

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Jan. 2, 2024



Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the LSU Lake Charles AgCenter on Gulf Hwy. Mark Derise led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes

Betsy Doucet moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes, since they were emailed to the members for review prior to the meeting. Janice Esthay seconded the motion. The motion carried. Minutes will be files as the emailed version.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook reported that KPLC sent a receipt and Thank You for our Christmas donation of \$550 to their Community Christmas. We also received a receipt for our \$100 donation to J.J. Window's church in memory of his wife Genevia. The ending balance as of December 28, 2023 was reported as \$43,804.23. Janice Esthay moved and Raymond Andrews seconded approval of the treasurer's report. The report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

4-H: No updates were reported by Janet Piraro on support for Home school 4-H. Carolyn Miller agreed to be our contact to the Cameron Parish 4-H group. Janice Esthay is our contact to the Jeff Davis 4H. Jennifer Cantrell is the 4-H agent for Calcasieu Parish which covers grades 4 through 12 comprising approximately 1200 members. They are requesting \$250 to help fund their Spring Contest Day. The contests will include horticulture judging, bug ID and bug collections. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Jennifer Cantrell.

School Gardens: Nola Ducote reported that she has been busy doing presentations to Vinton and Prien Lake Elementary schools.

New BUSINESS

Spring Plant Sales: Mark reported that what was planted on Dec 22 has come up. These plants are meant to be sold at the early spring plant sale. Plans are to plant seeds on Jan 23 for the plants to be sold at the Garden Expo. Strawberry plants are growing and reproducing at a fast rate. We should have at least 50 plants for the spring sales. It was suggested that the 2 gallon pots with 2 or 3 plants be sold at \$10 each and smaller pots with only 1 plant be sold at \$5. Patty Palmer thanked Mark for all his work in the greenhouse.

Nominating Committee: President Rob Piraro appointed Betsy Doucet, Janice Esthay, and Linda Bienville to the nominating committee. According to our bylaws (which can be found on our website: www.swlmg.weebly.com) our Executive Vice president also serves on the nominating committee, so Jerry Byrd makes the fourth member of the committee. According to the bylaws, the committee shall present their slate of officers at the May meeting and the election may take place at that time.

Speakers for the New Year: No one has been lined up for speakers for the new year. Keith Greenlee was in charge of getting speakers last year and Mark agreed to ask him if he would do the same again this year. It was

discussed that we do not need speakers for the Feb and Mar meetings, since we will be busy with preparations for the garden expo.

Garden Expo: Patty reminded everyone that Mr. Turley's Expo meeting will be on the 2nd Friday of the month for the months of Jan, Feb, and Mar. They will be held at 10 am at the AgCenter. The first one will be Jan 12th.

Mark announced there is a new food and beverage director for Burton Coliseum. Mark and Patty will set up a meeting with them to discuss the Expo food details. Dates for this year's Garden Expo is March 22-23rd. On Wednesday, March 20th, the chalk lines to denote booth areas will be done. Thursday March 21 is the date for our Preview party/Supper.

Announcements/Discussions

Patty thanked Linda B. and her husband for building a frame around the pony tail plant to help protect it from the cold. She also thanked Ervin McLendon for producing bud grafting documentation for the group.

Members were reminded to sign up for the food list to bring refreshments to future meetings.

Janice Esthay and Raymond Andrews moved and seconded adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.