



**Treasurer’s Report cont...**

Expenses:	State of NJ Annual Filing Fee	\$	30.50
	Robert Lyons – speaker fee	\$	100.00
	J. Cooper – Domain name payment	\$	53.97
Total Expenses:		\$	184.47
Closing Balance as of February 28, 2021		\$	12,529.38
Total Outstanding checks:			
	Robert Lyons – Speaker fee	\$	100.00
	J. Cooper – Domain name deposit	\$	53.97
Bank Statement Balance: as of February 28, 2021		\$	12,683.35

Following the Treasurer’s report, Pat stated that there has been a sharp drop of dues paying members from a year ago. To date, there are 103 members who have paid their dues, down from 158, representing a drop of approximately one-third. Theresa Schneider stated that she had received from Terri Pegg the most recent updated list of dues’ paying members. A suggestion was made to send a reminder to members to send in their dues.

**\*Motion:** Melody asked if there is a motion to approve the February, 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Arnie motioned to approve and Suzanne seconded the motion – APPROVED.

**Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec:**

I stated that the final copy of the February 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, propose that a motion be made to approve them.

**\*Motion:** Melody motioned to approve the February, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Arnie seconded the motion – APPROVED.

**Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:**

I emailed the March Potting Shed and mid-month update to all members.

## **Old Business**

### **Website – new platform**

Melody asked if anyone had any questions about the new website. Autumn asked when the old website will be shut down. There was a consensus that the old website could be shut down now.

Pat Vellas asked if we should go ahead and pay the second installment to the website designer. As the budgeted amount had been previously approved, the second installment can be paid.

### **Speaker's Bureau Addition**

Melody stated that she has reservations about having non Master Gardeners listed as speakers on our website (last meeting, the Board approved a motion to add Elaine Silverstein as a "Guest Speaker of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County.")

Suggested making a motion to have speakers be just Master Gardeners. Karen Pennell recommended rescinding the former motion, and making a new motion to have speakers be Master Gardeners only.

**\*Motion** – Arnie made a motion to rescind the motion of February 23 to add someone as a "Guest Speaker of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County" to the Speakers Bureau. Karen Pennell seconded the motion – APPROVED.

**\*New Motion** - Arnie made a new motion that the Speakers Bureau will list speakers who are Master Gardeners only. Karen Pennell seconded the motion – APPROVED.

### **Webmaster Committee**

Melody questioned the large number of tasks for the Webmaster. Karen Pennell suggested tabling this discussion until 2022.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Community Outreach Liaison – Arnie Friedman**

Arnie reported that the Speakers Bureau is very active. He recently gave a talk for 50 people in Lawrence, New York, as well as various talks around the county. The sub-committees reporting to Community Outreach are: One-Day Events, School Events and Publicity.

The current most popular topics are: 1) Gardens in Europe, 2) Gardens in North America and 3) Landscape Design

### **Hospitality – Sandi Liberti**

No Report

### **Membership – Theresa Schneider**

Theresa thanked Miriam for her assistance in providing a historical overview regarding the membership processes.

The most recent membership list update was provided by Terri Pegg on 3/17/2021. Theresa will consolidate a list of people interested in serving on committees. Theresa is in the process of looking at ways to improve efficiencies. Autumn stated that there are two different systems which list members: one is for membership, and Better Impact is a separate program used only for tracking volunteer and education hours. Karen Pennell clarified that the Master Gardeners of Bergen County is a NJ non-profit (not Federal). Better Impact has been implemented state-wide for all Master Gardener programs as a portal for reporting hours. Rutgers pays for this account. Karen Riede and Autumn have administrative access. Master Gardener Association of Bergen County is a separate entity from RCE. Autumn requested that Theresa forward a membership list on an annual basis. Karen Riede stated that a Better Impact training session will be set up for Board members.

Suzanne inquired about the feasibility of paying membership dues on-line Pat Vellas stated the fees are very expensive. Arnie mentioned possibly using Venmo (a mobile paying service). Pat stated that Venmo is non-regulated and non-protected. Melody recommended tabling the discussion to a later date.

### **MG Class Liaison – N/A**

### **Newsletter – Miriam Taub**

Miriam submitted the following written report:

I emailed the March Potting Shed and March mid-month update to members. Garden club liaison: Janet Schulz notified me that several area garden clubs will be having plant sales in May. I asked Janet to speak about the “open garden” on May 15. On that date, she and Noel Schulz, Class of 2016, will open their gardens to members of the MG of BC and the MG of Passaic County from 10 am-4 pm. Janet reported that she and Noel live about 4 miles from each other and members could visit both gardens in one day. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Several board members were concerned that having an open garden event violated Rutgers policy. We will not publicize the event in the April Potting Shed as a “save the date.” Karen Riede will get an opinion from Rutgers whether this event is permissible.

If you have any information to be included in the next newsletter, please send it to Miriam as early as possible.

### **Programs – Donna Faustini:**

Melody stated that Donna is not present for this evenings meeting. As she normally does the speaker introductions, would there be any volunteer interested in introducing tonight’s speaker, Bill Kolvek? Suzanne will do this evening’s speaker introduction.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison – Karen Riede**

Karen Riede submitted the following written report:

RCE Report to MG Association Board Mtg. 3/23/21  
By Joel Flagler

- In-person Extension activity is still on suspension and will remain so through the end of April. It is unclear what summer will allow in terms of Fairs, Environmental Fairs, etc
- Fall 2021 is the focus of deliberations on the part of the University administration. Will there be on campus living and teaching, or not? That will determine what is allowed through NJAES and Cooperative Extension
- Major investment has been made at the outlying Ag Experiment stations (Snyder Farm, Cream Ridge). This will support new research on crops and generate new data for Extension to disseminate. Our Best Management Reccs (BMP's) come from this research and helps us remain unbiased and evidence-based educators
- RCE Hudson has hired a 4-H Program Associate for the first time ever. This is good news for our neighboring county
- Rutgers is calling on everyone to use April and May for “Planning our in-person reintegration into public life” and the hope is that in summer some of the restrictions will be lifted. We all want to get together and look forward to it—as public health guidelines allow.
- Best wishes to all for a wonderful spring. Buy yourself some special plants at our local nurseries and farm markets, and order some by mail too. You deserve it!

RCE Report to MG Board Meeting 3/23/21  
By Karen A. Riede

Here is a summary of the 2019 pins that were recently mailed.  
Thank you to Karen Pennell for her assistance in writing the letters.

25 year pin with letter:  
John Grill  
Doris Wells

30 year pin with letter:  
Joyce Andrew  
Mrs. Lombardi (in honor of Ralph Lombardi who recently passed)  
Betty McDonnell

### **RCE Report cont...**

2 Awards for Excellence pins:

Donna Faustini

Miriam Taub

Class of 2019: (Master Gardener pins ran out at their graduation)

Caroline Newman

Jerry Rotunda

Harriet Steiner

Diane Van Kempen

Zoran Vukasovic

Jeannie Yoo

Footnote – At this time, Joel does not think the Fall Fair will happen this year.

We have recruited 19 people for the tomato seed project. FYI, seeds have been mailed.

### **RMGANJ Report – Karen Pennell / Herb Arbeiter**

March 2021 -RMGANJ report:

Jan Zientek , the State Coordinator reports:

The current policy of no in-person meetings and/or activities through the end of March is expected to continue to the end of May.

Somerset has a new Master Gardener coordinator, Roslyn Dvorin, as of the end of March.

Several Camden County MGs have transferred to the Philadelphia group.

Peter Nitzsche has written the Rutgers 250 Tomato Citizen Science Project protocol.

New Jersey will have a state-wide, uniform curriculum that will be a hybrid of online and in-person.

Sussex, Atlantic and Cumberland are using Rutgers Gardening Education Series on

Wednesday nights for training new interns. By 2022-2023, the same program will be offered in all Master Gardener counties.

### **RMGANJ Report cont...**

Deirdre Gallagher, the RMGANJ President reports:

State Conference: Event planning is beginning. A committee discussing indoor vs. outdoor or a combination, following Rutgers' pandemic protocols.

The event, possibly at the end of September, will be celebratory in nature, providing an opportunity to interact and connect with Master Gardener colleagues.

This would not be open to the general public. Each county should be represented with an event/project/activity, pre- or during pandemic, in a format to be decided by the county. A booth/table display event would enlighten others as to what other counties are doing.

Herb said that each county is supposed to have a fair, similar to the Bergen County Fall Festival. Tomato testing is going on now in all but four counties.

#### **Site Coordinator Liaison – Melody Corcoran:**

Melody submitted the following written report:

##### **Site Coordinator Liaison Report 3/23/21**

Even though we still don't know when Rutgers will give us the go-ahead to have in-person activities, I will be posting the latest version of the volunteer site list in the April issue of the Potting Shed.

#### **Volunteer Records - Autumn O'Shea**

Autumn went over anniversary pins and the guidelines which have been established to receive them. For example, to receive an anniversary pin, members graduating in 2010 going forward, must be paid up on their dues and meet the Volunteer hours criteria.

Anyone who graduated in 2009 and prior, are grandfathered in, and do not have to pay dues in order to receive their pin.

There was a discussion regarding how hours would be reported /credited for the years 2020 and 2021 due to the on-site restrictions brought on by Covid-19. According to Karen Riede, any Master Gardeners who submitted 25 volunteer hours and 10 educational hours in 2019, would stay certified for 2020 and 2021.

#### **Website – Joseph Cooper**

Updated the website, per information Miriam gave him.

### **New Business**

Written report submitted by Miriam Taub:

Member Directory:

The information in the Member Directory on the new website originates in the member Excel file maintained by Terri Pegg and turned over last week to Theresa Schneider. That file contains 224 entries of members who paid dues at any time from 2017-2021. Information from that file has been uploaded to the new website and takes only a few minutes to upload. Theresa could upload an updated file any time she gets updated information, should she choose. There's no ability to add/change information directly on the website. All member information originates with the Excel file. If a member hasn't paid dues since 2017, for example, we have no way of knowing whether the contact information is correct. We are aware some of the information is not current.

Joseph clarified the criteria used to determine who was on the Master list.

Karen Riede said that the 365 accounts which she set up in Better Impact are there for historical purposes. The Better Impact program has limited access. Melody suggested that we table further discussion to a future date.

Melody stated that we should roll out the new website effective March 31<sup>st</sup>, and put out an announcement stating such.

### **Adjournment**

Melody asked if someone would make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**\*Motion:** Motion made by Arnie to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Karen Pennell. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:00PM.