

Chappell Hill Garden Club General Meeting

January 15, 2025

President Dixie Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Chappell Hill Methodist Church. She welcomed all, gave a prayer, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. A quorum was established with 32 members present and one guest, Sandra Presnal.

Dixie thanked the Refreshment Committee of Dale Dugas, Diane Wann, Fran Hunt and Virginia Malinowski for the soups, sandwiches, and desserts

Minutes: Shirley made a motion to approve the November 13 minutes, Diane made the second and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Kay reported Total Assets \$68,312; Cash in Checking \$35,934 (with \$3,613 in outstanding checks) and Cash in CDs of \$31,941. She said the board had voted to put a currently excess amount of \$5,000 into its own CD to earn interest until needed for a future project instead of leaving it in the checking account where it would not be receiving any interest.

2024 summary:

Home Tour generated \$30,538 with a cost of \$4,395. Sponsorships = \$16,850; Member ticket sales = \$5,399; Public ticket sales = \$7,533; Interest income on CDs = \$1,224; Member's contest = \$755; Second fundraiser in the spring = \$3,425 with a cost of \$106.

Payments made to: Community outreach = \$2,224; Main Street beautification = \$2,479; Scholarships = \$11,000;

To Compare:

2024 net profit \$15,768

2023 net profit \$13,536

2022 net profit \$10,021

Dixie thanked the fundraising committee led by Dale and the additional committees such as the homeowner reception, docents, cocktail party, and club contest at the Masonic Lodge for making the event a success.

Main St: Debi reported the next Main St. workday will be February 5 at 9 AM at the Post Office. She also reminded the group that this is the time to start a compost pile at home.

Other Committee Reports:

- Lexa is heading up the 5 Minute Gardening Tips and asked volunteers to sign up to speak to the group regarding anything related to plants and gardening, favorite gardening websites, magazines, etc.
- Kathryn reminded the group about bringing extra seeds to any meeting, preferably wrapped in paper, and labeled with the name and growing characteristics.

Program: Dixie read the garden club poem, mission statement, and Standing Rules to the group. She then described the different committees and explained the requirements of being an active member. Everyone is encouraged to participate in at least one committee, and it is easy to help with two or more if they are one time events. The Christmas Home Tour Date is always on the same weekend (2nd in December; December 13, 2025) and since it is the main fundraising event, participation is required. Sign up lists were available for members to immediately commit to a committee for the year.

Dixie then invited Karen to demonstrate the use of the website and its features. Log in credentials must be received from Karen to access the members' area.

Dale R. suggested the club business cards could be used again to hand out to potential business sponsors or members.

Mary Smith gave a 5 Minute Gardening tip reading based on the book "The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year" by Margaret Renkl. Mary explained the writing quality and beautiful illustrations in the book make the devotion-like essays well worth the time to read.

Dale Ramey stood to express her concern about putting \$5,000 in a CD when she thinks the money should be spent on community outreach projects, specifically for maintenance and/or improvements to the Masonic Cemetery in Chappell Hill. Apparently, the cemetery has a \$150,000 CD but still needs funds for tree and limb removal. Tom Yates made a motion "To add the Masonic Cemetery to a list of projects that should receive Community Outreach funds from CHGC." Dale Dugas seconded. During discussion, Janis pointed out that a motion was not necessary to put this project on a hypothetical "list," but Tom wanted it in the record that this is a worthy cause for the club. Another discussion point was that if the funds are put into a CD, they could be removed at any time with no penalty but would at least earn interest while needs and bids were being investigated. The motion to consider the cemetery for an outreach project was put to a vote and all were in favor.

As this was the first time this project had been brought to the attention of the club in either a board or general meeting, Dixie requested more information be gathered to include bids and to find out what exactly is being requested in the way of funds. At this point, Dale Ramey gave her verbal resignation as chair of Fundraising and the Home Tour event.

Dale D. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Virginia made the second, and all voted in favor.

Lunch was then served.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Boulware
CHGC Secretary