

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday September 3, 2024**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Present: 81 members
Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President, Liz Hale called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Recognition of Doris Cassidy's 50 Years at the Washington County Fair

Liz Hale introduced Dale Hill, Washington County fair Board President. Dale shared highlights of Doris Cassidy's 50 year accomplishments serving as President of the Fair Board and support of the Fair.

Endowed Scholarship for Student Development – Dolores Stamps & Kathy Launder

- In 2010-2011, the Executive Committee was told too much cash was in the checking account, which could trigger an IRS audit.
- A committee was created to meet with the UA Agriculture Development Office, who suggested an endowment to educate Ag majors. WCMGs agreed to accumulate and invest with the Ag Development Office WCMG's original \$12,000. Once the fund grew to \$25,000 (through additional donations and investments growth), the fund would provide an annual 4% award if the base remains \$25,000. The goal was attained in 2023 and the first award is tonight.
- First recipient honored – Caroline Ford
 - Received \$1,000.00
 - Awarded by Dr. Mary Savin and Kathy Launder

Liz Hale introduced our speaker Luke Anderson, son of Alfi Anderson.

“Proper yard-waste disposal, snake and insect bite avoidance and treatment, and heat emergency management.” – Luke Anderson, Fayetteville Firefighter

Each project was encouraged to have a First Aid Kit onsite for accidents and emergencies.

Financial Guideline Requirements – Katie Teague, CES Staff Chairman

- Review of the Purchase request and procedure to get approval before making a purchase
 - Purchase request must be signed by Committee chair, Treasurer, and either Colin or Katie
- Explanation of the education component

Business Meeting:

- Approval of Minutes from August 6, 2024, WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the August 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
 - Minutes approved
- Approval of July 2024 Treasurer Reports as listed via link in the August 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
 - Report approved

Vote regarding the 2025 Slate of Executive Committee Members published in the July and August *Garden Thyme* newsletters

President – Alfi Anderson

Vice President – Mariette Spidel

Secretary – Carole Ball

Treasurer – Julie Murray

Assistant Treasurer – Stephanie McGuire

Members at Large:

Marty Powers

Judy Sartwell

Rick Oliver (Class of 2024)

The slate of officers was approved

Approval of the 2025 WCMG Operating Budget as linked in the September 2024 *Garden Thyme* newsletter

- Discussion of monthly spreadsheet

- Concerns regarding restricted funds, cash flow and future needs of the organization
- Discussion of location of future meetings and cost
 - Possible locations
 - Good Shepherd Church
 - Central United Methodist Church
 - Christ Church
 - The vote on a location was tabled, waiting on more information from Central United Methodist Church and Christ Church
- Discussion of raising dues for 2025
 - If dues are paid by December 1st cost is \$20.00, after December 2nd \$25.00
 - Executive board voted to keep dues the same and look into an increase in 2026
 - Discussion about dues increase ensued
 - Motion made by Peg Konert to stay with the decision made by the executive board of \$20.00, seconded by Joanne Olszewski. Motion carried.
 - Members agreed to a straw poll ballot to be sent out by President, Liz Hale regarding dues increase for 2026

Proposed 2025 Membership Meeting Dates – 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month

- January 7, 2025 – 2025 Executive Committee Induction
- February 4, 2025 – Awards Celebration & Class of 2024 Graduation
- March 4, 2025 – Committees & Sanctioned Projects Fair at Thompson Hall at the Washington County Fair Grounds
- April 8, 2025
- May 6, 2025
- June 3, 2025 – Potluck Picnic at a Sanctioned Project
- July 1, 2025
- August 5, 2025
- September 2, 2025 – Annual Business Meeting
- October 7, 2025
- November 4, 2025
- December 2, 2025 – Winter Holiday Celebration featuring a Potluck Picnic

- Ruth Cohoon made the motion to accept the meeting dates as presented, seconded by Martha Haguewood. Motion approved.

Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Report – Jan Lefler

- No report at this time

August 2024 Photo Winners – “Shade Gardens/Plants

1st Place – Carol Sue Wooten – “Alliums Galore”

2nd Place – Carole Ball – “These Blues will Make You Happy”

3rd Place – Sarah Teague – “In the Pink”

Mentors Needed

- Mentor training
 - Monday September 16th
- Call Patsy if you are interested in becoming a mentor 479-841-9865

Email pjlouk@gmail.com

Recorded Hours through August 2024 – 139/289 WCMG

- Sanctioned Projects – 7,061.75
- Sanctioned Committees – 1,834.25
- Education – 3,458.75

2024 Master Garden Awards Nominations

- Due October 15, 2024
- NEW FORMS are on the wcmgar.org website page under the password-protected “Member Portal” button → Member Resource Guide → “Awards Information”, then “Forms”.
- Email Jan Lefler as a last resort... before Friday, 10/11.

VA Gardens – Steve Brizzi

- Explanation of project and asking for assistance to complete this project

2025 Operating Budget approval

- A motion was made by Elizabeth Woods to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Doris Cassidy. Motion carries with one abstention.

Busy Bee Awards

- Why: To celebrate and award more
- WCMGs for their contributions.
- Who: Everyone that records 50 hours of sanctioned work (project or committee).
- When: WCMGs recognized in our monthly meeting, beginning in April (based on monthly online hours report).
- What: Recipients will be awarded a pewter lapel pin.

August Winners:

- John Ball – Class of 2024
- Judy Cohea – Class of 2021
- Ruth Cahoon – Class of 2010
- Paula Dutton – Class of 2016
- Elaine Mills – Class of 2013
- Brad Neidecker – Class of 2020
- Betty Nichols – Class of 2010
- Joyce Starr – Class of 2011
- Laura Anne Watson – Class of 2024

36th Annual MG Appreciation Day

- To celebrate 10/13/1988 AR MG Founding
- Hosted by AR MG Coordinator Randy Forst and MG Agents
- October 14, 2024
- 10:00a.m. to 2:00 pm at BGO

Washington County Extension Grounds Sanctioned Project Report – Donilyn Rutherford

- Discussed project and encouraged more Master Gardeners to participate

Any Items or Announcements from the Audience

- Membership Committee – Kathryn Birkhead
 - Asking for more volunteers
 - Next meeting September 26, 2024 1:30 in the small conference room at the Extension Office