

# WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2020

### Remote Locations

#### **I Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Pat Ford, Ambler Keystone Branch, PA.

#### **II Invocation**

The invocation was given by Phyllis Macke, Dooryard Garden Branch, OH.

#### **III Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Davene Brown, Tri-County Branch, NY.

#### **IV Quorum**

- A. A quorum was reached with 65 attendees plus the panel members.
- B. Pat Weitzman, a Member-at-Large (MAL) from Illinois, joined the meeting.

#### **V Approval of Minutes from 2019 National Meeting**

There were no questions, corrections or changes to the minutes. The minutes will be filed as submitted.

#### **VI Administrative and Operations Treasurer-Lenore Treba, Troy Garden Club, MI**

- A. Lenore presented the approved 2020 budget. It will be filed as submitted.
- B. Lenore presented the 2019 Statement of Income & Expenses report. There was a question as to why there was an Annual Meeting deficit. The explanation was that too many rooms were guaranteed for the number of attendees. The report will be filed as submitted.
- C. Lenore presented the January 1 to April 30, 2020 report. The report will be filed as submitted.

#### **VII Education & Charitable Treasurer-Kathy Welsh Beveridge, Bucks County Branch, PA**

- A. Kathy presented the approved 2020 budget. The report will be filed as submitted.
- B. Kathy presented the December 31, 2019 report. The report will be filed as submitted.
- C. Kathy presented the January 1 to April 30, 2020 report. The report will be filed as submitted.

#### **VIII Finance Committee Report-Mary Lynne Moellering, Rochester Branch, MI**

Mary Lynne reported that a professional review is required when both treasurers will be changing. The A&O review has been completed. The E&C review will be completed soon.

#### **IX National Registrar Report-Cheryl Malin, Waterford Branch and Pontiac Branch, MI**

- A. Cheryl reported that the WNF&GA has 1479 members.
- B. Cheryl encouraged members to receive their national magazines by email. Contact her at: **cmalin09@gmail.com** to let her know that you would like to receive your magazine by email only.

#### **X Bylaws and Standing Rules Changes - presented by Rita Urbanski, advisor and member-at-large, and by Fran Ralstrom, Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden, MI**

## PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES 2020

Rita Urbanski stated: As with most nonprofit organizations, it is becoming more difficult to get members to step up into leadership roles. It involves time, talents and energy they don't feel they have or want to give. In order to compensate for this change in the attitude of people today, the board feels it is time to streamline the slate of officers by eliminating the office of President-elect. We feel that a candidate for President with at least two years' experience on the board, preferably as Vice President, or as a National Director or Chair, would have the ability to handle the position with the support of the remaining board.

In order to accomplish that change, it is necessary to eliminate the description of the office of President-elect from the bylaws. Also, every bylaw with this office stated in it must be changed. The following proposed changes will accomplish this.

1. **Currently:**

**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**Section 1: Officers** The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-elect, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, an Accounting and Operating treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the A&O Treasurer, and an Educational and Charitable Fund Treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the E&C Treasurer.

2. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**

**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS -**

**Section 1: Officers** The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, an Accounting and Operating Treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the A&O Treasurer and an Educational and Charitable Fund Treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the E&C Treasurer.

3. **Currently:**

**Section 2: Qualifications** A candidate for elected office shall have been a member in good standing for two years. A candidate for the office of President or President-elect shall have served on the National Executive Committee, or as a director, or as a chair of a National Committee for at least 2 years.

4. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**

**Section 2: Qualifications** A candidate for elected office shall have been a member in good standing for two years. A candidate for the office of President shall have served on the National Executive Committee, or as a Director, or as a chair(person) of a National Committee, for at least 2 years.

5. **Currently:**

**Section 4: Vacancy in Elected Office**

A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the President-elect. An officer who has served more than half a term in an office is considered to have served a full term. Any other vacancy in elected office shall be filled by vote of the Council. Previous notice of any election shall be included in the call to the meeting. Vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the Council, as stated in Article X, Section 2.

6. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**

**Section 4: Vacancy in Elected Office**

A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President. An officer who has served more than half a term in an office is considered to have served a full term. Any other vacancy in elected office shall be filled by vote of the Council. Previous notice of any election shall be included in the call to the meeting. Vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the Council, as stated in Article X, Section 2.

7. **Currently:**

**Section 5: Duties of officers B. President-elect:**

1. Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee;
2. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President;
3. Succeed to the office of President for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy in that office;
4. Assume other duties assigned to the office by the bylaws, the standing rules, the President and the Council.

- 8. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**  
Eliminate B. 1, 2, 3, 4 completely.
- 9. **Currently:**  
**C. Vice President:**
  - 1. Serve as Planner for any National Meeting called by the Executive Committee or Council.
  - 2. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and the President-elect.
  - 3. Assume other duties assigned to the office by the Bylaws, the Standing Rules, the President and the Council.

- 10. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**  
**C. Vice-President:**
  - 1. Serve as Planner for any National Meeting called by the Executive Committee or Council.
  - 2. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
  - 3. Assume other duties assigned to the office by the Bylaws, the Standing Rules, the President and the Council.

- 11. **Currently:**  
**ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Section 1: Composition**
  - A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-elect, the Vice President, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Administrative and Operations (A&O) Treasurer, the Educational and Charitable Fund (E&C) Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President, who acts as Advisor to the Committee.

- 12. **Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**  
**ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Section 1: Composition**
  - A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Administrative and Operations (A&O) Treasurer, the Educational and Charitable Fund (E&C) Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President, who acts as Advisor to the Committee.

- 13. **Currently:**  
**ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES**  
Committees B. The Finance Chairman shall be appointed by the President. The Finance Committee shall be composed of the President, President-elect, Vice President, A&O Treasurer, E&C Treasurer and the Finance Chairman.

- Change: VOTED ON & PASSED.**  
**ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES**  
**Section 1: Committees**
  - A. The Finance Chairman shall be appointed by the President. The Finance Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, A&O Treasurer, E&C Treasurer and the Finance Chairman.

**PROPOSED STANDING RULES CHANGES 2020**

- Currently:**  
**III. Finance Committee:**
  - A. Composed of the Finance Chairperson, President, President-elect, Vice President, and the two Treasurers.

- Change:**  
**III. Finance Committee: VOTED ON & PASSED.**
  - B. Composed of the Finance Chairperson, President, Vice President, and the two Treasurers.

**Currently:**

**V. National Meeting:**

- C. A. Executive Committee determines the location of the National Meetings based upon the following criteria:
  - 1. Hotel with an adequate number of guest room and meeting space to accommodate the Executive Committee, Council Members and general membership based on past attendance.
  - 2. Dining facilities on site.
  - 3. Proximity to transportation.
  - 4. Touring attractions in the area.
- B. Meeting Planner negotiates contract with the facility.
- C. President reviews and signs all contracts.
- D. Meeting Planner finalizes:
  - 1. Catering needs.
  - 2. Tour schedules and transportation to tour sites.
  - 3. Registration fees based on meeting room rental, catering and tour costs, plus 15% for incidentals, divided by the anticipated number of attendees.
  - 4. Posts registration form on the web site & magazine.
  - 5. Assigns Meeting Registrar.
  - 6. Secures reports from Officers, Directors, Division Presidents, Single Branch Presidents and others as directed by the President.
  - 7. Sends reports to Corresponding Secretary for copying.
  - 8. Prints name tags and fills information packets for attendees.
  - 9. Attends to details during the meeting as necessary.
- E. Presents written report to the Executive Committee and A&O Treasurer within 6 (six) weeks of the conclusion of the meeting.

**Change C: VOTED ON & PASSED.**

The Executive Committee reviews all contracts over \$1000.00. Meeting planner negotiates any needed changes. Once approved by the Executive Committee, the president signs all contracts.

**Change E: VOTED ON & PASSED.**

The A & O Treasurer presents a written report of the meeting's finances to the Executive Committee within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the meeting.

**XI Virtual Tour**

A virtual tour of the Louisville Waterfront Gardens was followed by a meeting break during which a PowerPoint of past meetings was presented.

**XII National Awards - Pat Brown, Warren Garden Club, MI**

Pat presented the following awards:

**A. Outstanding Flower Show** - Tri-County Branch, NY, was accepted by Joanna Prouty.

The 2020 show has been postponed until 2021 and the theme will be "Romancing the Stone."

**B. Visionary Award** - Kathy Welsh Beveridge

**XIII Charitable Affairs –**

Karol Carter, Troy Garden Club, MI

**SCHOLARSHIPS ~ FELLOWSHIPS ~ INTERNSHIPS ~ SPONSORSHIPS**

**Francis Plate Bequest:** Chairperson – Cindy Nuss, Ambler Keystone Branch, PA

Funded - \$2,000.00

Awarded - \$2,000.00 donation to Student Conservation Association.

**Sarah Bradley Tyson Fellowship:**

Chairperson – Cindy Nuss; Co-trustees – Louise Shoksynder, Rochester Branch, MI & Davene Brown, Tri-County Branch, NY

Funded - \$4,000.00

Awarded - \$4,000.00 to Eliza Nobles, accepted to University of Pennsylvania's Master of City Planning program. Her focus will be in Urban Design and Ecology.

**Warren Sanders McNaughton Oceanographic Scholarship:**

Chairperson – Leslie Morris-Smith, Ambler Keystone Branch, PA

Funded - \$1,000.00

Awarded - \$1,000.00 to Rae Taylor-Burns, PhD Student in Ocean Sciences at University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. Her studies hope to quantify the economic benefits of flood protection provided by coastal marsh habitat in the San Francisco Bay.

**Burlingame/Gerrity Horticultural Therapy Scholarship:**

Chairperson – JoAnn Preston, Troy Garden Club Branch, MI

Funded - \$500.00 (No applications received in 2020.)

**Renaud-Peterson U.S. National Arboretum Internship:** Chairperson – Audrey Ehrler, Tri-County Branch, NY

Awarded - \$7,300.00

**WNF&GA Temple University Ambler Campus Internship:**

Chairperson – Mary Pat Ford

Funded - \$2,000.00

Awarded - \$2,000.00

**Schlesinger Library Sponsorship:** Liaison – Carole Jackson Dilley (Mrs. James E.)

\$500.00 given for storage of WNF&GA documents.

**Bess Mueller Fund:** Chairperson – Nancy Matthews, Ambler Keystone Branch, PA

Funded - \$1,000.00

Awarded - \$300.00 to Tri-County Branch, NY

**Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant:** Chairperson – Gerry Howard, Pontiac Br., MI

Funded - \$3,000.00

Awarded - \$2,810.00 to Pennsylvania Ambler-Keystone branch.

**Frysiner International Project Fund:** Chairperson – Kay Engelhart, Saginaw Branch, MI

Funded - \$2,000

Awarded - \$2,000

#### **XIV Frysinger International Project Description - Kay Engelhart**

Kay presented a Power Point outlining the 6 potential projects for us to help fund. After the PowerPoint, the projects were voted on, with # 5 receiving the most votes. Below are the project areas and the percent of votes each project received.

#1 supports literacy and education (9%)

#2 supports family welfare, food safety and first aid (13%)

#3 supports agricultural training (19%)

#4 supports business training (2%)

#5 supports access to water and sustainable water, sanitation and energy (38%)

#6 promotes breastfeeding, sexual and reproductive rights (19%)

#### **XV New Business**

**C.** Nomination of the slate of officers was made by Advisor Rita Urbanski.

**D.** Election of the slate of officers – The slate was elected unanimously.

#### **XVI Adjournment of the business meeting**

President Mary Pat Ford adjourned the meeting after extending thanks to the current board members and to everyone who attended the first-ever virtual National Meeting. She extended a special thanks to the many behind-the-scene members who helped make the meeting a success: Kathy Welsh Beveridge, Jo Ambrose, Leslie Morris-Smith, Mary Pat Ford and Rita Urbanski.

#### **XVII Post adjournment**

Following adjournment of the business meeting, the new slate of officers was presented and installed by Rita Urbanski. Mary Schwark made remarks as new president.

Thank you very much to the new 2020-2022 officers:

**WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN  
2020-2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT:** Mary Schwark – 367 Ferndale Ave., Birmingham, MI 48009  
(H) 248-593-6182 (C) 248-765-4809 Email: schwark@aol.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Patty Burnside – 11640 W. Freeland Rd., Freeland, MI 48623  
(C) 989-284-3455 Email: pb@chartermi.net

**E&C TREASURER:** Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski – 416 Gwynedd Valley Dr., Lower  
Gwynedd, PA 19002 (C) 215-740-7264 Email: suzgarden416@gmail.com

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Christine Partch – 36 Dorlon Drive,  
Queensbury, NY 12804 (C) 802-345-5599 Email: christine.partch@gmail.com

**A&O TREASURER:** Mary Lynne Moellering – 1280 Seville Rd., Rochester Hills, MI  
48309 (H) 248-651-7005 Email: emlmoellering@gmail.com

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Phyllis Macke – 128 Cherry Ridge Run, Ottawa, OH  
OH, 45875 (C) 419-969-0210 Email: pjmacke@gmail.com Ottawa OH 45875

**ADVISOR:** Mary Pat Ford – 1322 Kirks Lane, Dresher, PA 19025 215-237-3983  
Email: mpf6@hotmail.com

Following the installation of officers there was an opportunity to visit virtually with  
other members.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:  
Fran Ralstrom

WNF&GA Recording Secretary 2018-2020

Approved at 2021 Annual Meeting