

VMGA Minutes Dec 1999 – Jun 2000

Electronic copies began in December, 1999.

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**Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the  
Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. (VMGA, Inc.)**

**Loudoun County, VA**

**December 11, 1999**

**Call to Order:**

Kerry Goldmeyer called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM on December 11, 1999 in the Meeting room of the Loudoun County Offices of Virginia Cooperative Extension. All those present introduced themselves.

Andrew Gerachis welcomed us to Loudoun County

**Attendance:**

**The Board of Directors:** President (Kerry M. Goldmeyer), Vice-President (Sybil Przypek), Treasurer (Gary R. Bill), Secretary (Frank Reilly), Immediate Past President (Karen Sacasky).

**Committee Chairs:** Membership (Pat Reilly). Education (Bud and Fran Gregory), State Fair Committee (Evelyn Parker), **VMGA Report** (Mike Feris).

**Unit Representatives:** Mike Feris (Chesapeake), Gary Bill (Newport News), Sybil Przypek (York), Karen Sacasky (Lynchburg, Amherst and Campbell), Lenore Plissner (Fauquier), Sydney Self (Bedford), Ailene Bartlett (James City County, and city of Williamsburg), Tom Geer (Prince George County), Pat Reilly (Prince William), Tom Park (Rockingham and Augusta), Phyllis Bayer (Norfolk), Ann Gorrell (King George, Caroline, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and city of Fredericksburg), Valerie J. Dagley, Barbara McKee (Loudoun County), Kathy Heslip (Arlington and city of Alexandria), Jack Slapcinsky (Fairfax), Fran Gregory (Page, Warren, Shenandoah and Clarke), Ed Tyner (Culpeper, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock), Evelyn Parker (Hanover).

**VCE Representative:** Diane Relf, Ph.D.

### **Minutes of the October Meeting:**

Tom Geer pointed out that I had misinterpreted his wording. Let the sentence read – " Tom Geer commented that even in the military, which is probably the most demanding force for uniformity that you might expect, there is still a recognition that individuality is important and they allow for different units to have distinctive insignia."

Also the date of our next meeting with Dave Barrett is scheduled for February 11, 20-00 not the 13<sup>th</sup> as previously stated in the minutes. Susie McCrea reported that her name was misspelled throughout.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Gary Bill distributed a treasurer's report. It indicated that our assets totaled \$13,499.50 as of November 30, 1999. We have no large outstanding debts. Our contribution from the Richmond VNLA (\$500) was received, and is not reflected in the totals on the report since it came in after the report was finalized. Our income is at 60% of expected revenue, while our expenditures are slightly less. The report was accepted as delivered.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Communications:** The position is open at this time. It needs to be filled by someone who is computer savvy. The duties include keeping up with the unit reps and the leadership of the various units, encouraging participation in VMGA, Inc by the various Units.

**Education:** The next Continuing Education event is the Professional Horticulture Conference of Virginia January 24-27, 2000. The Program is available by telephoning (757) 523-4734 or on the Internet at [www.phcv.org](http://www.phcv.org). The conference registration is \$65 until January 8<sup>th</sup>, after that the registration is \$80.00.

Pat Reilly has arranged a conference hotel rate with a hospitality area. The rooms are available for \$ 47.00 per room with no additional charge for extra folks in the room. If we get 25 rooms the hospitality room will be free. All the rooms are ocean view, and there is onsite parking. Rooms must be booked by Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to get that rate. Call The Howard Johnson South 1801 Atlantic Ave 1(800) 258-1878.

Coming up in March is at Sandy's Plants in Mechanicsville March. The program will introduce the newest cultivars, and discuss the perennials that are available at Sandy's Plants. There will be a 10% discount for plants purchased at the event. May's program is the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. There are several speakers lined up dealing with hydroponics among other topics.

Diane Relf offered that she would be a repository for any announcements, and distribute them to all the Units using the MG List Server. She also announced that there would be a Southeastern MG Conference In Atlanta this year, and that she would post details on the MG List Server.

### **Membership:**

Pat Reilly reported that the membership as of this morning is 384. She has given many of the Unit representatives a list of the VMGA members in their units, as well as those who failed to re-register for this year. She has applications to distribute to each of the units so that they can recruit during their training this winter and spring. The number of those who failed to re-register is actually quite small in most units, but she asked that the Unit Representatives survey those non-renewals as well as recruit new members.

The question of whether VMGA applications could be sent out using the "franking" privilege was discussed. Diane Relf clarified that it is not proper to sell things using the franking privilege. Therefore the best approach might be to include the application (without expressing the amount of the dues) and ask that those who are interested fill out the application and someone will contact them with the details.

A discussion ensued about how we could get people to join— "what's in it for them?" Tom Geer mentioned that his Unit has an incentive where whoever has the most volunteer hours will be awarded a \$20.00 scholarship for education opportunities. Diane Relf pointed out that in a recent communication from the Association of Association Presidents that there is a trend away from recruiting by using "in-the-pocket" benefits. Instead the trend is towards recruiting so that members can feel like they belong and can help to make a change. She pointed out, as an example, that we could be proud of the fact that the Pest Management Guides (PMGs) are now being renovated largely because of the constant input into Tech about how difficult to use the PMGs were.

Kerry asked if there was someone at Tech who could help with recruiting and/or writing a brochure. Diane Relf said that there was no one there with the time to do this, and it might not be the best to have that type of information come from her office anyway. Pat Reilly went on to say that she feels a brochure is in order, and it is her committee's charge to do one. She feels that the meetings with VCE Leadership, and changes facilitated by VMGA Inc. are good selling points, but she needs a graphic arts person to help to make a slick publication from the ideas and words that we already have.

#### **Newsletter:**

Mike Feris reported that his computer has recently died, and that he hopes that he will have the **VMGA Report** out by Wednesday.

He and Mary get most of the local association newsletters, but many of them arrive in poor condition. Many are shredded since they are stapled at the bottom, and hang up in the letter sorters employed at the US Post Office. Some of the units, Franklin County is one, have still not updated their mailing lists since Alice Nicolson was the **VMGA Report** Editor. She still gets the newsletter from the Franklin County MGs and Mike doesn't.

Mike will look into getting groups discount from Barnes and Noble.

He offered to process any local association's mailing list to certify it for bulk mailing as a service of VMGA, Inc. This would help a local association utilize the lower postage rates available to non-profit organizations through bulk mailing, and they would not need to buy the program. If your unit has a 150-piece mailing, it is eligible for a non-profit, bar-coded label bulk rate of \$0.19 per piece.

## State Fair

Evelyn Parker submitted a report through Mike Feris, congratulating the VMGA members for making the State Fair a success. There were 124 volunteers who volunteered 974 hours. At a rate equivalent to \$6.25 per hour we saved the taxpayers over \$6,000 while educating the public and helping to beautify the state. The cost to the VMGA was \$31.00 but netted a donation of \$500.00 from the Richmond-based VNLA. The next State Fair will be at the State Fair Grounds. After that, the site for the fair is not known.

**Unit Support:** No report was submitted

## Long Range Planning Committee:

The committee has decided that they need some input from the general membership, and will submit a questionnaire to the membership through the VMGA Report for distribution. The top questions being asked are: "what do you want from the VMGA," and "what do you want VMGA to be."

## Extension Liaison Report:

Diane Relf reported:

1.) **The State Extension MG Coordinator** position has had a job description defined, and the position will be advertised the first of January. They are not looking for a horticulturist but a manager, communicator, and leader with some interest and familiarity with horticulture. The person will not be required to be a MG since that unnecessarily limits the field of potential candidates.

2.) "**The Virginia MG Handbook**" is being revised by Mary Predney and others, and will go to press on Monday. It is 650 pages long not including the index, glossary, and the several pages of color plates dealing with disease. These sections will be printed separately. New items include the addition of study questions at the end of several chapters to cause the reader to reflect on what they have just read. Another difference is that the printing costs are slightly higher, so the books will be "print on demand" - that is, the book is now in electronic form, and copies will be printed when they are ordered. One of the advantages of this system is that any changes or errors that are identified can be fixed with little difficulty. She is looking into what type of lower price can be offered for MGs to upgrade to the new book. She hopes to make it lower, but that depends on several things over which she has no control. Mary Ann Hansen is working on diseases of ornamentals as a diagnostic chapter for addition to the MG Handbook. She will add 2 pages per year (this year ornamentals next year, vegetables) and add these new pages every year as the color plates for the MG Handbook mentioned above. These color plates must be printed in bulk, and therefore are not part of the print on demand process mentioned above.

She anticipates that she will be able to find a way to provide each unit having a MG program with a copy of the new handbook, *gratis*.

3.) **New "MG Coordinator's Handbook"**. Sheri Dorn has been kept on in a consulting basis, and will finish the new Coordinator's Handbook, which will be available in the end of January.

4.) **The reporting system** They are working on making the system less of a burden, while still indicating the educational need for activities that will be reported as volunteers hours. There are some

items that may not be needed in all localities, so they are working on these things now. Phase three of the reporting system development is beginning now, so the system may take another year to become fully functional. It is working now, and those that use it are going to be able to use it to generate reports from the DB.

**5.) The MG List server** It may be good to promote the MG list server with the unit members and the local associations. Some folks have reported problems getting signed up for the list server. VMGA, Inc. will put directions about how to subscribe to the list server on the VMGA Web Page. Currently, there are only about 200-250 MGs subscribed (of the over 3500 MGs eligible), so talk it up so we can get a user base for the list server.

**6.) MG Web Page at VCE:** is a management web page that exists on the Virginia Tech Intranet, therefore it may only be available to those having a Virginia Tech Personal ID (PID) and password. It has a list of the slide sets etc, and it is not available to the general public. The Top 100- Question list is supposed to have been put up on a public website, though that has not been done yet. The URL [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu) is the external site, which is available to the general public. The URL [www.ext.vt.edu/vce](http://www.ext.vt.edu/vce) currently gets you into the Virginia Tech Intranet. She hopes' to place a VCE MG link on each County VCE page so that local units can list their activities, and activities of MGs in general. The leadership for this site's information must come from the local agent. But this is a site where you could describe your local programs and post pictures of activities etc.

**7.) Meeting with VCE Leadership:** Dr. Wright will be stepping down as Horticulture Dept. chair and returning to research. Dave Barrett and Steve Umberger are still there and our meetings with them will help keep the VMGA and MGs in their list of priorities. Issues that were brought up in VMGA leadership's recent meetings with Dave Barrett, Steve Umberger and Robert Wright, will be brought up in a meeting in February between Umberger and the agents. These issues include seeing what types of materials the agents need regarding MGs, as well as programming information. In other words not just technical information, but systematic and programming information – how you can implement the information, predict need for the program, and evaluate the impact of the program's implementation.

**8.) MG College:** will be held 21-25 June. It will be held at VA Tech. And Diane is open to suggestions regarding course content.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**History** – There have been no changes to the document of the history of VMGA, since the last meeting. Karen Sacasky is still looking for reviewers, and for input from those whom she has already asked to review the document.

**By-Laws Changes:** A motion was made and passed to submit the By-laws changes that were approved at the October Bimonthly Meeting to the general membership for their approval at the General Meeting in June.

**Web Site:** We have a new web address starting soon. The Webmaster at this time is the Secretary, Frank Reilly. He is looking for volunteers to help write some of the pages.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominations And Audit Committee:** Kerry asked for volunteers to serve on the nominations and audit committee. The audit committee must visit with the books for a few hours immediately prior to the annual meeting in Blacksburg at MG College in June. The nominations committee must prepare a slate of candidates to submit to the board for approval. That requires that they be done before the April meeting of the board. Representatives should look to their unit for suggestions as to membership on these committees or as candidates for office.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** By-laws require that we have no less than 4 board meetings per year. Is there any interest in deleting the December board meeting? It was moved to delete the December meeting. Discussion ensued, a vote was taken, and the motion failed. It was pointed out that the President could always cancel the meeting at her/his discretion.

**Next Meeting:** The Next VMGA Meeting is February the 12<sup>th</sup> in Chesterfield County Central Library. Directions will be posted on the web page.

**VMGA Banner:** The VMGA Banner that has been used at the State Fair needs to be replaced. We do have a VMGA flag that will be available from the Gregorlys. Diane Relf pointed out that we needed a VCE MG banner as well. The consensus was that if we need a banner of Virginia Master Gardeners in addition to our own VMGA Banner, then Tech should provide it.

**Additional Training Opportunities:** Andrew Gerachis gave out a list of other training opportunities including the Turf Ecology Course at Tech, The VNLA Turf meeting in Richmond and offerings from The State Arboretum and The Smithsonian Institution.

There are several advanced MG training programs ready or near ready. The Urban Tree Steward, the Water Quality Steward, and planned (pending grant money) community gardening, and school gardening.

It is hoped that the Education Committee pages at the VMGA, Inc. web site will host this type of information. At this time this labor-intensive project requires a volunteer. Contact Frank Reilly at ReillyGroup@msn.com for information and to volunteer.

**MG College suggestions:** A number of suggestions were made to Dr. Relf about proposed topics for MG College:

- What about more Water Quality stuff both programmatic (how to start a WQ Program) and technical advanced training (what is IBDU how much N in chicken manure etc.)?
- How about someone like Kent Mountford from The Bay Program as a keynote speaker?
- Blake Ross has more information about hazards to home water wells. He would be a good speaker (Tom Geer).
- Greg McPherson from USDA Forest Service can give a presentation quantifying the energy saving of trees (Andrew Gerachis) He gives information concerning how (according to location within the county) and where to plant trees. There is also someone from Chicago who is a good tree steward speaker.

- We'd like to see some one from the Crop and Soil Science Department in a field day type of presentation – hands on approach to renovating soil and turf. Also maybe VMGA buys a tree or two to be installed on campus so that MGs can have a true hands-on installation experience.
- Some MGs commented that they hear that the MG College sometimes seems like more like what Tech wants to tell rather than what MGs want to hear. It seems that a lot of the MG College curriculum is more business and/or programmatic, but what really attracts MGs to the College is the technical knowledge imparted..
- Environment and Water Quality are important interest areas, and some MGs would like to see something about indoor environmental health.
- Some would like to see what is available for MGs about mammal pest control.
- What about some info about "Plant-a-Row" or other types of altruistic MG programs?
- Dr. Relf asked if there was interest in risk and human health of gardening. There seemed to be. Andrew Gerachis pointed out that his MGs were organizing a health-savvy gardener training in Loudoun Co that includes inputs from the Health Department, rescue squad and others, to train gardeners.
- Dr. Relf also asked – "Do you think MGs would like to hear someone from a crop technology and intellectual properties company specializing in gene splicing. The consensus was that we might be interested if there was a discussion of the safety of genetically modified foods and other plant genetics issues and if it gave information for us as MGs to share with the public.
- Dr. Relf asked if we – "Are we interested in seeing what is planned for the next phase of the Hort garden expansion?" The consensus was yes especially if we can combine it with our recruiting Desert Social (and membership drive).

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Reilly,

Secretary, VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the  
Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc (VMGA, Inc.).**

**Chesterfield County, VA**

**February 12, 2000**

Kerry Goldmeyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on February 12, 2000 in the meeting room of the Chesterfield County Central Library. She thanked the Chesterfield MGs for hosting the meeting. All those present introduced themselves.

### **Attendance:**

**Officers:** Kerry Goldmeyer (President), Sybil Przypek (Vice-President), Gary R. Bill (Treasurer), Frank Reilly (Secretary)

**Committee Chairs:** Evelyn Parker (State Fair), Pat Reilly (Membership), Mike Feris (**VMGA Report** editor), Kerry Goldmeyer (Long Range Planning *ad hoc committee*), Wilma Paceley (Unit Support).

**Unit Representatives:** Pamela Armstrong (Hanover), Ann Gorrell (Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, & Caroline), Mike Feris (Chesapeake), Sybil Przypek (York), Tom Geer (Prince George), Pat Reilly (Prince William), Kathy Heslep (Arlington), Phyllis Bayer (Norfolk), Jim Scibek (Fauquier), Sid Self (Bedford), Chuck Norrington (Rockbridge, Bath), June Rosini (Chesterfield), Angela Cahn and Susan Adriance (Lancaster & Northumberland), Shelby Snider (Roanoke), Bill McCaleb (Halifax), Bill Bonwell (Hanover), Gary Bill (Newport News).

**Also Attending:** Cheri Haggerty (Hanover), Walter Przypek (York), Barbara Geer (Prince George), Alice Nicholson and Tom Carlson (Arlington & Alexandria), Annagreta Oswald Self (Bedford), Caroline Norrington (Rockbridge, Bath), Peggy Johnston (Chesterfield).

**Minutes** of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting were approved with the proviso that the names of all those in attendance be entered into the minutes.

**Treasurers Report:** Our checking account balance as of January 31, 2000 \$ 2,921.32, and the net worth of our total assets is 13,692.95. Because of our decision to put part of our holdings into an interest bearing account, we have earned over \$203.00 in interest. Our total financial outflows this year have been \$2,558 or about 32% of our budget. Our total financial inflows this year have been \$5,370.00 or about 68% of budgeted income. The complete budget and Treasurer's report can be found on the Treasurer's page at the VMGA, Inc. web site ([www.vmga.net](http://www.vmga.net)).

### **Committee Reports**

**Communication** Tom Park has been named as the new chair, and was unable to attend due to the weather. No report was available.

**Education:** The Gregorys could not attend due to the weather. However Mike Feris reported that the announcement for the March Continuing Education Event will be a full page advertisement in the **VMGA Report**. The March event will be held at Sandy' Plants in Mechanicsville. See the **VMGA Report** for details and registration information.

**Membership** Pat Reilly reported that there are 389 members currently.

The membership committee arranged for a special hotel rate for the Hort Show in Virginia Beach. Chuck Norrington reported only 6 rooms were taken, and therefore the hospitality room was not used.



She has developed a "why join VMGA handout." It is like a recent resume' of what the VMGA has done. She asked for input on what could be added. Mike Feris will publish it as a work-in-progress in the **VMGA Report**, and it will be added to the web page. She believes that each VMGA member should have one of these handouts so that they could answer the questions "Why join VMGA. Chuck Norrington suggested VMGA's activities could be more important than ever since VCE is trying to extend into every county, and VMGA is a resource for MGs to accomplish their goals, and act as a go-between to VCE for MGs.

Pat has a large supply of VMGA applications prepared and asks that all the units that have training classes going on now consider distributing the applications to their trainees.

**VMGA Report:** Mike Feris reported that the **VMGA Report** will be mailed this Tuesday.

**State Fair:** Evelyn Parker reported that there may be a restriction on the number of free MG admissions from each county this year for the fair. Perhaps only 12 per county may be allowed. This has not yet been finally decided.

**Unit Support:** Wilma Pacey asked to be replaced as chair of the committee. Discussion ensued on how to accomplish these duties. Pat Reilly suggested that a web page be added to the VMGA Web site listing topics that other VMGA members are able to speak about. This will be a good service for the small and/or isolated units that need help. All agreed that the privacy of the speakers should be ensured on the web page. It was also agreed that many of the duties of Unit Support could be handled by the Communications Committee.

**Long Range Planning:** Kerry Goldmeyer stated that the committee had nothing new to report.

**Extension Liaison Report:** No representative from VCE was present. However, the VCE MG Coordinator position has still not been advertised. Given the amount of work needed to put on MG College in June, the consensus was to send a letter to Drs. Barrett and Umberger expressing our concern that the position has not even been posted yet. It has been known that Sheri Dorn, the last VCE MG Coordinator, was leaving the position since May of 1999.

A discussion ensued regarding the VMGA's relationship with VCE and with the legislature. Again it is urged that each unit add its local legislators to the mailing list, and include a numerical report listing hours, contacts, time and relative dollar value.

Gary Bill proposed a committee to investigate educating the public and the legislature about the activities and the value of the activities that MGs provide. The motion was seconded and passed in a 15 for and 7 opposed vote. The committee is charged to make recommendations to the VMGA Board within the next 3 months. These recommendations will be in the areas of things that local units can do to become more visible; things that VMGA should do on a state-wide basis to advance Master Gardening; and a direction and recommendation for the future of the committee within VMGA, Inc.

It was moved to send the **VMGA Report** to the entire VA legislature and an initial letter of introduction for VMGA, Inc. that explains why the legislator is receiving the **VMGA Report**. The motion was seconded and passed.

**History** No report was given.

### ***New Business***

**Nominations Committee:** Chuck Norrington, Susie McCrea, Alice Nicolson, Bob Hopper and Mike Feris were named to the nomination committee. They must present a slate of proposed officers to the Board by the April meeting. They must also report to the board by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May of the election results from mailed ballots. The timetable for these events is prescribed in our By-Laws and all agreed that it seemed like a cumbersome procedure that should be re-viewed.

**Audit Committee:** Bill McCaleb, Sid Self, and Barbara Geer were named to the audit committee. They are to inspect the books at the close of the May bank statements, and prepare a report for the Annual Meeting in June.

**MG Handbooks.** There are a number of errors - some typos and some changes in the information presented in the new *MG Handbooks*. The soil section has changed, and there are very few apple varieties mentioned. Numerous comments regarding the *MG Handbook*, and obtaining the handbook in time for training classes were made. The place for suggested corrections is the MG List server, and suggestions to Diane Relf.

**Meeting with VCE and VMGA Leaders:** The meeting scheduled for February 11 had to be rescheduled for April. Several suggestions were made for topics of discussion for the next meeting.

**VMGA.NET** The web page has been moved to VMGA.NET. The new site is larger, faster, and easier to navigate. The webmaster, Frank Reilly, asked units to send him information and news tidbits for the VMGA web site, along with links to their web sites. The new web page will be updated much more frequently. News items will be added as they arrive. Eventually the Education Committee and the **VMGA Report** will have pages at the site for their announcements. A calendar is also anticipated where all local units are urged to post their events. Any units wishing to post any information should prepare the information and send it to the webmaster electronically.

### **Announcements:**

March 18 the Arlington Gardening Symposium will be held by the Arlington MGs. See their website for information.

A Horticultural Extravaganza will be held March 11<sup>th</sup> in York County. Call the York County VCE Office for details.

Prince William County MGs announce the "Spring Fling 2000: A Lawn and Landscape Extravaganza" on April 29. Scheduled guests include Adrian Higgins, the garden writer for the Washington Post, and Frank Reilly, VMGA Secretary. Contact the Prince William Extension Offices for information about this function.

On March 4, Water-wise Gardener Master Gardener Training will be held in Prince William County. Please make reservations for this program with Prince William County VCE.

On April 29, "Gardening 2000" will be held in York County at Christopher Newport College. Contact the York county extension offices for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Reilly

Secretary,

VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of**

**The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**April 8, 2000**

**Newport News, VA**

**Call to Order:**

Kerry Goldmeyer called the April Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. (VMGA, Inc.) to order at 10:08 AM on April 8, 2000, in the Central Library of Newport News, Virginia. Gary Bill gave a little of the local history and an orientation to the area.

Kerry welcomed the MGs to the meeting, and thanked Gary Bill and the Newport News Master Gardeners for hosting us at the meeting. Everybody present introduced himself or herself.

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the February Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the VMGA, Inc were approved with minor corrections.

**Treasurers Report:**

Gary Bill distributed the latest Treasurer's Report which was current through the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. VMGA, Inc. has accumulated 71% of the income projected in the FY 2000 budget, while only expending 37% of our projected budget.

VMGA, Inc. has earned \$169.09 in interest from our CDs and \$123.89 from our Money Market account. Gary Bill asked for permission to renew our CD as it is maturing. A motion was made to approve this action, seconded and passed.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Communication/Unit Support**

Tom Park the chair of both of these committees gave the report. He feels that these two committees are in flux and have very many duties that overlap between themselves, and with other offices and committees. At this point there seems to be good reason to beef up the Unit Support Committee since new units are expected, and will need the start up support that VMGA, Inc. can give.

### **Education:**

Due to Bud Gregory's recent hospitalization and convalescence, neither he nor Fran were able to attend. Kerry Goldmeyer read a report from Fran and Bud. 37 attended including 2 new VMGA, Inc. members at Sandy's Plants. On May 6 Andy Hankins has organized a program including hydroponics, etc. co-hosted by Chesterfield Co MGs.

### **Membership:**

414 members with 12 already renewed for next year. Next week she will send an email solicitation for renewal. Right after that, she will send a snail mail version. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May she will send post card reminders, and she will also arrange for quickie renewals at MG College. Gary felt it was important to include the dates that membership covered.

### **Newsletter:**

Circulation is going up not only from new memberships but also with the addition of the legislature. We are due for another newsletter out this week depending on the status of the educational event.

Diane Relf warned us to be careful not to include any verbiage that makes it seem like MGs are self-serving. Karen Sacasky agreed to a certain extent. Kerry pointed out that in fact we as VMGA members are virtually unknown, and we need to send the message about all of the good that MGs do throughout the state like feeding the hungry, educating the public about horticulture and proper environmental practices.

Diane and Karen seemed to think that this should be a one-shot mailing or at most an annual, special mailing. Pat Reilly suggested including a letter with each newsletter asking them to see what MGs are doing in their home locations. Lively discussion ensued. Tom Geer suggested that a special annual issue be constructed that summarizes the community services that MGs provide by locale. Consensus was to stop the mailings to the legislators.

### **Long Range Planning:**

Kerry reported that she has put together a cover letter that explains that the committee needs to know what the membership wants. A questionnaire is developed and the Newsletter committee will be asked to send it to the membership, soon. Hopefully this information will be available for the board taking over in June.

## State Fair

Evelyn couldn't attend today due to her MG groups big plant sale. It is the time of year that she begins planning. If your local association is interested in volunteering some of the time at The State Fair, get in touch with her to schedule it.

### **Extension Liaison Report:**

- 1.) USDA Forest Service started Urban Forestry. Now it includes the entire urban forest (under story etc.) therefore it is horticulture. They have asked VCE to report on a national level.
- 2.) AOS division is putting up money to help to develop urban gardens/community gardens. Tech's share could amount to a good deal of financial support for MGs.
- 3.) CAS is comprised of all of the major professional associations in ag/hort, and will publish a position paper asking the USDA to support much more urban work.
- 4.) VMGA and VCE are meeting together.
- 5.) Steve Umberger scheduled a meeting with the agents re-enforcing the ideas that they are an element in the education of MGs, and told them that MGs were a major part of VCE's mission achievement.
- 6.) The position of Hort department head was written with specific language dealing with consumers rather than just commercial hort.
- 7.) Wednesday is the interview for the state MG Coordinator. Two have been selected for interview.
- 8.) The state flag is being re-furbished. The historic committee could have the old flag – Diane will not keep it.
- 9.) There is a new exhibit board for State MG activities.
- 10.) New award certificates have been designed for interns, trainees, MGs, and urban tree stewards.
- 11.) Award pins are made for MG serviced levels and for tree stewards
- 12.) There is a new tree steward handbook, and interest in NC in using ours
- 13.) There is a water quality steward handbook nearly ready for distribution.
- 14.) She is working on a yard waste program for advance MG training – perhaps it will be called soil steward.

- 15.) Final report has been written regarding IPM survey from a few years ago. It will be available on the web soon for our review.
- 16.) 4-H group is interested in starting a junior MG program.
- 17.) A new course is being promulgated for graduate level teacher re-certification. 20 teachers per course. 38 hours of classroom lecture, a project, and a final report are required.
- 18.) Mgs can now buy the new MG handbook filler for \$35.00. Deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the MG coordinator or agent must place the order for all of them at once. Diane does not have a way to take individual orders.
- 19.) Diane commented that the Record-keeping system is available for use.
- 20.) Oct 10 NE MG Conference in Wheeling, West Virginia.
- 21.) MG College Jun21- New MG Coordinator Training – At this time no pre-conference trip is planned. Thursday 22 MG coordinators meeting. VMGA Board Mtg at 12:00. Thursday afternoon there will be tours. Diane gave a brief overview of the plans for MG College.
- 22.) It was emphasized that we will need a shuttle for MG College since some of the MG College Attendees have trouble getting around the distances at Tech.
- 23.) This should be out by email end of next week – hard copy the middle of the following week.
- 24.) We asked for internet training,

## **Old Business**

### **History**

Karen is finalizing the history, and a hard copy will be delivered to Kerry by June

### **Nominations Committee**

The ballots were sent by first class mail. The slate is:

President Pat Reilly

Vice President: Ann Gorrell

Treasurer: Sybil Przypek

Secretary: James Scibek

Ballots due to Bob Hopper by may 8th

A comment that it was the easiest ballot ever.

### **Audit Committee**

The audit Committee has been in contact with Gary Bill. The meeting will be in June near the Geers since it is a midpoint of the members.

Get all re-imburements to Gary no later than the end of May so the books can close with the change of officers. Committees and officers should submit a budget request to the current treasurer soon so it can come to the board meeting in Blacksburg.

### **New Business**

Bylaws call for any bylaw revisions to be distributed greater than 30 days prior to the mtg. So the suggested changes will be sent out by the Newsletter Committee no later than Mid May.

A Newsletter editor workshop is being planned. Tom Park will be sending a questionnaire to Newsletter editors to see what they might like to see. A workshop will be held, probably in the fall. This will probably be arranged and funded under the aegis of the Unit Support Committee.

#### Badges

At the Friday meeting between VCE leadership and VMGA Leadership, badges were discussed. Dave Barrett comes from a volunteer based background (4-H) they have heard the message that people are unhappy with the nametags. We can have a presence on that committee.

The next Board Meeting will be Thursday June 22 at 11:30 AM at MG College in Blacksburg.

The next Annual Meeting will be Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> also at MG College.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm

Respectfully submitted

Frank Reilly

Secretary

VMGA, Inc.

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

**June 21, 2000**

## Blacksburg, VA

### Attendance

Jim Scibek (Fauquier), Peggy Bouchard (Goochland/Powhatan), Susan Wingfield (Amherst/Campbell/Lynchburg), Virginia Oyler (Franklin), Bud Gregory (Page), Syd Self (Bedford), Bill McCaleb (Halifax), Anne Marie Libron (Hanover/King William), Fred Lindholm (Halifax), Sue Adriance and Angela Cahn (Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, Lancaster), Walter Przypek and Sybil Przybek (York) Sherri Hughs (Charlotte), Gary Bill (Newport news), Alice Nicolson (Arlington), Marty Klein (Arlington), Barbara Leach (Roanoke), Kerry Goldmeyer (Chesapeake), Susie McCrea (Montgomery), Jack Slapcinsky (Fairfax), Frank Reilly (Prince William), Pat Reilly (Prince William). **Secretary's note:** Others were in attendance but failed to sign the attendance sheet.

### Call to Order

President Kerry Goldmeyer called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM in Litton Reeves Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech. She thanked all of those who attended the meeting for making the effort. Those present introduced themselves.

### Minutes

It was requested that the names of the attendees be added to the minutes. The minutes were accepted with the correction of a few typos, and the addition of the names of those attending the meeting.

### Treasurers Report:

Gary Bill reported that income was at 104% of budget expectations. This income overage is due to the fact that our projected budget for VMGA, Inc. did not include donations like that we received from VNLA for help at the State Fair. Dues income is at 125.00% of budget because some FY 2001 dues have already been received. He felt that the elections were too expensive. However Frank Reilly disagreed, stating that it was a cost of only \$349 for nearly 500 members or less than 75cents per member every other year.

Interest income was \$226.04 from the CD, and \$127.42 on our Money Market. Our net worth is \$15,331.71. Our bank has changed its policy to require a service charge if there is less than \$5000.00 in the checking account regardless of the total deposits.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Communication and Unit Support

Tom Park has resigned as chair of the combined committees. Kerry read a combined report from him, which recommended an evaluation of the need and purpose of each committee.



## **Education**

Bud Gregory delivered the report. Overall, the education programs over the past year were successful. He summarized each program, and gave the registration and new members that each program netted to VMGA, Inc.

He also thanked the local units who helped at the meetings. The committee had three suggestions for future educational programs:

- a.) Don't use Ukrops for food. They have consistently given bad service and high prices throughout the state.
- b.) May is probably not the best month to have a program since everyone seems to be busy.
- c.) Continue to have close ties with both the communication chair, and with the local units where the training will occur, to ensure timely advertising of the events.

## **Membership**

Pat Reilly reported that we have 294 paid members but expect a few more to renew before the deadline. The streamlined re-registration process worked very well. There was good response from the email solicitation, followed by a snail mail solicitation that was also well received.

Comparison of the membership list to the mailing lists helped pare down the mailing lists, but also helped get new members into the system. She urges the new membership chair to maintain the e-mail approach.

## **Newsletter**

The Newsletter Committee could not attend, but submitted a report read by Kerry Goldmeyer. The circulation has improved due to close collaboration among Membership Committee, the Treasurer and the VMGA Report Staff. They will help train the new editor. The mailing list stands at 409.

It was suggested that the cover sheet inside the leaf be used to promote education and other items.

There were comments that the current newsletter was excellent as far as content goes, but did not serve the business needs of the VMGA. For example, the mailing missed the By-Laws deadline for mailing of proposed changes, and it failed to make any mention of VMGA activities at MG College like the Annual Meeting.

## **Long Range Planning**

Kerry Goldmeyer reported that the committee had prepared a questionnaire to help the committee decide on the track for VMGA, Inc. At the meeting she distributed a copy of the survey, and asked for comments to be returned to her. This questionnaire will be amended if appropriate after feedback is received, and will then be distributed to membership for their input.

## **Audit**

The audit committee found the records to fairly and materially represent the finances of VMGA, Inc.

## **Nominating**

Susie McCrea reported that the committee consisted of Alice Nicolson, Chuck Norrington, Susie McCrea, Mike Ferris and Bob Hopper. They solicited input from the membership, and decided on a slate of officers. The ballots were prepared and distributed via first class mail. Unfortunately the biographies of the slate of officers were never distributed either with the ballots, or in the *VMGA Report*. The results of the VMGA

election were decided from all ballots received as of May 8, 2000. There was a total of 179 ballots cast for election of officers. The results are as follows: For President - Patricia M. Reilly 179 votes,

for Vice-President - Ann Gorrell 177 votes,

for Secretary - James T. Scibek 177 votes,

for Treasurer - Sybil Przypek 176 votes.

NOTE--One ballot voted only for the Office of President. Write-in votes were cast for Elizabeth Overton, Vice President; Tom Park, Secretary; Bob Hopper, Treasurer; and Gary Bill, Treasurer.

## **Extension Liaison Report**

Diane Relf reported:

- 1.) She thanked Kerry Goldmeyer, the officers, and all of the participants for the outstanding impact that the last two years has put out. She thinks that we are all very patient in our dealings with some of the bureaucracy within VCE.
- 2.) Extension didn't hire either of the 2 interviewees for the state coordinator position. The position has been re-advertised; four applications have been received and 2 of them are from within Extension. VMGA will be asked to sit on the interview committee. Hiring is a top priority. Now it is time to think about what we want the person to be and what the goals and activities of the person will be.
- 3.) She believes that the sequence of duties for the new State MGV Coordinator will be:
  - a. First, to familiarize themselves with the MG Volunteers' and the MG Coordinators' manuals.
  - b. Second, she proposes some regional meetings for MG Coordinator training. The meeting should include the new State MGV coordinator, all the MG Coordinators, at least one appropriate (reporting) agent with each coordinator, and the district director.

- c. Third, spend time finalizing the *MG Coordinator's Manual*.
  - d. Finally, plan and execute MG College.
  - e. Diane asked if there were any ideas of other tasks, and Kerry Goldmeyer asked that the new state MG Coordinator attend all the VMGA Board meetings. Diane commented that this is part of the job description.
- 4.) Diane announced that she has over 300 orders for the *Virginia MG Handbook* inserts. These will be available for ordering through each unit.
- 5.) Libby Carter is displaying at MG College all of the new materials such as the new reward pins and certificates on the new MG display board, and all of the new manuals and other resources available to MG volunteers.
- 6.) She gave profuse thanks to Susie McCrea for getting MG College together. There will be 138 attendees, which is higher than last year. Diane feels that MG College should not be an extra. It should be a part of the MG Program, constantly re-enforced through the local agents and coordinators.

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed.

### **New business**

### **Proposed budget**

Since the new administration will operate under the proposed budget, discussion of the proposed budget will occur at the August Regularly Scheduled Meeting.

Kerry asked Pat Reilly to comment to the members regarding the new administration.

Pat gave the new committee chairs:

Frank Reilly - Communication

Tom Park - Newsletter

Gary Bill – Membership

Kerry Goldmeyer - Audit

Karen Sacasky - History

State Fair – Evelyn Parker

Unit Support - open

Education - open

She thinks that the committee chairs should actually have a committee so that the functions can continue regardless of commitments or conflicts of the chair. Having a committee will also help to prepare new people for the job of chair, and most importantly help the chair to avoid job burnout.

Pat will have an open door policy and invites comments, concerns, ideas and input. She urges that input so we can grow, and this gives us more clout with VCE leadership.

The Central Shenandoah MGs will host the VMGA Regularly Scheduled Meeting in Staunton` August 12<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting format will change to allow time for discussions of special topics. The topic for this session will be brainstorming effective means to increase the awareness the Virginia Legislature of the impacts of MG volunteers.

We need help with the State Fair – so far no one has volunteered.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52PM

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Reilly

Past Secretary

VMGA, Inc.

**Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting,**

**June 23, 2000**

**Call to Order**

Kerry Goldmeyer called the meeting to order at 8:18 PM on June 23, 2000 in the theater of Litton Reeves on the Campus of VA Tech. And welcomed those attending.

**Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report**

Gary Bill reported that at the end of VMGA's Fiscal Year 2000 our net worth is \$15161.33. Our dues income is 104% of projection partially due to the fact that we don't budget for any donations, but we do receive them. The report was accepted.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Audit**

The audit committee reported through Kerry Goldmeyer that on June 14, 2000 the books of VMGA, Inc were reviewed and compared. It was their opinion that the books fairly and materially represent the finances of the VMGA, Inc.

### **Nominations**

Alice Nicolson reported for the nominations committee. The committee never physically met but used email to do their work. The slate of officers was proposed. The ballots were distributed by mail to all members of record as of April 1, 2000. The biographies were inadvertently never distributed. The proposed slate of officers was elected. They were:

President - Pat Reilly; Vice President – Ann Gorrell; Treasurer - Sybil Przypek; Secretary - Jim Scibek

### **Communications/Unit Support**

Kerry Goldmeyer gave the reports in the absence of Tom Park. The duties of Communications and Unit Support overlap, so they have been combined for the interim. Tom has resigned these committees to take on the duties of Editor of the *VMGA Report*.

### **Education**

Professor Irwin Corey (AKA Bud Gregory) delivered the report. There was good news and bad news all delivered with so much hyperbole, that no notes could be taken.

### **Membership**

Pat Reilly reported that there were 306 members of record. She can take quickie renewals right now. Over 100 renewed in response to the email solicitation. The response to the later mail solicitation was overwhelming, so she is behind on getting out the membership cards. She will do that soon. She has prepared a membership brochure, but being artistically challenged needs some help to lay out the brochure.

### **Newsletter**

Mike and Mary Feris have been doing a great job in helping to lower our postal costs, and have resigned. Tom Park will take over the editor's duties.

### **State Fair**

Evelyn Parker was unable to attend, and sent a report saying that as of Tuesday, she hasn't gotten any volunteers to man the booth, and needs some units to volunteer to do this work.

### **Unfinished Business**

Bud Gregory moved that the President appoint a committee to look into scholarships. There was no second to the motion so discussion was dropped.

Kerry Goldmeyer introduced, and thanked the outgoing board members.

### **New Business**

Questions were asked about where the next international meeting would be held. Rumor has it that it will be next year in Fla.

The NE MG meeting will be this fall in Wheeling West Virginia. A link for information will be installed on our web page.

Kerry Goldmeyer turned the meeting over to new President Pat Reilly.

Pat addressed the group thanking them for their trust. She reported on the hopes raised by the new VCE leadership and their meetings with us. She would like to increase the memberships so that we can increase our ability to help influence VCE. She pointed out that Dave Barrett flew into town directly for our meeting proving his acceptance and thanks for our work. Even if some agents forget to thank you, you are appreciated. She asked all MGs to give their input even if they for some reason choose not to attend the meetings of VMGA. We will accept ideas and act on them. Our meetings are held in many areas of the state to help all to attend, and we hope that you will take the opportunity that is given. The next board meeting is August 12 hosted by the Central Shenandoah MGs in Staunton. Pat will run a tight meeting to leave time for committee work, and for discussion for important topics. This meetings' topic will be on ways to help increase our visibility with the state and with the VA legislature. Please come if you have any ideas.

Other scheduled meetings are October in Charlotte Court House, December in the Tidewater area, February in Warrenton, April in Fredericksburg, and June back here in Blacksburg.

Pat tasked the local groups to provide the names and locations of good places to eat, fine nurseries and hotels. Shelby Snyder asked that some one facilitate putting up visitors in local MG homes

Pat proposed that we need to move into more committee members on the committees. This helps prevent burnout, but also helps over come personal problems during the chairs term, and facilitates the turnover of the committees.

Then Pat introduced her board members.

Pat then discussed some of the many great things that Kerry Goldmeyer has accomplished for us including the start of meetings with Dave Barrett, Steve Umberger and the VCE Leadership; New name

badges; A discount for the Master Gardeners to purchase the Pest Management Guide (\$10.00 rather than the cover price of \$16.00) and thanked Kerry for her leadership.

After Pat's Coronation the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Reilly

Secretary, VMGA, Inc.