

## **Minutes for RAMGA Board Meeting**

January 8, 2025

### **Officers Present:**

Co-Presidents: Vicki Hall - absent  
Jan Smith  
Co-Vice Presidents: Bugs Utsey  
Laurie Bassi  
Co-Secretaries: Shana Shutler  
Barbara Walker  
Co-Treasurers: Karen Lyons  
Natalie Garvis-absent  
Co-VMGA Representatives: Anita Tuttle  
Karen Carleton - absent

**Members Present:** Peggy Agnor, Bob Kovach, Marybeth Sharkey, Phyllis Fevrier, Tamara Teaff, Mackenzie Brooks

**Call to Order:** 5:30

**Treasurer's Report:** Proposed budget will be emailed out to members. An auditor for the 2024 books is needed. Asking Patti Jansen and Carla Zorn suggested.

### **Discussion:**

**Better Impact Hours:** Kudos to Bob Kovach on keeping us all straight. A member with no internet now has hours up to date, and one member confused by what is an approved project has been contacted by Bob. All who have not earned 20 volunteer hours in 2024 are now off the rolls. **Travel time does count for CE hours now.**

**Risk Management Requirement Video:** Instructions will be sent out to membership; required every three years.

**First Aid Kit for Projects:** Jan noted VCE procedures for emergencies; we need a kit to have on hand for projects. We can include OTC meds for stings; they are easy to assemble or just get on Amazon.

**Donations to Organizations:** Karen Lyons proposed we might consider donating to organizations whose mission aligns with ours and who don't make money from selling merchandise. Blue Ridge PRISM and seed bank efforts were mentioned.

**Community Giving Back Campaign:** It was clarified that we do not need the budget approved before we issue publicity for the application submissions. After the budget goes out to members and is approved we can proceed with giving money (\$1500 allocated).

**VCE's Focus of the Year:** Sustaining ourselves by growing food. We need VCE-certified folks to teach if we do programming. Phyllis Fevrier is attending the Virginia Biological Farming Conference this weekend and can note some good speakers. Jim Kvach's garden for the food pantry is on Tom Stanley's desk for approval to become a RAMGA project. Upcoming programs are trying to align with that theme— mushrooms in March, and Jill Alvarado's program on tomatoes in April.

**VMGA Meeting Here in August:** Jen Coluzzi and Anita Tuttle leading. Planning 50 folks, a welcome brunch and meeting from 10:00-12:00, and the more the better of the host chapter (us) attending. Boxed lunches available. They'll need help with setup by 9am, and finger food and pastries provided by RAMGA members. Dunlap Auditorium as a venue is optimal. RAMGA only handles the cost of Dunlap, and possibly fronts the lunches, VMGA does the rest. Waddell School Garden is a possible tour following the program. Jackson Garden was discussed but that might interfere with busy weekend tourists.

**Communications Team:** Project leaders send pictures to Mackenzie Brooks, Mary Katherine Lawrence, Tamara Teaff. E-blast information goes to Diane McLain-Skillicom, Tamara, and Jenny Childress. Education ideas to Tamara and Denise Merideth. Newsletter items to Tamara. The new team will be mentioned in the newsletter. Faith Vosburgh still doing formatting even though she's emeritus. Mackenzie asked that original content goes in Drive so they are easier to format; she's offered to organize Drive as well, synching access with current members.

**Class Training:** RAMGA Brunch on January 25 to meet the 12 trainees. Brunch reminder sent out to Project Leaders; RSVP goes to Laurie Bassi and Bugs Utsey. Shana Shutler and Catherine Campbell organizing lab assistant program with Peggy. Zoom review for assistants and observers January 27.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana Shutler and Barbara Walker