



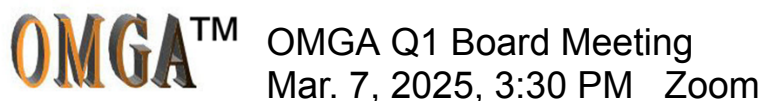
OMGA Q1 Board Meeting
Mar. 7, 2025, 3:30 PM Zoom

Agenda Item	Discussion/Notes		Discussion Leader
Welcome, Agenda Review	Chris opened the meeting: 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 Past President - Eric Bosler OSU Prog Coord - Dr. Leslie Madsen	Benton Co. - Shelby Schuppe Central Gorge - Eric Bosler Central Oregon - Karen Simonet, Bonnie O'Hearn Clackamas - Barb Seekin Clatsop - Missy Bright Columbia - not represented Coos - Mary Dixon Curry - Julia Bott Douglas - Patrice Sipos Jackson - Colet Allen, Lindsey McNab Lane - not represented Lincoln - Trish Riley Linn - Dan Murphy Marion - Jim Liskey Malheur - not represented Multnomah - not represented Polk - Sharon Hill, Becky Jay Tillamook - Alice Danta Umatilla - Cary Wasem-Varela Wasco - Dana Greyson Washington - Deb Hansen Yamhill - Cindy Kinnamon	Chris Rusch
Agenda Review & Additions	None		All
Approval of the November min.	Minutes are on the website. Colet Allen moved that the November minutes be approved. Barb Seekin seconded. All in favor.		All
<u>Reports/Information</u>			
OSU Extension Program coord. Report	Welcome to new members and those who have been here many years! Seed to Supper: • Sent out a facilitator survey earlier and working with a grad student who will interview several facilitators. Want to gather information about what is working, not working, and how they would like to see the program evolve. • Survey results showed that most facilitators said 25% attendees were food insecure. The goal is to have closer to 100% of attendees be food insecure so we are better reaching community members who most need the information. • https://extension.oregonstate.edu/seed-supper 50th Anniversary of MG: • Next year is the anniversary of the program • Please email Dr. Madsen with ideas of how to best celebrate at leslie.madsen@oregonstate.edu		Dr. Leslie Madsen



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	Political Climate: - OSU and programs are secure and we want to keep serving all communities in Oregon. Josephine County: - Some extension personnel will be meeting with members from Josephine Co in the coming weeks. Dr. Madsen is also providing a pathway for MGs to continue to recertify and continue to serve their communities.	
Advocacy report	- Laura and Colete canvassed legislative members for support of SB2408 (operating budget). There were 6 teams of 4-5 people who spent several minutes with their assigned legislators. All the legislators that Laura and Colete met with were very receptive and interested. They included numbers that Dr. Madsen had shared about the impact of the MG program last year. - Colete was inspired by the event. All of the representatives were gracious and asked good questions. Her team was great, especially the young woman in 4H from Josephine County. She highly recommends signing up to participate in the future. - Laura suggested celebrating 50 years in 2026 by visiting the legislature and/or having an official proclamation made. - The goal of the visit was to ask that the budget fully fund Extension programs and continuing services, as many positions are as yet unfilled. Also a small amount for new funding to develop new programs. - Laura is working on a revised/updated web page, new powerpoint, and updated letters/materials for when the district legislatures go on their road shows. We are not lobbying, just providing information to our legislatures about the importance of these programs to their constituents. - Laura's full report:  Advocacy Report to OMGA Board March 7 Meeting.pdf	Laura
Q1 Financial Report YTD	- The financials are back in the QuickBook format as it is easier for her. Two small CDs came due and were put into the business savings account so the money is available if needed without penalties. - The funds for Josephine Co. are listed as both an asset and a liability so they zero out and do not reflect on OMGA totals. - Membership cards came in and Patrice will send out an email to chapter presidents to find out how many to send to each association. A local nursery in Douglas County offers a discount to any members who present their OMGA card.	Patrice
Database/List Serve	No updates. If you have any officer changes or email changes for officers, please email Missy at outsideastoria@gmail.com .	Missy



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Newsletter	Please share The Gardener's Pen to all members in your associations when you receive it from Chris or Ann.	Ann
Historian	Linda is working on the 2024 Historian Report.	Linda
JOG Conf. Update	12 member committee has been meeting every other week: ★ Chris gave an overview of the progress on the JOG planning. ★ Registration will be available the first couple of weeks of April. ★ Alumni Center on OSU campus, July 11-12. ★ Dorms will be available for rental (about \$40 per night). ★ Lunches will be boxed lunches provided by OSU caterers via pre order or people can go somewhere off campus for lunch. ★ Link to OMGA JOG page: https://omga.org/joy-of-gardening-2025/ ★ Link to full program: Silent Auction - you will be receiving an email from Shelby to share with chapter members. She will explain everything in the email. Reach out to her if you have any questions. This is the only fundraiser OMGA has.	Chris Shelby
Awards & Grants	The deadline for grants and awards (along with MG of the year award) is May 15th. See full list of awards and grants along with descriptions and applications: W OMGA Grants.docx	Chris
New Business		
OMGA Dismissal policy	• Dr. Madsen brought up a concern with the Executive Board in February that people who might be asked to leave or are dismissed from the MG program also would cease to be eligible to participate in OMGA. • Leslie shared proposed policy and bylaw changes. • Dr. Madsen shared that MGs are not dismissed lightly. There is a gradual process that is followed (unless egregious). Currently, MGs who are dismissed from the state program are still participating in their local chapters (often stirring up issues related to the same reason they were dismissed in the first place). Dr. Madsen is requesting that OMGA and local chapters consider dismissing members who do not follow the code of conduct. • This policy addresses dismissal of not just members (certified, associate, etc.) but all individuals volunteering for local chapters. The issue of who is a member and the levels of membership will be discussed at a later date.	Leslie Ray
Next OMGA Mtg	June 6, 2025 @ 3:30pm	