

Bergen County Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting – February 22, 2011

The meeting was opened at 5:45 pm.

Present: Barb Johansson, Karen Pennell, Sissel Castelli, Janet Jaarsma, Leslie Maltz, Tracey Fraser, Joseph Cooper, Lucy Malka, Jane Furman, Vivian De Marco, Hank Annunziata, Janet Austin, and Laura De Flora.

Absent: Walter Traubel, Cliff Gerenz, Sally Ditton, Carol Tutundgy, and Lois Lynch.

The minutes of the board meeting on January 25, 2011 were approved.

**The President presented the following items for discussion and action:**

Pat Knight was named at our last board meeting as co-chair of the Outreach Committee with Karen Pennell; Pat requests that she be listed as assistant to Karen. Leslie M. will remove Pat's name from the roster of chairmen of standing committees.

Carol Tutundgy proffered her resignation as the Sunshine Chair and recommended that the position be eliminated. The board explored expanding the position rather than eliminating it and Jane offered to write a job description for the enhanced position.

Additional funds are needed to pay the increasing costs associated with our speakers. Barb will speak with Jo Browning, Michelle Cariddi, and Suzanne Danzig, three members who have indicated an interest in serving on a Fund Raising Committee.

HR1 designates a bill, currently under consideration in the New Jersey House of Representatives, which severely cuts funding for County Agricultural Extension Offices throughout the State. Sample letters to individual representatives will be disseminated by email to the membership by Leslie and Lucy will urge area Garden Clubs to contact their representatives likewise. Barb and Leslie will speak to this at this evening's meeting and Barb has in hand stamped preaddressed (Rothman or Garrett) postcards that will be offered to this evening's attending members. This is a matter of great urgency!

**Committee Reports:**

Joseph Cooper, **Volunteer Records**, issued preliminary 2010 statistical reports showing a large increase of volunteer hours over 2009. A total of 7,064.75 hours was contributed by the current membership. Analysis sheet A listed the volunteer sites and the hours contributed at each one. Sheet B illustrated volunteer hours by graduate year.

Questions were raised regarding the categories labeled 'Special Events and Projects' and 'Off Site'. The former comprises activities such as the Fair and the latter comprises such activities as board meetings.

Joseph stated that the internet option of reporting is not viable. He recommended and the board determined to keep available two forms of reporting: 1.) Paper form, formerly and currently in use, to be mailed at end of year and 2.) Electronic form to be completed and emailed. A completed form is to be sent on to Joseph at the conclusion of the year.

Joseph also raised the issue of suspect education activities. Do all meet the standard of NJ State Master Gardeners? A committee was formed to set criteria and guidelines that will direct the membership to appropriate choices. The committee is composed of Lucy, Karen, Jane, and Barb (exofficio).

An attendant issue dealing with degrees of membership arose. Our current bylaws list Active, Honorary, and Friend as members. Which, if any, of these categories cover longstanding members who are no longer active due to age, disability, or other life circumstances that preclude full participation? This concern was passed on to the Bylaws Committee: Edith Wallace, Andrea Kanoc, Jane Furman, and Barb Johansson (ex officio).

Leslie Maltz on behalf of Cliff Gerenz, **Membership**, related that 40 members still have not paid their dues for the current year. The deadline is tonight.

Sissel Castelli, **Treasurer**, stated that there is an approximate balance of \$10,000.00 in the bank and urges all to send on to her any outstanding bills. She asks that available receipts be sent on with an individual request for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary