

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association

Minutes for the General Meeting

September 12, 2023

Hybrid Meeting from the Burnet AgriLife Auditorium and via Zoom

Call to Order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

Attendance: In person: 53 members, 4 guests; via Zoom: 10 members

Samantha Melvin introduced our speaker: Louise Placek, presenting "Central Texas Seed Savers"

Terri Winter thanked Virginie Lamb for coordinating the refreshments, and thanked those who brought snacks. She reminded everyone that bringing snacks to the meeting earns an hour of volunteer time.

She also announced today is Robert Land's 80th birthday!

Break: 2:55pm

Business Meeting: Terri Winter called the meeting back to order at 3:16pm

July General meeting minutes were approved as emailed and published on the website. (No meeting in August)

July and August Financial reports were approved as emailed and published on the website.

Jim Woodul stated that two scholarships of \$750 each were sent out and the colleges accepted them. When the first semester ends, if scholarship recipients are in good standing, the second payment of \$750 each will be sent. Jim reminded everyone that his position as treasurer will expire this December so we will need a new treasurer to take his place.

Terri Winter presented the proposed revisions to HLMGA's By-Laws:

Article III - MEMBERSHIP:

Section 7: . . . Associate members must complete all of their required hours by December 31st of the class year unless an exception is approved by the board.

Article VI - OFFICERS:

Section 1: . . . the changes are the two Co-Secretary positions are named as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

Section 3: . . . Officers shall be elected at the November meeting, installed at the December meeting, and assume their duties for a period of one year beginning January 1 of the next year.

Article VII - Duties of Officers:

Section 2: . . .Line "D" has been added to Vice-President's duties:

D. Be responsible for the HLMGA computer, including software updates and other necessary maintenance.

Section 3: . . . This section now lists the duties of the Recording Secretary, including serving as back-up to the Corresponding Secretary.

Section 4: . . . This section now lists the duties of the Corresponding Secretary, including serving as back-up to the Recording Secretary.

Article VIII - Committees:

Volunteer/Membership Committee: . . . Now reads:

E. The committee shall audit each member's accumulated hours and compile a report to verify which members may be re-certified and which associate members have attained initial certification . . .

F. The committee shall verify whether each member is still in good standing.

Article 1X - Executive Board

Section 1: . . . Notes the two Co-Secretary positions as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

Terri noted that these changes were voted on and approved by the board to present to membership for their vote at the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Roxanne Dunegan will speak at October's meeting about 2024 Lawn & Garden Show.

Terri put forth a vote on whether or not to continue having the Poinsettia Sale as a fundraiser for HLMGA. After some discussion, a vote was taken and a final decision will be made at the next board meeting.

Terri introduced HLMGA's "Tech Squad"/ Samantha Melvin, Joan Altobelli, Julie Sartor, and Marybeth Edeen. Samantha spoke about what they are doing and also spoke about feedback from members using Zoom to attend the meetings. 25% of our membership have used Zoom and they appreciate being able to utilize Zoom to feel like they are a part of the organization.

Samantha's email is samanthamelvin@gmail.com, she asked if anyone would like to contact her regarding ideas, etc. to please feel free to do so. She also said she is adding a Members Only access on HLMGA's website to a "Library of Presentations" of presentations that we have at our general business meetings. It will be on the member's only menu under Zoom.

There was some discussion if members could get CE credit for watching the presentations, this would be discussed at board meeting.

Terri announced Gail Braymen's decision to "retire" from editing the "Dig It" newsletter, with April 2024 her ending date unless someone is able/willing to take her place before then.

We still need a Veggie Superintendent for the Burnet County Area Fair.

Please email Terri Winter if you need a new badge.

Please log your hours on VMS. All hours recorded are very important!

The next Green Thumb program will be "Fall Flowers and Vegetable Gardening" presented by Willard Horn and Bill and Martel Luedecke on Sept. 21, 11am-12 noon at the Lakeshore Library (7346 Ranch Road 261, Buchanan Dam)

Terri asked everyone to please not donate Master Gardener T-Shirts to area thrift stores, etc. If you have old shirts you no longer wear, please bring to HLMGA meetings and donate to members instead.

Samantha Melvin gave update on the "Seed Library". The library has been installed in the AgriLife building near the offices. The Seed Library is open to the public M-F, 9-5. Up to 5 packets of seeds at a time can be taken. Backbone Valley nursery gave a generous donation of seeds. There is a seed catalog now consisting of an excel spreadsheet, 3 pages long. Volunteers have sorted 472 packets of seeds, 96 varieties. There is a check out form for inventory purposes and also a donation form. We also have a Seed Library page on our website. Samantha thanked all the volunteers and everyone for donating seeds to get this library off to a great start.

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, October 10th at 2:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53pm.

Submitted by,

Terri Clark, Co-Secretary