

**Eau Claire County Master Gardener Volunteer Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 9, 2018
Eau Claire County Extension Office**

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

Director's Report: Prior to the board meeting, Director Catherine Emmanuelle met with the board members and any other interested master gardener volunteers to review the current status of Extension reorganization and answer attendees' questions. It is hoped that a Horticulture Program Coordinator will be hired and in place by January 1, 2019, if approved by the counties in Area Six, which includes Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Polk counties. The new position would be paid for on a fee-for-service basis, with each county contributing twenty-five percent of the total cost. The Horticulture Program Coordinator would coordinate all horticulture education programming and support the master gardener programs in area six. The coordinator could determine in which county to locate his or her "home office". The board decided a potluck gathering might be a nice way to welcome a new Coordinator if the position is filled. For now, any questions are to go to Catherine Emmanuelle. She will put us in touch with an answer. Board members should route their questions through President Mary Jane Griffin.

It was also mentioned that former Horticulture Educator Erin LaFaive has been hired to coordinate the Jeffers Road Community Garden for this season.

Secretary's Report: Carla Pelzl

Motion by Dick Lienhardt to approve the minutes of July 14, 2018 as written. Seconded by Paula Bonnin.

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand

The book balance as of August 9th was \$10,016.79. The plant sale profit stands at \$1,497.50. That figure is subject to change after we settle with the Hosta Society regarding sharing of advertising costs for the plant sale. Motion to accept – Paula Bonnin; second – Lori Kempen

Education Committee Report: Nina Logan and Lori Kempen

The following events were mentioned:

- July- tour of Dick Lienhardt's garden July 22nd
- July 25-29 – Ask a Master Gardener booth at the Eau Claire County Junior Fair – a success
- August 20 - "Native Plants for Pollinators – Sherry Sprague
- September 17 – End-of-Season garden sharing session and potluck
- September 21-22 – State WIMGA conference in Eau Claire
- September 30 – MG Hours due at UW-Extension Office
- October 7 – Annual Photo Contest entries due
- October 15 – presentation by Dunn County master gardener about the garden project he facilitates for jail inmates in Menomonie. Nina will confirm with the speaker.
- November 19 – Election of Board Members and "Just Local Foods" presentation
- December 17 – Annual Holiday Party/Potluck

WIMGA Update: Ellen Terwilliger

Registrations for the State MG Conference have met the goal with 200 signed up. Mike Maddox will be attending. Judy Weibel needs volunteers and will be sending out an email encouraging members to sign up online. WIMGA will provide \$1000.00 in start-up funds for the conference.

Teaching Garden: Carla Pelzl thanked Dick Lienhardt for setting up a more convenient system for watering the garden. She also expressed appreciation for the help Barb Huggins and Sally Anderson have given with keeping the garden well watered.

New Business:

- Jerry Clark, Chippewa County Extension Educator and MG Program facilitator, will host a training class for those wishing to join the Master Gardener program. The sessions will be held in Chippewa Falls beginning September 18th. Interested persons should contact the Chippewa County Extension Office to speak with Jerry.
- MG volunteer hours are due September 30th. Andy Heren will send out a reminder email to current MG members.
- Elections for open board positions will be held in November. The procedure followed for the last election was: Nominating committee was named in September. A slate of candidates was publicized in October. Ballots were sent out to members in November. Results were announced at the annual meeting/potluck in December and in the January newsletter. Current board members whose two-year terms are ending include Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Ellen Terwilliger and Jerry Richards. Ellen is willing to serve another two-year term as WIMGA Representative. Nina and Lori will not be on the board, but are interested in continuing to serve on the Education Program Committee. Mary Jane will check with Jerry Richards regarding continuing on the board. The remaining board members have one year left of their two-year terms. The open positions will be announced in the newsletter and via email.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 13th at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M. Motion made by Dick Lienhardt; second by Paula Bonnin.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary