

Memphis Area Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday ,September 3, 2026

Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

End Time: 6:05 p.m.

Location: Germantown Community Library 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 Hodgess	Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl Lockhart	Ten Plus Director
*Debbie Hill	Senior Director
Ricky Clarke	Junior Director
Terry Merriweather	Past President
* Board member not present	

Others Present: Jessica Maestas- Master Gardener Coordinator, Christina Clapsadle-parliamentarian

Presiding Chair: Rick Clayton, President

Minutes: Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary

- A. Call to order:** Rick Clayton called the meeting to order.
- B. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from August 6, 2026, board meeting were approved, as published.
- C. Extension Report and Announcements:** Jessica Maestas requested that the board consider the use of Sign-Up Genius in lieu of paper sign-up sheets that require maintenance in the extension office. After brief discussion LeAnn Drewry volunteered to research options and report to the board at the next meeting.

Ms. Maestas also inquired how to update members most efficiently on MAMG matters outside of member meetings. It was determined that each director would be contacted to update their constituents.

She also asked that members be instructed to park in the parking lot by the Auditorium at the next membership meeting due to clean up efforts after the Delta Fair.

- D. President:** Rick Clayton notified the Board that Sharman Murley has been appointed Chair of the Horticulture Committee, Cathy Bellehumeur as Chair of the Finance Committee, and Rick Clayton as Chair of the Tomato Contest Committee.

- E. **Vice President:** Jan Dickey reported that the next member meeting is September 17 in Agricenter Banquet Room C. Speakers will be Michelle and Scot Cowan, owners of Spirit Hill Nursery. They will speak about and demonstrate grafting of Japanese maples. Jan reminded that the MAMG Indoor Picnic is October 8 at Bartlett United Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, centerpieces, and food donations.

She stated that 3-4 committee chairs will attend Board meetings on a rotating basis to update about their activities.

She also informed the board that a large donation of seeds and all seed-starting supplies have been donated by Lowes. Plans are underway to have a clinic for members so that these may be used most effectively. A substantial portion of the donation is earmarked for education of the public.

- F. **Recording Secretary:** No report
- G. **Corresponding Secretary:** Barbara Hodges reported that a memorial was sent upon the passing of Cornelia Swain. A sympathy card was sent to Missy Williams upon the passing of her brother-in-law.
- H. **Directors:** No report
- I. **Treasurer:** Cindy Smith presented the financial report.
- J. **Vice Treasurer:** LeAnn Drewry reminded that budgeting for 2027 will begin shortly. The stream-lined process will be presented at the Membership meeting.
- K. **Committee Reports:**
- a. **TOGG Committee:** Tom Rieman, Chair, reported that the garden selections for 2027 belong to Rita Carreira, Jan Carrier, Callie English-Bolyard, and Linda Pittman. In collaboration with Experience Memphis, June 5, 2027, has been selected for the event.
 - b. **Community Newsletter Project:** Tom Rieman, Chair, reported that the monthly newsletter discusses gardening activities for the month. Volunteers are needed to write articles. These could also be used as Speaker's Bureau presentations. He suggested that hours spent on preparation could be submitted to earn CORE volunteer hours.
 - c. **Speakers Bureau:** Laurie Rieman, Chair, reported that there are 24 active speakers with an average outreach of 200-500 people quarterly. Topics are listed on the public website. Additional volunteers are needed.
 - d. **Youth Education Committee:** Debbie Grist-Evans, Chair, discussed projects they conduct including Junior Master Gardener Camp, Spring Fling kids' events, Earth Day, and Scouting events to name a few. The committee is heavily involved with outreach to schools, suggesting educational projects, and sharing gardening education materials.

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

Next Board Meeting: October 1, 2026