The meeting was called to order via conference call by Monica at 10:02am. On line were: Monica David, Pat Kosmach, Patsy Hirsch, Joy Gulotta, Shey Lowman, Jennifer Fishburn, Nancy Kuhajda, Lisa Valle, Tracy Mulliken, Corinna Martinez, Lee Maki, Rusty Nave, Brenda Dahlfors, and Deb McFarling.

The Minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

**Reports**

**2015 MG Training:** Units 2, 5 and 12 did a fall training this year. Some of the positives noted were: higher numbers signed up and the opportunity to do hands on/outdoor training. Negatives were: potential volunteer retention problems.

2015: There are 30 locations (including the fall trainings, face to face, and web). Only Units 21 and 25 will not be doing training. Nancy K reported that she has several perennial MGs who will be following the webinars as a test run. The live webinars will be via Lync and cannot be taped due to length. YouTube does not have good clarity for our purposes. The first webinar will be on Tuesday, January 27th. Coordinators have the schedule.

**Web Updates:** Monica met with Jane Scherer. Her team will start the updates in December and hopefully have them completed in January.

In the future, Lunch and Learns and Advisory meetings will be taped and put on website.

Having a Facebook page for Educators and Coordinators to share on was discussed.

**2015 State Conference:** Monica will be going to O’Fallon in December to work on details. Ball Seed gave us $2000 for our keynote speaker. There will be a Master Naturalist (MN) track. MNs will be able to register at the same time as MGs. It will still be billed as a MG Conference in order to avoid problems down the road. *Monica will have a coordinators meeting set up for Friday.

**Discussion Items**

**Awards Application Revisions:** Revised forms were sent on Monday. The Lunch and Learn training went well. It was suggested that we relook at the criteria. Shey reported that (in pdf format) pictures cannot be added. If it is done as a Word document, then converted to pdf, you can add pictures. We may have to have both formats available in that case. It was then questioned whether photos are necessary or should be allowed. They could be an unfair advantage. How would they fit into the total page limit? Maybe photos could be requested only from award winners to be shown at the State Conf? Nancy K suggested adding a simple checklist. A motion was made and passed to accept Shey’s current editable form as is (without requiring photos). Nancy K suggested there be a new Lunch and Learn to review. Lisa V brought up the criteria – we had questioned the management/leadership wording for Outstanding MG. Corinna had the corrected wording as discussed. Motion was made to accept the suggested changes (from last meeting). Monica and Shey will make the changes. Shey will make the mini grant form editable.

**Pins:** Monica has received them. She will send her spreadsheet to coordinators and they will coordinate with her the actual # they need - currently active MGs, only.

**Buses for Conference from Northern IL:** still a good idea! Lisa Valle, Brenda and Nancy K expressed interest – Lisa looking into it.

**IGIA Collaborations:** Monica spoke with Greg Oltman regarding forming a partnership with the Illinois Green Industry Assoc., with MGs becoming associate members ($75 annually). The organization helps companies and individuals with business strategies, web design, etc – not something the average MG needs. Monica would like to meet with their Board. An informal poll thru the national MG state
Coordinator’s listserv shows N Carolina having an informal partnership, Wisconsin invites MGs to their workshops, Delaware invites MGs to their conferences, and Virginia actually uses the MG curriculum as part of a formal partnership. Monica would like to see us be able to promote their educational events, with MGs being charged a reduced rate for attending. MGs could be involved in plant trials for local growers and receive volunteer credit. Tracy said her county has been doing it for a while and it has worked out well. Other topics included tours, conferences, financial support. Monica will look into MGs getting a corporate rate at the state level. Jennifer expressed concern about where their educational material is coming from – would our Hort Team or campus approve it? We would all like to see greater cooperation between IDNR, Extension and the Green Industry.

Committee Membership: Monica has the list of who is in what term (1st or 2nd). She will contact people individually.

For Next Time: Jennifer asked if our written policies and/or agreements need to be rewritten to reflect the new ANCRA training, specifically, and working with youth. 4H volunteers must sign a Behavioral Guidelines for example. Does the 2nd bullet point of our agreement already cover this? Nancy K would like to see some kind of social media policy be determined – preferably from campus, down.

Future Meetings
February 11, 2015 webinar – mini grant applications will be voted on – Monica gets them Jan.31st.
May 13, 2015 on campus
September 16, 2015 in O’Fallon
November 11, 2015 on campus

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dahlfors, secretary