

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey Meeting
November 1, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann called the meeting to order at 10:12.

Caryl welcomed Terry Zane of Burlington County as a new member. Al Hannemann of Union County and Grace Wagner of Atlantic County were also welcomed. The entire group welcomed back Lisa Marie Morris, our VP who has been in convalescence for a while. Lisa Marie thanked all who helped with the Conference.

President's report: Caryl announced the 2011 Fall Conference a success. There were a few small problems that were dealt with on the day of the conference. The audio system in the Traves Hall had both speakers talking at the same time despite the divided doors. This was a problem of the audio system and not a problem that the MG's could anticipate. There was also a problem with the coffee being delivered late. Again, this was not an MG problem.

Caryl also noted that Carol Henry of Cumberland County brought the last crop of green and red peppers from her county to share. Thanks, Carol.

It is with real sadness that the Master Gardeners noted the passing of Jim Farmer of Monmouth County who passed away on October 14, 2011. Jim's insight and participation at meetings will be really missed...including his delicious tomato relish.

The October minutes were accepted as read.

The new Conference Date is October 6, 2012. Jane Furman will reserve the same rooms for next year.

Toni Rinehart, Treasurer, was absent but Nick Polanin, RCE reported in account is \$ 11,225.85. No invoices were noted for speakers and Nick stated he needed a list of speaker's fees to pay the speakers.

Attendance:

Atlantic County: Ann Cinquina, Grace Wagner

Bergen: Karen Pennell, Jane Furman, Walter Traubel

Burlington: Lisa Marie Morris, Terry Zane

Camden: Bernadette Eichinger, Lisa Marie Merry, Nancy Sullivan

Cumberland: Carol Henry

Cape May: absent

Essex: Joan Gorman, Pat Hewitt

Gloucester: Maureen Fitzgerald

Mercer: Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson

Middlesex: Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart, Nancy Bruneau

Monmouth: Sandy Wolfe, Ellen Simonetti

Morris: Sally Hemsén, Pat Hudson

Ocean: Mary Townsend

Passaic: Barbara Cook

Somerset/Hunterdon: Tricia Deering, Mary Patten
Sussex: absent
Union: Al Hannemann, Caryl Hannemann
RCE: Nick Polanin

RCE REPORT:

Rich Weidman's mother passed away.
All counties in Budget process for next year.
State Budget level expected to be as last year.

Nick went to a conference in Syracuse which stressed that we use the word EXTENSION to keep the word in the public's mind.

Agents who retire will not be replaced at this time. Staffing issues to be decided in future based on funding and programs.

Group discussed topic of Master Gardener participation. It was noted that as long as an MG does 25/10 hours a year, he/she maintains MG status. Activity or inactivity in organization is up to individual MG. No meeting attendance is required.

Sandy Wolfe reported that the National Master Gardener Conference in West Virginia was a great experience. She reported that next year the Conference will take place on a cruise heading to Alaska.

It was noted that MG funding varies from county to county and county Extension. It depends on how Extension is funded in individual counties. Spending costs are hard to determine.

February 7 meeting will be dedicated to Rutgers Funding Questions. County treasurers are invited. Tricia Deering will try to have questions ready before the meeting so Nick can prepare.

A committee of Tricia Deering, Betty Scarlata and Toni Rinehart will put the questions together.

Conference Report:

Evaluation:

Atlantic County reported that a large majority of participants were satisfied or more than satisfied with the Conference.

It was suggested that next year we make e-mail confirmation part of registration.

Speakers were all given good to excellent evaluations.

Topics suggested for next year:

Plant propagation, beneficial insects, NJ plants, Pesticides/organics, Small wetlands, Edible plants, Rain gardens, Bees, Greenhouse pests, Jack Rabin (Rutgers).

Slide show was a success. However, it was suggested that while the actual awards are being given out, the slides stop. Also, giving out door prizes during the award ceremony will make it more interesting to audience.

Evaluation committee should keep people at all doors to collect evaluations.

Because of the Pot Luck Lunch and subsequent White Elephant Auction, no county reports were given.

No one made a motion to end the meeting; however, it did end.

Thanks to Morris County for setting up and bringing the extras for the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dopart