

Memphis Area Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 5, 2026

Start Time: 4:32 p.m.

End Time: 6:05 p.m.

Location: Agriculture Meeting Room

Board Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Rick Clayton	President
Jan Dickey	Vice President
Cindy Smith	Treasurer
LeAnn Drewry	Vice Treasurer
Paula Pilgrim	Recording Secretary
Barbara Hodges	Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl Lockhart	Ten Plus Director
Debbie Hill	Senior Director
Ricky Clarke	Junior Director
Terry Merriweather	Past President
*Absent	

Guests Present: Dr. Chris Cooper, Jan Orick, Christina Clapsadle

Presiding Chair: Rick Clayton, President

Minutes: Paula Pilgrim, Corresponding Secretary

A. Call to Order: Rick Clayton called the meeting to order.

B. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the January 8, 2026, meeting were approved as published.

C. Extension Report and Announcements: Jan Orick noted that the membership meetings in February and March will be held in the Agricenter Auditorium. She reminded that parking and access should be from the north side of the building. She also reported that the 2026 intern class missed only one day of class due to the winter weather.

Dr. Cooper announced that his time as coordinator of the Master Gardeners will end after the Intern class completes their classroom work in April. He has served in this position for 18 years. He will continue in his role as Shelby County Director. Jessica Maestas will become the new Master Gardener Coordinator.

D. President: Rick reported that the co-chairs of Oaklawn Garden are resigning as of February 22, 2026. Lynn Petry is seeking volunteers to fill these positions.

- E. Vice President:** Jan Dickey reported that Jill Maybry of Memphis Botanic Garden will speak at the February 12th membership meeting. She will speak about “Building a Tropical Forest in West Tennessee”. Jan noted that securing speakers for membership meetings is becoming more difficult. Options for filling this need were discussed including the possibility of looking to members for teaching or demonstrations.
- F. Treasurer:** Cindy Smith presented the financial report in an updated, more legible format. This format will be used at membership meetings going forward for greater clarity.
- G. Recording Secretary:** no report
- H. Corresponding Secretary:** Barbara Hodges noted that several obituaries have been published. She has addressed condolences and sent cards to members who have been ill or have ongoing challenges.
- I. Directors:** No report.
- J. Committee Reports:**

Day of Education: Jan Dickey, chair, reported that 190 tickets have been sold. Registration closes on February 9, 2026.

Finance: LeAnn Drewry, chair, requested that directors ask their constituents for interest in serving on the Finance committee. Jan Dickey reported that a grant request was received. The request was reviewed and was found not to align with the educational mission of MAMG. The board voted to decline the grant request, and recommended that grants be removed from the budget document since no funds have been allocated to that line item.

K. New Business:

*Ricky Clarke expressed interest in exploring ways to generate revenue for MAMG. Presently Spring Fling is the only fund raiser. Options were discussed including a plant sale through Proven Winners. This is currently being planned.

*Concerns were expressed regarding the accessibility of the website. After discussion the board requested that a member of the website committee be available at each board meeting.

*Dr. Cooper recommended that the board consider the need for a public relations chairperson.

Adjournment: Rick Clayton, President, declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: March 5, 2026