Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Warren County Government Center, Warren County

November 16, 2014

President Bob Carlton brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

October Meeting Minutes: Suzanne Boag noted that the October Association Meeting Minutes had been circulated to the membership, and she asked for any changes or corrections. **Mary Craig made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated, and Rich Howell seconded it. The membership voted to accept the minutes as circulated with no objections.**

Treasurer's Report: Lee Demko presented the report as follows:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Financial Statement for Period Ending

November 8, 2014 (10/9/14 – 11/8/14)

Checking Balance 11/8/14				**$5712.32**
Expenses: Outstanding checks as of 11/8/14				
Checks:	1498	Treas. Of Warren County	$100.00	
	1514	N. Staley	$ 50.00	
	1518	R. Johnson	$ 10.00	
	1519	C. Wilson	$ 58.92	
Total Checks Outstanding as of 10/8/14			$218.92	
Checking Closing Balance 11/8/14				**$5,712.32**
Investments:				
Certificate of Deposit, United Bank (11/4/2013)			$5,172.24	
Savings Accnt, United Bank (12/31/13)			$5,103.36	
Total Cash on Hand				**$15,987.92**

Submitted by Saundra Lee Demko

Committee Reports

Communications and Publicity: Helen Lake announced that a strategic planning workshop was held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on October 25 at the Warren County Admin Building, Front Royal.

Attending members agreed that is was time well spent. The group arrived at a set of one-year goals which will be presented to the new Board members at the January Board meeting for review.

Education: Helen Lake reviewed the events covered for the year were a public speaking workshop, Garden in the Valley Symposium, and strategic planning workshop. On November 13 awards for Jr. Master Gardeners were given. Twelve instructors and helpers from Frederick, Warren, and Shenandoah County participated in the class that started in January. The school presented gloves to the MG participants. Brenda Powell will be the new chair for this committee.

Finance: No report.

Membership: We have 86 active members. All Frederick County interns are now members.

Newsletter: Richard Stromberg is editor. Bob Carlton acknowledged that we have one of the better newsletters available.

County Coordinators' Reports

Clarke: Mary Craig reported that their final county meeting was held prior to this meeting. She will be stepping down as County Coordinator. She advised that Blandy has offered our organization the opportunity of managing a community garden at their location. Portion of food grown will be donated. Each year the interns could be involved, and field trips could be given here. Mary will ask for a description of what is being offered: We have a couple of months to decide to accept this offer.

Frederick: Emily Wickham reported that a computer class will be offered to Master Gardeners which will cover search engines, e-mail, and VMS. Ten students have signed up: five for Frederick, four for Shenandoah, and one for Warren. Another class will be held if there's interest. Greenline being monitored from home by Elizabeth Bevan. Over 200 contacts were made this year. An appreciation holiday dinner is scheduled for December 11 which will include Santa Claus. Frederick County is considering a brown-bag lunch during the week which will include a 45-minute presentation. In April they will be participating in Girl Scout Badge Day.

Page: Charles Newton reported that there is a person who will be transferring into their county's group.

Shenandoah: The Greenline will be staffed through the winter by Greenline leaders. The county worked with over 200 kids this year, and nine members worked with the rain garden. There will be one more fall cleanup. They made 210 contacts at the Woodstock Farmers Market which has been very successful. The Strasburg Farmers Market was only held twice. At the VCE 100th anniversary, five members worked, and they made 11 contacts. The weather interfered with a good turnout. At the Shenandoah Co. Fair, 150 contacts were made; and 90 contacts were made at Arbor Fest. A final fall meeting will be held November 20. Carolyn will be stepping down as the County Coordinator.

Warren: Frank Baxter announced that on December 6 a presentation touting the MG organization will be held at the Samuel's Library in Front Royal. A panel of MG members will be enlightening the

public about the organization and publicizing the 2015 MG class that will be held in that county. Cy Haley reported that 100 people throughout all five counties have shown interest in the 2015 MG class, and all have been contacted. Out of those 100, 36 are still interested, and an application was sent to each. A meet and greet for registration night will be on December 11 at 6 p.m. at Warren County Community Center. The class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 10, 2015, through May 12, 2015. The goal is for 25 students to attend. The first meeting for Garden Fest will be held late January or early February. A reminder was given for members while they're decorating for Christmas to set aside items for Second Hand Rose.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Certificates for New MGs: Sandra Himmelright and Elaine Specht are now officially members of Master Gardeners.

New Badges for New MGs: Elena Lycas and Cindy Walsh.

Emeritus MG: Shelby Hadeler received her certificate in October.

VCE Liaison's Report: Mark Sutphin thanked everyone for a wonderful year. He also read the following regarding Frederick County Extension Office's outstanding volunteer, Lynn Hoffmann:

Though Lynn Hoffmann is a resident of West Virginia, she has faithfully served the Frederick County community as a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteer for 13 years. She completed the initial MG training in 2001 and since then has been a pillar among the Northern Shenandoah Valley MGs. In the absence of the horticulture agent, Lynn reached out to the FCS and 4-H agents and staff to not only continue programs but to begin new educational opportunities. One of our signature programs, the home school session of the Junior Master Gardeners was organized and lead by Lynn. She has continued to lead this effort for 5 years. Also in her 13 years of service, Lynn has spearheaded Extension learning opportunities at the gardens and grounds of historic Belle Grove in Middletown, VA; she has lead the annual GardenFest educational festival hosted by the NSVMGs at Belle Grove; for many years she organized and planned the annual Garden in the Valley Symposium, a full day educational workshop held at Shenandoah University; and Lynn has served in numerous other leadership rolls within the NSVMGA. Lynn Hoffmann is a wonderful volunteer, and I am proud to name her as the Virginia Cooperative Extension - Frederick County 2014 outstanding volunteer.

Old Business

The 2014 Board members were recognized for their contributions and leadership:

Bob Carlton, President; Ginny Smith, Vice President; Suzanne Boag, Secretary; and Lee Demko, Treasurer.

The county coordinators were recognized: Emily Wickham, Frederick County; Elke Thomas, Lesley and Tom Mack, Page County; and Katherine Rindt, Warren County. Also, Carolyn Wilson will be stepping down as Shenandoah County coordinator. Her accomplishments, including 5,000 volunteer hours, were recognized by the membership. Helen Lake presented the following tribute written by Sarah Kohrs to honor Carolyn's contributions to Master Gardeners:

A twentieth century American writer, Henry Miller, once said, "dedication is not what others expect of you, it is what you can give to others." Carolyn Wilson, having accumulated over 5,000 volunteer hours from her involvement in the Master Gardener program from 1997 to 2013, epitomizes the dedicated volunteer. Throughout this time, Carolyn served as Volunteer Coordinator for nearly 4 years and is heading into her sixth year as the Shenandoah County Coordinator. For eight years, Carolyn has managed the plant sales at NSVMGA's annual Gardenfest, which is one of the major fundraisers for the organization. She has helped with Blandy Arboretum's Arborfest and Garden Fair; hosted Master Gardener meetings at her house and provided tours of her wonderful gardens; and is quick to share her divided plants with others. In a typical year, Carolyn raps about veggies with elementary-aged children during the summer 4-H program or devotes Saturday mornings to answering garden-related questions at a local farmer's market; pulls weeds and maintains a local rain garden or coordinates volunteers for her county's MG-related events; replies to myriad questions via the county's Greenline, a free e-mail based service for community members with garden-related questions for Master Gardeners, or helps set up displays at the county fair. Carolyn proves herself truly active in making a positive difference not only in the Master Gardening program, but also in her community.

Sharon Bradshaw will be the new Shenandoah Co. coordinator. Mary Craig will also be stepping down as Clarke County coordinator. Ginny Smith will replace her at that position. She will continue to be the photographer, our historian, and Membership chair.

Cy Haley will be stepping down from the Board. Mark Sutphin was presented with a gift certificate to Joe's Steakhouse for his contributions and support.

Belle Grove will be decorated on December 9.

Raffle tickets were distributed, and winners chosen to receive planters created by Susan Garrett.

New Business

2015 Budget: The 2015 Budget was presented (reflecting 15 students for next year's class). **Rich Howell made a motion to accept the budget as presented, and Charles Newton seconded it. Membership voted to accept the budget** (a quorum was present).

NSVMGA 2015 Proposed Budget 8/20/2014

INCOME	budget 2014	actual 2014	proposed 2015
total dues (107 members/16 interns) 123	1935	1865	1865
MG class tuition (15 students)	4400	3600	3300
Symposium	4800	3470	6000
Gardenfest	500	1690	2500
Total	11,635	10,625	13,665
EXPENSE			
Property purchases (permanent items)	200	0	400
MG class (16)	4400	2820	3300
CE programs (speaker fees @ Assn meetings)	500	350	350
VC travel	250	250	250
Publicity/Education materials (brochures/bookmarks, etc)	1500	1118	1500
Administration & VCE leadership	500	50	400
Donations/awards/gifts	500	286	500
Newsletter/web	50	0	50
Memorial Scholarship Fund (ends 2015)	0	900	1100
MG Ongoing (scholarship, BOD, VC)	750	500	750
Big Pathway to Discovery Pledge (ends 2015)	250	250	250
County Projects ($200/county)	1000	185	1000
Jr. MGs Homeschoolers/T shirts/supplies/graduation	1000	320	1000
Surety Bond Insurance		170	170
College & High School scholarships		1400	2000
Miscellaneous contingency	250	795	1000
Total	11,150	9,394	14,020

Gardenfest & Symposium are NET INCOME and, therefore, are not included as expense.

Amendment Guidelines for Reimbursal: Cy Haley made a motion to accept the guidelines as presented, and Lee Demko seconded it. Membership (quorum present) voted to accept the guidelines.

2015 Board: Susan Garret, President; Vice President, Karen Brill; Treasurer, Lee Demko; and Secretary, Kris Behrends. **Frank Baxter made a motion to accept the nominations, and Rich Howell seconded to accept the nominations. Membership voted to accept the nominations submitted (quorum present).**

Adjournment

Frank Baxter made a motion to adjourn, Rich Howell seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Behrends

Secretary, NSVMGA

NSVMGA ATTENDANCE

November 16, 2014

Frank Baxter (A)

Kris Behrends (A)

Elizabeth Bevan (A)

Suzanne Boag (A)

Sharon Bradshaw (A)

Karen Bill (A)

Joy Brunk (I)

Dawn Buehler (I)

Marsha Burd (A)

Bob Carlton (A)

Mary Carlton (H)

Laurie Cocina (A)

Mary Craig (A)

Claire DeMasi (A)

Lee Demko (A)

Donna Funk-Smith (A)

Susan Garrett (A)

Lynda Hale (A)

Sally Hale (A)

Cynthia Haley (A)

Larry Haun (A)

Sandra Himmelright (A)

Pam Hough (A)

Rich Howell (A)

Angie Hutchinson (A)

Janet Keithley (A)

Helen Lake (A)

June Newcomb (A)

Charles Newton (A)

Belinda Palmer (A)

Carol Pittillo (A)

Brenda Powell (A)

Ginny Reed (A)

Katherine Rindt (A)

Ginny Smith (A)

Stacey Smith (A)

Richard Stromberg (A)

Elke Thomas (A)

Cyndi Walsh (A)

Emily Wickham (A)

Carolyn Wilson (A)

Mark Sutphin

Total Active Members = 87

Active Members Present = 38

Quorum = 21