

**Porter County Master Gardeners Association  
General Membership Meeting  
February 14, 2018  
Healthline Community Room  
1001 Sturdy Road, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383**

Present: Ann Cierniak, James Albers, James Beversdorf, Amy Carmody, Karen Curtis, Dennis Davis, Marilyn Dyson, Judy Engle, Robert Evans, Gloria Fancher, Jackie Fenchak, John Fischer, Kathy Fischer, Sharon Fitzsimmons, Carolyn Gring, Shelli Henry, Barb Kunshek, Terry Luchene, Debbie McCormick, Janet Magnuson, Paul Pivoris, Diana Poffinbarger, Liz Nobles, Gloria Potter, Carol Prybell, Bev Ripley, Kathy Ruble, Dan Ruggaber, Tina Ryczek, Kristine Sandrick, Martha Seroczynski, Jeff Snellgrove, Susan Spelde, Bob Stoner, Bill Storey, Lynne Sundwell, Beverly Thevein, LuAnn Troxel, Suzanna Tudor, Larry Vaerewyck, Jerry Waszkowski, Laura Hastings, Jill Sauter, Ellen Standafer, John Steffen, Marolyn Steffen, Julia Goetz, Laura Hrusovsky, Lyndsey Ploehn

1. Ann Cierniak called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Secretary's Report:** Ann Cierniak  
Minutes were approved as presented.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Debbie McCormick  
Income this month included money from the Gardening Show and member dues. Expenses were primarily from the Gardening Show. We now have a total of \$75,580.31 in our checking account. We have a total of \$15,575.87 in our Capital One Money Market account which includes \$3.97 interest for January, giving us a total of \$91,156.18 in all PCMGA accounts.
4. **President's Report:** Ann Cierniak  
We have a yearly insurance bill from Farm Bureau which has gone up this year to \$996.00 due to added coverage. Because the amount is over \$500.00 we need a vote from the membership. It was so moved and seconded. The motion passed. There are several volunteer opportunities available. Linda Mapes needs help with family night at the schools and the Mental Health Association continues to need volunteers.
5. **Vice President's Report:** Shelli Henry  
No report.
6. **Extension Office:** Lyndsey Ploehn  
There was a miscommunication regarding the Annual Agreement form. You can no longer fill it out on paper and mail it in. It needs to be filled out on line. If you need help with this call the office or stop in, people there can help you. Angel is leaving. Her last day is February 28. There will be an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 pm to say "goodbye" to her.
7. **Committees:**  
**Education:** KathyRuble  
Melinda Myers keynote address is coming off line on February 28. March 3, Janet Macunovich is giving three presentations. There will be coffee and sweet rolls in the morning with a buffet lunch at noon. PCMGA members need to give a \$10.00 deposit to be refunded on the day of the presentation. Guests will be charged \$20.00. Doors will open at 8:30 am and the seminar

will last from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. The Philanthropy committee received a scholarship application from Bev Thevenin for a class in Horticultural Therapy which she plans to take. Since this did not fit the guidelines of the Philanthropy committee, Janet Magnuson gave the application to the Education Committee to consider. This is a 12 credit hour class presented by the Chicago Botanic Gardens and Oakton College. Bev plans to work with True North Equine Therapy as well as be available to speak to the Master Gardeners and other organizations who might be interested in this unique form of therapy. The Education Committee thought this was a worthwhile endeavor and so presented Bev with a check for \$1200.00 to help pay for this class.

**Philanthropy:** Janet Magnuson

Grant applications are coming in. The amount of the grants has been raised to \$300.00. They are due on March 15.

**Garden Walk:** Gloria Potter and Barb Kunshek

They are not able to sell tickets on the day of the walk at Hayes Leonard as in previous years. Instead tickets will be sold at Strack and VanTill on route 30. This is the last year that Gloria and Barb are going to chair the Garden Walk. Volunteers are needed for next year. Anyone interested should let the current chairmen know so that they can "shadow" Gloria and Barb and be ready to step into the job at the conclusion of this year's walk.

**Publicity:** Maureen Phillips

The Publicity committee manages the website and Constant Contact. It is time to pay for these services. Constant Contact costs \$769.00 for a year and the website vendor, Blue Host, charges \$503.00 and an additional \$38.00 for site security. Maureen moved that we pay these bills. The motion was seconded and carried without question. We purchased a tablet to use for the Purdue Plant Doctor series of apps. It came with a blue tooth mouse, we will purchase a wireless printer to use with it. This will replace the laptop in our Ask a Master Gardener booth. Lyndsey will give a demo on how to use the Plant Doctor app in July prior to the County Fair. Jim Albers will take over the Ask A Master Gardener Booth.

**Gardening Show:** LuAnn Troxel

This year we had a record 2,609 attending the Gardening Show. There were 2,124 paid admissions, along with 110 children. 2,094 people attended the seminars. The Steering Committee for this show consisted of Ann Cierniak - Vice chairman, Maureen Phillips, Nancy Rosene, Judy Engle, Mary Simon, Shelli Henry, Debby McCormick, Bev Ripley, Marty Seroczynski, Monica Kerr, Kathy Ruble, Sue Spelde, Jill Killhefner, and Terri Zimmer. Instead of door prizes donated by the vendors, we planned to give five \$100.00 prizes. Unfortunately, because of the State Gaming Commission rules we were only able to give prizes not to exceed \$1000.00 in value. The fountain donated by Chuck Roth from Chesterton Feed and Garden was valued at \$700.00, which left us only able to give three \$100.00 prizes. The fountain was won by Phyllis Brandy from Hebron. We sold 1003 tickets at \$1.00 each for the fountain. We made on this year's show, after expenses \$19,000. We need to think how we can use this money to further our mission of "helping others grow" in a way that will benefit our community.

**Members at Large:** Suzanna Tudor, Dennis Davis

No report.

8. **Old Business:**

None.

9. **New Business:**

Volunteers for planning activities for the Children's Corner at Earth Day has been covered.

10. **Announcements:**

A. Next Executive Board Meeting - March 14, 2018, 5:15 pm, at Healthlinc.

B. Next General membership Meeting - March 14, 2018, 6:30 pm, at Healthlinc.

Meeting was adjourned by Ann Cierniak at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Dyson, Recording Secretary

