

Alpine Master Gardener Association
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – September 25, 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

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Treasurer's Report were available. Treasurer Dee Bureau reported that the AMGA checking account's balance as of September 11, 2013 was \$5,959.75. The report indicated that a total of \$4,635.27 reflected the actual AMGA balance, which was minus \$885.00 of O.W.L.S. (Otsego Wildlife Legacy Society) and \$418.94 of M.S.U (Michigan State University) monies. This also included AMGA Cookbook Sale dollars, set aside for expenditure in years 2014, 2015 and 2016. President Kent Strawderman asked for an approval vote of the Treasurer's Report. Karen Blewett made a motion to approve the budget as read, seconded by Chris Cook. Motion carried.

Jean Brown encouraged members to attend the next AMGA General Meeting, to be held on October 23 at the United Way building. The theme of the evening's event will be "ASK THE MASTER GARDENER", an evening of fun activities and camaraderie. Members are encouraged to bring tried-and-true gardening tips to share with the group. Members were also asked to bring any questions they have regarding gardening or horticulture, to tap into other members successful experiences.

Old Business:

Cathy Campbell gave a report on the gardening project concerning the "Patroit Place-Veterans Transitional Housing Community". She related that she would be meeting with members of O.W.L.S., who have given monetary support of the Patroit Place gardens. She indicated that the sum of \$850.00 was left for gardening expenditures. She will ask O.W.L.S. Representatives for clarification on spending the allocated funds, due to some confusion and problems with the planting of trees and vegetables at the Patroit Place sight. She will have a report of the outcome at the next AMGA General Meeting on October 23rd.

Patricia Osburn shared information about the Otsego Conservation District's year 2013 "Seed to Harvest Program" involving Junior Master Gardeners, which is offered for students of Otsego County and surrounding areas. *(Note: The program helps students nurture their curiosity about plants and the environment, while sharing their knowledge with others through volunteer opportunities).* Patricia said that according to Justin Burchette, Coordinator of the "Seeds To Harvest Program", the students learned a great deal and the program was a huge success.

New Business:

Kent informed members that the AMGA yearly Christmas Party will be held at the First Congregational Church in Gaylord on December 5th. Members were encouraged to bring a food dish to pass. Carol Buxton volunteered to once again oversee a "Silent Auction" of gardening related items. Also, there will be an election of officers by members for the AMGA Executive Board, for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary for year 2014.

Kent spoke about the possibility of AMGA hosting a full-day Spring 2014 Workshop or Conference offered to the public. The date will be determined at a later time.

Kent asked members to be thinking about the following:

- (1) AMGA goals for the year 2014
- (2) Topics for the May 2014 "Garden Series" presentations (offered to the public)
- (3) Any ideas for gardening or horticultural field trips for members to attend

Executive Board Officers for year 2014:

Jeanne Freymuth and Kent Strawderman volunteered to find AMGA member nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on the AMGA Executive Board for Vice-President and Secretary. Nominations will be presented at the Thursday December 5th general meeting/Christmas Party to be held at the First Congregational Church in Gaylord.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

*Note: Following the general meeting an Audio-Visual Presentation entitled "Creating A Lower Maintenance Flower Garden" as presented by AMGA member SHARON WHITMORE.