



OMGA Q4 Board Meeting
November 7, 2025 3:30-5:30p via Zoom

| Agenda Item | Discussion/Notes | Discussion Leader | |
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| Welcome, Agenda Review | <p>Chris opened the meeting 3:30p Reps introduced themselves and gave a quick summary of activities in their counties.</p> <p>President - Chris Rusch Pres. Elect - Vacant Vice-president - Leslie Ray Treasurer - Patrice Sipos Secretary - Not present, Lindsey McNab took minutes Past President - Eric Bosler Historian - Linda Coakley Newsletter - Not present Database/List Serve - Missy Bright Advocacy - Vacant OSU Prog Coord - Not present</p> <p>Additional OSU Program Staff: LeAnn Locher Amy Espinoza Marcia McIntyre</p> | <p>Benton Co. - Shelby Schuppe Central Gorge - Eric Bosler Central Oregon - Karen Simonet Clackamas - Barb Seekin Clatsop - Missy Bright Columbia - Karen Harte Coos - not represented Curry - Julia Bott Douglas - Patrice Sipos, Julie Burchstead Jackson - Colet Allen, Lindsey McNab Klamath - not represented Lane - Laura Hoover Lincoln - Trish Riley Linn - Dan Murphy Marion - Lee McKenzie Malheur - not represented Multnomah - Angela Myatt, Rich Becker Polk - Sharon Hill, Becky Jay Tillamook - Wendy Kunkel Umatilla - not represented Wasco - Marilyn Richardson, Paulann Knight Washington - Deb Hansen, Hope Preston Yamhill - Cindy Kinnamon</p> | Chris Rusch |
| Agenda Review & Additions | <p>Review of new proposal for state awards Committee Reports - Growing & Belonging and Seed to Supper Approve 2026 OMGA Budget Approve 2026 Executive Board nominations No changes or additions</p> | All | |
| Approval of the September min. | <p>Minutes are on the website. Trish Riley moved that the September minutes be approved. Leslie seconded. None opposed. Motion passes.</p> | All | |
| Reports/Information | | | |
| OSU Extension Program coord. Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Madsen not present. LeAnn Locher, Amy Espinoza, and Marcia McIntyre present in her place to present the new statewide awards proposal. | LeAnn Locher, Amy | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OSU Award Recommendations <Click to View ● Next Steps (DRAFT) <Click to View ● Criteria (DRAFT) <Click to View ● Goals of the working group were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and streamline responsibilities ○ Ensure that all Master Gardeners are eligible ○ Update criteria ○ Clarify the process ○ Honor flexibility at the county level ● Problems and Solutions were discussed ● Recommendations given for county level ● Recommendations given for OMGA Grants & Recognition ● Recommendations given for OMGA Awards - new categories introduced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major change in eliminating Growing and Belonging as its own category and instead making that a core value in all categories ● New timeline discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State level - open Jan 1 to Oct 31, selection process in Nov, and awards announced mid-Dec ○ County level is free to determine their own timelines ○ Awards no longer linked to Joy of Gardening Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JOG focus will be on Grants & Recognition ● Open for feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concerns about the removal of Growing and Belonging category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Solution was to have everyone review the draft criteria (liked above) to see if the language of having Growing and Belonging as a core value instead of a category is sufficient to eliminate concerns. ○ Desire to have flexibility in criteria placement for nominees ● Action item = Reps to communicate proposed recommendations to their chapters. | <p>Espinoza, Marcia McIntyre</p> |
| <p>New Committee Reports</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shelby Schuppe is heading up a Growing and Belonging Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The committee grew out of the JOG Conference panel. ○ The committee has had one meeting and consists of approximately 20 people currently. ○ Main takeaways from the first meeting include: a strong desire to connect across chapters and programs and a desire to share resources more quickly. ○ A key question discussed was: What do we want engagement to look like? ○ Another meeting is in the works. Contact Shelby Schuppe (shelby.e.schuppe@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the committee. ● Lindsey McNab is heading up a Seed to Supper Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This committee also grew out of the JOG Conference panel. ○ Here is the committee Purpose and Goals <Click to View ○ The first meeting for this committee will be early in the new | <p>Shelby Schuppe Lindsey McNab</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An email will go out to those who have expressed interest before the holidays. Contact Lindsey McNab (lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the committee. ● Major takeaway - “We can do better when we do it together.” | |
| Q3 Financial Report YTD Highlights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patrice went over both the Balance Sheet and the YTD Profit and Loss Statement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patrice gave an explanation of held funds on the Balance Sheet including those held for Josephine County. Patrice demonstrated that listing this in the Liability section ensures that our figures are not skewed. ○ Profit and Loss Statement is up to date. November and December expenses will still be added but this is not expected to change much for the current figures. ○ Without JOG income we are ahead of budgeted income. We also exceeded the budgeted income on JOG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Net income as of Nov.7 = \$5663.54 which is over the budgeted amount of \$2845. ● Patrice gave an explanation and justification of the Corporate Fee expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eric further emphasized Patrice’s value as the treasurer. He explained the important role she plays as a chapter resource and the individual who ensures the organization stays current with state and federal reporting requirements. | Patrice |
| OMGA 2026 Budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patrice walked us through a review of the proposed budget. ● The budget was put up for approval. ● Eric Bosler makes the motion to approve the budget. Leslie seconded. None opposed. Motion passes. | Patrice |
| Database/List Serve | <p>Here is a link to the Google Sheet that is the 2025 OMGA Roster <Click to View</p> <p>There are several tabs across the bottom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter Officers: This is the main roster that I maintain. Please look over the information for your county and be sure it's accurate. Our OMGA emails are sent by default to Presidents, OMGA Reps, and Alternate Reps. If anyone else would like to be on the distribution, I'm happy to add them. Please send me let me know or have them contact me. ● OMGA Officers etc.: Besides the OMGA Officers, here you'll also find the other assorted 'Friends of OMGA' ● OSU Personnel: These can change at any time. I don't maintain their info because OSU Extension does. Please visit the extension office website for the county in question if you'd like to find local Coordinators and other related faculty and staff. ● Chapter-Extension websites: If you know of any changes here, | Missy |

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| | <p>also please let Missy know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notes are mostly for Missy. <p>If you're not familiar with Google Sheets, the BEAUTY of it is you don't HAVE to download anything. And as soon as I make a change, you have it. You can just bookmark the page, or come back to this email and click on it again, and you'll always have the latest and greatest.</p> <p>You can still download the file if you're more comfortable doing so. You can save an Excel version or a pdf (File-> Download...and then pick what you'd like). If you need any help, please reach out to Missy. outsideastoria@gmail.com</p> <p>The updated 2026 document with new officers will be sent out soon.</p> <p>When sending any information to Missy please include your county in the subject line.</p> | |
| Newsletter | <p>Ann not present.</p> <p>Chris reminded us that the newsletter can be accessed through the website. The Fall edition is available! <Click to View</p> <p>Please remember to send the OMGA Gardeners Pen newsletter out to your chapters.</p> | Chris |
| Historian | <p>Very few pictures were sent in from the JOG Conference this year. Linda asked that any pictures that have not been submitted be sent to her via email at lindad.coakley@gmail.com.</p> | Linda |
| Website Comm Report | <p>Leslie noted that in approximately 2 weeks the major structural changes to the website will be completed.</p> <p>Everyone is encouraged to go take a look at the new and improved website. https://omga.org/</p> <p>The links and documents still need tidying up but that work is underway.</p> <p>Action item = Please encourage your chapters to interlink to the new webpage. Also check the "Chapter" page on the website to ensure that your county's logo is up to date. If it is not please send the current one to Leslie at rayleslien1@comcast.net.</p> | Leslie |
| Joy of Gardening | <p>The 2026 conference will focus on the 50 year anniversary of the Master Gardeners.</p> <p>Everyone is invited to participate in the planning committee which has already had two meetings. (Email Chris to join the committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are in search of a well known keynote speaker for Saturday. ● We are welcoming back many speakers and many who have been contacted have already committed to next year's conference. | Chris |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lunch break time has been extended. • Dorm planning is under way. • A 50th anniversary slideshow is in the works. The idea is to have all chapters submit photos of events, etc. to run on a continuous slideshow to showcase the past 50 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was mentioned that Pat Patterson from Lane County will also be celebrating her 50 year longevity this coming year. • We are planning to sell 50 year swag like t-shirts and buttons at the conference. <p>Shelby made mention that it is not too early to begin planning for the silent auction. She also reminded us that the funds from the silent auction go to support the grants OMGA awards. She will be sending out a letter about the silent auction in the coming year.</p> | |
| Advocacy | <p>The Advocacy position is currently vacant. If anyone is interested in taking it on please reach out to Chris.</p> <p>Chris told us that there are currently proposed budget cuts that will affect extension if passed. The proposed cuts would cut nearly 6% of the current extension budget which will affect research and staffing.</p> <p>Action Item = Please write letters to your elected officials to help them understand how important the extension is to your and your community. Encourage your chapter members to do the same.</p> <p>Chapters are also encouraged to help fund their extension when possible to offset any budget shortages.</p> | Chris |
| <u>New Business</u> | | |
| Approve Executive Board Nominations | <p>Slate of OMGA Executive officers for 2026 presented was: Chris Rusch: President; Shelby Schuppe: President elect; Leslie Ray: Vice President; Patrice Sipos: Treasurer and Lindsey McNab: Secretary.</p> <p>Colet Allen moved. Eric seconded. None opposed. Motion passes.</p> <p>Eric wanted to make sure it was noted how thankful the organization is to the outgoing Secretary. Thank you Cary for all of your hard work!</p> | Chris |
| Next OMGA Mtg | <p>Retreat December 5th</p> <p>The 2025 Goals will be reviewed and suggestions for next year's goals will be discussed.</p> <p>It is suggested that proposed 2026 goals be sent in before the retreat. These can be emailed to Chris.</p> | Chris |