



OMGA Q2 Executive Board Meeting
 May 2, 2025, 3:30 PM Zoom

Agenda Item	Discussion/Notes	Discussion Leader
Welcome, Agenda Review	Chris opened the meeting: 3:36 President - Chris Rusch Vice-president - Leslie Ray Treasurer - Patrice Sipos Secretary - Cary Wasem-Varela Historian - Linda Coakley Newsletter - Ann Kinkley Database/List Serve - Missy Bright Advocacy - Laura Strom OSU Extension - Heidi Luquette	Chris Rusch
Agenda Review & Additions	Moving Heidi and Laura to speak first (Advocacy) and the Dismissal Process second. Patrice Sipos moved to amend the agenda. Laura Strom seconded. All in favor.	All
Approval of the February min.	Minutes are on the website. Patrice Sipos moved that the February minutes be approved. Leslie Ray seconded. All in favor.	All
Reports/Information		
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yesterday was a culminating piece. Presented the funding package at the subcommittee. The testimony presentation went well, with the theme of Wildfire Resilience. Pat Malone, commissioner from Benton County, spoke and mentioned Master Gardeners. • The Government Relations team wants us to keep talking about the programs. Attend town hall meetings and coffee chats. If not comfortable, send emails. • Heidi would like one more letter campaign. She will send Laura a link with pre-populated information and send a letter on the sender's behalf. • 59 days left in the session. May 14th is the next economic forecast for Oregon. Legislatures use this to make final decisions for funding. • About 39% of our state budget has federal dollars attached to it. They are reluctant to make decisions locally because of the ambiguity coming from Washington DC in regards to funding. • Laura asked which other organizations/programs/ groups are helping in this effort. Heidi said a lot, but it doesn't always look like what MG is doing. All of the big commodity groups are attending meetings and sending letters. Some even have lobbyists. Laura clarified by asking if 4H or other volunteer programs under the extension umbrella are advocating. Heidi said no because they are not organized in the same way that MG is organized. • Heidi left the meeting. 	Heidi Luquette & Laura
OMGA Dismissal policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Madsen cannot attend due to illness. However, she sent an email that she is supportive of the proposed dismissal policy. • This proposal came about after Dr. Madsen asked OMGA to revise 	

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	<p>and/or create a policy. Leslie and Eric summarized all of the opinions shared during discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft policy proposes one sentence be added to current OMGA bylaws (<i>2.4.2 dismiss a member from the Chapter if OSU Extension has determined that an individual is no longer recognized as a Master Gardener volunteer</i>). • The wording is vague in defining who is a Master Gardener because each association has different names and definitions. OMGA does not want to determine that. There is a strikethrough that changes “master gardeners” to “individual.” It doesn’t matter who the person is - if they belong to or volunteer with an association, they will be asked to leave if they no longer abide by the code of conduct. • Chapters who belong to OMGA will be required to add this statement to their bylaws as well. • Patrice Sipos moves that we accept the proposed dismissal policy. Cary Wasem-Varela seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. The dismissal policy will now be sent to all representatives to review before the June 6th meeting. Cary will attach the proposal to the email when she sends out the minutes. 	
Q2 Financial Report YTD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have collected less membership funds, but that is due to lower dues (\$5 compared to \$7 previously). The membership numbers are about the same as last year. • Funds from JOG registration are starting out at a better pace than last year at the same time. Interest income from CD should be better as the year progresses. • Financials look good, not very interesting as we haven’t spent much. • Patrice will be changing the formatting of the report a bit. • A couple of chapters moved over \$50K so their IRS report went from a short page to 11 pages. 	Patrice
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two pages for Joy of Gardening describing all of the great things people can learn there. Laura will send some info to be included in the next newsletter also. It will come out in a couple of weeks. 	Ann
JOG Conf. Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before Heidi left the group, Chris asked if Heidi could help promote the Joy of Gardening conference. Heidi will let the statewide groups know and make sure information is distributed. • Chris would like associations to help get the word out and promote the conference by putting flyers out and promoting it on social media to the general public. • The next meeting for JOG will be Monday at 3:30 (May 5th). 	Chris
Awards & Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due May 15th. Chris sent out a reminder with all of the awards and links. She will send another reminder around May 10th. 	Chris
Website	<p>Leslie shared the new Homepage (similar to but not exact):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added an Advocacy tab as well as a Member Resources tab. • Gardening Questions will go to a new link. • The Joy of Gardening link will always remain so people can check out past information as well as the upcoming conference. • Grants & Awards will show past and current grantees/awardees. 	Leslie, Ann

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- Side bar (on right) will only be visible on the Home Page and includes links to Newsletters, Award Winners, MG Statewide Impact, Extension MG events, and Becoming a Master Gardener.
- At the bottom of the page there will be links to OSU's Equal Opportunity/ Accessibility statements, OSU Land Acknowledgement, Report website issues and Contact Us.



- Leslie made some changes to the purple during the discussion trying several shades of green and also white with green letters. The blue squares will be rotating photos of demonstration gardens around the state.

New Business		
Extra	Patrice would like to propose getting together once per year like we used to in the past to encourage camaraderie.	All
Agenda for Q2 mtg June 6th	Let Chris know if there is anything specific you'd like on the agenda. So far, there will be General committee updates, JOG update, and voting on the dismissal policy.	All
Next OMGA Board Mtg	June 6, 2025 @3:30pm	