

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 2011
Front Royal**

Attendees: Cy Haley, Vice President; Suzanne Boag, Secretary; Bob Carlton, 2010 President; Randy Langford, Volunteer Coordinator; Susan Garrett, Clarke County Co-Coordinator; Teri Merrill, Frederick County Coordinator; Marsha Burd, Warren County Coordinator; Carolyn Wilson, Shenandoah County Co-Coordinator; Helen Lake, 2011 Class Coordinator; Frank Baxter, Pat Burslem, Mary Flagg, David Freese, Anita Harris, Lynn Hoffman, Martha Mitchell, Henry Noble, and Marianne Pagington.

Cy Haley brought the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Cy explained that she was running the meeting because John Dickhute was unable to attend. She noted that a number of unpleasant emails had been sent out to the membership and asked that everyone hold their questions or comments about them until we discuss New Business on the Agenda. *The minutes were reviewed by those present and Bob Carlton made a motion to accept them, which was seconded by Cy Haley and the motion passed.*

Treasurer’s Report: Scott Hinkle was not present, but sent his report (below) to Board members and Cy distributed copies to those present. Discussion ensued about the lack of detail in the report with no itemized listings of expenses as were present in last month’s report. Cy explained that she had emailed Scott requesting a detailed report and had not yet received one. Helen Lake also would also like more details to break out the budget for the class expenses, which includes speakers. Lynn suggested a motion be made to not accept the Treasurer’s Report and to ask for a more detailed one. *Suzanne Boag made a motion to not accept the Treasurer’s current report and to ask for more detailed reports with line items listed for this and future reports. Bob seconded the motion with all three Board members present in agreement. The motion carried.*

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association
Treasurer’s Report
February 9, 2011
Financial Position**

Checking Balance- January 12, 2011		\$ 8,871.29
INCOME: Membership Dues (1)	+	10.00
MG 2011 Class Tuition	+	1,688.00
EXPENSES: 20 checks written	-	6,165.65
Checking Balance – February 9, 2011		\$4,403.64
CD balance with interest, 12 mo, 1%, 05/04/2011 maturity		\$5,113.24
CD balance with interest, 18 mo, 1%, 01/21/2012 maturity + 12.63		\$5,025.23
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$14,542.11

OTHER NSVMGA TREASURY ITEMS

1. **NSVMGA is now registered with the IRS as a 501c(3), not for profit organization.**
2. **NSVMGA Membership dues are due by end of February**

**Respectfully,
Scott Hinkle
Treasurer NSVMGA
scotthinklemg@yahoo.com
Treasurer Report 2/9/11**

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the 16 January 2011 Association meeting and the January Special Votes were both posted on the web page. Suzanne Boag explained that she will be in California from 19-28 February, but will ensure that today's Board meeting minutes will be posted before she leaves. She added that Mary Craig has graciously agreed to take the minutes for the Association meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 20.

Standing Committees: Cy explained that we have both standing and special committees with a lot of vacancies and she passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for those committees.

Communication and Publicity: Lennie Mathers was not present.

Education: Lynn Hoffman and Helen Lake agreed to co-chair this committee. Lynn added that Helen was doing a great job with the intern class along with her team. Helen reported that the class had 40 students.

Finance: Scott Hinkle was not present.

Membership: Mary Craig was not present. Suzanne reported that Mary has updated the membership list for this year. She is waiting for the MG class enrollment to stabilize and will then add the new students to the list and ask Eleanor Ames to post the updated membership list to the web page.

Newsletter: Richard Stromberg was not present.

Program: Cy announced that the March 20 Association meeting would be held at Horton's Nursery in Winchester. The speaker will discuss new gadgets and plants. Cy said she was still working on the April meeting. The May meeting, which will include the Intern Graduation, will be held at Helen's house.

County Coordinators

Clarke: Susan Garrett reported that Mary Craig was not able to be here, but she and Mary had met with Marilyn Thuss to discuss the county coordinators' duties. Clarke MGs will have a meeting on February 22. Mary and Susan are considering purchasing books and resources to assist MGs with questions asked at the Farmer's Market. Susan said that Clarke will be submitting their project applications soon.

Frederick: Teri Merrill listed the many projects her county will be participating in as follows: Frederick Douglas Rain Garden, Jr. Master Gardeners, Green line, GardenFest, and the Museum garden. She also mentioned a new project which involves putting in a horticultural therapy garden at the Shenandoah Agency on Aging and Helen is the project leader. The Jr. Master Gardener meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15. Lynn added that a new project will involve canning foods and a how to demonstration by the extension agent with more details to be provided soon. Helen mentioned a community garden in the works that would specifically require male Master Gardeners. Karen Riding is the point of contact and the garden would be located at the north western corrections facility. Teri said she would be calling for GardenFest volunteers soon.

Page: George Hadelar was not present. Bob reported that George had called him and had nothing to add to what was reported at the last Association meeting.

Shenandoah: Carolyn Wilson said that the green line is running 24/7 using the internet. Veteran MGs take responsibility for it a month at a time. A pre-meeting was held with the three Shenandoah coordinators and Bob Carlton joined them to discuss upcoming activities. She said the county will hold a meeting for all Shenandoah MGs in March. She mentioned a booth and children's activities at the upcoming Shenandoah Community Fair. Carolyn will provide more details in the future. Sally Walters is the project leader for the 4H programs. There are 4 or 5 camps and 100 children. She said her group will be talking about whether or not they will have enough volunteers to participate in the farmer's market.

Warren: Marsha Burd said the county meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, 17 February from 6:45-8 p.m. She listed potential projects for Warren as follows: She said we will definitely be committed to the help desk, Calvary Memorial garden, and Belle Boyd garden, and possibly the butterfly garden, a community garden at a school and the farmer's market depending upon the number of volunteers available to help with these projects. Frank Baxter is the project leader for programs at the Samuel's Library, which will be held monthly. Frank said there will be a work day at the Library next Saturday, 19 February at 2:00 p.m. Lynn mentioned that the Rutgers grant was extended for a year and would supply mulch for the rain garden. Frank said that the projects at the library were developed as the infrastructure for a training ground for planting and pruning.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Randy Langford began by complimenting Helen Lake on the class syllabus she prepared for the MG class. He asked that county coordinators please email him about upcoming county meetings as he would like to attend if possible. Randy reminded the group that nominations are being accepted for MG College scholarships. Bob added that we also have \$2000 that was donated by Bob Powell to be used for scholarships for MG College as well. Cy distributed applications for the MG College Scholarships. Randy stated that all project applications received so far had been turned in to Bobby Clark for approval with the exception of one.

Unfinished Business

Education Symposiums:

Water Quality Workshop - Cy noted that Mary Craig had asked about educational workshops and added that Carolyn Wilson had suggested a water quality workshop at the New Market rain garden sometime this summer. Carolyn said that the workshop would be a half day in August, which would probably take 2 ½ to 3 hours and would be open to our full membership as well as the public. Carolyn will be needing volunteers for this workshop and will put out a call once she has firmed up the details. Lynn said she would coordinate with Carolyn on this workshop in her capacity as Education Chair.

Leadership Training - Cy brought up the training Mary Stickley had suggested at the last Board meeting. Helen added that the purpose of the leadership training was to empower MGs to take on responsibility and to be more comfortable participating on committees. Lynn said she would email Mary Stickley about the training in her role as Education Chair.

Horticultural Therapy Workshop - Lynn mentioned that Helen could possibly do a workshop at the end of the summer involving horticultural therapy gardening.

Kid's Programs Day Seminar - Lynn also suggested a day seminar on kids programs.

Susan Garrett added that good speakers are important and would like to get referrals to ensure we have interesting speakers at our events.

VCE Strategic Plan: Cy asked Bob if he could explain this to those present. Bob responded that each county would have one Agent and one administrative assistant. There will be additional funding for VCE and a requirement that expenditures be more transparent. The plan is to reinforce expenditures for agents in counties. There is money in the budget for additional agents.

Project Applications: Randy reviewed the current process which involves project applications going to the county coordinator for approval, then on to the volunteer coordinator for approval, then on to the Board for approval, back to the volunteer coordinator, who then forwards the approved project applications to Bobby Clark. Bob explained that in the past, project applications went to the county coordinator for approval, then on to the volunteer coordinator for approval, who then forwarded approved project applications to Bobby unless unbudgeted funds were requested, in which case, the Board would be asked to approve the funds, but not the project. This might happen if a project needed funds in excess of a particular county's allotted \$200 per year. Lynn asked why the process had been changed recently and Randy responded that John Dickhute had asked for the changes and Bobby Clark had agreed to them. Lynn pointed out that an MG does not have to belong to our Association and can submit a project for approval directly to the VCE for Bobby Clark's approval. It is not necessary for the Board to approve project applications unless Association funds are being requested. Randy said he had received a lot of emails regarding the changes and he stated that he had no problem going back to the way the project applications have been submitted in the past. Discussion ensued about project applications for talks. Randy said he felt that project applications were unnecessary for MG talks. Marsha felt that county coordinators should know about talks being given in their respective counties. *Bob made a motion to recommend that the volunteer coordinator*

set up a blanket project application for talks and MG speakers will be asked to notify their respective county coordinator of any talks he or she might schedule. Suzanne seconded it and all three Board members present agreed. Bob made a motion that the project approval process begin with the county coordinator's approval, then it should be forwarded on to the volunteer coordinator for approval, who will then forward the approved project applications to Bobby Clark with the exception of projects requiring funds beyond the county allocation amount. Those projects will need Board approval for the funding only. Lynn suggested that the Guidelines include the project application process. Bob made the motion and Suzanne seconded it. All three Board members present were in favor and the motion carried. Bob agreed to be in charge of the Guideline wording changes. Frank Baxter asked about home visits and Lynn explained that home visits are part of green line and do not require a project application. Lynn said that the website can be considered part of the Extension Office and when home visit requests come through the web site, project applications are not needed. Randy offered to send a list of approved projects to Eleanor Ames to be posted on the web page. Susan Garrett asked if there was a centralized location to learn about other counties projects and Carolyn said that projects were listed on the web page. Bob added that the county reports in the minutes contain that information as also.

MG Hand out Supplies: Carolyn wanted to know if we could reorder notepads and magnets. Cy explained that she intended to reorder those supplies as well as yard signs. Helen added that we already have our logo on file with Impressions Plus and that will help to lower the cost of future items. Cy will get a quote and run it by the Board before moving forward with this. Lynn added that we are tax exempt and to make sure that we don't get taxed.

Bylaws Committee: Cy explained that the President, Vice President and two members should comprise this group. Bob Carlton, Lynn Hoffman and Henry Noble volunteered to help with the bylaws. Bob said the purpose of this committee is to review and revise the bylaws.

International Master Gardener Convention: Cy noted that there will be a competition for exceptional Master Gardener Projects at the convention. Jr. Master Gardeners and GardenFest were both considered, but after discussion it was decided that we might want to wait until next year. Helen Lake's therapy garden was mentioned as a future possible entry for this event as was Marianne Pagington's children's activities at GardenFest. Bob moved that the discussion be tabled and Suzanne seconded it. All three Board members present agreed and the motion carried.

Participation Rewards: Carolyn Wilson suggested that IPM manuals be given as a reward when MGs volunteer at least 50 hours in a given year, which is more than double the minimum requirement. She felt that those working more hours would also probably be the same people who might really benefit from having this manual. She said that we could offer a new reward each year. Marsha felt like a lot of people would qualify for the reward. Carolyn W. will check with Carolyn Stonsifer on how many MGs might fit into this category. Lynn thought this might be a good incentive for MGs to volunteer more for more hours. Pat Burslem noted that we are a volunteer organization and she wondered about offering rewards with a monetary value to volunteers. Randy suggested the top ten MGs based on volunteer hours might receive rewards. Teri Merrill commented that her previous MG group would give out awards based on years

with the organization. Lynn added that we do receive pins and certificates for milestone volunteer hours from 250 and up. Lynn suggested the possibility of a recognition dinner and Bob thought our November meeting might be a good time for that.

Marsha asked how IPM manuals were distributed and Carolyn W. answered that Bobby Clark gave them out. Lynn wondered if Bobby could teach us to use the IPM manual. Bob suggested that our April meeting's topic be the IPM manual and that Bobby Clark might be our speaker. Cy added this idea to her list for future programs for meetings.

New Business

NSVMGA Shirts: Cy reported that John had asked her to get samples of NSVMGA shirts and she displayed for the group button down, collared shirts, made of 55/45 cotton/polyester, with an embroidered emblem. The shirts are available in a dark forest green or olive green with yellow embroidery, come in long sleeve or short sleeve styles with or without a pocket, and are available in men's or women's sizes. These shirts are a bit dressier than T-shirts and would be suitable for presentations. The shirts cost \$29 and a minimum order would be for 24 shirts. The new shirts will be available in addition to the T-shirts we currently have. Carolyn felt we should stick with the less expensive shirts for the Interns. Cy said she would bring the sample shirts to the 20 February meeting so the membership could check them out. Helen added that VMG shirts and accessories are available on the VMG website.

Parliamentarian: Cy announced that four of the five Board members would like to appoint a parliamentarian, as prescribed by the bylaws, to provide procedural guidance for Board and Association meetings. She requested volunteers, noting that the position requires meeting attendance. Cy said she would add this as an Agenda item for the Association meeting on 20 February.

Recent Emails: Cy explained that the 15 January Board meeting was conducted in a manner different than what the members have been accustomed to, and that difference was the beginning of a series of problems that resulted in contentious emails being circulated about various issues. Bob asked that we hold off on detailed discussion until John Dickhute could be present, as John was central to the controversy. Lynn stated that we needed to discuss this now because the issues were not being resolved. Mary Flagg added that she and other MGs had attended this meeting because they wanted to discuss the ongoing issues that have resulted in confusion and upset in our organization. It was noted that John has not responded to a number of e-mails that called upon him for explanations.

Point of Order: Suzanne first defined the term point of order for the group, and then outlined why she believed our Association's rules had been breached during the January 22 telephone/email Board vote to purchase two more laptops in addition to the one authorized at the 16 January Board meeting. Suzanne cited several passages from Robert's Rules of Order to illustrate her contention and asked that the 22 January vote be nullified. She stated that the use of the telephone for the vote did not comply with Robert's Rules guidance. She also stated that the exclusion of the Advisory Board from

the 22 January vote was a breach of the spirit of the bylaws, which spell out the Advisory Board's role in the Executive Board decision making process. After discussion of the issue, a motion to return all equipment purchased in excess of the amount approved at the 16 January Association meeting was presented and passed.

Discussion of January 22 Board vote: David Freese asked for clarification on the circumstances of the vote. Suzanne said that a sense of urgency was created by John Dickhute, who telephoned Board members on a Saturday and asked for a quick decision because he wanted to make the purchase that day, as he was leaving on a trip the following day. Further clarification was requested regarding the whereabouts of the MG laptop. Helen explained that the sense of urgency conveyed to the Board members by John was the result of her asking John via email to return to her the MG laptop, which was in his possession, because she needed it for use in the MG training class. John wanted to discuss the issue with the Board after he returned from a week-long trip, but Helen continued to explain to John that she needed a laptop for the coming week. She then told the Board that she was quite surprised to learn later that John had contacted the voting Board members and presented a proposal to purchase two additional laptops, citing Helen's need for one as key. Henry Noble suggested putting a motion forward to rescind the vote instead of the point of order. Lynn added that the computers can be returned – that Costco has a 90 day return policy with no questions asked. Cy said that she agreed with Henry's idea to rescind the vote for the additional two laptops. Randy also agreed that we should rescind the vote for the additional laptops, and if in the future there is a need, then the membership can vote on it. Susan Garrett questioned the ability of the 2004 MG laptop to operate properly, but Cy explained that it does work fine and Henry added that he had given it a tune up last March and it was operational. David pointed out that the spirit of the guidelines, which are fiscally conservative, was not followed. Frank Baxter said we do not need the two computers and they should go back. All three Board members present agreed that NSVMGA does not need the additional two laptops purchased. Bob said he felt the Treasurer should have a dedicated laptop and he then suggested we vote to return the two laptops rather than rescinding the 22 Jan vote. Cy explained that John had both a new laptop and our 2004 laptop in his possession. David pointed out that the bylaws contain one sentence that basically allows the Board to purchase anything they want, even though the purpose of the guidelines is clearly to limit that. David said that the bylaws and guidelines should be updated to eliminate ambiguity. Susan Garrett suggested that the 2004 laptop is old and obsolete and may need to be replaced soon anyway. Bob countered that we can replace it when it is necessary to do so. Teri Merrill pointed out that the Treasurer does not need a fully loaded laptop – that he could use the 2004 laptop and the new one could be used by the class coordinator for presentations. A number of MGs agreed with this idea. Cy mentioned that the software purchased for the new laptops could not be returned, but it could be loaded on our 2004 laptop to update it. *Bob made a motion that anything in excess of what was approved at our January 16 Association meeting (i.e., one laptop not to exceed \$850) be returned and credited to NSVMGA to include two of the laptops purchased. Suzanne seconded it and the motion carried with all three Board members present voting in favor of the motion.*

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

VMGA Liaison and MG Class Coordinator: Bob submitted changes to the bylaws that included changes discussed at the 15 January Board meeting regarding the addition of VMGA Liaison and MG Class Coordinator. He offered them for review as follows:

Amendment 1

The bylaws are amended by striking the phrase “Standing Rules” wherever it appears in the bylaws and substituting “Guidelines” in its place. The following are the proposed changes:

Article II

Governance

The Association and its activities shall be in accord with the Bylaws and with such Guidelines as may be adopted pursuant to Article VI, Section 2 below.

Article V

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall serve without bond. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by Robert’s Rules of Order, the most current edition, and the Guidelines of the Association. Where the duties prescribed are in conflict with these Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail.

Article VI

Board of Directors

Section 2. The Board shall fix the date, time and place of meeting (see Article VII, Section 1); approve the Association’s Guidelines, which shall require approval of a majority of the membership at a meeting at which there is a quorum; and perform such other duties as may be LISTED IN THESE Bylaws, the Guidelines, or prescribed by the active members.

Article VIII

Committees

Section 3. The Special committees are appointed by the President and approved by the Board. Such committees may include Fund-Raising, Nominating, Guidelines, Bylaws Review, Audit and such others the President may appoint and the Board may approve. Special Committees shall be dissolved upon completion of their assigned tasks.

(C) The Guidelines committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, and two (2) members from the Active members at large. It shall be responsible for the formulation of

any needed Guidelines to assist the governance of the Association. Its rules must be approved by the Board and a majority of the Active and Intern members present and voting at an Association meeting at which there is a quorum before taking effect.

Article XI

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws and any Guidelines the Association may adopt.

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Amendment 2

Article VI, Section 1, second sentence is amended by inserting between “County Coordinators” and “and VCE Liaison” the words “VMGA Liaison”.

Article VI

Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors (heretofore and hereinafter referred to as the “Board”), shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President. **The Volunteer Coordinator, County Coordinators, VMGA Liaison, and VCE Liaison serve as consultative and participatory but non-voting members of the Board.**

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Amendment 3

Article VIII, Section 2(B) is amended by adding at the end “The Coordinator of the current Master Gardener Class shall serve as a member of the Committee from time of appointment to the graduation of that Coordinator’s class. The Coordinator is appointed by the President with approval by the Board.”

Article VIII

Committees

Section 2

(B) The Education committee shall plan and, with the Volunteer Coordination committee, coordinate the educational activities of the Association as approved by the Board and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Extension Representative. It will cooperate with the Program Committee for education programs to be represented at monthly meetings of the Association. The Coordinator of the current Master Gardener Class shall serve as a member of the Committee from time of appointment to the graduation

of that Coordinator's class. The Coordinator is appointed by the President with approval by the Board.

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Amendment 4

Article VIII, Section 2(G), first sentence is amended by inserting between: "Association Volunteer Coordinator" and "and " the Volunteer Coordinators" the words "VMGA Liaison".

Article VII

Committees

(G) The Volunteer Coordination Committee shall consist of the Association Volunteer Coordinator, VMGA Liaison, and the Volunteer Coordinators from each of the counties in the Association's region. The Coordinators shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The committee will be responsible for encouraging members to conceive, develop, lead, and execute projects of an educational nature. The committee shall do this by working with project leaders to assure the educational aspects of proposals, locating the people and materials needed, and obtaining approval from the Northern Shenandoah Valley Extension Representative.

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Lynn Hoffman explained that she had issues with the President and she has written amendments to present to the Board and membership to prevent future expenditures over \$250 without membership approval and to remove an MG from office as follows:

Amendment 5

Article V, Section 3 is amended by striking in the penultimate sentence the first two (2) words "Any vacancies" and substituting "A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the current Vice-President and any other vacancies"

Article V is amended by adding Section 4.

Section 4.

- A) Any officer of the Association may be removed from office through the following procedures.
- B) A proposal for removal of an officer may be made by any active member of the Association.
- C) Such proposal shall be presented to the Active members, by e-mail or mail, fourteen (14) days prior to consideration at an Association meeting. At that meeting the proposal shall be offered and seconded as a motion.
- D) Discussion by the member submitting the motion and by the person named for removal shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes for each. Discussion by the other members present shall follow.

- E) A motion for removal requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote for passage provided a quorum is present.
- F) The named officer is deemed removed from office upon passage of the motion for removal.
- G) Any officer removed pursuant to this Article shall not be eligible to occupy any position on the Board.

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Amendment 6

Article IX is amended by striking all after the title “Expenditure of Funds” and substituting the following:

Section 1. Authorization by the Board of any funds not specifically included in the budget approved by the membership shall not exceed \$250.00. Such authorization requires approval of three (3) voting members of the Board. Such approval may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Board or e-mail vote by the Board, such vote to be completed within forty-eight (48) hour of initiation of the vote. All votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board.

Section 2. Requests for expenditure of funds not specifically included in the approved budget which exceed \$250.01 must (a) be approved by three (3) of the voting members of the Board and (b) be presented at a regular or special meeting of the Association at which there is a quorum and then approved by a majority of that quorum.

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Lynn further explained that not only did she have issues with the purchase of the lap tops, she also has issues with the President’s leadership style. She noted we have not received an apology or responses to accusations from John. Bob suggested Lynn refer her amendments to the Bylaws Committee, but Lynn responded that it would take too long and that she intended to circulate her amendments so that they can be voted on by the membership at the 20 March Association meeting. Lynn added that there are issues of harassment and violation of VCE protocol by John as well and we need to take action now. David said he felt that leadership style was a more substantive issue because of its effect on our organization and membership, as opposed to other mistakes that might be attributed to transitioning. Lynn said John’s style is rude, and he bullies, and she wants him to resign. Lynn says that what John has done is not acceptable and she doesn’t see him changing. The membership should have recourse to remove John from the office of president and that is the purpose of her amendments. Helen added that the laptop issues are symptomatic of leadership style problems. She said that she sees a disconnect in a person who wanted to step up, but has clear issues of accountability, taking responsibility for his actions, and ignorance or coasting on what the regulations and bylaws are. She added that he doesn’t seem to be accepting of information. She stated that he is not the right person for the job.

20 February Association Meeting: The meeting will be held at the Warren County Government Center. There will be no speaker or potluck dinner. An MG asked what the Agenda for the next meeting would be. Cy explained that the membership needs to be told about the motion to return the laptops. Cy said that it is John's responsibility to prepare the Agenda for the meeting. David Freese pointed out that the members have a right to an explanation of how the money they have raised is being spent. Lynn said it is necessary to hear what John has to say about what he has done. Lynn said she wants him to resign. Cy explained she could not continue to work with John and will resign if he does not. Suzanne made a similar statement. David suggested that John might respond to a consensus of the membership asking him to step down for the good of the organization. Frank Baxter told the group that he was part of the founding group that began NSVMGA and the first president, and he has never seen turmoil like this before. Cy suggested changes to the bylaws to require nominees for the office of president to have a certain number of volunteer hours and time in the organization as a prerequisite for seeking the office of president. Lynn asked the group if we need a moderator for the meeting on Sunday. Helen's name was proposed, but Helen declined, stating that she is too close to the issue. Bob suggested Bobby Clark, but both Cy and Lynn felt he had been apologizing for John and trying to explain John's behavior rather than acknowledging that there are real issues with his behavior. Suzanne suggested that David Freese be considered for the moderator function, and the group considered this. Bob suggested we make a motion at the meeting that David Freese be the moderator of the meeting. Lynn suggested Cy draw up an Agenda and the main topic will be the ability of John to continue as president. Bobby Clark can attend the meeting, but noted that he is in a non-voting status. David suggested sending John a letter and asking him to resign, letting him know what steps will be taken if he does not step down. He would be asked to step down at the meeting and, if declined, amendments would be passed to vote him out. David agreed to pen a draft letter. Helen added that we are giving John the opportunity to save face. The group decided to send the letter via Return Receipt mail and by email, and Cy took responsibility for sending both items.

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Bob seconded it. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Boag
NSVMGA Secretary