

Notes from January Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022

- **Welcome.** President Karen Hanna-Towne began the meeting at 6:31 P.M. by welcoming everyone. She explained that the awards will be given in February and tonight will be the Project Fair. She then turned it over to Colin.
- **Recognition of Graduates, 2021 Board/Officers & Installation of 2022 Officers.** Colin congratulated the 28 graduates (as of December) and commended them on enduring through all their training – all of it online. He also gave special thanks to Elizabeth Hale, all the mentors, and all involved with the Holiday drive through. Colin went on to thank all the volunteers in the Ask a Master program, and wrapped up his appreciation with, “What a Year!” Despite the obstacles, through resilience and initiative, with lack of connection, we still graduated 28, celebrated our 30th birthday, did NOT miss a meeting since May 2020 with an average of 96 in attendance, held 1st Advanced MG training meeting, and from October 2020 until December 10,074 sanctioned project hours, 654 non-sanctioned hours, and over 10,000 education hours. And our endowment fund is very close to our \$25,000 goal. He thanked the board and the Saturday crew, plus Kitty Sanders, Susan Young, and Jan Lefler for the website redesign. He noted that all projects continued and many flourished all due to the diligence and planning of the officers going above and beyond with keeping health and safety in mind. He reminded the outgoing officers to hold their heads high because of their strength and resolve. He congratulated and thanked outgoing president, Kathryn Birkhead for leading with grace, humility, and fortitude and her loving and calming presence. He noted with all his gratitude he didn’t get an approval for a statue but instead presented her with a painting by Diane Standefer of beautiful purple coneflowers, representing strength and healing.

Next was the Installation of Officers Karen Hanna-Towne, Linda Morrow, Lynette Terrell, Jill King, Darielle James, Randy Butler, Alfie Anderson and Dale Thomas took the oath. Jenean Hill was absent and will take the oath at another time. Colin reminded the group that the officers are a representation of the membership and carry out the mission to grow and be seen in the community, to care about them, and all things horticulture.

- **Berni K./Patsy to discuss State Conf. Volunteer expectations.** (Berni was unable to make his audio work.) Patsy stated that as many volunteers as possible are needed for the State Conference. She said Nancy will send out a Mailchimp so think about how you want to volunteer. There will be a reduced volunteer rate for anyone who works 8 hours Wednesday – Saturday, as well as access to the hospitality room, a different color t-shirt, and a total of 3 meals on Thursday and Friday. She did ask that our members not sign up for the Garden Tours so people from other counties can go on the tours. Hopefully, there will be tours for WCMGs on Sunday. Registration for volunteers will come out mid-January different from the rest of the state.
- Linda Morrow to review upcoming speakers and introduce Nancy Sloan. Nancy echoed Patsy’s words and encouraged everyone to volunteer. She stated the committees are doing excellent jobs. She restated the cap at 75 volunteers, lucky helpers, to get the perks. There are many places to help: hospitality, goody bags, free plants, registrations, signage, etc. Again, she will send out a Mailchimp so people can sign up. She also reminded committee chairs that they need to sign up too.

Linda restated that February meeting will be the awards as well as 10 minute cameo spots by MGs. Gail Pianalto will share her experience of building a koi pond and Joanne Olszewski will be talking about worms in winter.

- **Project Fair (Nancy Sloan will be added as Co-host on Ipad & PC).** Nancy presented a detailed slide show for the Project Fair showcasing 19 projects to choose from for all but particularly for the new graduates and members. Colin will send the slide show out to all. The list of 19 projects: Arkansas Air Museum, Apple Seeds Pollinator Garden, Ask a Master, Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks, Community Outreach, Compost Demonstration Site, Elkins Community Center, Garden Explorers, Headquarters House, Junior Master Gardeners, Lincoln Community Gardens, Mock Park, Shiloh Museum, Through the Garden Gate Tour, Veterans Community Garden, Washington County Extension Office, Washington County Fair, West Fork Gardens, and Winslow Community Gardens.
- **(Karen Hanna-Towne) Closing Remarks and Adjourn.** In closing, President Karen Hanna-Towne reminded members of the importance of volunteering as a service to our community, for learning opportunities, and the opportunity to make new friends. She noted the directory will be coming soon and thanked the steering committee for the State Convention.

The meeting was wrapped up at 7:40 P.M.

Submitted by Lynette Terrell, Secretary