Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
Burnet Agrilife Classroom
Board Meeting
January 12, 2026

Present: ***Kerry Nyquist, Penny McCullough Brenda Goble Rachael Quitta, April Cothran, Diana Castello, Willard Horn.***

Others Present: Kelly Tarla

Proceedings:
Meeting called to order **at 1:36 p.m. by Kerry Nyquist, President.**

December meeting minutes were approved as emailed and posted.
December financials were approved as emailed and posted.

Kerry welcomed everyone and addressed Brenda Goble with items that need to be completed at the beginning of each calendar year. He mentioned that the early months are the busiest. Renewal of the Chapter with Texas Master Gardener Association is due in January. The Chapter dues get paid in March. They want all of the board members names and addresses. They ask if we have by-laws, an inventory list and a budget on file. The email for the Texas Master Gardener Association is being updated.
The Highland Lakes Master Gardeners Membership dues are required by January 31, 2026. In February, the board will look at the final membership numbers. Kerry offered support to help Brenda get everything setup.
Rachael mentioned that she is receiving the email receipts for the membership that pay through the online portal. She will hold onto the emails until the dues are reconciled.
There was some discussion with Brenda about how to reconcile the online and Square payments. There were members that could not remember if they paid previously. Brenda will check with Celia to ask how she kept track of who paid and the different payment records. It was noted that some members appreciated the reminder email that Celia sent.

Brenda asked about making change for people that are paying membership dues in cash. She will make the change using bills from her personal funds and then reimburse herself. It was noted that people paying cash usually have the exact amount and most pay with a check or with Square payment.

Kerry shared that the web provider was experiencing issues which impacted the look of our website. He said there wasn't any information lost, just that the physical appearance was different

Kerry mentioned that Green Thumb is going to be coordinated by Jana Barner and Sherri Ytreeide. Green Thumb usually starts in March. Willard shared that having

two people for Green Thumb is sufficient. Three works very well. It would be a lot for one person to manage. Willard will follow up on the status of Green Thumb.

Kerry reminded the board that the meeting schedule is posted on the website and that the meetings do not consistently fall on Monday as they had in the past. He would talk to Samantha about bringing the page closer to the main page or a link to help make it easier to find.

Kerry shared that the 2025 Audit Report was completed by Gary Hoffman and Doug McCoy. There were no issues. The proposed budget will be voted on by the membership.

Kerry said he placed flyers at the Airy Mount for the new certification class. There was a question about how many certification class applicants are needed to make a class.

The Garden had an anonymous donor give $15,000.00. The garden has some items like a tripod ladder, soil and compost that need to be purchased.

Rachael had questions regarding the Lawn and Garden Show silent auction and Kerry responded that the silent auction will happen after all. There was discussion about the Donald Fawcett Day falling on the same day of the Lawn and Garden Show. It was mentioned to check with the Burnet Chamber of Commerce to make sure they have our scheduled events to avoid city wide events overlapping. The Lawn and Garden Show does not show up on the Chamber of Commerce calendar for March 28, 2026.

Kerry shared that Christy Stephens originally recommended starting the Oaks Nursing Home Garden. The Oaks Nursing Home ownership and name has changed. Ann McClanahan will be in charge of the Garden, as Ingrid Hoffmeister will not be continuing as the project chair for the Oaks Nursing Home Garden.

Willard Horn shared what is involved in applying to the Projects Evaluation Team (PET) Committee to start a project. There has to be leadership, members that want to participate, projected costs, and a return to the community.

Penny McCullough would like to ask Hank Rominski or Keith Atwood to do a presentation for Advance Training during our monthly meetings. Kerry made suggestions of people that could recommend speakers.

Christy Stephens resigned as a member and is no longer the face book page coordinator. Kerry will follow up with Carolyn Stephens to find out who will take her place.

Kerry mentioned that Lavonna Fry will be considered for Emeritus status at the February meeting. A person that was previously very active and can no longer achieve the minimum required hours could be recommended for Emeritus status.

Kelly Tarla shared that Wade Hibler has a radio show on KBEY and will be making an announcement for the upcoming Certification Class. She mentioned that we have three new members transferring from different counties.

There was discussion about updating Texas Secretary of State filing information. Kerry will look into this.

Kerry is updating the Committee page and will add an activities page to the website.

Brenda mentioned that the class size impacts the budget for the class and a minimum number should be considered. Kerry mentioned we need about 20 new members each year just to maintain our membership numbers.

Rachael asked if we post the power point presentations from the speakers to the website. Kerry mentioned that you do not get credit for watching the presentations, but they are posted.

Kerry asked if there was anything else we needed to cover. No one responded.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.
Minutes submitted by the Recording Secretary, April Cothran