

March 2023 Foundation Meeting



**Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County Meeting
Followed by Yakima County Master Gardener Program Meeting
March 8, 2023 / 10:32 AM**

32 members attended including board members : Melody Westmoreland-Past President, Debra Kroon – President, Gilbert Plascencia – Treasurer, Pat Bombard – Secretary, Dick Larson and Mike Wood – Members at Large, Also attending : Program Coordinator Patty Ratzlaff

Foundation Meeting Call to Order

Call for Additional Agenda Items

Opening Remarks Debra Kroon, President

Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2023 by Debra Kroon, President No discussion, a couple of grammar missed spellings found and notes will be changed. Beatrice moved to accept minutes with changes. Jenny seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report (reports sent via email) by Gilbert Plascencia, Treasurer – Gilbert gave a brief report on forms he emailed out. Very little activity.

Greenhouse Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Skip Brockman John Strong reported on the Greenhouse. The 100 bags of soil were delivered; thanks much to all who helped unload it. Many hands made quick work of it! Perennials were moved into the large greenhouse to make room for the veggies, which will be planted beginning this week. Annuals have nearly finished all planting, and will move on to grooming and labelling. The baskets are half planted, and will be finished in the coming weeks.

.Plant Sale Deanna Husch/Susie Walters No report except that the T-shirt survey went out last Friday, and will be tallied this weekend.

New Business:

State AEC Foundation by John Strong John reported that plans are well underway for this fall's conference, to be held the last weekend of September. Melody noted that a 5-year Strategic Planning committee has been formed for an ongoing conference site and style procedure and will be meeting next week.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Mary Clear thanked her review team (Bev Vonfeld, Beatrice Reiss, Kris

Vestad, and Walt Clear), and reported that Treasurer Gilbert is doing a very good job. Books are in order. No significant problems were discovered. It was found that a number of reimbursement requests were submitted without co-leader approvals or were approved by the reimbursement payee. This is contrary to procedure, and all are reminded to gain approval from the appropriate leader when submitting a request (You need a signature before spending!).

Old Business:

2023-2024 Foundation Elections by Melody Westmoreland Melody was thrilled to announce the full slate of officer nominees for our election in April:

- President: Dan Fortier
- Vice President: Rick Russell
- Secretary: Janet Jones
- Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia
- Member at Large: Dick Larson
- Member at Large: Sheila Gunderson

Melody will send out the list in written format to all members.

Mail Chimp: John reported that our two free accounts have been merged into one paid account. Everything on members end should look the same.

Conclude Foundation Meeting at 10:47.

Master Gardener Program Meeting Team Updates & Reports**

Program Coordinator Patty Ratzlaff YC Program Meeting March 2023

50 th Year Celebration Resources are now available at
<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/50th-resources/>

1) NWFGF was exciting and interesting this year. A special shout-out and big thanks to Lucy Stevens for volunteering at our State Booth this year. When I dropped in you were doing a great job of representing Master Gardener Program. Counties that donated to the booth were considered for working the booth.

2) Our 50 th Anniversary Updates 📍📍

a. The celebration we are invited to is May 20 in Prosser. I have a sign-up sheet so I can get an idea of how many people plan to attend from Yakima. There will be the 50 th Anniversary Magazine available to purchase at the event. I haven't heard the price yet.

3) Staying Mission Driven updates-

A) Endowed Chair – someone to represent us in decision making meetings at the University level. Someone to dog-in the remaking of our curriculum and finish the updating process. Someone to have certain types of informational flyers consistent, up-to-date and available for each county. Someone in our corner. Someone we would not loose funding for. What would that take? To create a position that is self-funded of this nature takes 1.5 million dollars. Fundraising has started for this position and it's easy to give if you are so inclined or know someone who would like to contribute. Explain 5/5 pin.

B) Annual Educational Conference Price for conference this year: Early bird \$259 from now to July 1. (\$MG save 30 over the public attending) after that it is \$299. Held at the Marriot in Tacoma.

Mglearns.mastergardenrfoundation.org/

4) 2 Upcoming Training sessions I will be hosting:

1) To be held in the future on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how attendance reporting will help us meet our goals of serving the whole

community. This will take place once the new system is launched.

TBA

2) Julie and I will be hosting a GivePulse training sometime in April. Please watch for the date announcement. If you are interested in coming – please sign the clipboard and this will give us an idea of how many folks might attend.

Also – you can email either of us with questions or concerns you want us to cover. We will be going over filtering and how to see your continuing ed anytime during the year and your total vol. Hours. If you plan to attend – what would you like us to cover? Training will be held by Julie and Myself at the Extension office where we can have live internet.

Old business

5) Last month I mentioned you are all invited to Spring Jitters in Ellensburg, held by the Kittitas MG group. There are ½ page flyers on the table for you to take one home if you are interested. Again – their theme is water and is Sat. April 1 from 11 – 2. All aspects of the event are free. The MG have enlisted a local garden club to provide refreshments for free.

6) Name Badge – for those that ordered them – please see me and bring your 6.50 for the magnet pin.

2022 STATISTICS: In 2022 Yakima County Master Gardeners...

- Reached over 1,095 youth
- Met with 1,459 individuals for Plant Diagnostic Clinic
- Held 36 adult demonstrations, class and speaking events; reaching 570 adults
- Donated 3,575 lbs of food to our local food bank and the Yakama Nation

TRAININGS: Patty will be attending a training soon on the topic: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. The date hasn't been announced. Following that, she will share with the group. Patty and Julie will offer a training about GivePulse in the next month at the Extension office for anyone who would like help with it. You are encouraged to bring your laptop, where you will be able to log on for hands-on learning. Sign up on the sheet at the check-in table, and note any special topics you would like covered.

ENDOWED CHAIR CAMPAIGN: For those who aren't familiar with this campaign, WSU Extension has launched this effort to raise \$1.5 Million, the earnings from which will fund a faculty position at WSU dedicated to Master Gardeners. That person will be tasked with supporting our program with curriculum, resources, up-to-date documents, and more. It will also

fund the current State Coordinator position, currently held by Jennifer Marquis.

A suggested way to contribute, if you are interested, is the "\$5 for 5" deal... contribute \$5.00 per month for five years (or a one-time donation of \$300.) If all 4,000 MGs statewide and 1,000 others do this, the Endowment will be fully funded. Information about this is on the check-in table.

Give Pule by Julie Hunziker Julie thanked Patty for the improvements she has had implemented to make Suggestions that if it doesn't work refresh it to see if that fixes it.

Youth Team Michele Murphy/Sarah Judd Michelle noted that Selah Middle School has asked that we start a program in their school. Volunteers are needed to staff that very good opportunity. Thanks to those who have signed up to work the monthly Youth shift at the Farmer's Market. There are still shifts open for August through October. There is still time to sign up for Mother's Day baskets on March 18th!

Social Media Presence/Face Book/Photo Library by Andrea Altmayer / Clinic Team –

Andrea reports that, while Facebook numbers are down, there are many good comments and several clinic questions each week. New trainee, Jenny Harris, has offered to help this team, particularly with Instagram. Very welcome news. Thank you, Jenny!

PHOTO LIBRARY: Andrea has suggested we establish an online repository of photos that can be arranged by subject / location, edited for quality, and available to all MGs for use in flyers, newsletters, social media and website. She noted that Chelan County MGs are using forever.com for this purpose, and it works well for them. Andrea will research further. John

noted that the new Foundation website under development can include a link to the library. A lengthy discussion ensued about getting photo releases for anyone in a picture who is not a MG. Suggested taking pictures of backs in public it was suggested that Patty contact Jennifer for specific procedures to be followed under various circumstances.

FARMERS MARKET: Ken says that we must obtain a certificate of insurance for the Farmer's Market.

Writer's Guild, and Speakers Bureau by Claudia Steen - Columbines – Writer's Guild

Again, this team is responsible for getting science-based gardening information to the public in order to follow the WSU mission that began 50 years ago. As co-leads, Carol is responsible for 24 articles a year and Claudia is responsible for 26 articles a year. We are a TEAM, but it seems there are only four volunteers participating in writing, so Carol and I would love to have MGs who want to earn volunteer hours and CE from home to join us. There is plenty of editing help available; they just need ideas put forth at approximately 750 words.

Speaker's Bureau

We just got our first request for MG speakers for the Home and Garden Show this weekend with 3 days to cover (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Carol and I have both spoken there in the past and found several concerns. They approach us giving very little notice, we are provided a stage and ability to share power point presentations on gardening, but it is not advertised well so we had very few in attendance. I talked to the gal in charge and said I would try to get speakers. Again, our SB team has diminished in MGs and the few MGs declined. The request was very "last-minute". In discussion with Carol Barany, she and Claudia decided to decline the invitation and suggested that next year,

Again, if you love talking about gardening and sharing your expertise with others, please join our team. I know for me, having been Program Director and Associate Professor at CWU for 30 years giving lectures comes naturally and it is my passion. But as you saw with our lecture series some presenters are better than others. So, it might be daunting to get up in front of an audience. BUT - Debra is giving a presentation on March 22 on How to Give a Presentation. And I am here to help you as well when you join our SB team.

DEMO GARDEN: Diana reported that all of our three gardens are great places to volunteer. The Demonstration Garden will begin work next Wednesday, with a clean-up of the entrance oval to the park. All are welcome to help, starting at 9:00am.

Old Business

NAME BADGES are here. If you ordered one, you can pick it up from Patty today, with you

payment.

New Business

Kittitas MGs have a flyer on the check-in table for their Spring Jitters event.

Directories are here. Pick yours up from Debra.

Good of the Order Conclude Program Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:25... Enter on hour in GivePulse under Program Support.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2023, at Red Barn

**Programs on hold till Spring:

Demonstration Garden Demonstration Garden Classes, Heirloom Garden & Classes, and West Valley Food Garden.s