

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 8, 2018, 1:10 P.M.**  
**Eau Claire County Extension Office**

**In attendance:** Paula Bonnin, Ellen Terwilliger, Nina Logan, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Carla Pelzl, Ede Strand

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 P.M. by President Mary Jane Griffin.

**Web page access:** Ellen T. emailed Erin with a request for the weebly password so that the web page can be accessed and brought up to date.

**Secretary's Minutes:** The minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. (Motion – Paula Bonnin, Second – Ellen Terwilliger)

**Treasurer's Report:** Ede Strand

The beginning balance as of 1/01/18 was \$11,515.63. The book balance as of November 8, 2018 was \$9,552.25. Mary Jane reported that according to president Nancy Spak, the E. C. Garden Club is waiving the \$50 amount which was the Master Gardeners' share of Steve Betchkal's speaker fee. The Brent Heath garden presentation which was to be co-sponsored by the Garden Club and the Master Gardeners has been cancelled, so there will be no fee payment due for that event. Ede mentioned that she thought our balance over the last few months has been about \$200 off. She will check with the bank and make corrections if needed. The report was approved as presented. (Motion – Paula Bonnin, Second – Dick Lienhardt)

**Horticulture Educator Position:** The County budget is to be reviewed on November 20, 2018, so until then we will not know whether the horticulture educator position will be filled.

**Education Program Committee** Nina Logan and Lori Kempen will be working ahead to find speakers for all the 2019 Master Gardener education meetings. Carla Pelzl will join the committee.

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Results of Board Election; also a presentation by representatives of Just Local Foods.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – annual Holiday Party/ Potluck. Members may donate non-perishable food items for the food bank.

**WIMGA Update:** Ellen Terwilliger reported that next year WIMGA will try hosting a few regional leadership meetings for volunteers rather than a State Conference. She also has suggested that the WIMGA board address the following concerns so they can be brought to the WIMGA membership. Her list states:

1. The WIMGA President and Vice President have term limits, while the Secretary and Treasurer do not. I think that this should be consistent to all officers and that all officers should have term limits, for example, four or six years.
2. If we are to remain a relevant organization we need to rotate membership on the board and WIMGA local representatives. It's helpful to get new people and new ideas. I think it would be in the best interest to have term limits for all the board and local reps. It also may be easier to recruit if people know they have a limited amount of time to serve. For example, we have 2 consecutive two-year terms for board members in Eau Claire County.
3. The By-laws state (VI, Section 9) "checks upon the bank account of the Association shall be signed by one of two such officers as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, by appropriate resolutions, appoint for such purpose." If I understand correctly right now no one else on the board is joint on the WIMGA account. Another member of the executive committee needs to be joint on the account. This protects the treasurer and the organization.

4. Our budget and financial statements need to be accessible to members on the restricted tab on the website or in some manner.

### **Old Business:**

**Winter Garden Seminar update:** Seminar date is Saturday, February 2, 2019. Nina Logan, WGS committee chair, reported that one of two remaining open speaker positions had been filled (the presentation will be about earthworms), with one more speaker still needed. Ellen Terwilliger offered to fill the remaining spot with a presentation about the growing and processing of cacao. She and her husband had traveled to Costa Rica and spent time on a cacao plantation. The seminar committee was pleased to accept the offer.

**Board election:** Carla Pelzl reported that the ballots have been coming in. The due date for receiving ballots is November 15<sup>th</sup>. New board members will be introduced to the membership at the December Holiday Party.

### **New Business:**

**Photo Contest winners:** President Mary Jane Griffin announced the MG Photo Contest winners: First place, Paula Bonnin, second place, Ellen Terwilliger, third place, Mikel Reise, and honorable mention, Rhonda Cooke. The photos had been included in the November newsletter.

**Newsletter article “The Quest” by Judy Mitchell.** Mary Jane mentioned the excellent articles Judy Mitchell has submitted to the newsletter reviewing some of the educational material on the extension website. The board agreed that they have been well written and worth including in the newsletter.

**Newsletter editor recognition:** Mary Jane expressed appreciation for newsletter editor Carol Cox’s page in the November newsletter which included biographical sketches and photos of the four candidates for board positions.

**“Member in Good Standing” Card:** Mary Jane reviewed total ECMGA volunteer hours for the 2017-2018 reporting period: Youth Education – 244.5; Community Education – 252.0, and Support Services – 3,756.4 for a grand total of 4,172.9 volunteer hours. Continuing Education for members totaled 3,115.0 hours.

Mary Jane also mentioned that Ellen has designed a Member in Good Standing card that will have space for listing the member’s name and accumulated volunteer hours. The mock-up of the card will be forwarded to Vista, a business card printing company. JoAnn Clark has offered to help fill in and distribute the cards to members.

**December board meeting:** It was decided the board would not meet in December, due to the busy holiday season. (Motion – Paula B., Second – Dick L.

**January board meeting:** New board members will be welcomed on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. with a pizza lunch, followed by the board meeting.

**Thank you** to outgoing board members Lori Kempen, Nina Logan, and Jerry Richards for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary