



OMGA Q4 Executive Board Meeting
October 3, 2025, 3:30 PM Zoom

Agenda Item	Discussion/Notes	Discussion Leader
Welcome, Agenda Review	Meeting opened: President - Chris Rusch Vice-president - Leslie Ray Treasurer - Patrice Sipos Secretary - Cary Wasem-Varela Past President - Eric Bosler Historian - Not present Newsletter - Ann Kinkley Database/List Serve - Missy Bright Advocacy - not present Pres elect 2026 - Shelby Schuppe OSU Extension - Dr. Leslie Madsen, Heather Stoven, Amy Espinoza, LeAnn Locher, and Marcia Macintyre	Chris Rusch
Agenda Review & Additions	We will hear the OSU Master Gardener Volunteer Awards Working Group Recommendations presentation first so those presenters can leave the meeting afterward they share.	All
Approval of the August min.	Minutes are on the website. Patrice moved to approve August minutes and Leslie seconded. None opposed.	All
<u>New Business</u>		
Master Gardener Awards	<u>OSU Master Gardener Volunteer Awards Working Group Recommendations</u> - Power Point Presentation • LeAnn Locher introduced the mission and purpose of the working group. • Marcia Macintyre took over the presentation on the Recommendations slide. Growing and Belonging would be embedded into other awards. • Amy Espinoza began presenting at the OMGA Grants & Recognition Recommendations slide. • Heather Stoven presented the Statewide OSU MG Awards (new structure) - New categories, Eligibility & Nomination, Timing (opening/closing of submission), and Recognition & Celebrations. She also shared how these changes address the current challenges shared by LeAnn previously. ◦ Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year Award. ◦ Community Impact Award (looking outward at how the person has impacted and strengthened community) ◦ Program Champion Award (looking inward at how the person has impacted the MG program) ◦ Excellence in Garden Education Award • LeAnn came back and shared Next Steps, inviting feedback Questions/comments: • Missy - Will the rubrics make it clear what the scope of the award will	OSU team



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	be. Some awards currently seem to be only for people who have been MGs for many years (longevity contributions) while some people have made huge impacts in a short amount of time. • Ann - The awards presented in December will be for the year that is currently ending? (yes) A person is eligible for MG of the year with only a chapter impact, or a statewide impact? • Eric - ○ “Certified MGs” was mentioned several times during the presentation. Does that mean that only those MGs that are recognized as certified in the eyes of OSU and not other chapter designations will be eligible for these awards? (LeAnn answered yes) ○ Who would be selecting these awards? (LeAnn answered that the statewide MG coordinators would select based on rubrics). • Missy - Rethink the title of the presentation. The word “program” has different meanings for different people and she was confused at first. Are rubrics mandatory for chapters? (LeAnn feels that they are for chapters to use or they can create their own criteria for local awards). • Marcia McIntyre - Can we create guidelines for chapters to use? • Eric - Feels the recommendations are excellent. Scoring applications is very difficult and having clearer guidelines is great. Consider the possibility of multiple winners in one or more of the categories. For many years MG of the Year was one individual and, after having multiple applicants that were highly qualified and had strong impact statewide, more than one individual can now be selected.	
<u>Reports/Information</u>		
OSU Extension Program coordinator report	Extension Annual Conference • Translations into Spanish are becoming easier to get and more documents are being translated. • Of the 12 program coordinators hired when Dr. Madsen took this position, only 1 of them left. • ICE training - Dr. Madsen will send out information on OSU protocols in dealing with potential ICE interactions. • Volunteer Hub is coming online. Program coordinators will send links to members and they will have documents to sign and populate their personal information. In the future, people will only need to click on yes or no and the rest will be done for them. Leslie asked if the criminal history checks will be included in that. Dr. Madsen said she just found out that the sex offender report will be checked every year while the criminal history checks are done less frequently. • There are three types of background checks - sex offender (everyone has to go through this), driver history (not many do this - only if driving many miles), criminal history (only people working with youth). • The youth training felt too focused on people working in schools and not relevant to other areas. Dr. Madsen went into the MG course site and created a training for MGs that meets all of the youth protection	Dr. Leslie Madsen



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	criteria. However, it will not replace the old school youth training. The short version (for everyone in the MG training) will stress “mandatory reporting” only. • A future working group will be formed to develop guidance and materials for MGs who are nervous about providing educational opportunities..	
Q4 Financials	Patrice will email the Draft OMGA Budget for 2026 to people and we can comment on it. Money has been allocated to grants. There was a request by the Working Group to increase the amount of grants awarded by OMGA. But Chris pointed out that we have already increased the amount this year and \$10K is a lot for OMGA.	Patrice
Database/ Listserve	We had to go back to the paid version because one feature of the free version was removed. Patrice will need to add that cost to the budget.	Missy
Newsletter	No updates but has a question - Can we meet earlier in the day?	Ann
JOG Conf. Update	We need to start meeting and planning for the next conference (July 10 & 11) as this will be the 50th anniversary of MG in Oregon. Patrice asked if we should set more money aside (\$1000?) because it is the 50th anniversary. She will update the budget before sending out. Dr. Madsen may be able to get OSU swag to give away. Leslie added that we need some great keynote speakers for the conference.	Chris
Advocacy	The person who was going to replace Laura had computer issues and doesn’t feel comfortable taking this on. So we are looking for another committee chair.	Chris
Website	Check out the website, it is looking good. Leslie sent a note to Jim this afternoon about making changes to the awards page.	Leslie
<u>New Business</u>		
Nominations	Shelby is willing to be President Elect and take on the president role in 2027. Leslie is willing to run for VP and Patrice for Treasurer. Cary may not be able to continue as Secretary if she takes on the President role of the local chapter. She will let Chris know as soon as possible.	
Retreat	Missy suggested the same or fewer goals but to include action steps rather than more goals. Leslie suggested we take current goals to the next meeting and reflect/ gather feedback. Chris will send the goals with the next agenda for chapter reps to reflect upon. Board retreat - December 5, 2025.	