

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State
Annual Meeting
Minutes of June 7, 2007

The Annual Meeting at Fort Warden in Port Townsend, Washington was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Bill Havens. There were 10 Officers and Representatives in attendance. There was a total of 161 participants registered for the event.

Officers and Representatives in attendance

Bill Havens, President, Ed Lacrosse, Past President, Carolyn Brand, Secretary, Sharon Commander, Treasurer, Larry Davis, Metro Region Vice President, Paul Becker, Peninsula Region Vice-President, Ben Trowbridge, SW Region Vice President, Cherry Dennis, NW Region Vice President, Helen Bachrach, SE Region Vice President, and Ken Boesenberg, NE Region Vice President

Sharing and Communicating Ideas was the focus of this conference to help expand and strengthen the Master Gardener Foundations of Washington State. The program called *Search for Success* will help share ideas with an emphasis on Leadership.

Bill Havens introduced our speaker, Linda Fox, WSU Dean of Extension, who has worked for the Extension for 30 years. Linda detailed the startup of the First Master Gardener Program in King/Pierce Counties. As a Land Grant University with an emphasis on Service and Stewardship, she accentuated the power that the combined resources of volunteers and a university based program has in making a difference in the community. This is truly a partnership! Approaching our 35th Anniversary, she pointed out that we were once the lead program in the country but we are now falling behind in some areas. The rocky period, in many ways, centers around a lack of sufficient communication. What can make us stronger?

The lack of communication will be explored in depth. Rod Tinnamore is no longer in charge but a replacement will be named. During this interim period, WSU will have Toni Fitzgerald communicate with all counties to assess needs. This is an opportunity to improve communication. There will be two courses at this meeting to define the relationship of the Extension and the Foundation which will be coordinated by Linda Fox. The first will be an overview and the second will focus on questions and discussion. In closing, she expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to communicate and listen.

Bill Havens introduced Sharon Commander and Paul Becker and thanked them for their efforts in putting this meeting together. Sharon Commander and Paul Becker welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked all of those who put so much work into this meeting. Next years meeting will also be at Fort Warden. Information about dormitories was shared with the attendees.

Cherry Dennis explained The Raffle Process that would take place over the next two days.

Annual Report

A report from the Board reviewed the evaluation from Kathy Wilson of Executive Services Corp that emphasized the need for better communication within our organizations.

Chris Bailey is our primary communicator. She is working to help improve our e-mail communication. We now have a new address which is PO Box 91, Puyallup, WA 98371. Everyone was asked to share their thoughts in a new article called *Seeds for Thought*. This is meant to not only help communication, but to share ideas and information. This will be a quarterly article in the Newsletter.

There is also a major emphasis on improving the relationship with WSU. This years meeting has an emphasis on Leadership Training. Next years training, once again with joint participation with WSU, will have a more balanced program with balanced horticulture training and leadership training.

2008 Conference

The 2008 Conference will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Washington State Master Gardener Program which was the first program in the United States. Participants were asked to share their ideas for Speakers and Topics, as well as, any help they could offer in preparation for the meeting.

2009 Conference

The location for this conference has not been selected. A request was made for offers to host the conference.

There will be a Retreat Foundation Meeting on September 15 at Allmendinger Center in Puyallup from 10 AM until 3 PM. Master Gardeners should RSVP to mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com. Lunch will be provided. In the morning a Facilitator will assist with gathering information that will help to set goals and develop ideas we want to share with WSU. In the afternoon, we will explore how we can implement our ideas. Fundraising will also be a topic of interest.

2008 will be a Legislative year. The State Foundation will appear before the State to report our extensive contributions to the public. We will share the number of hours we contribute, how many people we contact, and what accomplishments we achieved. County Foundations are also advised to contact their legislators to let them know about Master Gardener's accomplishments.

Treasurer's Report

CD WA State	\$4,156.23
CD Kitsap	3,470.04
Checking Acct	25,544.25
Savings Acct	<u>9,766.63</u>
Total	\$43,937.15

There will be a big change after the meeting. Projected expenses for the Conference are \$20,000 plus \$1000 for scholarships.

Election of Officers

No Elections of New Officers

No appointment of New Representative

Old Business

No Old Business presented.

New Business

No New Business presented.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Brand, Secretary