



2nd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Corrected and Approved)
June 8, 2019 10 am – 4 pm
Hosted by Jackson County Master Gardeners
Oregon Education Association Building
2495 S Pacific Highway, Medford OR

Benton: Richard Taylor, Representative
Central Gorge: Barbara Kilkenny, Representative; Eric Bosler, President; Shari Bosler
Central Oregon: Gary Weber, Representative
Clackamas: Seamus Ramirez, Representative and Database Manager
Clatsop: Linda Holmes, Representative
Coos: Terry Harris, Representative
Douglas: Rosemary Brinkley, Representative; Chris Rusch, President-Elect; Patrice Sipos, Treasurer
Jackson: Barbara Davidson, Representative and Historian; Kathy Apple, Alternate Representative
Josephine: Carolyn McCord, Representative
Lane: Vicki Harrison, Alternate Representative
Lincoln: Julie Huynh, Second Vice President
Marion: Cyndy Shorter, Representative
Multnomah: Lucy Keating, Alternate Representative
Polk: George Woodward, Representative
Tillamook: Linda Stephenson, Representative; Marcille Ansoerge, Secretary
Washington: Karen Graham, Representative
Yamhill: Tonia Beebe, Alternate Representative; Sue Nesbitt, Past President

Welcome – Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Eric Bosler, President, called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 am and welcomed members. He introduced Barbara Davidson, Jackson County OMGA representative, who welcomed members and thanked them for coming. She said that the Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA) is an active chapter with 400 members and 25 gardens. They have plans to upgrade the driveway entrance to the garden area. Because of the size of the classroom, the chapter has to limit the new training class to 50 members. Members operate under working groups which include a garden group, a communication group, a speaker's bureau, and an outreach group. JCMGA just finished a two-day spring garden fair.

Approval of the Agenda – Eric Bosler, President

Eric asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda; there were none.

Board Action Items

Approval of the OMGA Board of Directors Minutes for March 2, 2019– Marcille Ansoorge, Secretary

Marcille asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were none and they were approved.

OMGA Treasurer’s Report – Patrice Sipos, Treasurer

Patrice presented the treasurer’s report. There has not been a lot of activity since the last meeting except for the intake of dues which total \$19,453.00 at present. Liability insurance was \$79.00 under budget. At present there is a balance of \$15,303.81 but that will be less after grants are awarded. As of June 5, 2019, OMGA has a total liabilities and equity of \$114,687.08.

She reported on the E*TRADE investment account; at the previous meeting there were questions about where the money had come from and when it was invested. The money in the amount of \$20,000 was from an International Master Gardener Conference held in Oregon in the 1980s; the money was invested at that time and around the year 2000 was moved to low-risk investments in E*TRADE. She also noted that OMGA has a 6-month CD invested at Advantis earning .90% and when it matures will be moved into a better paying CD.

As of June 1, 2019, OMGA has 2753 paid members and 368 trainees.

Patrice has treasurers’ workshops planned. The first will be held before the Leadership Forum on September 6, 2019 in Linn County from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Another is scheduled before the Leadership Forum on November 1, 2019 in Tillamook County from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. All chapter treasurers are invited, especially those in the area of the meetings. The purpose of the workshops is to learn how bookkeeping is done in the chapters. The goal is to get all chapters to use the same software in order to make reporting to OMGA simpler. Quickbooks, the software program used by OMGA, is expensive but through Tech Soup it is possible for non-profits to get them much cheaper. Patrice has purchased 3 packages to make them available at the reduced cost to the chapters. Members made suggestions for getting the software at other places for less and Patrice will look into these suggestions. The Tech Soup site only allows 3 purchases per year. She also said that she would be willing to drive to the eastern part of the state for a workshop if there were a group of treasurers that wanted to meet with her.

Patrice also said that all email related to her position as treasurer should be sent to treasureromga@gmail.com. This email is for the position of treasurer and will remain with the position. She encouraged chapters to do the same.

She had additional membership cards for chapters wanting them. A question was raised about where one could get discounts. The answer was that one should present them at nurseries and see if they will get a discount since these vary by areas of the State. Richard Taylor (Benton) said that his chapter has a list of nurseries that give discounts and they have them listed on a sticker attached to the back of the card.

A question was raised about whether there were donations received through Fred Meyer; Patrice said \$10.88 had been.

Terry Harris (Coos) asked if there was a means to use credit cards at Plant Sales. Patrice recommended Square because the money is deposited quickly into the account and the charge is the least.

Reports

Leadership Forums – Chris Rusch, President-elect

Chris reported that the previous day's Forum was presented by Kara Baylog of My Southern Woodlands. Kara explained that for fires to burn, they need fuel so to protect homes, design landscapes that reduce the amount of burnable material around them. She also told which types of plants are least likely to burn and had members rate plants according to desirability in landscapes.

The Leadership Forum for September will be on the subject of climate change and in November it will be on grant writing.

Eric noted that he had filmed the Forum held the previous day and hopes to continue to do so in the future and make these available to all members. At present he needs to find a place to locate them on the web.

Treasurer's Workshop – Patrice Sipos, Treasurer

This was discussed under the Treasurer's Report.

Gardener's Pen – next edition topics and due dates – Marcia Sherry

Eric reported for Marcia that the deadline for the next issue is June 9, 2019 on the topic of fire-wise gardening.

Marcia also asked for chapters to send in information about members who are to receive longevity awards for being members for 20, 30 and 40 years.

OMGA Website/Database – Seamus Ramirez

Seamus said that the database should be up to date and asked that chapters send in any changes as they happen.

State Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto OMGA

Gail was not able to attend and had no report. She will be attending the International Master Gardeners Conference in Pennsylvania later in the week and will be making a presentation on the research she does with bees.

Grants and Awards Report - Chairs

Karl Carlson Grants: Linda Stephenson (Tillamook) reported for Barb Casteel, chair for the Karl Carlson grants and gave the following report:

The Karl Carlson Grant committee has met and decided to award six grants of \$200.00 each to Curry County, Douglas County, Jackson County, Lincoln County, Marion County and Tillamook Count Master Gardener Associations. All the applications arrived complete and on time and met the criteria for the grant. This year each of the applications was made to support the implementation of new programs or projects related to community horticulture.

Below is a brief summary of each of the projects. The actual applications will be forwarded to Eric for reference.

Curry County wishes to enhance the experience for their Riley Creek School Garden visitors by adding signage to the garden. Visitors include the 310 students of the school and their families as well as members of community, class participants and general passers-by. Educational signs will instruct visitors at all times, not only when Master Gardeners are present.

Signs were also on the mind of Douglas County. They included a photo of their very attractive rock garden. Signage for their garden would explain what a rock garden is how to construct one.

Due to the changes in regulations regarding plant sales, Jackson County envisions a new educational program in plant propagation. To enhance this program, they are requesting money to purchase materials to install an automatic watering system in a greenhouse.

Lincoln City Demonstration Garden of Lincoln County had the honor of being designated a Wildlife Habitat by the World Wildlife Federation in 2017. Building on this designation, the chapters hopes to install a native hedgerow garden and a Beneficial Bug Hotel on their site and include signage regarding beneficial bugs. They are uniquely located to reach a large population due to their site at the Oregon Coast Community College.

Most of us can relate to the increasing difficulty getting down to ground level gardens. The Karl Carlson grant would support the establishment of an Adaptive Gardening space in Marion County. The grant application presented a 5-year plan and even mentioned the assistance of a retired occupational therapist. It looks like a big project but well-organized.

It is a sad day when one's Extension Agent retires. It is further complicated when the laptop computer used for all educational programs will no longer be available. Tillamook County is requesting a grant to offset the purchase of a new Educational Computer to house Master Gardener curriculum, PNWs and other references and enable presentations at other educational events.

Eric reported for Jeanine Johnson (Central Oregon), chair of Extension Educator grants. These grants represent the largest line item of the budget. The committee consisted of Jeanine, Eric, Diane Hardin (Central Oregon), Julie Huynh (Lincoln), Lorna Schilling (Multnomah), Richard Taylor (Benton), and Kish Doyle (Douglas). Five chapters applied for grants for projects and all received the amount of money requested. They are: Central Oregon, \$500.00 to print the publication Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon; Coos County, \$500.00 to build raised garden beds at the Extension Office; OSU, \$500.00 to fully fund taxonomic services to identify 150 to 200 bees, which will be included in an OSU publication of "Bees of Oregon Gardens"; Tillamook County, \$334.99 to offset the costs of a new laptop and Microsoft Office for use in their educational classes; and Yamhill County, \$450.00 to purchase a video projector for use in their educational events. The committee also considered extending the deadline for submitting grants and of the seven members, four voted "no", feeling that information had been sent out in a timely fashion.

OMGA had budgeted \$4000.00 for the Extension Educator Grants; only \$2,284.99 was requested which leaves a remainder in the budget line of \$1715.01. There was a choice given to members of the committee as to how to use these funds and two possibilities were to fund the Webinar series and the other to help with the ECCo project; the latter is to create a client intake form online for research and diagnostic purposes. The decision as to how to use the funds will be considered at the third quarter meeting.

Chris Rusch, chair for Search for Excellence, reported that four applications had been received and the committee was still deliberating. The chapters that submitted applications are Lane County for a training program for the plant clinic; Lincoln County to develop a demo garden for senior citizens and the disabled; Curry County for its ABC preschool garden, and Marion County for the Junior Master Gardener program.

Eric commented that last year those awarded Extension Educator Grants were asked to send in a short description of how the funds were used as well as a photo, which were then made into a PowerPoint presentation. He would like to see those awarded grants this year do the same so OMGA may show who received the grants and how they were used.

At this point George Woodward (Polk) commented that as a second-year representative he was still learning about OMGA and wasn't aware of the grants available. He added that his chapter limits the position of representative to a two-year term and he asked if other chapters also limited the term. He felt that it took more time to learn to know what was required in the position. Other members also felt that they were not always well-

informed about what OMGA was doing. OMGA does provide a Representatives' Handbook for representatives and these were passed out at the November, 2018, meeting or mailed to the chapters. Several members said they did not have a copy of the handbook. They were asked to contact the Extension Office of their county to see if one was available. If not, Sue Nesbitt (Yamhill), Past President, who assembled the handbooks, said she would print up another copy and send it to the representative; she added that it is available online. It was suggested that one be available for the alternate representatives also.

Several members said that their chapters did not limit the position to a two-year term although some do. Linda Stephenson (Tillamook) said that it would be helpful to have something to present at all monthly meetings of her chapter, not just after the quarterly meetings. Eric said that not all chapters have meetings and it is hard to get the messages of OMGA out in that situation. He also noted that in the survey he had sent out in response to the question "Does OMGA do a good job of promoting its projects?" 24% of the respondents said no and 48% said they didn't know. Rosemary Brinkley (Douglas) noted that in the 1st Quarter minutes there was a question about increasing the grants and asked if this was being considered; the answer is no. Marcille Ansoorge (Tillamook) said that as secretary when sending out information about the quarterly meetings she could suggest that they bring the Representatives' Handbook to the meetings. Karen Graham (Washington) suggested that an orientation be held at the 1st Quarterly meeting, an idea which was supported by all members. Barbara Kilkenny (Central Gorge) said that she took time to talk to the previous representative to learn about the position.

It was noted that OMGA does not write the job description for the position; the chapter writes it. There are guidelines in the handbook. It was suggested that chapters that have job descriptions for the position share them with other chapters. Eric asked that chapters that have them send them to him and he will make them available.

Cyndy Shorter (Marion) said that she used the database list to send out to all members questions about signage for gardens and received a good response. Richard Taylor (Benton) commented that there are many resources available from all the chapters and members should be encouraged to ask other chapters for information.

Eric said that communication is opening up with the OSU coordinators and agents; the chapter reports are sent to them through Gail Langellotto, OMGA State Coordinator, and there has been a good response from them

At this point the meeting was paused for lunch. The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association hosted the luncheon. Barbara Davidson, chapter representative, introduced Gina Velando, a recently certified Master Gardener from the chapter, who provided the food which came from Backporch BBQ in Jacksonville. A delicious lunch of beef barbeque, potato salad, and salad greens followed with brownies for dessert was enjoyed by all.

OMGA Committee Reports - Chairs

There were none.

Old Business

OMGA Educational Mandate – Group discussion

Survey results re Participation/Interest in Mini-College Discussion Chapter “Extraordinary” education programs.

Eric began the discussion by noting that the mission of OMGA is to foster quality education of all Master Gardeners. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) states in Article 4.1 (Association’s Role and Responsibilities) that the Association “shall Improve the effectiveness of Program volunteers through the planning, development, and execution of, as well as providing support for EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH programs such as the Annual Master Gardener’s Mini College.” Copies of the MOA were passed to members. OMGA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OSU to provide Mini College in which OMGA will organize the event and OSU will provide speakers. Mini College is an option but OMGA does have a mandate to provide education. Manpower is the key to providing this mandate. If Mini College is not offered, what programs can provide for the mandate? Eric showed responses to the survey conducted earlier in the year related to Mini College. As of May 19, 1,082 had responded to the survey, which is 31.5% of the 3429 members at the time the survey was sent out. Of the respondents 36% had attended Mini College and 63% had not. The survey had also asked members to rate how important Mini College was to them on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not important to 5 being very important, and most respondents chose 3 although all other ratings were selected by some of the members. See chart in [Appendix A](#). As to why members attend, responses were to have additional education, meet other Master Gardeners and represent their chapter.

The traditional means of meeting the mandate is to have Mini College. The Silent Auction has been a way of generating funds for OMGA to provide grants for the chapters and is important for this reason.

Are there other forms of educational outreach? Contiguous counties could have an event and have it focused on the issues in their particular region. Eric did note that there are few issues specific to an area of the State, citing the fact that the Leadership Forum the previous day on fire-wise gardening was of interest to members attending from various parts of the State. Members noted that chapters have seminars and classes in their own counties and have large turnouts for these. Barbara Davidson (Jackson) said that by having Mini College, members have access to experts in various areas. It was also noted that some chapters cannot pay expenses for having speakers come to their area. George Woodward (Polk) said that his chapter had been doing a fall event but that presently there was no leader for it.

Sue asked the question what would make you want to come to an event in another area and suggested specifically Bend. Carolyn McCord (Josephine) said tours, places she couldn’t get to otherwise. George Woodward (Polk) said advanced classes. Sue gave suggestions such as visiting Monrovia company to see how they use tissue culture in

developing plants, visiting places that breed roses, how robotics are used in the nursery business. Terry Harris (Coos) suggested more “hands on” offerings, such as grafting and breeding. Cyndy Shorter (Marion) suggested that counties list what is in the area in addition to the Mini College event.

Tonia Beebe (Yamhill) said that one plan is to have a county responsible for the event but have other counties in the area help with the planning and the work during the event. Carolyn McCord (Josephine) said that Josephine County had done that in the past and the plan worked although the event itself had problems with the site. It was noted that the site chosen needs to have housing available; Eric said that in 2018 only 20% of those attending took advantage of the housing provided by OMGA.

Barbara Davidson (Jackson) asked by what date does a decision need to be made to have Mini College for 2020. Sue said the issue is leadership for the event and it is necessary to have a 1st Vice President and a host chapter. Eric noted that leadership, participation and continuity are needed; he asked that members return to their chapters to discuss these. Linda Stephenson (Tillamook) asked what specifically should they ask. The response: is the chapter willing to participate and assist and provide continuity. This would involve the “nuts and bolts” of holding the event, which would be to have a location, rooms, registration, meals, and awards. Sue offered to put together a list of tasks involved and questions for members to take to their chapters. A strong desire is to find a few core people to lead the event.

OMGA Support of OSU Extension Webinar Series – Group discussion Survey results re Participation/Interest in Webinar Series

Eric noted that in response to a question on the survey “Have you taken an OSU Webinar Program?” 50% responded that they had. The program has lost its funding and OMGA responded by supporting it with a \$500.00 donation. Brooke Edmonds, who creates the webinars, has been asking for contributions to keep the series going and the response has generated enough funds to keep the series available through July 1, 2020. The cost is \$250.00 for each webinar, in order to put them on the web and for technical support. Ten new ones are planned for next year. Multnomah County had asked for \$2500.00 to support the program; this will not be necessary at this time. Eric has indicated to Brooke that she look to OMGA for support, if needed.

Eric had sent out a request before the meeting asking chapters to tell what they did for educational programs and he listed those chapters which responded with their programs under the heading of Extraordinary Education. He plans to develop a catalog of these extraordinary programs to be available to all chapters.

The question is where chapters are getting ongoing education. Are there programs that OMGA can support, including webinars and online education? There is increased interest in online education because more chapters are having difficulty getting speakers to come to their locations.

New Business

OSU Extension Home Horticulture Staff Retreat – Sue Nesbitt & Eric Bosler

A retreat was held in May for all OSU Extension coordinators and agents who support Master Gardener programs to consider the mission and vision for OSU and the MG program. Sue and Eric were invited to attend. Gail Langellotto, OMGA State Coordinator, was appreciative of the improved dialogue between OSU and Master Gardeners.

Sue reported that the first part was to present the mission and vision statement for OSU in regard to the MG program; this is available on the OSU website. They are looking at how to connect OSU and home gardeners and are looking at unique ways of presenting classes in order to attract a younger and more diverse population. The second part of the retreat was a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) review of the program. One of the weaknesses is that there are fewer agents and program coordinators and these are being asked to take on larger areas and populations. Having programs online is an opportunity. Less funding is always a threat. There will be a follow-up with working groups to make recommendations. Sue felt that the retreat was a great improvement in communication.

Eric appreciated meeting agents and coordinators; he commented that many program coordinators do not take advantage of the expertise of Master Gardeners. He also asked OMGA members to ask their coordinators about the retreat to get their perspective of the event.

Terry Harris (Coos) asked if there was anything discussed about the committee that was looking at plant propagation for plant sales. She said her chapter wanted more information since they do not have a greenhouse available and had been looking for a report from the committee. Eric said that there has been information about propagation available. Sue said that the Yamhill County chapter meets Tuesday mornings from 9 am to 11 am to do propagation and invited Master Gardeners from other chapters to observe and learn. Vicki Harrison (Lane) commented that the last Quarterly Report gave insight into plant sales on how chapters organize and run them. Suggestions were to ask to use greenhouses in the area if not being used, buy plug plants, to ask other chapters for information and to share information.

OMGA Officer and Chairs Recruitment – Group Discussion

Chris Rusch, President-Elect, said new officers are needed for next year. These include President-Elect, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. Marcia Sherry, present Newsletter Editor, is willing to work with someone during 2020 to make the transition. All members should consider these positions and speak to members of their chapters about them.

Fund raising to support OMGA programs-Small Silent Auction at 4th Quarter Board - Sue Nesbitt

Since there is not Silent Auction at Mini College, Sue suggested that a smaller version be held at the 4th Quarter meeting in November in Tillamook. She suggested each

chapter bring 3 gardening-related items with a minimum value of \$25.00 each. Chapters should photograph the items and have these sent to Sue by October 1st and she would organize a book with the items and all members could bid on them beforehand. Sue said that this should generate between \$1000.00 and \$1200.00 in funds for OMGA. Members supported the auction.

Visit to UCMGA - OMGA support for Rep Attendance to Qtr. Board Mtg. – Sue Nesbitt & Eric Bosler

Sue and Eric visited the Umatilla County Master Gardener Chapter; the OSU Extension coordinator in the area has been working to rejuvenate the chapter. The chapter includes the cities of Hermiston, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater. Because of the distance, it will be difficult to send a representative to OMGA meetings. Eric proposed creating a scholarship to help pay the expenses of those traveling distances to meetings. Members were supportive of the idea and the officers will make recommendations for such a scholarship and bring them to the 3rd Quarterly meeting. Carolyn McCord (Josephine) suggested that chapters hosting OMGA meetings have members consider hosting visiting members in their homes to save the expense of an overnight stay.

Announcements

2019 OMGA Meeting Dates – Host Chapters

The list is available at the end of the minutes. Karen Graham (Washington) asked how chapters are chosen to host and Eric said a notice is sent to chapters at the end of the year asking if any are willing to host. It was noted that the Jan McNeilan scholarship provides funds up to \$300.00 for expenses for hosting a meeting.

For the good of the cause

Marcille Ansorge (Tillamook) noted that educational credit is available for those who attended the Leadership Forum the previous day.

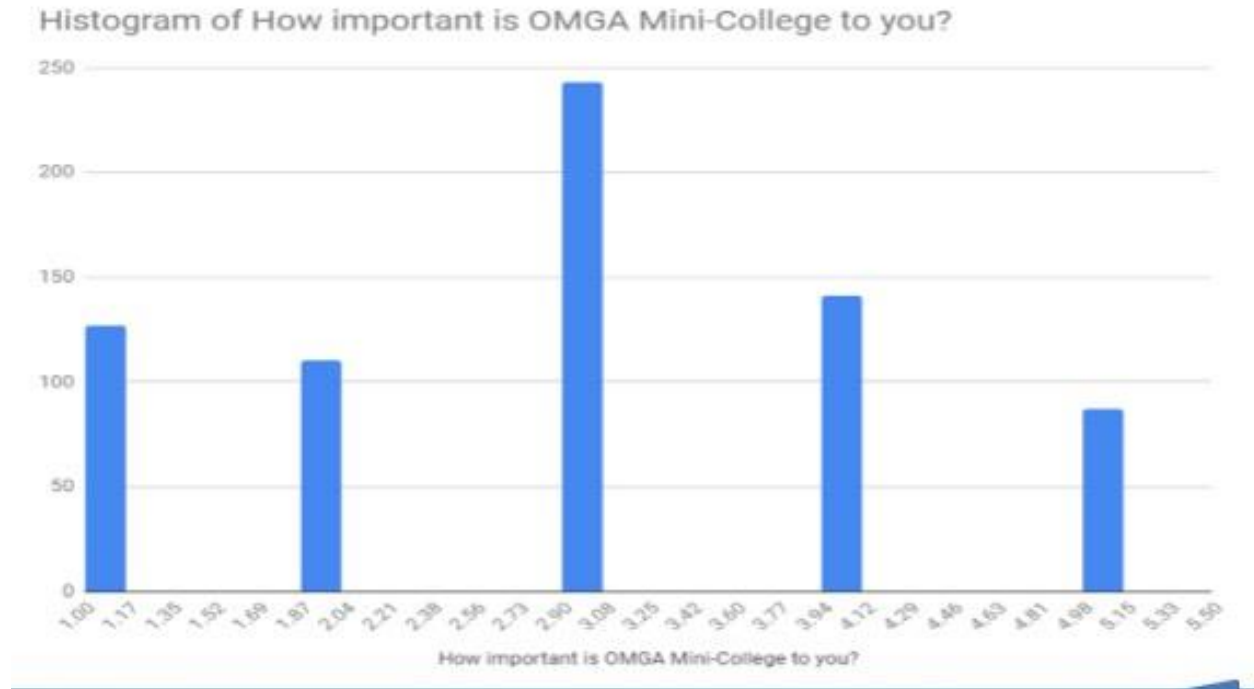
She also said that the International Master Gardeners Conference will be taking place this coming week in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and that several members were planning to attend and wished them good travels and looked forward to a report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Submitted by Marcille Ansorge
OMGA Secretary

Appendix A



Executive Committee	Leadership Forum	Board of Directors
Friday, February 1, 2019 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	Friday, March 1, 2019 Marion County Salem, OR	Saturday, March 2, 2019 Marion County Salem, OR Cyndy Shorter, Contact
Friday, May 3, 2019 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	Friday, June 7, 2019 Jackson County	Saturday, June 8, 2019 Jackson County Susan Koenig, Contact
Friday, August 2, 2019 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	Friday, September 6, 2019 Linn County, Tangent, OR	Saturday, September 7, 2019 Linn County Tangent, OR Janice Gregg, Contact
Friday, October 4, 2019 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	Friday, November 1, 2019 Tillamook County Tillamook, OR	Saturday, November 2, 2019 Tillamook County Tillamook, OR Linda Stephenson, Contact