



**1st Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2023
Zoom and Telecommunications Meeting**

Attendees

Rusch, Chris	Douglas County	OMGA President
Bosler, Eric	Central Gorge	OMGA Past President
Leslie Ray	Washington County	Vice President
Sharon Bordeaux	Douglas County	OMGA Secretary
Janet Magendanz	Benton County	Treasurer
Linda Coakley	Yamhill County	Historian
Ann Kinkley	Linn County	Newsletter/Representative
Seamus Ramirez	Clackamas County	Data Base Manager/Representative
Richard Taylor	Benton County	Representative
Eric Bosler	Central Gorge	Representative
Karen Simonet	Central Oregon	Representative
Barb Seekins	Clackamas County	Alternate Representative
Karen Harte	Columbia County	Representative
Lorna Schilling	Coos County	Representative
Jeff Richter	Curry County	Representative
Barbara Hamby	Douglas County	Alternate Representative
Kathy Apple	Jackson County	
Mark Schallheim	Josephine County	Representative
Corinne King	Josephine County	Alternate Representative
Carol Salami-Goswick	Lane County	Alternate Representative
Kristi Kind	Lincoln County	Representative
Terry Sawyer	Marion County	Representative
Rich Becker	Multnomah County	Representative
Helen McCann	Polk County	Representative
Tillamook County	John Harland	Alternate Representative
Wasco County	Ann Sherzinger	Alternate Representative
Wasco County	Ronnie Smith	President

Welcome – Chris Rusch

Chris called the meeting to order at 3 PM and welcomed everyone to the 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting.

Agenda – Chris Rusch

The agenda was approved with additions: Policy and Procedures Committee report and the Growing and Belonging Committee report.

Approval of Minutes – Chris Rusch

The 4th Quarter 2022 and December 2022 Retreat minutes were approved as posted.

REPORTS

OSU Extension Program Coordinator Report – Gail Langellotto

Dear OMGA Board Members and Friends,

I wanted to provide a few key updates for in advance of Friday's OMGA Board of Directors meeting.

1) Gail Will Not Be at Friday's Meeting. I unfortunately will not be able to attend Friday's OMGA meeting, as it coincides with Cara Still's thesis defense (public presentation from 2-3pm, and private thesis defense from 3-5pm). I am one of Cara's co-advisors, and thus cannot miss her defense. I'm sorry for not catching this conflict, sooner. I know that this is a critical time of transition for the OSU Extension MG Program, and that my absence comes at a bad time. If the Board of Directors feels that it would be useful, I would love to schedule a time to meet with the OMGA for a Q&A session and/or discussion, rather than waiting until the next OMGA Board of Director's meeting (June 2nd, 2023). However, the Board shouldn't feel obligated to make a separate meeting, if it is not deemed a good use of time. I know that everyone is busy and that time is valuable. Also, I know that not everyone who is on this email (listserve) is an OMGA Board member. If you happen to want to Zoom into Cara's public presentation (on breeding butterfly bush to reduce invasiveness, and what impact it has on pollinators), let me know, and I can send you a Zoom link. [You can access a preview of Cara's research results, at this link](#).

2) Plans to Hire a New Statewide MG Program Coordinator. Many of you might know that [I will be leaving the MG program on June 30th](#). Here is what I know about OSU's plans to hire a new MG Program Coordinator. A search committee has been assembled or is being assembled, and will include strong Master Gardener representation. The position description has been drafted and is being reviewed. They expect to post the position and solicit applications in early March. They hope to have someone hired and in place, as early as June 1st, so that there will be some level of overlap between myself and the new MG Program coordinator. There will be ample opportunities for MG volunteers to participate in the interview process, once finalists for the position are identified. I would ask each and every one of you to embrace any opportunity you have to make the new MG Program Coordinator feel welcomed and supported, and to give them the freedom to chart their own course as the new statewide MG leader. When I was hired, way back in 2007, one of the greatest gifts I received was hearing from the folks who preceded me in this position (Jan McNeilan and Dr. Ray McNeilan) . . . that they trusted me to lead the program in new and exciting directions. They were proud of the work that they did (as they should be!!!), but also excited to hand over the program to someone new. I have very similar feelings. More than anything, I want this program to succeed and prosper.

3) Beaver Day of Giving. To show my support and love for the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, my husband and I have decided to put forth a challenge gift of \$1,000, as part of the [2023 Beaver Day of Giving](#), April 26, 2023. I have also invited a few other folks to join me in supporting the MG Program with a challenge gift, and am happy to say that Sue Nesbitt will be joining me with another challenge gift of \$1,000. Because 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the MG Program in the United States, we have talked about having our gifts kick in when 50 donors give \$50 or more, but we haven't settled on anything specific. I have also asked the OMGA to consider joining me with a \$500 or \$1,000 challenge gift, and hope that you might consider this ask at Friday's meeting. If you are personally interested in providing a challenge gift for the 2023 Beaver Day of Giving, I invite you to reach out to me as soon as possible. Challenge gifts need to be finalized by March 9th, in order to go live for the Beaver Day of Giving. We are also looking for Beaver Day of Giving Ambassadors. These are folks who can help spread the word about the Beaver Day of Giving, via social media. If you manage a MG social media account, or if you wanted to share the word as an individual Master Gardener volunteer, please reach out to me. I can share information about the challenge gifts, and/or the ambassadors. (As a reminder, gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu). Even if you are not interested in putting forth a challenge gift or serving as an ambassador, I hope that you might consider a gift in support of the Master Gardener Program, on the Day of Giving. Your gift will be put to great use,

supporting OSU's ability to provide gardening advice, supports, and education to gardeners across the state. Gifts can be made for as little as \$5.

4) **Reminder about MG Awards:** Please remember that May 15th is the due date for all OMGA awards. You can learn more about the awards at this site <https://omga.org/programs-and-awards/>. This year, the awards for statewide and county MG of the year, as well as statewide and county Behind the Scenes, should be submitted electronically. The OMGA website will be updated with links, shortly. This year, there is also a new statewide award, recommended by the MG Growing and Belonging Committee and approved by the OMGA Board of Directors at the November 2022 meeting. This new award, called the Statewide Growing and Belonging Award, will recognize volunteers who have significantly contributed in advancing diversity, inclusion, access, and/or equity among Master Gardener volunteers and clientele. For folks who want to get started on nominations, early, I have pasted the direct links to the nomination forms, below.

- a. Statewide Master Gardener of the Year: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71UXaVGtcCsthm6
- b. Statewide Behind the Scenes Award: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_damejozOzM8XNgG
- c. Statewide Growing and Belonging Award: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6LFVVIPLXKOJijs
- d. County Master Gardener of the Year: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rlxSLXdYCzyQv4
- e. County Behind the Scenes Award: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5c3kpLSNC5IBT5l

Thank you so much for your service on the OMGA Board, and for all that you do as Master Gardener volunteers. If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to reach out to me, directly.

Take care,

Gail Langellotto, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)
Professor of Horticulture
Statewide Coordinator, Extension Master Gardener Program

Secretaries Report – Chris Rusch

- Sharon will mail membership cards on Monday, March 6, 2023.
- Sharon corrected membership location for Ann Kinkley in Representative Orientation minutes.
- Please send your 1st Quarter Reports to Sharon. A draft of those received has been sent to chapters.
- Request that Janet Magedanz post the 2023 Budget on the website.

Financial Report YTD – Janet Magedanz

Janet reported that the line items for Send-A-Friend and the Equipment Replacement (lines 7,8,9) have not changed for some time. Funds (\$2,303.04 from Send-A-Friend and \$2,129.44 from Equipment Replacement) were placed in CDs leaving \$1,000 in the Send-A-Friend savings 4448.

OMGA Newsletter – Ann Kinkley

Winter newsletter went out in February. Send your articles for the newsletter in April. The Spring newsletter will be coming out in May. Send Ann information about upcoming events.

Question: Would a review of gardening books be welcome for the newsletter? Provide a link to the information.
Bee Event in Albany:

Database/List Serve – Seamus Ramirez

List Serve – Issue with chapters list and executive list access. Seamus working on a work around until the provider has found the problem.

Send changes to Seamus and Thank You, Seamus, for all the hard work.

Historian Report – Linda Coakley

Please send Linda any photos taken at 2022 OMGA events. If you have photos from previous years, she would also welcome those. Remember to include the name and date of the event and the names of the persons in the photos.

Advocacy Committee Report – Sherry Sheng

OMGA Advocacy Committee – First Quarter, 2023

Task Force Members Represent 23 Counties

Brenda Bye, Judith Kenner (Benton), Barbara Epidendio, Laura Eyer, Sherry Sheng (Clackamas), Len Sherp (Clatsop), Tina Powers (Coos), Chris Miao, Pat Kolling, Shirley Jaynes (Deschutes, Crook), Linnie O'Flanagan-Gore (Curry), Toni Rudolph (Douglas), Beth Flake (Hood River), Sherill Morgan (Jackson), Georgia Moulton (Josephine), Pat Kolbet, Sarah Malaby (Klamath), Leigh Reider, Sharon Roberts (Lane), Laura Strom, Stormi Dykes (Lincoln), Karin Magnuson (Linn), Dale Marande (Marion), Rich Becker, Jack Lazareck (Multnomah), Becky Jay (Polk), Neal Lemery (Tillamook), Cary Wasem-Varela (Umatilla), Marilyn Richardson (Wasco), Karen Graham, Leslie Ray (Washington), Marlena Bertram (Yamhill)

Advocate for MG Program Positions

Motivated by Dr. Lyles' promise of adding 3 MG Program positions if Extension gets a good level of State of Oregon funding, we mobilized to provide advocacy during the 2023 legislative session.

1. Train OMGA Ambassadors

- Kris Elliott, OSU Extension Associate Director, Jennifer Alexander, Director of Extension Communications, and Joe Erickson of OSU Government Affairs conducted a training session for OMGA ambassadors. Topics included Extension funding and advocacy tools.
- Gail Langelotto conducted a training session which focused on MG Program staffing.



PowerPoint Presentation on Why, What, How, When of advocacy
@ <https://omga.org/advocacy/>

2. Develop Advocacy Tools

- Becky Jay, Karin Magnuson, and Sherry Sheng developed a range of materials for advocacy -- sample letters, talking points, and stories about the impact of MG activities in local communities.
- OMGA webmaster added an advocacy section to the OMGA website <https://omga.org/advocacy/>

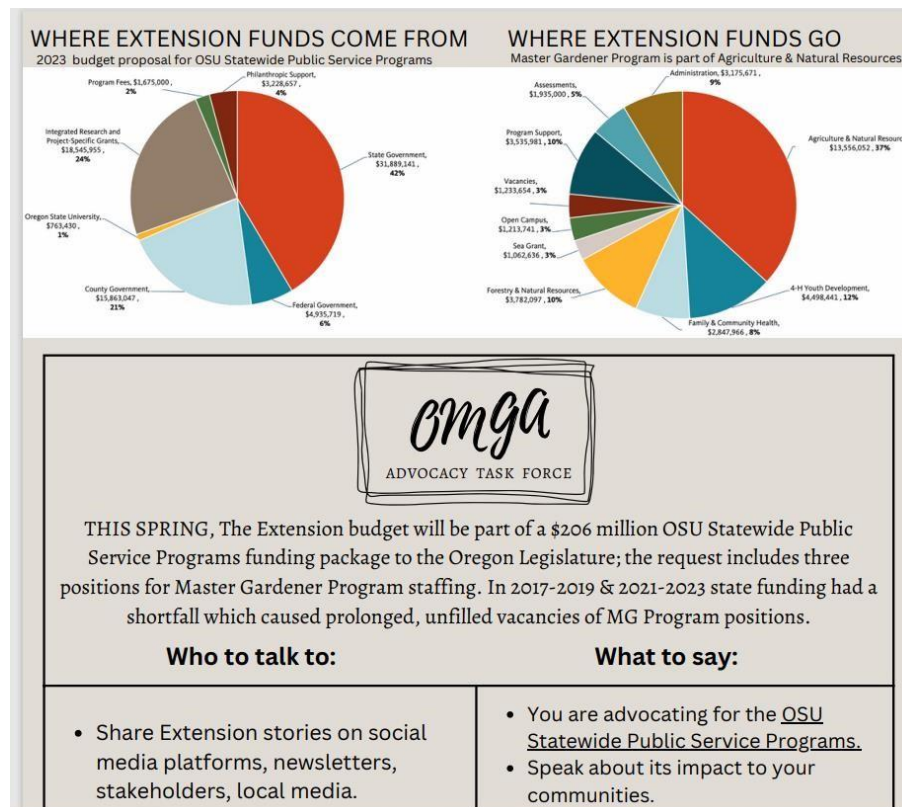
3. Assess Interim Solutions

- OMGA Ambassadors Judith Kenner (Benton), Len Sherp (Clatsop), and Neal Lemery (Tillamook) provided feedback on the efficacy of temporary measures. Overall, there has been some positive changes, but these measures are not sufficient.

Legislative Advocacy during the 2023 Session

1. Raise Awareness within the OMGA Community, January 2023

- OMGA Gardener's Pen and many local association newsletters highlighted the need for advocacy.
- OMGA ambassadors presented to respective association boards on legislative advocacy
- OMGA ambassadors fashioned messages to association members



Gardener's Pen, Winter 2023 Issue

2. Begin Advocacy by Contacting Legislators, February 2023

- Ambassadors sent appeals to Master Gardeners for advocacy at an individual level
- Ambassadors facilitated letters to legislators on behalf of associations

3. Report Legislative Contacts, ongoing

- Legislative contacts are reported to OSU using their web portal. This provides OSU leaders useful insight <https://osu.secure.force.com/forms/ExtensionEngagementIntake>

Currently there are hearings on the Extension Budget at the State Budget Committee. Taskforce for funding from State for Master Gardeners and Extension. (Chris – What is this???)

Be sure to visit the website <https://omga.org/advocacy/>. Look at the resources in the section “This Toolkit Makes Advocacy Easy.”

Growing and Belonging Committee – Chris Rusch

The Growing and Belonging Award Committee meets monthly. They will be recruiting new committee members in April.



Introducing a new award: Growing & Belonging

What does it mean to grow our work inclusively? To create an environment where everyone belongs? Let's find out, together, with our new Growing & Belonging County, and Statewide Awards. In addition to our Master Gardener of the Year, and Behind the Scenes awards, 2023 marks the first year recognizing and celebrating the volunteers who have significantly contributed in advancing diversity, inclusion, access, and/or equity among Master Gardener volunteers and the communities we work with.

Unlike our longstanding awards of Master Gardener of the Year, and Behind the Scenes awards, these awards do not recognize the length of time served as a Master Gardener, but instead, **the impact their work has made in creating a belonging environment, inclusive of diverse communities such as race, ethnicity, culture, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or growing our volunteer work in traditionally under-invested communities.** The best of these projects is co-created with the individuals being served, listening to their needs, and responding with a project that meets those needs.

March is Women's History Month and Irish American Heritage Month. Look for ways your chapter can acknowledge or celebrate.

Policy and Procedures Report – Leslie Ray

The committee is differentiating between a Policy and a Procedure and modernizing both. Leslie would welcome additional help from the membership.

Joy of Gardening Conference report & Update – Chris Rusch

July 7 – 8

Committee members are Karen Hart, Richard Taylor, Chris Rusch, Collette Allen, Eric Bosler, Janet Magendanz, and Leslie Ray.

- There will be 2 Keynote Speakers:
 1. Thomas (Tom) Kaye, Associate Professor, Institute for Applied Ecology (Native Habitat – Climate Change/Wild Fires)
 2. Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, Horticulture Extension – The Bee Project
- There will be no banquet but lunch options will be offered on both Friday and Saturday.
- Each chapter will be asked to donate to the Silent Auction (Cash \$250 or items totaling \$250) Larger donations are always welcome.
- Chapters are welcome to have a table for sale of garden related items (no books).
- Vendors:
 - River Ranch Oregon Olive Oil
 - Grass Roots Book Store

NEW BUSINESS

Send-A-Friend Scholarship Program – Eric Bosler

"The Send-A-Friend Scholarship Program was established in 2002. It is a scholarship program to help Master Gardeners from across the state attend Mini College who otherwise may not be able to attend due to financial situations. Funds are acquired by an annual raffle at Growing Gardeners and from individuals, MG chapters or corporate donations. Applicants must apply through their individual county chapters.

Eric will have a raffle at the conference to raise funds for the Send-A-Friend scholarship. He is requesting donations for the raffle. In the past, art, books, and even quilts, have been donated for this raffle. Eric encourages donations for this worthy program.

Grants – Chris

***** The deadline for all applications is May 15th *****

Karl Karlson –
Extension Education
Search for Excellence
Growing And Belonging
Master Gardener
Behind the Scenes

A complete list of the grants along with applications can be found at [omga.org/programs and awards](https://omga.org/programs-and-awards)

OMGA Longevity Award – Chris Rusch

Not all chapters take advantage of this award honoring Master Gardener veteran volunteers with 20, 30, and 40 years of service. The award is a certificate and a swinger bar. Chris encourages chapters to submit names for this award. Information is on the [omga.org/programs and awards](https://omga.org/programs-and-awards) website.

Dues increase for 2024 – Chris Rusch

Executive Committee recommends that dues be increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00 in 2024. A motion was made by Janet Magendanz to increase the dues to \$10.00. Kathy Apple seconded the motion. After discussion, Terry Sawyer moved and Mark Schallheim seconded a motion to table the decision until the June Board of Directors meeting to allow Janet to provide OMGA financial information to all chapters. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chapter Websites – Jeff Richter

Looking for help with setting up a website in Curry County. If anyone has input, please give me a call.

For the Good of the Order

Seamus brought up the Beaver Day of Giving Challenge letter from Gail: ***“I am writing to the OMGA to ask if you might be able to consider joining me in a \$1000 challenge grant, to help spur broad giving to the fund.”*** He suggested that OMGA meet the challenge and give \$1,000.

(Executive Committee via email 03/07/2023: A motion was made by Leslie Ray to donate \$1,000 to the Beaver Day of giving challenge proposed by Gail Langellotto. The motion was seconded by Janet Magendanz. Please vote on this motion as soon as possible. Feel free to comment on this motion as well. Thanks everyone for your support. Chris Rusch, OMGA President. The motion was passed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Janet Magendanz, OMGA Treasurer, recommended we add the annual Beaver Day of Giving to our budget.)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon J Bordeaux
OMGA Secretary

Oregon Master Gardener Association Meeting Schedule 2023	
Executive Committee	Board of Directors
Friday, February 3	Friday, March 3
Friday, May 5	Friday, June 2
Friday, August 4	Friday, September 8
Friday, October 6	Friday, November 3
Annual OMGA Retreat December 1, 2023	

OMGA Mission

We are committed to sustainable gardening through:

- Partnering with the OSU Master Gardener Program to promote sustainable gardening practices.
- Advocating for funding to deliver the Master Gardener Program across Oregon;
- Fostering quality continuing education of all Master Gardeners.

OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
February 28, 2023

	ASSETS		
	Current Assets		
	Checking/Savings		
1	BANK		
2	OMGA Checking 7761 Chase	\$12,886.89	
3	Business M/M Fund 3652 Chase	21,727.54	
4	CD #644850-16 Advantis	1,635.98	
5	Total BANK	36,250.41	
6	Restricted Accounts		
7	TCD - Send-A-Friend	2,303.04	
8	TCD - Equipment Replacement	2,129.44	
9	OMGA Send-A-Friend Sav. 4448	1,000.00	
10	Total Restricted Accounts	5,432.48	
11	Total Checking/Savings	41,682.89	
12	Other Current Assets		
13	E*Trade Account Current Value	72,896.50	
14	Total Other Current Assets	72,896.50	
15	Total Current Assets	114,579.39	
16	TOTAL ASSETS	\$114,579.39	
17	LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
18	Equity		
19	Opening Balance Equity	\$62,945.54	
20	32000 - Retained Earnings	47,702.97	
21	Net Income	3,930.88	
22	Total Equity	114,579.39	
23	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$114,579.39	

OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2023

	Ordinary Income/Expense		
	Income		
1	INTEREST INCOME		
2	Interest income		\$0.42
3	E-Trade dividends		88.27
4	E-Trade fair mkt value adjust		1,956.81
5	INTEREST INCOME - Other		5.87
6	Total INTEREST INCOME		2,051.37
7	Miscellaneous income		26.86
8	ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES		2,280.00
9	Total Income		4,358.23
10	Expense		
11	63008 · Silent Auction		98.25
12	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
13	Management & General Expenses		
14	Postage and printing		
15	Postage		12.20
16	Membership cards		60.90
17	Total Postage and printing		73.10
18	Website Operations		
19	61030.1 · Canvas Hosting & Listserve		256.00
20	Total Website Operations		256.00
21	Total Management & General Expenses		329.10
22	Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		329.10
23	Total Expense		427.35
24	Net Ordinary Income		3,930.88
25	Net Income		\$3,930.88

GAILES CHALLENGE LETTER

Dear OMGA Executive Committee,

April 26th will be the annual [Beaver Day of Giving, also known as Dam Proud Day \(DPD\)](#). This year, Extension Administration has chosen to feature the Master Gardener Program as one of five funds that people can donate to. This is a huge step forward, as I had requested to have the MG Program featured in this annual giving event for the past four years . . . and this is the first year that we have been accepted into this University-wide fundraising campaign.

The money donated to the MG Program fund will go into the growing statewide Master Gardener endowment fund, which you can learn more about at this link: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/thank-you-supporting-master-gardener-program>, including how funds have been used in the past. ***I am writing to the OMGA to ask if you might be able to consider joining me in a \$1000 challenge grant, to help spur broad giving to the fund.*** Commitments are needed by March 3rd ~ the day of the OMGA board meeting. Thus, I wanted to present this information in advance of the board meeting, for your consideration. If you think that any local MG Programs might be willing to participate in the challenge grant, please let me know.

What the challenge grant means is that the OMGA will put up \$1000 towards the fund (or whatever dollar amount your choice), once some threshold has been met. The threshold could be something like: 5 volunteers give to the fund; we reach \$1000 given to the fund; or whatever challenge you would like to put out there. I assume that some might infer that I have bad feelings for the program, because I am leaving. I love the program, and will always love the program, and will be putting up \$1000 out of my own pocket as a challenge grant, to be given once we reach \$1000 given to the fund. I really want to go out on as positive a note as possible, and I hope that people will see that I wouldn't give \$1000 to a program I don't believe in. I want the program to succeed and prosper well into the future.

For the upcoming year, as I think about my departure from the MG Program, there are a few things I would love to strengthen and sustain, beyond my tenure as Statewide Program Leader. This is what I am thinking about, in terms of framing giving to the fund, and directing fund proceeds over the next few years:

- Note that \$\$ will NOT be needed to support the MG Program Coordinator, as OSU has committed to fully funding the position, moving forward. This is a huge win. These past two years, I have taken on every side project and contract that came my way, because I was having such a hard time fully funding the position. This will make the next statewide leader's job so much easier.
- Instead, I would like to focus the funds on three areas:
 - o #1: Seed to Supper ~ now that we took over Seed to Supper from Oregon Food Bank, \$\$ is needed to tend to and sustain the program. Currently, I only have enough money to pay for 2 hours a week of someone's time. I would love to grow that support into 5-10 hours per week. What Seed to Supper needs is regular communication, coordination, tracking & evaluation of host sites, and the development of an in-house training program that honors our commitment to provide trauma-informed gardening education to individuals, families, communities who struggle with poverty and hunger. The formula OSU uses to equate FTE to \$\$ is that 1.0 FTE equates to \$100,000, on average (this includes salary + benefits). So, 5-10 hours per week is 0.125 to 0.25 FTE . . . so about \$12,500 to \$25,000 per year, needed to sustain this effort. [Note that the interest from the funds in the statewide MG endowment fund is about \$13,000 per year . . . and this is what the statewide MG coordinator will have access to, to support different people/programs]
 - o #2: Continued Support for the Growing and Belonging Committee: the DEI work that we have done within the committee has transformed local MG programs, and really gotten folks excited about broadening outreach. The money has also been used to support the film screenings and film festivals we have done in the past. The money needed to support trainings, and to host special events (such as movie screenings, guest lectures) would be about \$1,000 - \$2,500 per year.
 - o #3: Help for County MG Programs that have shortfalls: this isn't a regular thing . . . but when it happens, admins have come to me to ask for \$10k-\$20k per year, for 1-3 years, to keep programs whole.

Putting up a bit of money when there is an emergency helps to keep an MG coordinator fully employed, and lends stability to the program during dire times. This has been the case, in past years, for Lane, Marion, Union, and Hood River counties.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to seeing you on March 3rd, and any feedback, questions, concerns you might have about this request, in advance of the March 3rd meeting.

Gail Langellotto, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)
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