

Alpine Master Gardener Association
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – October 23, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Kent Strawderman at 6:45 p.m.

Officers present: President Kent Strawderman, Vice-President Jean Brown, Treasurer Dee Bureau

Approval of Minutes: Karen Blewett moved to accept the September 15, 2013 AMGA Minutes as presented. Deborah Milbocker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dee Bureau commented on the entries of the report to clarify some line-item entries. President Kent Strawderman asked for a vote. Marilyn Kaczanowski made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded by Judy McIntyre. Motion carried.

Junior Master Gardeners Update: Elaine Harris shared first-hand information about the Junior Master Gardeners involvement with the "Seed To Harvest" program, in which Elaine participated as a Volunteer. She related that young gardeners learned how to sow seeds and nurture vegetable plants. Aspiring gardeners learned how to recover from seedlings lost to frost and go on to a successful harvest. The harvest resulted in some additional produce being donated to United Way, for distribution to families in need.

Fundraising Committee: Kent related that additional monies had been collected from Cookbook Sales, and profits were listed in the most recent Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Kent pointed out that plans for the AMGA Christmas Party/Election are progressing. The date has been set for Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6 p.m., and will be held at the First Congregational Church in Gaylord.

Executive Board Officers for 2014: Kent related that member Betty Hartman has agreed to accept a nomination for the Executive Board member position as Secretary for the years 2014 and 2015. Jeanne Freymuth has agreed to accept a nomination for the position of Vice-President for the years 2014 and 2015. Any AMGA member seeking to be a nominee for an open Executive Board position, will be considered for election on Thursday, December 5, 2013 held at the First Congregational Church in Gaylord.

Spring 2014 Conference/Workshop: In keeping with one of AMGA's yearly goals, a Workshop will be offered as Gardening/Horticulture related Education in spring 2014. After much discussion by AMGA members, it was deemed that Saturday, March 15, 2014 would be the preferred date to extend the educational offer to the public. Committee member volunteers and additional details will be determined at a later date.

Update from AMGA Coordinators Rudi and Sandi Edel:

Rudi encouraged AMGA members to get their VOLUNTEER and EDUCATIONAL HOURS for 2013 put into the computer system very soon, so all members can qualify to re-register as Master Gardeners. To access the MMGA web site for recording hours, members will need to take the following steps:

Type in the web site <https://michiganvolunteersystem.org>

1. type in your e-mail address
2. type in your password
3. click on OTSEGO...(NOT mmga)
4. follow on screen directions to record your volunteer and educational hours

NOTE: If any AMGA member has questions/problems about hours and how to access the website, they may contact Rudi or Sandi Edel at 989-732-1244.

Kent asked members to be thinking about goals, objectives and programs for year 2014 as follows:

1. Suggest topics for the May Gardening Series in 2014 (that are offered to the public and held at the Otsego County Library)
2. Monthly AMGA meeting/educational opportunities (suggest topics and names of presenters)
3. Be thinking about overall goals for AMGA for 2014

Re: Otsego Conservation District's Demonstration Garden

After much discussion by AMGA members, a motion was made by Chris Cook that AMGA members would continue to volunteer time and effort to the physical upkeep of the following gardens for one year: Friendship, Herb, Hummingbird and Perennial Gardens (located within the Demonstration Garden). The motion was seconded by Rudi Edel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The program theme for the evening was entitled "Ask The Master Gardener". In lively round-table discussions, members shared many tips, techniques or tricks that were successfully used in their own gardens.