

Washington County Master Gardener Association
Meeting of the Board
August 14, 2026

Present: Hope Preston, Mary Hewitt, Connie Kirby, Larina Hoffbeck, Nicole Dwigans, Lisa Barnhart, Mary Oakes, Stephanie Engle, and Deb Hansen.

Absent: Tera Ramsey, Andrea Flint.

1. **Final Report from Grow 1, Give 1:** Leslie Ray, Marilyn Berti, and Dan McDonald attended the meeting to provide an update and report on the 2026 G1G1 program. This is the fifth year of the program, with continued growth year over year. The MG volunteers who support the program attended 17 distribution events at 8 locations and had 2 community drop off sites.

Highlights of the presentation:

- A volunteer coordinator for the program is instrumental to staying organized;
- This is a complex program which will require a limit to be set (at the 2026 level) and future focus on limited income populations in Washington County;
- The program will continue to look for ways to increase number of volunteers who participate in the program.

For 2027 and beyond the following are considerations:

- Work with Seed to Supper by providing plants;
- Review and consider the number and variety of plants given;
- Keep the strategic team of two co-leads and a volunteer coordinator;
- Develop a kit to help other counties with a similar initiative;
- Continue to supply growers with seeds and planting medium; and
- Come up with a storage solution. [Note: this is a larger Chapter issue that will be worked on at the Board level.]

2. **Chapter Relations / Mary Hewitt:** Nominations for MG of Note for September are Larry Schick and Allyn Kirnak. A Behind the Scenes award will be presented to Connie Kirby at the fall social on September 26.

The Awards work group met on August 3 to draft an updated Awards Policy that reflects the recent changes to the statewide program and clarifies the schedule for awards.

3. **Treasurer / Connie Kirby:** Budget requests for 2027 have been received. The Budget Committee will meet today following the Board meeting.

4. **Programs / Larina Hoffbeck**: A meeting to discuss 2027 speakers will be on September 1. There are currently eight to review. If anyone has any suggestions, please send to Larina.
5. **Communications / Nicole Dwigans**: Communications and Publicity are working together to improve communications of all WCMGA activities, both member and public. Ideas will be shared at a future meeting.
6. **Fundraising / Lisa Barnhart**: Terry Wagner has inquired about an online book sale. This would require the creation of a new web store. Discussion followed about how this would function.
7. **Publicity / Mary Oakes**: Currently, WCMGA information is sent to more than 80 entities that are on the list. Mary is learning more about Mail Chimp as a method to distribution information in a different format.
8. **Business / Stephanie Engle**: The Records Retention work will get picked up now that summer is nearly over. Progress has been made with getting documents filed in the RR OneDrive account.
9. **Vice President / Hope Preston**: Recruitment continues for Fundraising, Programs, and Treasurer. There is a potential candidate list that has been shared.
10. **OMGA / Deb Hansen**: Currently quiet. OMGA is looking for a Treasurer.
11. **Washington County Service District Update / Hope Preston**: A committee has formed behind the scenes and there are weekly meetings. These are chaired by someone involved with 4-H. The Washington County Commissioners are supportive of the initiative. The estimated cost to the taxpayer will be \$0.01 per \$10,000 of home value.

Discussion about education vs advocacy in our roles as OSU Master Gardeners. MGs cannot advocate for the service district when working in an official capacity, e.g. tabling events. Talking points will be developed to assist MGs in the community when engaging with the public.

A Political Action Committee (PAC) is being formed. They would welcome a donation from the Chapter. As a 501c3 organization, we may not be allowed to make such a donation. We need to understand this issue better so that we can make an informed decision.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 9 to 11 am, at the Washington County Extension Office. Current agenda items include: 2027 Draft Budget, WCMGA Awards Program.

Approved by Hope President, WCMGA President, on August 31, 2026.