

1-b Meg opened the Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm September 22, 2023. In attendance were: Meg, Sandy, Mo, John Julie, Michelle, Kate and Joan. Tracy joined later. Guests: Sam, Roberta Frank, Jeannett Zeman, Ray Iturraide, Teresa Harner and Madeline (Maddie) Gurney. Madeline is the new Family and Consumer Sciences/Extension 4H agent.

2-a Jeannett Zeman volunteered to make certificates for the new Master Gardeners. Michelle Witte is planning a top-secret gift for the Life Time Members. Question about 5 and 10 year pins for members, and discussion about listing them in the newsletter instead with a bio/blurb about their contributions. More information was requested about the request for funds for the carpentry workshop. The request for gifting the Master Gardener course to the videographer, Chris and spouse was agreed upon. They will pay the \$25 dues, NMSU will gift their portion, and SEMG will also gift their portion.

2-b Rachel is traveling.

3-a The Saint Francis Episcopal Church has been reserved for the 11/18 graduation. Set up starts at noon, with arrival expected at 1:00. A \$100 donation to the church was agreed upon. Lisa Miller is to create a sign-up sheet. Plans are to include a Carne/Burrito tray from Pereas, with master gardeners bringing the rest. Families are invited to this event.

Seeking Master Gardening Mentors for the 2024 class. Linda Walsh will be reaching out. Goal is 20 Mentors and 5 teams and 40 interns, up to 8 interns per team.

Meg demonstrated the section of the website with the projects listed, one has a video already. These are to be shared in Mentor intern meetings to introduce them to the projects.

3-b Sandy Liakus stated that there were over 60 volunteers at the Placitas Garden Tour. Thirty-five to forty of them are Master Gardeners. Four-fold pamphlet was popular, a transferee from Wyoming is interested in joining. They are also looking for volunteers to help with landscaping the fairgrounds in conjunction with 4 H. Also seeking volunteers for outreach for not yet approved projects.

3-c Nancy Rutland and Polly Garner are planning a committee to work on member retention. Kate stated that the Membership Policy Document was updated. Dues will be payable at the end of the year.

3-d Website updates were reviewed. Questions about the "Ask an Expert" graphic to be possibly changed or updating the graphic. PayPal button to be activated. There was a request to include the zoom link for the AC meetings into the meetings calendar.

Update from State advisory, Julie thanked Sandy for her 8/14 report at the meeting, and reported what other groups around the state were doing. Looking for a better system to report volunteer hours. Lynda Garvin is looking for a full year's bank statements so that NMSU Fiscal folks can take care of taxes. A grant is, or has been rewritten to allow for volunteer /Master Gardeners to work one on one with cancer survivors to help with garden mentoring. Training will be available.

Michelle reminded us of the 11/4 Seed Swap. Venue TBD.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Ellis 9/14. 2023

2023 SEMG Awards

New Life Members

Polly Garner

Sandy Liakus

Donna Popp

Anne Telez

Sam Thompson

John Zarola

SEMG's With 10-Years Service

Janet Blair

Sandra Farley

Annette Glore

Ginger Golden

Deborah Goss

Carol Groppell

Janet Longhurst

Patricia Mehlhop

Cindy Ramotnik

Charlene Spiegel

Christine Tade

SEMG's With 5 Years Service

Maureen Casey

Carl Covin

Cassandra D'Antonio

Gilbert Galvan

Gerard J. Kaye

James M. Peters

Julie Rohr

Peggy Schey

Nowanna Wanzer