

WNF&GA National Meeting 2016

June 1-5, 2016

Minutes

Friday, June 3, 2016 – Embassy Suites Nashville – Vanderbilt

I. Call to Order

President Molly Hammerle called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

II. Invocation

Advisor Julia Siefker offered the invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Carole Bodner of the Troy Garden Club and Springfield Branch of the Michigan Division led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

IV. Welcome/Reading of Standing Rules

Molly Hammerle welcomed the members to the meeting. She directed members to the standing rules that are included in the meeting packet on page 64. They may be amended or rescinded by a two thirds vote of the voting members present. (Article IX on page 68). A quorum is constituted by the presence of a majority of voting members at the national meeting.

V. Roll Call

Recording Secretary Kathleen Welsh Beveridge called the roll.

VI. Quorum

A quorum was present at this meeting.

VII. Approval of 2015 Meeting Minutes

Molly Hammerle directed members to the minutes from 2015 national meeting and asked for corrections.

On page 7, 5th paragraph, second line, the word “shoe” will be changed to “show.” Paragraph 8 second line on page 7, “national project to plan” will be changed to “plant.”

On pages 11 and 15, the spelling of Karin Bickle’s name will be changed from an “e” to an “i”.

There were no additional corrections or additions to the minutes from the 2015 national meeting. Molly directed that the minutes be placed on file as amended.

VIII. Administrative and Operating Treasurer’s Report/Budget

Treasurer Lenore Treba presented the budget. There were no questions. The Executive Committee has approved the budget and it does not require a motion or vote. Molly directed that the budget be placed on file.

Lenore presented the A&O Treasurer’s report for 2016 YTD (four months) on page 20. Sue Vette of Troy Branch asked about the increase of ACWW budget from \$700 to \$1000. Lenore explained that we increased the budgeted amount to \$1000 per year by vote in 2015 because the costs of attending an international meeting are higher. Molly Hammerle clarified that the meeting takes place every three years. We put aside \$1,000 each year to have \$3,000 total for the triennial meeting when it takes place. Budget balances roll forward if not spent. If the

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President or her designee attends the triennial meeting, they will receive up to \$3,000 and must account for their expenditures.

Sheila Kneeshaw of Indian Village branch asked about the procedure for being considered to go to the ACWW triennial meeting in place of the President. Sheila requested that a procedure be developed for determining who will attend the international meeting to ensure that the process appears to be fair. President Elect Rita Urbanski clarified that we are working on a procedure for determining who will go to the ACWW triennial. This will come up in the Saturday session of the national meeting when we discuss a new vision for the Grace E. Frysinger Exchange. A committee has been working on this transition for the past two years. Leaders of the committee will present their recommendation to establish an international chair to oversee the project and have that person go to the ACWW meeting rather than the President to ensure that we have the connections needed to oversee a successful Frysinger project. This transition will lead to procedures that will eventually be included in the standing rules.

Carol Leonard of the Romeo & Juliet Branch of the Michigan Division pointed out that anyone can pay their way and go to the ACWW meeting. WNF&GA has only one vote. However, the Michigan Division belongs separately from the National organization and has a different type of membership. They have several votes. If others from Michigan choose to attend the triennial meeting, they may be able to vote. However, they must also be an individual member of ACWW. Sue Vette suggested we may need to change the reference in the budget from "president's expenses" to something more generic in the future. Molly Hammerle and Lenore Treba agreed and Lenore suggested that this designation will change in a subsequent budget if we vote on a change to the Frysinger Exchange later in the national meeting.

Lenore Treba presented the statement of restricted funds on page 22 of the meeting packet. These funds can only be used as they were designated by the donor. They include Angel Fund, Pennies for Friendship, Bess Mueller Meeting Fund, and Grace Frysinger Fellowship. In response to questions about the Bess Mueller accounts, Lenore clarified that there are two Bess Mueller funds, one on the Administrative and Operating side for podium flowers for the national meeting and one on the Education and Charitable Fund side for flower shows.

Karin Bickle of Rochester Branch asked for clarification of the Bess Mueller Administrative and Operating funds and whether they could be used for podium flowers and flowers for the tables at the national meeting. Molly clarified that the Education and Charitable Fund money can only be used for the judges' school and flower show.

Kathy Welsh Beveridge read from the minutes of the Executive Committee: The Bess Mueller funds held for Administrative and Operating is specifically for meeting flowers. The funds held for Educational and Charitable Fund is specifically for judge's school tuition costs or other educational activities to include the flowers shows and other supplies that go with these activities. Rita Urbanski pointed out that this explanation appears in the standing rules, page 65, Article 3, #6.

Pat Kaple from Dooryard Garden Branch in Ohio asked about the difference of \$14,000 for the Administrative and Operating Bess Mueller Fund and \$400 for the Education and Charitable Fund Bess Mueller Fund. She asked how we might release the \$14,000 from restriction so that it can be useful to the organization. Molly Hammerle explained that it has been 20 years or more since we've had the activities within our organization to use the money for judge's schools. Julie Siefker explained that we can't release money from restriction unless we can contact the donors or their descendants to ask permission. Many of our donors are deceased and we cannot find contact information for their families, so there is nothing we can do. We cannot move funds

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between the two sides of the Bess Mueller account because of the different tax status of the two accounts which relates to how the money can be used.

Karin Bickle recommended that we table this discussion until another time in the meeting. Molly Hammerle agreed we can discuss this further under new business.

Regarding the Angel Fund (p.68 section C), it can be given to a member in good standing only one time during membership, to help her attend the National Meeting for the first time. It may also be used to help if cost overruns are encountered at the National Meeting. Information about the purpose of the Angel Fund was included in the magazine and is on the website. Pat Kaple requested that WNF&GA include a place on the registration form to check off if this is your first national meeting so that we will know who qualifies to receive the Angel Fund. Molly directed that the Administrative and Operating Treasurer's report be placed on file.

IX. Education and Charitable Fund Treasurer's Report/Budget

Susan Hunt, Education and Charitable Fund Treasurer, Member at Large, presented the Education and Charitable Fund budget on page 23 and the Education and Charitable Fund treasurer's report on page 25. The term "donations" refers to money we receive from donors and "contributions" refers to money we give out to recipients of scholarships.

Mary Pat Ford, Vice President, asked why Schlesinger was given \$500 in June last year and in April of this year. Molly Hammerle clarified that our fiscal year runs from January – December – so it was only given once each year. Last year we changed the 2015 budget at the national meeting to increase Schlesinger funding to \$500. This year, we budgeted \$500 for Schlesinger. Susan Hunt talked about recent changes to the Tyson Scholarship. There was concern about the account we have in Mellon Bank. Their fees amount to about one quarter of the interest we receive each year. We looked at other options and found that Mellon was comparable. The Executive Committee has decided that the Tyson Trust will remain with Mellon Bank.

Molly Hammerle directed that the Education and Charitable Fund budget and treasurer's report be placed on file as submitted.

X. Committee Chair Reports

Molly Hammerle called on Emmajane Brice, Director of Charitable Affairs and a member of Lapeer Wildflowers Branch, for a report on Charitable Affairs. She indicated that Carol Leonard would give the report on the Plate Fund – page 43. We decided years ago to send this money to Student Conservation Association. Letters from the students are included in the packet. They seem to be doing a great job and supporting the worthy cause of the national parks. Fran Ralstrom asked if the students apply for the awards. Carol explained that students do apply and qualify for internships. Susan Hunt explained that it is open to students from across the country. Susan Hunt presented a check for \$1,500 for this purpose this year.

Susan Hunt reported on the Schlesinger Library. We send new materials to the WNF&GA collection at the Schlesinger every year.

Susan Hunt reported on the Tyson Scholarship. They gave a scholarship of \$3,000 to a student at St. Mary of the Woods in Ohio. There is a report in the meeting packet on page 49.

Susan Hunt reported on the Warren Sanders McNaughton Oceanographic Scholarship. It was presented to a young man who also received it in the past. There is a report in the packet on page 51.

XI. Two recommendations from the Executive Committee

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The Executive Committee recommends that any money raised from the silent auction on Saturday, June 4th be used to support the National Arboretum intern.

Helen Jositas of the Rochester Branch, Michigan Division, asked what it was used for in the past. Molly explained that it was used for the website. Funds are not needed for the website this year. We change the purpose of the silent auction proceeds from year to year. The need is greatest for the Arboretum Internship this year. We don't generate enough interest on our investments to fund the internship. We are likely to be at least \$1,000 short this year.

Susan Chambers called the question. Molly Hammerle asked for a vote on this question. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Executive Committee recommends that WNF&GA suspend, for one year, Article 5, section 2B of the bylaws that requires the VP to be a member of the executive board or a chair, director or leader of a national committee for two years prior to taking that office.

Molly Hammerle explained that the VP will have four years of experience before becoming President. If we suspend this portion of the bylaws for one year, the Executive Committee will move forward to change this portion of the bylaws permanently after proper notice is given prior to the 2017 National Meeting. The alternative is that the VP slot could remain open for this year and the President could appoint someone to serve as meeting planner.

Robin Heller of the Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden Branch, suggested we try to resolve the underlying issue of the lack of qualified candidates in the pool. She also indicated that making exceptions to the bylaws is not a good idea and may be a slippery slope. She wants the organization to try to fill more positions of committee chairs so that we have more viable candidates for these higher national offices.

Rita Urbanski explained that she would love to have more people involved in national offices and chair positions. She asked people who want more involvement to talk to her and she will find a place for everyone who is interested. An eight year commitment is difficult to fill. We have been challenged in the past to fill these positions. Several vice presidents have resigned and there aren't enough people to climb the ladder.

Mary Pat Ford explained that she as magazine editor has learned a lot about national. She believes we need to go with the people who say they are willing to serve and they will learn and gain the necessary experience as they go.

Molly Hammerle gave the group a few minutes to discuss the question among themselves. She recalled the meeting to order and asked if there were additional questions. Molly Hammerle asked for all in favor of the recommendation from the Executive Committee to say "aye." Julie Siefker called for a written vote. Sheila Kneeshaw and Mary Lynne Moellering served as tellers.

The motion passed by a greater than two-thirds majority.

XII. Announcements

Kathy Welsh Beveridge provided meeting announcements.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

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Saturday, June 4, 2016 – Embassy Suites Nashville – Vanderbilt

I. Call to Order

President Molly Hammerle called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

II. Invocation

Advisor Julia Siefker offered the invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Janet Leingang of the Dooryard Garden Branch led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Kathleen Welsh Beveridge called the roll. There was a quorum present.

V. National Awards

Pat Brown presented a report on national awards. There were awards for Horticultural Therapy, class C to the Trenton Branch – first place, class C to the Rochester Branch – first place, and class C to the Ann Arbor Branch – first place. An award for flower shows was presented in class B to the Tri-County Branch of the New York Division.

VI. Scholarship Reports

Susan Hunt presented info on the Warren Saunders McNaughton Oceanographic Scholarship. A boy received \$1,500 again this year. Susan asked for a volunteer to take over the scholarship.

The Horticulture Therapy Scholarship was not given out this year. The Executive Committee decided to wait for that scholarship to build equity so the amount of the distribution will be more meaningful.

Emmajane Brice reported on the Hazel Herring Award for Geri Howard who was not present at the meeting. Two grants have been awarded. One was for the Milford Garden Club for a community service project for the Milford Senior Center to redo the gardens and replace the retaining wall. They received \$1,500 for their project. The second award goes to the Troy Garden Club of Michigan Division to landscape a portion of the grounds at the Troy Historical Society at the township building. They also will receive \$1,500. Karol Carter came forward to receive the award on behalf of her branch.

VII. Frysinger Committee Report

President Elect Rita Urbanski reported that the Frysinger Special Committee including herself, Julia Siefker, Audrey Ehrler, Kathy Beveridge, Kay Englehart, Sylvia Anderson, and Bea Peterson, worked for two years to discern how to adjust the Frysinger International Fellowship to make it appropriate for the current day. She summarized the history of the Frysinger Exchange – a

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WNF&GA member would go to another country for one month exchanging ideas and meeting women from that country and a member of that country's ACWW organization would come to the United States for a month and meet our members. A few years ago it was decided that the exchange was very costly, safety in traveling was a factor, and it wasn't accomplishing the intent of the Frysinger Exchange. The program was put on hold until we could work out what appropriate alternative activity would be better for our organization.

The committee recommends that we work through ACWW to fund an international project where they do the screening and monitoring of the project. The international chairperson will monitor the project for WNF&GA and provide information to the membership about the status and impact of the project

The Frysinger Special Committee recommends that we change the name and scope of the Grace E. Frysinger International Fellowship to the Grace E. Frysinger International Project.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Frysinger Special Committee recommends that we allow all funds donated to the Grace E. Frysinger International Fellowship to now be used in support of the Frysinger International Project.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Rita Urbanski presented four potential international projects provided by ACWW for the membership to vote on (page 35 in the packet). Projects can be funded in total or in part. The International Coordinator will monitor the project and report on the project as it progresses.

We have \$8,300 in the Frysinger Fund at present. We may begin with a project that we fund at the \$5,500 level. Branches may wish to contribute to future projects. If that doesn't happen, we can spend down the money and end the Frysinger International Project. Information about the project will be on the website and in the magazine to try to engage the members.

Members voted on their top two priorities among the four options presented. The first choice was project B, second choice was project C, and third choice – if both B and C were not available then Project A.

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PROJECT B: A Brief Description

Country: South Africa

Project: Solar Pump for the Completions of Project 0980- Yenzanathi Community Up
Upliftment Project.

The plan is to purchase and install a solar pump and two solar panels to address this problem (inadequacy of hand pump). The FWI's and their expert advisors are confident that with this type of pump, it will be possible to ensure a regular water supply so that vegetables can be grown in the Yenzanathi community gardens on an ongoing basis.

VIII. Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The Executive Committee recommends that Section 5. A. 8 be deleted from the President's duties and moved to the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary.

All were opposed to the proposed change. The motion failed.

The Executive Committee recommends that Section 5.E.4 be changed to include the following additional duties to the role of Corresponding Secretary: "Act as website monitor for all electronic correspondence to/from the national website. The Secretary will approve postings to the website, and working with the website manager, will provide a copy of the correspondence forwarded to the appropriate individuals."

Louise Shoksnnyder asked for an amendment to the wording. She moved to strike the second sentence that says "The Secretary will approve postings to the website."

The new motion was repeated: Act as website monitor for all electronic correspondence to/from the national website and working with the website manager, will provide a copy of the correspondence forwarded to the appropriate individuals.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Executive Committee recommends that a change be made to the duties of the A&O Treasurer so that Section 5.F.11 be changed to say that she must "Recommend to the Executive Committee an auditor/CPA to review the records at the end of each term of office, prior to the transfer of records to the succeeding elected officer."

There was discussion about whether the review should take place at the end of the fiscal year or at the time (perhaps mid-year) when a new person takes over the office and the books change hands. It was suggested that we put a procedure into the standing rules to have the books reviewed by the Finance Committee every year. This would not require a bylaws change.

There was further discussion about the use of the words "end of a term of office" because it would mean that this would happen every two years. It was also commented that six years would be too long to go without an audit.

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Someone recommended deleting “at the end of each term of office.” However, no amendment was offered. **The question was called. Molly took a verbal vote. It was too close to call. A vote by show of hands showed 29 in favor and 13 opposed. There were two abstentions. The motion carried.**

The Executive Committee recommends that a change be made to Section 5.F.12 to say “Working with the Finance Chairman, submit to the Association a financial report of the review.” All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Executive Committee recommends that the duties of the Education and Charitable Fund Treasurer be changed so that Section 5.G.9 will say “Recommend to the Executive Committee an auditor/CPA to review the records at the end of each term of office prior to the transfer of records to the succeeding elected officer.”

Also, Section 5.G.10 will say “Working with the Finance Chairman, submit to the Association a financial report of the review.”

Also, Section 5.G.11 will say “Responsible for all IRS filings for these accounts.”

These are all additions to the bylaws as written.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

President Elect Rita Urbanski proposed a change to the standing rules under section 3E, that the finance committee will conduct a review of the books of both the A&O and the E&C at the end of each fiscal year.

Karin Bickle seconded the motion.

Robin Heller offered a friendly amendment to say “except in the year that a professional audit or review is conducted.”

The motion reads: “The finance committee will conduct a review of the books of both the A&O and the E&C at the end of each fiscal year except in the year that a professional audit or review is conducted.”

The majority was in favor of the motion and it carried.

IX. There was no unfinished business.

Robin Heller recommended that we reconsider the motion to suspend the bylaws to remove the qualifications for Vice President. Mary Bertolini seconded the motion.

There was some discussion. Karin Bickle called the question.

There was a majority who declined to reconsider the motion. The motion failed.

There was a recommendation that we review the bylaws before the next national meeting.

X. Report of the Nominating Committee

Julie Siefker presented the slate that was recommended by the Nominating Committee:

- President – Rita Urbanski (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)
- President Elect – Mary Pat Ford (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)
- Vice President – Mary Schwark (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)

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- Recording Secretary – Fran Ralstrom (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)
- Corresponding Secretary – Audrey Ehrler (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)
- Administrative and Operating Treasurer – Lenore Treba (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)
- Education and Charitable Treasurer – Kathy Beveridge (there were no nominations from the floor – nominations closed)

Julie Siefker asked the nominees whether they accept the nomination. They all did. Julie formally placed the above slate of officers before the membership gathered at the 2016 WNF&GA National Meeting in Nashville and recommended that membership vote for them.

The vote was called. All were in favor and the motion carried.

XI. New Business

Sue Vette moved to appoint a committee to redo the standing rules for floral arts. Rita Urbanski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

The minutes were recorded by Kathy Welsh Beveridge
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association
Recording Secretary