



OMGA Q3 Executive Board Meeting
August 1, 2025, 3:30 PM Zoom

| Agenda Item | Discussion/Notes | | Discussion Leader |
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| Welcome, Agenda Review | Meeting opened: Zoom recording began after the meeting started. President - Chris Rusch Vice-president - Leslie Ray Treasurer - Patrice Sipos Secretary - not present Past President - Eric Bosler Historian - Linda Coakley Newsletter - Ann Kinkley Database/List Serve - Missy Bright Advocacy - not present OSU Extension - not present | | Chris Rusch |
| Agenda Review & Additions | Not included in the Zoom recording. | | All |
| Approval of the May min. | Minutes are on the website. | | All |
| Reports/Information | | | |
| OSU Extension Program coordinator report | Not included in the Zoom recording. | | Dr. Leslie Madsen |
| Q3 Financial Report YTD | Not included in the Zoom recording. | | Patrice |
| Updates (Quicken, JOG finances, Database/List Serve | Quicken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2000 per year but OMGA would own the program (30 users). Every chapter that chooses to use it would pay a portion of the \$2000 per year - the more users the less it costs per chapter. • A couple of people Patrice talked to thought OMGA should pay at least half and chapters using the program would divide the rest between them. Currently, OMGA is paying \$1200 (per year?) for the program we are using. • Eric asked if any chapters are still using spreadsheets for accounting. Some of the smaller chapters were told they could use spreadsheets in the past and at least one still is using a spreadsheet for their financials. • Eric commented if we can try the program and have use available to individual chapters. If chapters don't want to use a standardized program (because they don't think they need all of the options available), they will be required to submit their financial reports against a standardized report so OMGA will have the data needed | | Missy and Patrice |



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| | <p>to make the state and federal reports. It would end up being an 11 page tax form from each chapter. The smaller chapters would submit a smaller form but then Patrice needs extra information to submit the state reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The point is that Patrice would like chapters to use the QuickBooks program. She will send out a survey to all chapter treasurers to see how many are interested in using the program. It should include cost information for the program and responsibilities. Chris will also include this on the agenda for the next meeting. <p>Database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missy doesn't have any updates at this point. | |
| Newsletter | The discussion about tax forms is interesting and gave her an idea for an article. Send ideas and information for the newsletter to Ann. | Ann |
| Historian | She sent out requests for photos of award recipients. | Linda |
| JOG Conf. Update | <p>Evaluation results from the conference - across the board, comments were very positive with no complaints about the facility/location. A lot of work went into the planning and it paid off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did you like about JOG: Excellent presentations, variety of topics, great organization, networking, good facility/location What would you like to see changed/improved: Move date to winter, more chocolate, longer lunch, shorter breaks, advanced classes, buy now for the silent auction, allow purchase of lunch on site, signage at entrance. Session ratings: All sessions/presenters averaged scores of 3-4 (good-excellent). Only one received a score of 2.9. Participants said she was difficult to understand (she is from South America). How did you learn about the conference: MG email, website, friends. Chapter meetings, newsletter Other comments: 3 day conference, longer breaks, better dorms, fragrance free, seed swap, cut sandwiches in half. Suggested topics: irrigation, container gardening, rain gardens, herbicides | Chris |
| Awards & Grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8000 was given out this year - the most Chris ever remembers being awarded. Awards are all posted on the website. A comment Chris received was that giving four MG of the year awards dilutes the prestige but she disagrees. There are 2000 MGs in Oregon and the four recipients were all deserving. | Chris |
| Advocacy | Laura will no longer be able to do this but has a replacement person in mind. | Chris |
| Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new website is up and running! Many thanks to Jim Parks! Leslie, Chris, and Ann are meeting on Monday to go through the new website page by page and noting changes needed. A logo for the top, a footer, and links to policies, etc. are still needed. There are some additions to the website and some pages are still "a work | Leslie |

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in progress.” But they did not want to wait until everything was completed before unveiling and using it.

- Leslie walked us through each section/page using the menus and also visiting some of the pages/resources. The goal was to make navigation easier and support for chapters easier to find and use.
- We are going to ask chapter reps to submit pictures of their demonstration gardens which would be included in a rotating images section.
- Eric admires all of the work and loves the new look but is concerned that “the JOY of Gardening” being front and center on the home page focuses more on the conference and not on all things MGs do. Leslie says that the team will work on that, please share ideas.
- Patrice agreed it looks amazing. She shared that an ad person once recommended that articles should never use more than two fonts. Leslie heard three. Eric says that the logos don’t count as a font. Ann says the conference logo is meant to be an ad that won’t be there permanently.



Old Business

OMGA Dismissal Policy

We have discussed this at length and feel this topic can be tabled for now. However, chapters should be encouraged to have a dismissal policy. It is not OMGA’s purview to dismiss members from individual associations, it is up to each chapter. OMGA can encourage chapters to develop a dismissal policy and help chapters develop one.

New Business

Meeting dates for 2026

Patrice would like to have two in-person quarterly meetings next year. Eric agrees but also thinks OMGA should purchase something like an [OWL](#) so the in-person meetings can be broadcast simultaneously.

Let’s get the information out soon so associations can plan for the expense ahead of time. OMGA cannot pay for travel expenses, but can help with the executive board members. There is money for food approved in bylaws.

All

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| | <p>Eric will present at the next meeting. Chris will take a poll. Eric pointed out that there is a large reserve and some of that money can be spent to help association representatives travel to the meeting. Hosting chapter members could volunteer to host members from distant chapters rather than spending money on a hotel.</p> <p>One in-person meeting can take place during the JOG conference and another in the fall.</p> | |
| <p>Next OMGA Board Mtg</p> | <p>September 5, 2025 @3:30pm</p> | |

Minutes submitted by Cary Wasem-Varela on August 11th using Zoom recording.