

# Minutes of the February Regularly Scheduled Meeting of The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. February 14, 2004 Charlottesville

## Attendance

(Albermarle) Peter Warren; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux, Jane Montgomery, Pauline Price; (Fauquier) Lenore Plissner, Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold; (Goochland-Powhatan) Joe Florino, Charlie Rogers, Philip Morris; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Pamela Armstrong, Cheri Haggerty; (JCC-Williamsburg) Dale Firestone, Shirley Firestone; (Lynchburg) Judy Kinney, Karen Sacasky; (Northern Neck) Pat Rogers; (Northern Shenandoah) Chuck Walters, Sally Walters; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Frank Reilly, Pat Reilly; (Rockbridge) Ted Jenks; (Roanoke) Kathryn Debnar, Lynn Snider, Shelby Snider; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Liz Maurer, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers.

## Call to Order

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1006.

## Introductions

President Scibek welcomed us all to the February meeting in the beautiful Albermarle- Charlottesville area. President Scibek introduced Peter Warren, the VCE Agent and MG Coordinator for the Charlottesville area, which includes Fluvanna, Louisa, Nelson, Albermarle and Green counties. There are over 300 Master Gardeners in this five county area. Originally they were known as the Piedmont Master Gardeners but over time, the other counties have developed their own identities and now conduct their own training classes and projects. Peter is one of the few agents that belong to the VMGA.

## Minutes

The December minutes were accepted as corrected. The month was corrected from October to December in the minutes and from November to January in the Treasurer's report.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Shelby Snider reported:

Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2004		<u>\$4808.93</u>
Deposit - Membership Income	434.15	
Deposit - Education	57.00	
	Total Income	491.15
Checking Account Balance		<u>\$5300.08</u>
Expenses		
Membership	207.20	



December 2003meeting.

## Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair

### Unit Support

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Pinky Derieux, Susie McCrea and Frank Reilly and whomever else we need.

1. Inquiries from the Hill City Master Gardeners led us to ask about special pricing for the Pest Management Guide. VCE will make the PMGs available to MGs at a price of \$14.00 provided that they order in a group through their local office. This is a saving over the \$20.00 cover price.
2. Pat Reilly answered an inquiry concerning the training requirements for Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Tree Stewards. In General all the Stewards training is approximately 30 hours with an equivalent requirement in volunteering after the training is complete, and to maintain Stewards status a volunteer commitment of 20 hours over and above the MG volunteer commitment.
3. A page has been set up to track information about the Critical Staffing Initiative. The Amendment has many cosigners, and there is more information about it at the web site. We have sent an email solicitation to every member with a current email address.

### Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get. Angela Cahn has stepped down as a committee member, and we could use a volunteer to help with the Calendar page.

1. Since the December regularly scheduled meeting there have been 11598 visitors to VMGA.net.
2. Since the December regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 35 separate occasions.
3. 332 visitors came to the Budget Hearings page after our email solicitation. I hope they all wrote or called their legislator, but it does show the power of this tool.
4. Almost everybody who visits our site comes in through the front door - visits the first page first. This indicates that very few folks have shortcuts set to our important pages like minutes and calendar.
5. We get Googled. Of the 11598 visits 1445 of them were robots archiving our site. Only 88% of our visitors are humans.
6. The most popular pages in the last three months have been Hort Update and the minutes.

### Unit Reports

The Unit reps attending presented written reports or have e-mailed them to the secretary. They will be posted at [www.VMGA.net](http://www.VMGA.net).

### State Fair

Christy Brennan, Hanover MG and VMGA member, has been appointed to be State Fair Chair.

### Nomination and Election Committee

The committee consists of Pat Reilly, Kathryn Debnar, Mike Holmes and Paul Campbell. 550 ballots were mailed out. 205 ballots were returned and counted. The results were as follows:

President:	Bill McCaleb	Halifax
Vice President:	Cheri Haggerty	Hanover

Secretary:	Betty Villers	Virginia Beach
Treasurer:	Jane Montgomery	Chesapeake

## Extension Liaison - reported by Frank Reilly

### MG College Report

1. June 9th for NEW coordinators. They should all come.
2. June 10th for ALL coordinators. They all should come. We will have some training, meet with the VCE Leadership, and have something special.
3. June 10th through 13th at Blacksburg: Tours. Plant Swap, Classes, Camaraderie, etc as always. We will re-open the Herb contest.
4. The price should be about the same for college. I have not yet heard back from the dorm about lodging and meal rates. A day rate will be available.
5. We are encouraging dorm life, but will list some local hotels. We will not be negotiating any special rates with local hotels.
6. On-line registration will again be available.
7. I expect the official announcements to be mailed in early April to all MGs, but I will be posting material on the VMGA site when I can.
8. The CD will come out in the beginning of March. I could use some pictures from last year. Submit to [webmaster@VMGA.net](mailto:webmaster@VMGA.net)
9. Prince William will not be doing the Goodie Bags this year. This is not too difficult of a job. We can get you all the old info, but there is room for creativity on your Unit's part.

Note: Roanoke volunteered to do the Goodie Bags for this year.

### Unfinished Business

The draft changes to the Standing Rules were presented for final review. The membership present voted to accept the changes as proposed. They will be posted at [vmga.net](http://vmga.net).

The proposed By-laws changes were brought before the membership present for their consideration. Members were asked to review these changes and transmit their comments to any of the committee members by February 29, 2004. Committee members are Kathryn Debnar, Jinny Estell, Pat Reilly and Cheri Haggerty. The proposed changes will be published in the VMGA Report. The vote on the changes will be at the June 2004 General Membership meeting.

President Scibek has had several questions regarding the handling of sales tax by local units. Susie McCrea has researched this and posted her findings at [www.vmga.net](http://www.vmga.net). It is on the Unit Support page. The location will be published in the VMGA Report.

### New Business

A discussion on what constitutes a Life Member took place. Our current membership application defines a member as an active Master Gardener in good standing. Pauline is concerned that we are maintaining a membership base where some no longer meet that requirement. This subject will be brought up as Unfinished Business at the April meeting.

76 House Delegates and 36 Senators currently support the Critical Staffing Initiative, SB30, amendment #246.

## Announcements

Board meetings for 2004 are scheduled as follows:

April 03	Stafford *	Northern District
June 10	MG College	Southwest District
August	To be announced	
October 16	Chesapeake	Southeast District
December 11	Northern Neck	Northeast District

\* Change from December minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1415.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA