

VMGA Board Meeting

October 14, 2017

Julie introduced the President of their group. They both talked about what the VES has to offer. Followed by the group introducing themselves. Thirty-one people in attendance.

Minutes from August meeting approved – MGC minutes were sent.

Membership 528 currently. Richmond city unit now has one VMGA member.

Jody announced that donations exceeding \$14,000 toward the \$30,000 challenge that was started at MGC. Jody mentioned a fundraising program that she will send out to determine interest to the unit reps. Tom Bolt will send information out to the reps. She will include a link to their fundraising web site. The suggestion was made that if George Grain brought some samples to MGC. Several people made other potential ideas for small items to sell such as pens or small flower pots.

Christy gave a report on how the house used for the State Fair was built and how the various displays were received.

Frank announced that the committee was looking for nominees for officers. He plans on presenting the slate of officers at the December meeting. Self -nominations will be gladly accepted.

John made the VCE announced restructuring extension, family food and education. Leadership training in Richmond in November. Continuing to accept registrations while they look for larger site. Devine Johnson will be the new “Riley.” Putting together a Google forum to replace the biweekly newsletter – MG’s will be able to opt out.

MGC theme will be Tree Stewards. Joe Riley and the speaker from the August session.

IMGC will be in September 2021 in Norfolk at “The Main” – a new convention center in Norfolk. The proposal is that MGC 2019 will be in September at the cite for the 2021 conference.

President’s discussion was based on “What do you do to try to reach parity?” None of the units present are at parity, but have al reached out to other minorities. One suggestion was to actually offer the training class at one of the churches or other community center. Another was to continue being sure that the school populations you have programs with understand that the volunteers are EMGs. This will help plant the seed as they grow up. It was pointed out that the entire idea of volunteerism is not being taught by parents. Other members disagreed with that idea. Several people suggested that by offering the classes in the evening and/or on line. Several people also mentioned the importance of starting with children and then enable adults to participate in activities. John F. mentioned that the audience we reach is just as important as the membership.

There was discussion regarding the number of and locations of VMGA meetings. One suggestion was to see if the various ARECs be polled to see if we could use their facilities. They are located all over the state and possibly they could also do a program on what their research is.