

## Pulaski County Master Gardeners

### Executive Board Meeting

February 21, 2023

**Welcome:** President Carol Mendel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed new County Agent, Derek Reed.

**Members Present:** Members present were Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Cindy Strauss, Arlene Sevilla-White, Nancy Archer, Susan Rose, Deeana Montgomery and Derek Reed. Those absent were Pam Gadberry, Jan Brandeburg, and Blanca Hernandez.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the January 17, 2023, Executive Board Meeting and General Meeting were presented by Board Secretary Deeana Montgomery. There were no corrections or additions. Pam Abrams moved to approve the minutes, and Cindy Strauss seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pam Gadberry was absent, but Carol Mendel reports that a board vote is needed concerning payment for the free master gardener t-shirts for timely payment of dues. Sara Jordan moved that money from Bank OZK account be used to pay for the one time offer of a free purple t-shirt with payment of 2023 dues by April 30, 2023. Lifetime members not required to pay dues must request t-shirt from Assistant Treasurer by the same date. Arlene Sevilla-White seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Old Business:** Cindy Strauss gave a project member update. Cindy contacted project chairs to clarify the status of project members concerning active, sustainer, leave, lifetime, and lifetime + designations. A few projects have not yet responded. From the responses so far Cindy has determined that there are approximately 550 active members. Fewer than half the lifetime members work a project. There are only a few sustainers. Cindy suggests we develop a clear, simple method to keep this data.

Pam Abrams reports that members are having difficulty signing up for the State Conference. Board members report that Randy Forst, Julie Treat, and Paul Nolte might be of assistance.

Carol reminds us to encourage everyone to use the chain of command and take problems or questions to Master Gardener Officers. The Extension Office and Tina Coley may not be able to respond to requests during the week of the monthly meetings. Nancy Archer mentions the subject of a training class this year. Carol agrees that we will need to discuss having a fall training class. We would consider a small class of approximately 30 participants who are vetted by master gardeners.

**New Business:**

**Reports:** Sara Jordan reported on Projects. Sara will hold the annual chair/co-chair training meeting following the general meeting today.

Carol commented that in the general meeting today the Busy Bee Award winners will be listed on the big screen during the meeting. There will also be regular posting on the screen of project pictures to highlight our projects.

Pam Abrams reported on Standing Committees. She is working on making the committees feel included and will invite some of them to future board meetings. Pam moved to invite the standing committee chairs and co-chairs to the March meeting and Cindy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Travel Committee has been given permission to plan group trips for members, and a representative from the committee will speak at the general meeting about a planned trip to The Dirt Friends Festival in El Dorado and other excursions.

The Newsletter Chair Laura Anne Warren has requested editors for the committee. She is requesting contributions of articles by members.

The Social Committee has planned a Spring Luncheon at Faulkner Lake Orchards on March 16.

Cindy reported that the PEST Committee will visit the Greenhouse and the Old State House in April.

Susan Rose and Patti Womble have worked together to plan a St. James workday for master gardeners following the April general meeting. Volunteers will count time worked as sanctioned project hours. Susan also reports that several general meeting programs will showcase our projects in ten-minute segments.

Nancy Archer commented on fall training class plans. The state sets fall training as October 4 – November 15. We will need to make reservations and begin advertising. Derek Reed agreed to check on a facility and plans will be voted on at March board meeting.

**Notes from Derek:** Derek will introduce himself to the membership at the general meeting. He has already visited many projects and attended meetings. His mentor is Krista Quinn.

Included in our records is the February 24, 2023, email request for a decision by the board on Leave of Absence for 2023 by Cherry Smith. The request was approved by email vote of board members.

The meeting is adjourned by President Carol Mendel at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary