It is publicized as the largest outside classroom. The plan is for the Master Gardener Booth to become a key part of the "Outdoor class room" by providing school children with an interactive display with beneficial bugs and proper gardening techniques but there's not a lot of time only about 5 minutes at the booth before they move on. America's Anniversary Garden is the theme this year.

The Gardening Crops displays have decreased over the years and they are encouraging participation in exhibiting your gardening best vegetables. Deadline to submit entry forms is September 8th at www.statefair.com.

Volunteers who work the booths only get free tickets for themselves, not their spouses and children. Notice about the State Fair volunteer opportunity will go in the newsletter.

Fundraising Committee - Cheri Haggerty, Chair

The Fund Raising Committee still has 68 garden flags with the VCE logo to sell before we can start something else.

Cheri is looking for a new chairman for the Fundraising Committee.

Educational Endowment Fund - Paul Campbell, Chair

Diane Relf Educational Endowment Scholarship Fund selection committee members for 2006 were: Jane Wyman (Prince William), Chuck Norrington (Rockbridge), Pinky Derieux (Chesapeake), Jean Bainbridge (Halifax) and Jenny Oyler (Franklin) as alternate and Paul Campbell (Virginia Beach), chairperson. All members have previously received the Master Gardener College scholarship in past years.

Donations: In addition to \$400.00 provided in the budget, donations were received from the following groups or individuals for the Dianne Relf Educational Endowment Scholarship Fund:

Creola Loyd, Betsy Klein, Chuck Miller, Jean McCleerey, Dale Firestone, and Rita Costello. The Virginia Beach Master Gardener Association in memory of Leonard Kaplan and Gretchen Fisher in memory of Bill Atkinson.

Applications: There were 19 applications submitted by Extension Agents/Coordinators representing fourteen (14) Units throughout the State. Thirteen (13) applications were submitted as members of VMGA and six (6) were non-members.

Selections: The following individuals were selected for receipt of the 2006 Master Gardener College scholarships. Each individual was presented with a check for \$100.

SELECTEES	UNIT	EXT/COORDINATOR
Fran Gregory	Northern Shenandoah	Carolyn Wilson
Ed Hazelwood	Hanover	Colleen Calderwood
Frank Reilly	Prince William	Paige Thacker
Don Snipes	Norfolk	Lynette Swanson
George Graine	Fairfax	Adria Bordas
Mary Ann Kincaid	Virginia Beach	Susan French

Coordinator's Endowment Committee - Pat Reilly, Chair

Committee consists of Pat Reilly (Chair), Angela Cingale, Dave Close, Kathryn Debnar, Carol Dixon, Jane Pratt Schilling and Jim Scibek. Bill McCaleb, VMGA President, is participating as an *ex officio* member. Max Bales, Director of Development for CALS, is also active with the committee.

· Over the past year, the committee continued to reach out to units through Dave Close and Carol Dixon. Kathryn Debnar has coordinated speaking engagements to

the units. If you would like a committee member to come speak to your unit contact Kathryn.

- The "\$50 for 5" pledge campaign has been fairly active but we need to get the word out. That's the reason for the really "cool" pins which have resulted in more than a half dozen pledges of at least \$250 or more this week.

- We have compiled a huge list of foundations and corporations from which we can solicit funds or outright grants.

Pat recognized George Graine (Fairfax) who presented their second check for \$400 to the MG Coordinator Endowment.

Totals from tonight's Silent Auction will be available tomorrow morning. The Endowment Fund now stands at \$204, 265.10.

Nominations and Elections - Jim Scibek, Chair

Members: Paul Campbell, Jackie Lohr, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly, Chuck Norrington, Shelby Snider, Don Saunders and Jim Scibek as Chairman. All meetings were done by email. Five hundred twenty-five ballots were mailed January 24th requesting return no later than February 6th. Ballots returned were 254. Results - President, Cheri Haggerty; Vice President, Betty Villers; Secretary, Angela Cingale; and Treasurer, Ted Jenks. Motion made and carried to destroy the ballots.

Extension Liaison Report - David Close, MG State Coordinator

- 230 people registered as participants at MG College. Still looking for goal of 300, maybe next year.

- Has visited 30 out of the 53 units. If he has not visited your unit, have your association president, agent or unit leader contact him to set up a visit.

- Thanks to Patty Gamache for the tremendous job she did putting the goody bags together.

- Thanks also to Pat Reilly who took on the Silent Auction this year and did a great job. Looking for someone to head it up next year. We have great structure in place and can provide information on how to do it and how many people are needed.

- Many people have come up in the last couple of days and outside housing issues have given positive comments on how things have gone this year. Have a tremendous team that has been working together for two years, the MG College Advisory team. Thanks.

- Thanks to the New River Valley MG group for their tremendous support this year. Remember to tell them thank you, they have been a very gracious host and a tremendous help.

Unfinished Business

Brag Board Awards - Brag Board Awards were started several years ago with Sarah Lineberger, then state MG Coordinator. It was decided to come up with a trophy for the unit with the best brag board acknowledging the SLMs. The unit keeps the trophy for one year and brings it back to MG College the next year to be passed on or to win again.

Winners this year:

SLM 1 Environmental Stewardship	Northern Neck
SLM 2 Youth in Horticulture	York County
SLM 3 Economic Value of Landscape	Loudoun County
SLM 4 Food Nutrition and Food Security	Chesapeake
SLM 5 Horticulture Therapy	Prince William
Overall Winner	Northern Neck

The overall winner is illegible to be submitted to the National Search for Excellence Program.

New officers - Bill McCaleb passed the "bell" on to Cheri Haggerty the new president. The new officers were recognized, all were present except for Angela Cingale, Secretary.

Raffle winner - Bill's last duty as president was to select the winning raffle ticket for the three- leaf, hypertufu water feature with plants. Winner was Peggy Fox from Newport News. The \$250 that was raised will go toward the Endowment.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting – Saturday, August 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Gloucester
October 14, in Abingdon (Washington County)
December 9, York County

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers
VMGA Secretary

June 17,

2006

VMGA Board of Directors

Subject: FY 2006 Annual Audit Report

The FY 2006 Annual Audit Committee consisting of Bill Scott, Chair, Jim Scibek and Ted Jenks met on Saturday June 17, 2006 and reviewed documentation for all of the VMGA cash accounts. These accounts include the checking account, money market account and the certificate of deposit. All accounts are maintained at Sun Trust Bank. The committee reviewed documentation including check registers, canceled checks, bank statements, and receipts. The committee finds that these records accurately and correctly represent the financial transactions of VMGA for the period June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006 as reflected in the Treasurer's Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Scott, Chair

Jim Scibek

Ted Jenks

VMGA, Inc.

FY07 Budget Assumptions

June 1, 2006 to May31, 2007

- Membership dues are based upon prior year actual collections.
- Revenue from education activities is projected on past experience and forecast to offset expenses.
- Fundraising revenue represents income from the silent auction at Master Gardener College.
- The combined line item for Communication / Support expenses is composed of \$400 for Communications and \$50 for the Unit Support Committee.
- Education represents the expenses of FY07 educational activities forecast at a break-even level. Refer to the related income in the revenue section of the budget.

- EEF Scholarships are forecast to be paid from operating funds in FY07. The current VMGA endowment does not generate sufficient revenue to fund the scholarships and growth accumulation.
- Elections expenses were not budgeted for FY07 due to the biennial election of officers.
- Endowment expenses include \$500 to purchase pins for those who pledge or contribute \$250 or more to the Endowment.
- Gifts represent the contribution of proceeds from the silent auction at Master Gardener College (less the cost of pins for those who pledge or contribute \$250 or more to the endowment) to the endowment for the state coordinator.
- Membership & Roster expenses approximate the costs of producing the membership directory and other expenses incurred to acquire new members in FY06. The \$1,390 budget represents a \$210 decrease from FY06. If an electronic solution were utilized, as previously discussed, these costs would be significantly reduced.
- Newsletter expenses are composed of \$1,100 for printing costs and postage of \$400 to provide for the mailing of 150 issues. This assumes the remaining 400 copies are provided electronically by email.
- State Fair expenses are composed of \$45 in postage, \$180 in supplies (giveaways) and \$25 for decorations, copies, etc. This represents an increase of \$30 compared to FY06.

VMGA, Inc

Proposed FY07 Budget

June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007

Income:	Amount
Membership	
Regular	\$4,000
Lifetime	920
Education	2,400

Fundraising	4,000
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Total Income:	\$11,320
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Expenses:

Communication/Support	\$450
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Education	2,400
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EEF Scholarships	600
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Elections	
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Endowment	700
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Fundraising	150
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Gifts	3,500
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Marketing	200
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Membership & Roster	1,390
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Newsletter	1,500
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State Fair	250
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Officers Expense

President	75
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Vice President	25
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Secretary	35
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Treasurer	45
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Total Expenses:	\$11,320
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