



## OMGA Q1 Executive Board Meeting February 6, 2026 3:30-5:30p via Zoom

Agenda Item	Discussion/Notes	Discussion Leader
<b>Welcome, Agenda Review</b>	<p>Chris opened the meeting 3:30pm</p> <p><b>PRESENT:</b>            President - Chris Rusch            Pres. Elect - Shelby Schuppe            Past President - Eric Bosler            Treasurer - Patrice Sipos            Secretary - Lindsey McNab            Historian - Linda Coakley            Newsletter - Ann Kinkley            Database/List Serve - Missy Bright            OSU Prog Coord. - Leslie Madsen</p> <p><b>ABSENT:</b>            Vice President - Leslie Ray</p>	Chris Rusch
<b>Agenda Review &amp; Additions</b>	<p>Chris made two additions to the Agenda under "New Business":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocacy Update</li> <li>2. 2026 Goals</li> </ol> <p>All approved of the agenda as amended with the additions.</p>	All
<b>Approval of the October Executive BOD minutes</b>	<p>Minutes are on the <a href="#">website</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></p> <p><b>Patrice moved to approve the October Executive BOD minutes, Lindsey seconded, motion passed.</b></p>	All
<b>Reports/Information</b>		
<b>OSU Extension Program coord. Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>50th Anniversary Information Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LeAnn sent out information that is to be shared with all volunteers on how to share your Master Gardener story.</li> <li>○ Everyone is encouraged to submit their stories, no matter how long you have been a volunteer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Leslie Madsen

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Story Sharing Information</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Send any questions to LeAnn Locher - <a href="mailto:leann.locher@oregonstate.edu">leann.locher@oregonstate.edu</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>“Dig &amp; Divide” Best Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A group of program coordinators convened in a working group to determine the best practices to prevent pathogen spread for “dig and divide” for plant sales.</li> <li>○ This was an update of the 2018 policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The research and case studies were updated from 2018 and this updated policy is going through the Extension peer review process. You can click on page 2 to see the updated research.</li> <li>■ <a href="#">Updated Policy Information</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ While the research has been updated the recommendations remain unchanged - <b>It not recommended to dig and divide plants for plant sales.</b></li> <li>○ Contact Leslie Madsen with any questions - <a href="mailto:leslie.madsen@oregonstate.edu">leslie.madsen@oregonstate.edu</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Presentation Assistance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is on the horizon that a working group will be put together to discuss how to support volunteers with creating presentations to share their knowledge with other volunteers and the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>California Invasive Plant Counsel Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The training maxed out the number of participants they were able to serve, but when the recording is available, Dr. Madsen will make sure anyone who wants it gets access.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Q1 Financial Report YTD Highlights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Patrice noted that nothing generally changes in the financials in the first couple months of the year. Things generally start happening in March. Here is what has occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two checks have been written, one for a grant and one to pay for the last 6 months of website work.</li> <li>○ OMGA got an unexpected \$600 donation, made up of \$500 donated by someone who passed and left the donation to OMGA in their will, and another \$100 general donation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Action Item</b> - Patrice has sent an email to get the chapters to let her know how many orange tags they need this year.</li> <li>● <b>Action Item</b> - She will also be requesting chapter tax information so she can begin filing taxes.</li> </ul>	<p>Patrice Sipos</p>
<p><b>Database/List Serve</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Everyone aside from Umatilla is up to date.</li> <li>● Missy has reached out to a few people in Umatilla but is still awaiting a response.</li> </ul>	<p>Missy Bright</p>
<p><b>Newsletter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The newsletter was sent out on February 5th, but many did not receive the email. Chris will resend it to everyone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">2026 Winter Newsletter</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Action Item</b> - Ann will be requesting information from chapters on record keeping in demonstration gardens to add the information into a future newsletter edition. She wants to share good practices that</li> </ul>	<p>Ann Kinkley</p>

	have worked well.	
<b>Historian</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2025 report has been completed and sent to Chris for approval. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Action Item</b> - Chris has seen it and thinks it looks good, but will review again for final approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Linda Coakley
<b>Joy of Gardening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The “Save the Date Flyer” was shared with the group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you Missy for your work on this!</li> <li><a href="#">JOG Save the Date</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>Chris reported that there have been 12 people involved in the Planning Working Group thus far, and 30 presentations have been confirmed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keynotes will be from Dr. Leslie Madsen and Dr. Gail Langellotto.</li> <li>Many program coordinators are involved in the presentations this year which is really great.</li> <li>Nicole Sanchez will host “Garden Trivia” on Friday again as well.</li> <li>There are also a few tours set up.</li> </ul> </li> <li>We will be using the West dorms which is about half a mile from the conference location.</li> <li>Early bird pricing opens in April. It has been decided to have the early bird price be \$50 in honor of the 50 year anniversary. It is still being determined what the amount will be after the early bird special, but likely it will be \$100.</li> <li>If you want to become involved in the JOG Planning Working Group contact Chris - <a href="mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com">crusch3837@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>	Chris
<b>Orientation Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris hosted two Orientation sessions this year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meetings covered OMGA history, structure, mission, upcoming events, grants and scholarships, website, meeting dates for 2026, and the 2026 goals.</li> <li>The importance of submitting quarterly reports was highly stressed to all representatives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Approximately 15 individuals attended each meeting.</li> <li>Many chapter presidents attended in addition to chapter OMGA representatives.</li> <li>Having two meeting times proved to work well and will be continued next year.</li> <li>Chris noted that there were many great questions asked. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric reaffirmed that the meetings went very well and that Chris did a great job of indicating to the representatives that they are the conduits between OMGA and the rest of the state.</li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">OMGA Representative Handbook</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul>	Chris
<b>OMGA Grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris reminded us that all grant applications are due on <b>May 15th</b> of each year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These can be found on the <a href="#">website</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>The Statewide Awards are no longer there, but can be accessed on the <a href="#">OSU site</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul>	Chris

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Longevity Awards will continue this year, but will likely end next year due to low chapter involvement.</li> <li>• <b>Action Item</b> - We need someone to step up and take over heading the Carl Carlson Grant. This entails about 6 weeks of commitment to review applications and award the grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If you are interested contact Chris - <a href="mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com">crusch3837@gmail.com</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Growing &amp; Belonging Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelby reported on the group's January meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The group went over the OMGA 2026 Goals.</li> <li>◦ People proved eager to share what they run into in their counties in relation to Growing &amp; Belonging.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A Google Site was created to manage and share resources. Shelby noted that she hopes it can be a "landing page to crowd source information." She also plans to add a shared calendar.</li> <li>• Contact Shelby to become involved in the Growing &amp; Belonging Working Group - <a href="mailto:shelby.e.schuppe@gmail.com">shelby.e.schuppe@gmail.com</a></li> <li>• <b>The next meeting is March 3rd from 4:00-5:30pm.</b></li> </ul>	Shelby Schuppe
<b>Seed to Supper Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsey reported on the group's January meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ She reported that 34 people have participated so far and more are reaching out on a continual basis.</li> <li>◦ She shared the main takeaways from the meeting which include a desire to better define food insecure populations and share best practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The full meeting takeaways can be reviewed in the working group <a href="#">minutes</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shelby suggested linking Seed to Supper under the Growing &amp; Belonging Google Site.</li> <li>• Contact Lindsey to become involved in the Seed to Supper Working Group - <a href="mailto:lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com">lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com</a></li> <li>• <b>The next meeting is in March - date/time are still TBD</b></li> </ul>	Lindsey McNab
<b>Website Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leslie Ray was not present, Chris spoke in her place.</li> <li>• Some items were added to comply with the OSU Style Guides sent from LeAnn.</li> <li>• Please check it out!! - <a href="#">OMGA Website</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Comments can be sent to Leslie Ray (<a href="mailto:rayleslien1@comcast.net">rayleslien1@comcast.net</a>) or Chris (<a href="mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com">crusch3837@gmail.com</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Chris
<b>New Business/Discussions</b>		
<b>Volunteer Hub</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris asked about our comments and any issues working with Volunteer Hub.</li> <li>• Dr. Madsen mentioned two components for context, the technology component and the requirements being asked of volunteers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ OSU is working hard to remedy the technology issues.</li> <li>◦ She also reported that the requirements being requested are not new, but, until now, there has been a communications breakdown between OSU, coordinators, and volunteers on these requirements. This is being remedied through this</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Chris & Dr. Madsen

	<p>process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is recommended that OMGA helps volunteers understand the importance of the requirements being requested to ensure every ones safety.</li> </ul>	
<b>Advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The state legislature is having a short session and some cuts to the budget (that effect Extension) are being discussed.</li> <li>● Our Advocacy contact with OSU is recommending we all write letters to keep the funding from being reduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information on this issue and how to write a letter to your legislature can be found <a href="#">here</a> ←<b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Action Item</b> - The OMGA Advocacy position is still open. Contact Chris if you are interested - <a href="mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com">crusch3837@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>	Chris
<b>Dual Association Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was decided to leave dual association membership policy up to the associations.</li> </ul>	Chris
<b>2026 Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The 2026 Goals are posted on the website. Go check them out! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">2026 OMGA Goals</a> ← <b>CLICK HERE</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● There are 7 goals this year that were developed at the End of Year Retreat, and fine tuned by a small working group.</li> <li>● Shelby has set up a way to track the goals which will be discussed in a future meeting.</li> </ul>	Chris
<b>Next OMGA Meetings</b>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm</p> <p>General Board Meeting - <b>March 6, 2026 3:30-5:30pm</b></p> <p>Executive Board Meeting - <b>May 1, 2026 3:30-5:30pm</b></p>	Chris