



# Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

## Board Meeting Minutes March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Attendees:** Hope Preston, Dan McDonald, Marilyn Berti, Lisa Barnhart Sue Ryburn and others Deb Hansen (via Zoom), Steve Kister by Zoom Mary Hewitt

**Absent:** Harriet Ottaviano

**Meeting called to order:** By Hope Preston, President at 9 am

TOPIC: PRESENTER(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION/DECISION
<b>BOARD REPORTS</b>		
<i>Chapter Relations</i> Terry Wagoner	Nominations made for Holly Beare, and Bruce Bartlett as <i>Master Gardener of Note</i> for March. Terry reviewed descriptions of these Annual Awards- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State MG of Year, State and County Level</li> <li>• Master Gardener Behind Scenes, State and County Level</li> <li>• Special Acts Making a Difference, County Level</li> <li>• Longevity Award</li> <li>• Retiring Board Members,</li> <li>• Volunteers recognized in April</li> <li>• Growing and Belonging</li> </ul>	Nominations will be sent to Steve for <i>Chapter Chat</i> .  Board members asked to review criteria for nominations. Plan on making nominations at April Board Meeting
<i>Treasurer</i> Connie Kirby	<b>Monthly Reports:</b> Statement of Activity: Financial Position February marked the end of receipt of dues income. Connie discussed the transition in changing banks.	
<i>Programs</i> Marilyn Berti	<b>Program Director's Report</b> found in Document2 <i>Home Plate</i> program in transition. <i>Hortlandia</i> : Volunteer sign up completed. Discussed statement to use at beginning of public events to identify our WCMGA at public presentations. May Speaker of Month- Food Hero topic.	Will monitor status of Home Plate Program.
<i>Communications</i> Steve Kister	Continues to publish <i>Chapter Chat</i> each month.	
<i>Fundraising</i> Lisa Barnhart	Continued progress in planning <i>GardenFest</i> . Plan for delivery of plants to customers' vehicles during <i>GardenFest</i> , is being developed.	
<i>Publicity</i> Harriet Ottaviano	All materials are submitted. Flyers and postcards for <i>GardenFest</i> are being distributed. Reminder to advise Harriet when adding contacts.	

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<i>Business</i> Dan McDonald	Received updated insurance policy and invoice. increase in insurance by Scheduling audit for 2024.	Sue Ryburn moved to increase the line item amount for insurance by \$758. Seconded by Hope and approved by Board.
<i>Vice President</i> Sue Ryburn	No report	
OMGA Deb Hansen	<p>Report from March OMGA meeting .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members mailing addresses being removed from website;</li> <li>• Joy of Gardening July 12-13, Speakers are announced.</li> <li>• Advocacy Committee is working.</li> <li>• MG Association rules to review.</li> <li>• “Spirit sticks” Each county association requested to create and send these to display at conference.</li> <li>• Request for \$350 donation to OMGA auction.</li> </ul>	Deb will research status of Update to Bylaws. Contribute to 4-H auction by providing a plant or certificate for GardenFest. Approved donation of Auction item to OMGA- Terry suggested a value of \$75.00. Terry will obtain the item to donate.Cash donation will be \$275.00.
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b> Joint Updates;Presentations with MCMGA-Tracking Program Activity Bank Change	<p>The Monthly Speaker Committee will collaborate with Multnomah County MG Speaker Program. Will cross publicize speakers utilized by Mult Co and Wash Co November meeting- may wish to reschedule, as it is currently scheduled for Election Night.</p> <p>Tracking Program is running. Bank Change: completing transition to On Point for chapter banking.</p>	Marilyn will ask MSC to reschedule the November Speaker.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b> Beaverton Night Market; Website review;Volunteer Opportunity Fair, April 21st	<p>Beaverton Night Market on August 17th- There is a possibility to have a table. Website review will be rescheduled. Volunteer Opportunity Fair-will involve 2024 interns who will be invited to become involved in Wash Co. MG programs.</p>	Hope will follow up. Hope to follow up with Amy Espinoza.
Bank Change	The Board reviewed and approved the Bank Home Proposal, via e mail. Refer to Document 1.	

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**UPCOMING**

Mar 16<sup>th</sup> 10-12 Raising Mason Bees PCC RC  
 Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-8:30 Chapter Mtg - Vegetable Underground  
 Apr 6<sup>th</sup> 10-12 Lawn Be Gone PCC RC

**Meeting adjourned: am**

Next Board Meeting: April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Extension Office  
Next Chapter Program & Meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Presentation by Darren Morgan: *The Vegetable Underground: A Guide to Growing Root Crops*. Meeting follows. Webinar on Zoom.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Mary Hewitt, Recording Secretary

**Approved by:** Hope Preston, WCMGA Chapter President



**Washington County Master Gardener™ Association**

**Addendum**

**DOCUMENT 1**

February 26, 2024

To: WCMGA Board of Directors  
 From: Hope Preston, Connie Kirby, Marilynn Turner  
 Subject: WCMGA New Banking Home Proposal

Proposal: We are asking the WCMGA Board to approve our proposal to move the checking and savings accounts for the Association from our current home at Wells Fargo to OnPoint Community Credit Union, due to their superior customer service and investment products. We recommend doing this in a two-step process in which some money is moved to initially to initiate and stabilize the

business relationship with OnPoint. Once all transactions are reconciled at Wells Fargo, the remainder of funds there will be transferred to OnPoint.

### Action Required

By Friday, March 1, 2024, please read and consider the following information and address any questions or comments you have to one or all of us

By Monday, March 4, 2024, please vote by email “yes” or “no” to the proposal to change financial institutions from Wells Fargo Bank to OnPoint Community Credit Union.

### Rationale:

The three of us met and determined that, of the several credit unions recommended by the Board, the top two most likely candidates were OnPoint and Unitus. We also identified our banking needs in the following categories:

- A broad array of online and electronic banking services consistent with or exceeding those currently offered by Wells Fargo.
- Access to a dedicated account representative that would maintain a familiarity with our business and be available when problems arise.
- Provide credit cards to provide additional options for payments to vendors and help relieve out-of-pocket subsidies by members.
- Be committed to serving non-profits and provide attractive investment opportunities to them.

We scheduled meetings with business specialists at each of these banks located in the Cedar Hills Shopping Center and met with them as a team on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. A follow-up meeting was conducted with OnPoint senior management on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Following are the results of those interviews:

### Online/Electronic Banking Services

Both institutions provide a full suite of online banking services, including online deposit, bill pay, etc. Each is compatible with the usual money transfer services such as PayPal, Square, Venmo, etc. OnPoint committed a team member to assist with developing services tailored to our needs, for example, dues and revenue collection.

### Dedicated Account Representative

At Unitus, the business specialist we were scheduled to meet with was out ill, so we met with another banker who was inexperienced with business accounts. He explained that they did not assign Account Representatives but that someone would always be available to help us.

At OnPoint, we initially met with their Business Member Specialist at the Cedar Hills Bank. He indicated he would be our account representative. He also mentioned a new high yield savings product for non-profits due to come out but had few details on it. We followed up with OnPoint’s Vice President of Commercial Banking and met with him and his specialists in non-profit banking to discuss new investment products (see Investment Products below). They described their process of setting up a banking team for us,

led by OnPoint's Business Member Specialist at the Cedar Hills branch and including OnPoint's non-profit product manager and their online/product specialist. We were very impressed by their initiative to provide personalized service and assist in our community outreach goals.

### Credit Cards

Both institutions provide credit cards with an annual fee of \$25 per card. OnPoint requires additional verification from OMGA concerning the financial independence of WCMGA and the authorization of the officers.

### Investment Products

Unitus offers two attractive products: money market accounts, savings accounts, and CDs. Each are paying 1.98% currently, but the savings account is completely liquid, thus allowing us to comfortably deposit all our savings. We were less comfortable investing all of our savings in a CD, hence the savings account was the more attractive option.

OnPoint has a few business savings accounts for which we qualify, offering up to 0.35% and CD rates were not competitive. However, the Commercial Banking team (see Dedicated Account Representative) said that OnPoint is planning on coming out with a Savings Reward Bundle for non-profits that will offer a rate based on the Federal Funds Rate minus 25 points, which currently equals about 5%. This account would be both liquid and insured. He speculated that this product would become available in a couple of months. The bundle will include checking and savings.

Fees were negligible at both institutions.

Document 2

## **WCMGA Program Director Update, March 8, 2024**

### **1. Monthly Speaker Committee:**

- The March Chapter Meeting webinar attendance: 74 adults for Arron Anderson's presentation: **Conserving Invertebrates at Home** including 53 MGs who stayed for the meeting.
- WCMGA and MCMGA representatives met on February 19 and concluded that there was much value to be gained by collaborating over speaker and topic selections and sharing our processes but that we did not want to reduce the number of web presentations so will continue with our ten and MCMG will decide how many they will continue. The two monthly speaker committees will collaborate in planning for 2025.

### **2. Chapter Gardens:**

Both gardens:

- began well attended In the Garden Series classes in February.
- firmed up their two-hour Intern workshops for 2024 for a total of 5, plus 2 sessions on melon grafting by Srijana Shrestha at PCC
- are planning installation and signage for their JYTrust grant funded Dark Sky light monitors.
- have now adopted the “missing child” procedures of their respective landowning organizations (PCC and THPRD)

The Learning Garden did an in-service session on sharpening and cleaning garden tools and the Ed Garden had a weed burner demonstration and practice session on March 6.

### 3. **Community Collaboration, Education and Outreach:**

- The **Home Plate** team met with HP program staff on March 6 to learn about planned HP program changes and anticipate resuming bi-weekly garden education lessons in April which will include G
- **Grow 1 Give 1:** Peppers have been started and tomato seeds start this month. The project is setting up six delivery sites for 2024
- **Hortlandia 2024** is on for April 5 & 6. *Should we offer to pay for admission and parking for MGs who staff our table? (Parking is \$10 and admission is \$5 = about \$90)*
- **OSU Extension’s Grow This** will again provide 2023 seed packets for our use. Home Plate has received seeds already from this program. Varieties are the same as last year but reportedly fewer in number. The chapter order has not arrived yet.

### 4. **Chapter Program Operations:**

- **Chapter Activity Tracking:** Forms and the policy are on the member portal page and the forms are in use. A March Chapter Chat article announced the new process and links to the forms.
- **The MG 2024 Volunteer Opportunities** list is ready to add to the member portal page.
- **Chapter public facing presentations:** Susan Albright is working on a master template for these, including a couple of opening slides on OSU Ext and the MG program that we’ll also need blown up and printed for outdoor presentations.
- **OSU Extension Metro MG 2024 Volunteer Activity Proposal** is now available for chapter activity leads to use for proposed new activities.  
[2024 OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Volunteer Activity Proposal](#). The report form is not yet accessible.

### 5. **New opportunities:**

- **Growing Gardens** is in WA county and a resource for school, home and community gardens. It is also on our list of possible 2025 presenters/speakers

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness of Washington County (NAMI)** Marilyn and Amy met with program staff and toured the garden area on 2/13 and plan to provide a *Let's Talk Plants* table with activity on April 22nd with a focus on container gardening, vegetables, and pollinators.
- **Soil pH testing** is under consideration as an additional outreach tool and public service. Minoo Sweet, a chemist before she became a MG, is looking into recommended methods and testing the meter purchased pre COVID which may now be obsolete.
- **Food Hero materials:** Marilyn is exploring whether we should print copies of the most popular Food Hero Tips pages (English and Spanish) for tabling events, etc. The 2023 Food Hero Calendar is not printed for 2024 but can be downloaded online. (And Leann Locher, of MG and Food Hero, will be our May monthly speaker.)
- We also have **new requests from schools** to deliver a presentation on PNW Native plants, Mason Bees and reestablish a school garden (referring to Growing Gardens as well).