

## REIMAN GARDENS COHORTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2004

President Chelon Stanzel called the regular March board meeting to order at 9:30 AM in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Present: Chelon Stanzel, Marge Ricketts, Jonnie Pasley, Pat Kunz, Maureen Walter, Charlie Yoerger, Dick Carlson, Mary Pickett, Megan Keene, Donna Cipollini, Jenny Martin, Beth Chevillie, John Glover, Gary Prochaska and Jean Digmann

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February board meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Atherly was not present, so there was no report.

### ***Committee Reports:***

**Education:** Maureen reported that approximately 60 people were present for the February Brown Bag Lunch with Don Lewis. The March 11<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag Lunch will have Bill Boon presenting the program instead of the previously announced speaker. Justin Hancock, from Meredith Publishing, will be the speaker for the May Brown Bag Lunch.

**Garden Guides:** Mary Pickett reported that the number of Youth Tours, including the ones scheduled through April, is 29, with 65 guides and 1,113 children attending. The number of Adult Tours through April is 8, with 13 guides and 284 guests. There are 200 participants registered for the Banana Slug String Band event. The number of docents needed is 6 with 4 guides. Pat reminded all board members to sign the Volunteer Book for the meeting today.

**Horticulture Volunteers:** Charlie reported that 6 volunteers worked once during the month of February.

**Membership:** Beth and the committee have sent out 272 renewals for March and 313 second renewal reminders for November, December and January. It was suggested that volunteers call those who have not renewed. \$971 has been raised from the post-it note attached to the letter asking for an extra donation. Some have upgraded from their previous renewal. Membership brochures have been taken to Story City and Nevada. It was suggested that brochures also be sent to the County Extension offices and the Memorial Union desk. A discussion took place on whether a list of activities taking place each day could be placed at the front desk, but it was agreed that the new sign that is being installed at the entry would suffice.

**Plant Sale:** Gary suggested that the Plant Sale be held Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> if there were no other conflicts.

**Historian:** Jonnie said she has taken pictures of volunteers transplanting and also at the Brown Bag Lunch in February.

**Newsletter:** Donna said that the May-August issue would have articles on the Seasons of Agriculture theme, Mary Pickett as the featured volunteer, Plant a Row for the Hungry, and the Return of the Scarecrow. Chelon's article will deal with what CoHorts are and what they do. There are also articles on the Historian's Book and Explorer Packs for Kids. It will also include the dates for the Jazz in

July event and the Plant Sale. She commended Megan on doing an excellent job in laying out the Newsletter. It will be out the first week in April.

**Past President:** Marge reported that Ed Kelly's FreeStyle Big Band would be performing at the Jazz in July event, July 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9.

### **Unfinished business:**

**Historian's book:** Jenny reported that the committee discussed several possibilities for placing the Historian Book for public viewing and concluded that the best place to display the book would be across from the Butterfly Wing on a table next to the bench. She recommended a table similar to one she owned. She and Jonnie will follow through with this project.

**Photography contest:** Jenny reported that Barb Gohman and Carol Patterson have met and this year's contest will not include pictures of butterflies. Photos of anything in the Gardens, (art, flowers, trees) will be accepted; the classes will be the same as last year. The pictures will be displayed in the Plexiglas cases in the Exhibit Hall.

**Director's Update:** Teresa was called away from the meeting, so could not give a report.

**Garden Update:** Nick was not present.

**Staff Update:** Megan reported that the Newsletter is completed and has gone to the printer. For the present, the name will remain the same, even though there were a lot of good suggestions for a new title.

Pat Kunz said that Lisa Orgler was happy to see so many volunteers at the Spring Symposium.

John Glover, Director of Development, shared updates about fundraising. Throughout the university, fundraising from July through June is doing well. At the end of February, the number of individuals who made gifts was significantly higher than last year and the types of gifts were also ahead of last year. For Reiman Gardens, specifically, production is ahead of a year ago. He said it was too early to tell what membership retention should be. In other organizations, within the University, the average membership retention is in the mid 70's percentile, a number we need to keep in mind.

**The next meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.**

Jean Digmann,  
Secretary