

UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County
Executive Board Retreat Minutes
Oct 23, 2020 Started at 9:15 am – Adjourned 1:15 pm
Meeting held in person, with masks and distancing, at Lake Wildwood Clubhouse

Board Members present: Denise Ronalter, Sylvia Wright, Dawn Bateman, Peggy Slyker, Kathy Southern, Stephanie Wagner, Lisa Moody, Margaret Ervin, Judie Tartaglia, Pam Montgomery. Also: Kevin Marini
Board Members absent: Connie Suddath • Members present: none

Retreat led by Denise Ronalter

Kevin Marini – Year recap

- VMS Hours – Continuing issue, as always, to get members to record their hours. Interesting that Demo Garden used to be our largest category for member hours but now it's #3. Now #1 is Sales/Fundraising and #2 is Public Education (mostly Workshops; also County Fair). [Handouts]

- COVID-19 Volunteerism Results – 58 NCMG members responded to statewide June survey (about half) and generally aligned with statewide results. Key takeaway: 70.7% respondents were willing to work at (UC and county-approved) Demo Garden maintenance activities [Handout]

Member involvement -- Tart

How to get people engaged again, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation?
Discussion:

- Have phoned people to ask how they can be helped. Want to redo with more detail and data reported back.
- Dawn: More fun at gen mtgs.
- Kevin: Placer does "Get to Know" feature at each meeting, with prepared answers to 10 questions about one MG
- Tech: One MG mistakenly thought Zoom cost \$. Add tech coaching
- Kevin: Placer did a survey and found: Zoom fatigue – too long – 15 to 20 minutes is enough
- Denise: Study groups – used to have at people's homes, with snacks and a predetermined topic; could do now in person small groups, and/or Zoom

- MG garden tours
- Short virtual workshops – especially engage people who don't do full-length workshops
- Pamela: Just meeting at Demo Garden and talking is restorative
- On VMS, should increase the info about MGs' interests and skills
- Garden Buddies – renew those relationships
- Dangling carrots” – offer rewards for participation – seed packets, gift cards, etc

Action items and leads:

- Survey Phase 2: Denise w Kevin
- Gen Mtg refreshing: Dawn
- Study groups: Dawn will recruit a leader
- Tech coaching: Sylvia – send email offering 1 to 1 support for VMS, Zoom, forthcoming

NCMG private website – Denise

Kevin demo'd the Placer site – it is password protected.

What elements should our site include? Discussion:

Organizational (Denise):

- Job descriptions
- Announcements
- Documents
- Bylaws
- Meeting minutes
- Photo library
- Gen Mtg recordings

Finance (Margaret):

- Garden Guide
- Plant Sale

Garden projects (Lisa):

- Demo Garden raised-beds “owners”
- List of garden section project leads and resources locations – e.g., irrigation binder is in Cottage Shed
- Incident report form

Treasurer (Kathy)

- Check request form
- Revenue form
- UC reimbursement form
- Annual budget, quarterly updates

Public Communications (Stephanie)

- Publicity form – for events
- Publicity fliers

Continuing Education (Dawn)

- Articles
- Resource links to
 - CNPS
 - UCANR IPM
 - Our own Facebook Group -- let's convert the Class of 2019 group page to an all- NCMG page
 - Gen Mtg program presentations
- List of member expertise

Workshops:

- UC slide and document templates – PowerPoint, Word
- Evaluation form
- Summaries and metrics (number attended live and online workshops; number views of recordings online)
- PowerPoint presentations
- Handouts
- Workshop calendar
- Workshop slideshows

Secretary (Sylvia)

- Minutes

Q&A (Pam)

- Info booths at events
- Timelines
- Instructions & contacts

Member support (Tart)

- Roster
- Buddies list
- Trowel & Error issues
- Photos – probably a 3rd party app
 - Plant sale plants
 - Events
 - Historian photos
- Study group notes

Plan execution:

- Who is lead?
 - Format – PDF only (all original Ppts, Word docs, etc. will remain archived on VMS)
 - Naming conventions
 - Version control – updates on schedule
-

Workshops -- Sylvia

Intro by Denise: Connie is stepping down as Workshops project lead and has recommended Sylvia Wright as her successor. Sylvia accepted.

Discussions:

Workshop objectives

- Provide research-based education to the public
- Educate
- Inspire
- Support sustainable gardening practices
- Teach the local annual garden cycle
- Teach food production
- Introduce something new, e.g. good bugs; dark side of herbicide/pesticide use
- Provide interactive experiences -- do vs. hear -- especially for younger gardeners

Workshop topic ideas

- Plant clinic / Plant Roadshow -- Quarterly w demos of disorders, natives, Demo Garden tours
 - Houseplants
 - First-time gardeners -- live Q&A (not recorded)
 - New Foothills gardeners
 - Gardening with kids
 - Softwood propagation
 - Soil testing
 - Critter management beyond deer
-

Using email addresses collected from public contacts -- Stephanie

- Stephanie reported that Placer MGs have a "Join Our Email List" link on their webpage (*not currently activated*) and that NCMGs are exploring adding the link to our webpage.
- Placer MGs advise that there is a Chair and a Co-Chair.
- Will explore in more detail.