



OMGA Q1 Board Meeting
March 6, 2026 3:30-5:30p via Zoom

| Agenda Item | Discussion/Notes | | Discussion Leader |
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| Welcome, Agenda Review | <p>Chris opened the meeting at 3:30p with a roll call.</p> <p>President - Chris Rusch President Elect - Shelby Schuppe Vice President - Leslie Ray Past President - Eric Bosler Treasurer - Not Present Secretary - Lindsey McNab Historian - Linda Coakley Newsletter - Ann Kinkley Database/List Serve - Not Present Advocacy - Vacant OSU Coordinator - Leslie Madsen</p> | <p>Benton - Catherine Whiting Central Gorge - Eric Bosler Central Oregon - Bonnie O'hern Clackamas - Barb Seekins & Tina Mori Clatsop - Amy Rens Columbia - Karen Harte & Katrina Clif Coos - Linn Menashian Curry - Lauralee Cundiff & Cindy Myers Douglas - Julie Burchstead Jackson - Colet Allen Klamath - Not Represented Lane - Patty Driscoll Lincoln - Trish Riley Linn - Dan Murphy Malheur - Not Represented Marion - Lee McKenzie Multnomah - Angela Myatt & Rich Becker Polk - Connie Abel Tillamook - Alice Danta Umatilla - Not Represented Wasco - Not Represented Washington - Debra Hansen Yamhill - Cindy Kinnaman</p> | President Chris Rusch |
| Agenda Review & Additions | No changes or additions | | All |
| Approval of Q4 Minutes | <p>All previous meeting minutes can be viewed on the OMGA website. https://omga.org/minutes-and-reports/</p> <p>Approval of 2025 Q4 Board Minutes Colet Allen moved to approve the 2025 Q4 Board Minutes, Lindsey McNab seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.</p> | | All |

| Reports/Information | | |
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| OSU Extension Program Coordinator Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seed to Supper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Madsen gave a brief update on the ongoing Seed to Supper revisions. ○ She announced the upcoming facilitator training where interested individuals can learn more about the program, the updates, and get introduced to the new materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you missed registration and want access to the recording reach out to Lindsey McNab — lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com. ○ She also announced that the new guidebook would be available in the Fall and that anyone leading the program in the Spring should use the old guidebook in conjunction with the new materials which include new slides and an activity library. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Seed to Supper Information ← CLICK TO VIEW ● Revisions to the Master Gardener Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Madsen informed the group that discussions have begun with many county coordinators concerning revising the current Master Gardener training course. ○ The main item of discussion has been how to balance the science to give enough depth without creating overwhelm. ○ If you have opinions or experiences to contribute to the discussion please email Dr. Madsen — leslie.madsen@oregonstate.edu. ● DAM Proud Day — April 29, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Madsen shared that the university-wide day of giving is coming up and that the Master Gardener Program has been chosen as a featured program. Which means they want us to deliver on the fundraising efforts. ○ Please consider giving a gift (of any size) to the university on this day to help raise the endowment amount and help fund staff and increase program capacity. ○ More information will be shared as the day approaches. | Dr. Leslie Madsen |
| Q1 Financial Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treasurer Patrice Sipos was not present. ● OMGA YTD Budget to Actual Statement ← CLICK TO VIEW | Chris |
| Database/List Serve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ListServe Manager Missy Bright was not present. ● President Rusch reiterated the importance of keeping the ListServe current by sending any changes in leadership within your association to Missy — outsideastoria@gmail.com. | Chris |
| Gardener's Pen Newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Editor Kinkley stated that the next edition of the newsletter comes out in June and will focus largely on the 2026 Joy of Gardening Conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter Edition ← CLICK TO VIEW ● If you have any suggestions on topics to include in any future edition send them to Ann — gardenerspen@gmail.com. <p>ACTION ITEM: Please remember to send the OMGA Gardeners Pen</p> | Editor Ann Kinkley |

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| | newsletter out to your chapters. | |
| Historian's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historian Coakley announced that the 2025 Historian's Report has been posted on the website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Historian's Report ← CLICK TO VIEW It was also noted that the OMGA website has Historian reports going back to 2011. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OMGA History ← CLICK TO VIEW | Historian Linda Coakley |
| Website Working Group Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President Ray noted that the website is essentially finished. She highlighted the new separation of OMGA Grants and OSU Awards, and the more clearly defined header bar. She stated that there is still some cleaning up to do, notably with some links, and that many tasks will remain ongoing. <p>ACTION ITEM: As you use the website, if you run into any issues or find something that needs attention, email Leslie — lnray@duck.com.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Bosler commented that the Website Committee has done a fantastic job, emphasized that the website interactivity is excellent, and thanked the team for their hard work. | Vice President Leslie Ray |
| Joy of Gardening Conference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 JOG Conference — July 10-11 MARK YOUR CALENDAR! President Rusch stated that the 2026 JOG Conference will focus on the 50 year anniversary of the Master Gardener Program and encouraged everyone to help make it the best one yet. Chris noted that there are more than 30 speakers lined up and that we have secured Andrew Millison to give a keynote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn more about Andrew Millison ← CLICK TO VIEW In honor of the 50 year anniversary, the cost of the conference will be \$50. Awards will be given to the county that has the most attendees and to the county that came the farthest to attend. In addition to the presentations and the silent auction, there will be an OSU Art and Agriculture expert sharing paintings, and Garden Trivia will be LIVE. <p>ACTION ITEM: If you are interested in participating in the planning committee contact Chris — crusch3837@gmail.com.</p> | Chris |
| 2026 Orientation Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Rusch emphasized that the 2026 Orientation was well attended — 31 total attendees between two meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to all the representatives who attended! | Chris |
| 50th Anniversary Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Rusch reminded the group about sharing stories and nominating Master Gardeners to be highlighted for the 50th Anniversary spotlights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations should be sent to LeAnn Locher — leann.locher@oregonstate.edu. Anniversary Overview ← CLICK TO VIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document has guidelines for using the anniversary | Chris |

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| | <p>logo and other important information about how to spread the word. For additional questions contact LeAnn.</p> | |
| OMGA Grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President Rusch reminded the group that OMGA Grant applications are due May 15th. ● She also highlighted the amounts given last year and encouraged everyone to apply. ● OMGA Grants ← CLICK TO VIEW | Chris |
| OMGA Longevity Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was announced that OMGA will no longer be giving out Longevity Awards and that this initiative is being passed on to the counties who should continue to honor and award longtime members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This decision was made due to the low county participation in the award process and the fact that generally no one awarded attends the JOG Conference where the awards have traditionally been given out. ● It was agreed that OMGA will recognize Pat Patterson this year given that it is the 50 year anniversary and her 50th year of membership. ● ACTION ITEM: Eric Bosler suggested that everyone look into their chapter history to see if there may be anyone else who has been involved with the Master Gardeners for 50 years. | Chris |
| Growing & Belonging Working Group Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shelby Schuppe informed the group that the Growing & Belonging Working Group had just met on March 3rd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group is currently trying to figure out a way to quickly share information between chapters so that we can see what others are doing and learn from one another. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Google Drive is the current option being explored. ○ The 2026 JOG Growing & Belonging Panel was also discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Suggestions made include a presentation on Growing & Belonging and some discussion of how to engage in identity work. ■ ACTION ITEM: If anyone has additional suggestions please reach out to Shelby — shelby.e.schuppe@gmail.com. | Shelby Schuppe |
| Seed to Supper Working Group Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lindsey McNab shared that the Seed to Supper Working Group met most recently in January and went over what was discussed at that meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January Meeting Minutes ← CLICK TO VIEW ● She also announced that the next meeting takes place March 23rd OR March 28th. Each meeting will cover the same material, but two are being held to enable more participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The upcoming meeting will dive into defining who the target population is as well as how to connect with community partners already engaged with these populations. ○ If you wish to attend the upcoming meeting(s), contact Lindsey — lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com. ● ACTION ITEM: If your chapter is currently engaged in or planning to | Lindsey McNab |

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| | engage in offering Seed to Supper this year please let Lindsey know, so that we can create a list of all the current offerings. If you are working with a community partner (or have in the past) please note that as well. | |
| Advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advocacy position is currently vacant. If anyone is interested in taking it on please reach out to Chris — crusch3837@gmail.com. • It was announced that only about 1% of funding was lost in the recent budget cuts and that our letter writing efforts likely made an important impact considering the proposed cuts were nearly 6%. • It was also announced that there will be advocacy training at the JOG Conference this year. • Patty Driscoll with Lane county informed the group that there will be a measure on the ballot in Lane county in May (measure 2380) to increase Extension funding. Arguments can be submitted in support of it. If anyone is interested in helping, reach out to Patty — patty.driscoll@juno.com. | Chris |
| 2026 OMGA Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2026 OMGA Goals were listed and President Rusch explained that the goals were created at the end of the year retreat and refined by a small working group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2026 OMGA Goals ← CLICK TO VIEW • Emphasis was placed on the goal of donating 50 tons of food this season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Representatives were encouraged to note their donation amounts on quarterly reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If you are unsure of the donation amounts check with your coordinator or chapter President. | Chris |
| <u>New Business</u> | | |
| Volunteer Hub Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone is having issues with Volunteer Hub or has questions about the process reach out to Chris — crusch3738@gmail.com. • Note that hours and food donations still need to be logged in the VRS system. | Chris |
| Updated Plant Sale Guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Plant Sale Guidance ← CLICK TO VIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ACTION ITEM: Please make sure that your chapter is aware of the updated guidance. | Chris |
| State Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Master Gardener State Awards are now being facilitated by OSU and include: Master Gardener of the Year, Program Champion, Distinguished Educator, and Growing & Belonging. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ They are currently open and the deadline is October 31st. ◦ OSU State Awards ← CLICK TO VIEW • OMGA will no longer be involved in any award process and will not be giving out awards at the JOG Conference. Any awarding outside of the OSU State Awards is now at the discretion of the counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This decision was made, in part, to ensure that every Master Gardener can be involved even if there is not a chapter in their | Chris |

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| | area. | |
| Member Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was posed to the group from Anthony Yeznach from Clackamas County concerning OMGA IRS filings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His contact information was taken so that this question can be addressed by Treasurer Sipos who was not present at the meeting. | All |
| Next OMGA Meeting | <p>Executive Board Meeting — May 1st at 3:30pm</p> <p>General Board Meeting — June 5th at 3:30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Reports are due prior to the day of the meeting. • Reports should be sent to Secretary Lindsey McNab — lindseykmcnab22@gmail.com. • Quarterly Report Guidelines ←CLICK TO VIEW <p>Meeting adjourned at 5:14pm</p> | Chris |

Respectfully Submitted By *Lindsey McNab*, 2026 OMGA Secretary