

# The Herb Society of America - South Texas Unit Annual Meeting

May 17, 2023

In person at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Julie Fordes, Unit Chair.

Attendance was recorded by Unit Secretary Dena Yanowski. A quorum was present.

Members present (22) : Julie Fordes, Dena Yanowski, Donna Yanowski, Joan Jordan, Jane Littell, Maria Treviño, Beth Murphy, Janis Teas, Jeanie Dunnihoo, Tricia Bradbury, Donna Adair, Rose Wherry, Karen Cottingham, Laura Mullen, Angela Roth, Deborah Lancaster, Mary Nurre, Julie Fordes, Janice Freeman, Janice Stuff, Humberto Figueroa, Stephanie Calloway.

## Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 15, 2022 Annual Meeting were distributed by email 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Janice Teas moved to accept minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

## Reports

- Education
- Scholarship
- Speakers Bureau
- Day Group
- Herb Fair
- Herb Day
- Programming
- Chair

## Treasurer's Report

Maria Treviño presented the 2021-2022 Treasurer's Report.

- Floor was opened and discussions followed on particular budget line items.

***Susan Wood, in absentia, moved: We use at least \$2500 per year from our treasury of currently well over \$100,000 to support our mission with donations to local and regional gardens.***

Discussion ensued. Julie called for a second, and as there was none, the motion died.

*A motion from the floor:*

***Laura Mullen moved: We create a committee charged with presenting donations to local and regional gardens to be voted by membership. The committee will strive to find new***

**opportunities within the community to support each year. Membership will be encouraged each quarter to submit new giving opportunities.**

Julie moved to accept the motion. After the second, it passed unanimously.

**Susan Wood, in absentia, moved: We continue to support Houston Botanic Garden with a \$1500 donation for Cultivator Giving Circle membership for 2023-2024.**

Julie called for a second, the vote was called: 16 yes. The motion carries.

**Susan Wood, in absentia, moved: We move to continue to support the gardens created by our founder, Madalene Hill, in Round Top, Tx at Festival Institute with a donation for \$1000. The donation should be earmarked for garden use in honor of Madalene Hill.**

Discussion ensued.

*An amended motion from the floor:*

**Tricia Bradbury moved that we support the gardens created by our founder, Madalene Hill, in Round Top, Tx at Festival Institute with a donation for \$1000. The donation should be earmarked for garden use in honor of Madalene Hill for the 2023-2024 budget.**

It was seconded. The vote was called. The motion was carried unanimously.

**The Nominating Committee, chaired by Donna Yanowski, presented the following slate of candidates for a two-year term:**

**Unit Chair - Dena Yanowski Gaydos**

**Vice Chair - Karen Cottingham**

**Secretary - Tricia Bradbury**

Julie moved to accept the slate, it was seconded. The vote was called and carried unanimously.

The floor was opened to any further discussion.

Discussion was made around scholarship amounts, candidate applications and possible internships.

**Maria Treviño moved that we pass the 2023-24 budget.**

Janice Teas moved to accept the motion, it was seconded. The vote was called. The motion was carried unanimously.

Outgoing Unit Chair was presented with a \$200 gift certificate from the Unit and a handmade quilt from Laura Boston and Deborah Lancaster.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Dena Yanowski

Unit Secretary

South Texas Unit, The Herb Society of America

Amended

Tricia Bradbury

## **II. OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

*Reports were sent out prior to the Annual Meeting and will be posted on our website following the meeting. In person, Officers and Chairs will have the opportunity to state highlights from the year.*

**Vice Chair (Programming) - Karen Cottingham**

**Day Group - Janice Stuff**

**Membership - Carolyn Kosclskey**

**Education - Catherine O'Brien**

**Publications (Newsletter and MailChimp) - Janice Freeman**

**Website - Benée Curtis**

**Social Media - Virginia Camerlo**

**Herb Fair - Catherine O'Brien**

**Herb Day - Virginia Camerlo**

**Chair - Dena Gaydos**

**Treasurer - Maria Treviño**

## **III. FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024**

*Financial Report 7/1/2023 - 5/31/2024 and Narrative as supporting documents.*

## **IV. A. PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025**

*Proposed Budget 2024-2025 and Notes as supporting documents.*

## **VI. B. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND VOTING ON PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

### **Proposal 1:**

***I move we donate \$1000 to the Nature Discovery Center at Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire to be used for improvement of the Sensory Garden (which is 90% herbs), supplies for growing plants, plants, and educational materials to enhance the learning experiences.***

The Center provides programs for children and adults, to connect them with nature through experiential learning with local native plants, animals and ecosystems as demonstrated through the Sensory Garden, Pocket Prairie, Discovery Rooms, Wetlands and Bog ecosystems. Schools from all over Harris County come on field trips to learn via the Scientific method to become citizen scientists and connect with nature. They recently added the sale of 'homegrown' native plants to their annual free community event, Spring Fling. This encourages people all over the area to grow more Native and Herb Plants. The Sensory Garden contains herbs and teaches adults and children to identify and learn the purposes of the different plants.

*Debbie Lancaster, presented by Dena Yanowski*

### **Proposal 2:**

***I move we donate \$1000 to the Lucille Plane State Jail in Dayton, Texas to be used to support the woman's program by providing financial support for supplies for growing plants, plants, seeds and materials to enhance their learning experiences.***

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has partnered with Lee College since 2007. The Earth Behind Bars program provides a gardening/horticulture program for incarcerated women, to connect them with horticulture and career opportunities through hands-on learning. The offenders use herbs to "spice up their food." They gain marketable skills in designing, producing and maintaining herb gardens, and the program benefits taxpayers by reducing their food costs. It has been shown that education while incarcerated reduces the rate of recidivism.

*Catherine O'Brien, 2024 Garden Proposal Committee*

### **Proposal 3:**

***I move we support Shamba Ya Amani with a \$1,000 donation to be used for their herb and flower programs.***

The \$1,000 donation would go towards a dehydrator, packaging, and a stipend for labor for dried herbs to be sold at the Urban Harvest Mobile Markets, which go into food deserts to sell at wholesale prices. The donation would also contribute to herbs and their flower bouquets

which feature herbs, sold as part of their Shamba Shares Community Supported Agriculture program. The costs include labor for harvesting, paper sleeves and rubber bands, flower buckets, flower snips and other growing supplies.

*Nicole Buergers, 2024 Garden Proposal Committee*

#### **Proposal 4:**

**I propose that the South Texas Unit donate \$1,000 to the Pioneer Unit to be used for repairs on the Greenhouse at Festival Hill.**

The green house is located near the Pharmacy Garden and was such a wonderful space for our Pioneer Unit's botany group and to help keep a fresh supply of cuttings to use in the herb gardens at Festival Hill, until a windstorm put it into disrepair. We have a local group of volunteers that meet up bimonthly, or around 5-6 Saturdays a year, to help us with projects like this. Our next volunteer event will be May 4th and I hope to make the greenhouse our focus project. -*Julia Johnson, Site Horticulturist and Pioneer Unit Volunteer Coordinator*

*Julie Fordes*

#### **Proposal 5:**

***I move the South Texas Unit supports our members willing to serve on The Herb Society of America Board of Directors by reimbursing in person meeting travel expenses for up to \$2,000 per year. This includes members volunteering for executive officers, district delegate, and national committee chairs.***

The Herb Society of America currently needs volunteers to step up for many positions. By supporting our members willing to serve we can support the mission of the Society. Funds from our general operations are available for budgeting this endeavor.

As a reminder, the net proceeds from our annual Herb Day marketplace are used for scholarships. Profits from Herb Day registration and our annual Herb Fair go into our operating fund. We already support travel expenses for STU Chair to attend HSA in person yearly meeting. If the current HSA plan to hold national in person meetings every other year instead of yearly stands, we will not need to support travel expenses on odd numbered years.

*Susan Wood*

## **V. APPROVAL OF 2024 - 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET**

## VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Slate of Candidates: **Treasurer**

Term of Office: 2 years, July 2024 – July 2026

### 1. **Maria Treviño**

Maria has volunteered to serve another two year term.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### **Madalene Hill Scholarship Discussion**

***I move that we transition from a Madalene Hill Scholarship to a Madalene Hill Scholarship/ Internship.***

The Madalene Hill Scholarship has traditionally been awarded to students who are studying agribusiness, agriculture sciences or horticulture; or ecology or environmental science with a focus on botany. Students majoring in other disciplines and graduate students have been eligible as long as their focus of study is plant-related. Last year, I met an intern funded by our unit at the National Arboretum Herb Garden in Washington, D.C. This gave me an idea that I would like to share with you.

Instead of providing a scholarship directly to a college student, I would like to propose that the funds be used to support an intern in a Houston-area garden or university. (Source: <https://www.usna.usda.gov/about/jobs-and-internships/>). Depending on the available funds, our unit could fully or partially fund an intern for a semester. It would be the responsibility of the college, university, or garden to screen and hire the student. We would stipulate that the student do more than “dig holes and weed flower beds.” The employer would ensure that the student accomplishes learning objectives.

For example, “upon completion of the internship, the student will be able to:

1. propagate woody and herbaceous herbs;
2. grow herbs from seed according to the growth zone; and
3. transplant herbs into a garden.

*Catherine O'Brien*

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Hospitality - Operational Change

An idea for evening program hospitality, which in the past has fallen upon a coordinator and members to volunteer each month to take care of the: tablecloths, table decorations and beverages. A newly proposed plan would entail:

1. 1-2 people make the drinks for the entire year
  2. 1 person volunteer to wash tablecloths each month
  3. 1-2 people prepare table decorations.
- For doing this for an entire year, they don't have to bring dinner.

*Catherine O'Brien*

- Membership Renewal
- Submit Volunteer Hours

## IX. ADJOURNMENT