



OMGA Q1 Executive Board Meeting  
Feb. 7, 2025, 3:30 PM Zoom

Agenda Item	Discussion/Notes	Discussion Leader
<b>Welcome, Agenda Review</b>	Chris opened the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● President - Chris Rusch</li> <li>● Vice-president - Leslie Ray</li> <li>● Treasurer - Patrice Sipos</li> <li>● Secretary - not present</li> <li>● Historian - not present</li> <li>● Newsletter - Ann Kinkley</li> <li>● Database/List Serve - Missy Bright</li> <li>● Advocacy - Laura Strom</li> <li>● Past President - Eric Bosler</li> <li>● OSU Program Coordinator - Dr. Leslie Madsen</li> </ul>	Chris Rusch
<b>Agenda Review &amp; Additions</b>	No additions	All
<b>Approval of the October min.</b>	Minutes are on the website. Leslie moved that the October minutes be approved. Laura seconded. All in favor.	All
<b>Reports/Information</b>		
<b>OSU Extension Program coord. Report</b>	Dr. Madsen reported Master Gardener volunteer program numbers for 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MG program had 2,332 active volunteers which includes 495 trainees (29% more trainees than in 2023). 409 of the new trainees completed certification by the deadline, others asked for extensions.</li> <li>● In 29 Oregon counties (27 counties have a paid staff)</li> <li>● 157,213 reported volunteer hours contributed which is equivalent to 77 full-time employees. Labor valued at \$34/hour or \$5.46 million. This an increase over 2023 partly due to an increase in volunteer hours and partly due to the matrix used to calculate the dollar value of the hours.</li> <li>● 40 tons of food donated to local food banks and pantries (5 more tons of food than 2023)</li> <li>● 68,000 public contacts made (67% more contacts than in 2023)</li> <li>● 12 new extension staff (filled unfilled or replaced temp staff)</li> <li>● Seed to Supper numbers have also increased and are spreading to other states.</li> </ul>	Dr. Leslie Madsen
<b>Q1 Financial Report YTD</b>	No changes - no money has come in and no checks have been written. Patrice will meet with the bank about two CDs and has updated/reorganized all the necessary documents for our financials. She will have a full report for our March 7 board meeting.	Patrice
<b>Database/List Serve</b>	No updates since the last update. There are still a couple of people she needs to track down and ensure the information is correct. Missy does not maintain contact information for OSU employees at the extension offices.	Missy
<b>Newsletter</b>	Shared the most recent newsletter but it has not been posted on the website as yet. Ann received a lot of information from chapters about how and where they get	Ann



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	money (via grants). This edition (like all of the newsletters) has a lot of great information.	
<b>Historian</b>	No report	Linda
<b>JOG Conf. Update</b>	<p>OMGA website has been updated with the save the date flyer (July 11-12, 2025) and a description of the keynote speakers. Missy has a blurb in different formats for social media. Three sessions each dayThe schedule is nearly completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Friday:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Madsen will give opening remarks on friday</li><li>○ Soil talks, tours, skill building</li><li>○ Growing and Belonging panel</li><li>○ Demonstration Garden best practices</li><li>○ Creating websites and managing social media</li><li>○ Greenhouse Gardening 101</li><li>○ Conifers in the Pacific NW</li><li>○ Garden Trivia in the Ballroom (with prizes!)</li></ul></li><li>● Saturday:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Garden Futures</li><li>○ Tour of OSU arboretum</li><li>○ Restoring ecosystems</li><li>○ Grants and Sponsors</li><li>○ Peppers</li><li>○ Plant Superheros</li><li>○ Garden Tools</li><li>○ Seed to Supper</li><li>○ Garden to Table</li><li>○ Leadership Panel (Bylaws, policies and procedures)</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Still have some planning to do for lunches and registration. They will put together a list of needed volunteers to share - and try to recruit ahead of time. If anyone would like to join the planning group, email Chris. The next meeting is Feb. 18th but normally they are on Monday afternoons.</p>	Chris
<b>Orientation Jan 17th</b>	<p>Over 20 people attended the orientation and it lasted about an hour and a half.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Overview of OMGA</li><li>● Responsibilities for OMGA Reps</li><li>● Programs and Goals for 2025</li></ul>	Chris
<b>Awards &amp; Grants</b>	<p>The board discussed changes to the OMGA grants and awards program, the application process for Grants and awards, and recognition for Master Gardeners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Deadline for applications is May 15th and are available on the OMGA website</li><li>● Send-a-friend fund for MGs that need assistance. OMGA funds \$1000 and grants are \$100 each. Every year at the conference, OMGA holds a raffle to fund this grant. The raffle is a lot of work and, as Eric pointed out, OMGA is the benefactor of the funds.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ He suggested eliminating the raffle “fundraiser” since OMGA has the reserves to fund it through proceeds from the conference.</li></ul></li></ul>	Chris



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ann shared that one chapter holds a lottery for members to win a chance to attend the conference for free. Maybe other chapters can have a similar award to their members.</li> <li>○ Chris reminds that the Send-A-Friend is specifically for those with financial need and is over and above chapter scholarships.</li> <li>● OMGA awarded 20 longevity awards in 2024 however, only five counties participated. Some counties do their own thing.</li> <li>● Carl Carlson grant is \$4000 this year. OMGA is offering four grants of up to \$1000 each (formerly \$250 each).</li> <li>● Extension Educator grant was increased to \$1000. If a lot of people apply for this grant, it may be divided as needed. Leslie Ray will type a short summary advertising this grant and will send it to Chris and Dr. Madsen who will forward it.</li> <li>● All of these grants must be signed off by the Program Coordinator and chapter President.</li> <li>● Statewide Awards             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marje Luce award hasn't really changed</li> <li>○ MG of the Year - Proposal that this award include the Growing and Belonging and Behind the Scenes criteria rather than issue three separate awards. This is due in part because there is not much interest or participation in applying for these from the chapters. Leanne Locker is working on a rubric to combine the criteria for all of these awards into one overarching award. The focus will be more "how are you supporting projects" rather than "how many volunteer hours did you submit."</li> <li>○ In the future, considering a "Project/Program of the Year" award that honors teams of people (possibly 2026). Important to remember that the Marje Luce award does look at projects and teams, not just individual people.</li> <li>○ Also talked about developing a Rookie of the Year award.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● County Awards             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal that OMGA recognize only MG of the Year at the conference rather than all of the other county awards. Local chapters will still recognize the other awards at their meetings.</li> <li>○ Submissions would be via Google Form with a link to websites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● This will be presented again at the March meeting for all of the chapters to review and vote.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Advocacy report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laura attended a meeting in January with Heidi. OSU is still in the process of solidifying the language for the "ask." They want to do a continuing service ask and also a capacity ask. So letters are on hold until that language is confirmed.</li> <li>● OSU will send letter templates along with information for our websites once completed.</li> <li>● Laura will also post information on the website about the legislative process along with the budget process. It will help members understand how they fit into the process and make an impact.</li> <li>● Legislative Day will be March 5th - Laura and Collette Allen will be able to be part of the groups that meet legislative groups.</li> <li>● She reminded us of the importance of county partnerships, especially with the movers and shakers of the county, and also connections with</li> </ul>	<p>Laura</p>

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	legislative staff because they are the ones answering emails and disseminating information to the legislators.	
<b>Website Comm. Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our website committee is close to finalizing a new look for our homepage on the website. The logo person will develop fonts and colors to be complementary.</li> </ul>	Leslie Ray
<b><u>New Business</u></b>		
<b>MG Description</b>	<p>Most Of the OMGA documents say “member in good standing” in reference to MGs. According to Dr. Madsen, each county has different “rules” for determining who is a MG.</p> <p>There is an OSU MG Position Description that recertifying members have to sign each year along with a Code of Conduct. Some chapters have bylaws that reference their own codes of conduct but there is nothing that says that members who are dismissed from the OSU state level program are then dismissed from the chapter associations.</p> <p>OMGA needs a clear definition of a Master Gardener and consistent code of conduct guidelines and membership eligibility to discuss this topic in order to develop a draft to present at our March 7 OMGA board meeting. The Executive Board will meet again to discuss just this topic. Chris will send out dates.</p>	All
<b>Minutes submitted</b>	Cary watched the Zoom recording and typed the full minutes.	
<b>Next OMGA Mtg</b>	March 7, 2025	