

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

PLEDGE TO FLAG – John Higginbotham led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS – Chip Durham, Kaylee Doucet, Jerry Farmer, Cheryl Herbster, Ron Herbster, Harriet Jackson

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the September 2023 minutes were emailed to the membership and were posted on the CCMGA website. There were no corrections or changes so the minutes stand as posted.

FINANCES – Lyn Webb reported the September financial status below:

September 2023

Beginning Balance		\$ 9767.78
Ending Balance		\$ 9626.95
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Total Deposits		\$ 30.00
Total Withdrawals		\$ 159.85
Total Checks		\$ 10.98
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Checks Outstanding		\$ 0.00
Total Outstanding		\$ 0.00
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Net Balance Checking		\$ 9,626.95
Cash Box Reserve		\$100.00
Small Business CD	\$8,231.74	
Interest Paid on CD	\$ 43.27	
Current CD		\$8,275.01
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Total		\$18,001.96

INTRODUCTION OF NEW REA – Jerry Farmer introduced our new Regional Extension Agent, Jacob Turner. Jacob, who is originally from Tennessee and is an Auburn University graduate, holds the position of REA and his program areas include Home Grounds, Gardens and Home Pests. Jacob’s position covers the counties of Bibb, Calhoun, Chilton, Cleburne, Shelby, and Talladega with his main office being in Talladega. Jacob can be reached at jzt0048@aces.edu and his office number is 205.362.6187.

PROGRAM – This month’s guest speaker, Mr. Dennis Pinkard, was introduced by Vice President Leslie Durham. Mr. Pinkard is a Lee County Master Gardener and presented on the topic of Snake Awareness. Combining his gardening experience and his desire to do no harm to snakes, his crusade focuses on how to be a friend, not foe to *Serpentes*. Mr. Pinkard provided a slide presentation with visual support on topics such as *Snake Myths* (no, snakes do not chase you), *How to Minimize Snake Encounters* (keep your hands and feet out of areas you cannot see; keep debris picked up), and *What to Do When Encountering a Snake* (give a wide berth; leave it alone). Using photographs to assist with distinguishing snakes, Mr. Pinkard showed examples of both Alabama non-venomous snakes (Black Racer, Gray Rat Snake, Ringneck Snake) and venomous snakes (Timber Rattlesnake, Copperhead, Cotton Mouth/Water Moccasin). Mr. Pinkard ended his presentation answering several member questions and encouraged joining Facebook membership to Snakes of Alabama and Alabama Snake Identification.

CHAIR YOGA – During the intermission between our speaker and the business meeting, our own MG and Certified Yoga Instructor, Betsy Smith, lead the group in exercises she encouraged all to consider daily. Betsy shared the three ways to stretch the back . . . forward & backward, side to side, and twisting. She also encouraged members to “think about doing” these exercises and the importance of flexibility, balance, and posture. Thanks, Betsy, for a great break!

DEMO GARDEN/EXTENSION OFFICE/REC CENTER – Trisha Williams/Jerry Farmer. Trisha reminded members of the bi-weekly Monday workdays at the DG and Extension Office and encouraged attendance. Trisha also shared that the beds at the Extension Office were being overhauled. Work the previous day included replacing yellow Iris with other colors, replacing Rosemary, adding St. John’s Wort and Illicium, and removing Gardenia. Jerry Farmer reminded the membership that the CCMGA is provided use of the Clanton Recreation facility at no cost. However, membership participation in the landscape watering is our return in gratitude. Please contact Pat Farmer or Amy Baker if you can assist with the watering.

HOSPITALITY – If you would like to help provide refreshments for the November membership meeting, please contact Judy Cobb (jdycobb@gail.com).

MG HELPLINE – CCMGA assistance with the MG Helpline is a volunteer opportunity on Fridays 9:00am until noon. You can sign up by logging in at the Service Report site (<https://www.acesagmg.site/>) and clicking on the Helpline Calendar tab to see needed shift coverage.

BUTTERFLY BRIDGE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER – Leslie Durham. Sharing again the CAC’s mission to offer a safe, child-friendly environment to children victimized by abuse or neglect, Leslie updated the membership on the recently completed Phase I and soon to begin Phase II of the Sensory Garden. Leslie also shared that the CCMGA’s Board had approved a \$250 donation from our budgeted Community Service line item.

MEMBERSHIP DUES – Trisha Williams. Payment options for AMGA and CCMGA dues were reviewed and collected by Trisha. Payments will be collected at our next membership meeting (Tuesday, November 14, 2023). Membership forms can be downloaded at: <https://rb.gy/qrrpe>.

SHADE BUILDING – Jerry Farmer/Hugh Nichols. Jerry and Hugh updated the membership on the purpose and status of the Shade Building that is planned for construction at the Demonstration Garden. With the CAWACO

grant awarding \$5000 toward the projected need of \$6000, adjustments in supplies were made and President Farmer asked the association to cover the remaining \$600 needed for completion. Hugh Nichols made a motion that the association cover the balance and Harriet Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a show of hands. Jerry further communicated that this project will require a lead individual and asked members to consider.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Jerry Farmer. Members of the Nominating Committee (Pat Farmer, Joan Barber, Diane Clapp, Jane Rabey) will be seeking to fill positions for the upcoming year. Please contact one of them if you have an interest or have any questions.

OPEN DISCUSSION

VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING – Trisha Williams. The site and process for reporting MG volunteer hours is changing. Trisha will send an email regarding two ZOOM opportunities to review these changes (to be effective Jan 1, 2024). Additionally, included in the email will be an opportunity to watch the ZOOM meeting from the Extension Office.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE RECONSIDERATION – Trisha Williams/Lanell Baker. In consideration of her retail experience, Trisha Williams asked Lanell Baker to share her thoughts on when to schedule the plant sale. Lanell shared that bedding plants and vegetable starts sell best around Easter to mid-April. By May people are looking for Mother's Day gifts like hanging baskets or blooming plants such as azaleas or roses. Trisha will organize a follow-up meeting with the Plant Sale Committee to review the sale date.

Congratulations to Jimmy Knowles for winning this month's door prize. Thanks to Betsy Smith who provided the succulent.

With no further discussion, Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:10am. The November 2023 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 22

Interns: 2

Guests: 3

TOTAL: 27

Submitted by Kerry Rush