

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Massachusetts
January 5, 2000

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 11:50 AM by President David Bishop. President Bishop offered words of welcome to the membership. Twenty-five individuals were present.

Secretary's Report

The Annual Business Meeting of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. was held on January 6, 1999. Twenty-seven members attended. Directors met on March 24, July 21, and December 1, the Executive Committee met on May 26, and the Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund met on July 14. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 21 at Wellsmont Orchards in Shelburne. Approximately 100 individuals attended the meeting.

One-hundred and eighty-five individuals were members of the Association in 1999, a slight increase from 1998. Below are the membership figures for 1995-99.

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Active members	52	51	47	45	45
Associate members	58	73	62	59	56
Exhibitor members	67	72	69	56	62
Courtesy members	18	16	15	15	15
Life members	8	8	7	7	7
Total	203	220	200	182	185

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$24,264.55. To date, receipts totaled \$50,628.23, and disbursements totaled \$45,883.35. The balance on December 31 was \$29,009.43. Please note that the expenses of printing and mailing the *Proceedings* have not yet occurred. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$171,570.92. A total of \$2,500 was moved into the Horticultural Research Fund from the General Fund, and \$1,419.65 was expended on a grant. The balance as of December 31 was \$171,229.90. Over the year, the Horticultural Research Fund lost 0.8%, excluding moneys added from the General Fund and disbursements on grants. Issues regarding the balance in the endowment that we established with the University of Massachusetts

Foundation have not yet been resolved. Letters have been written to the Director of Development, the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the President of the University of Massachusetts, with no response to date.

Details of the General Fund and Horticultural Research Fund follow.

GENERAL FUND		
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/98		\$24,264.55
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 1999	\$9,000.00	
Associate member dues -- 1999	1,400.00	
Exhibitor member dues -- 1999	325.00	
Exhibitor member dues -- 2000	1,175.00	
Annual meeting -- 1999	4,786.00	
Annual meeting -- 2000	20,826.00	
Annual meeting registration fee -- 1999	6,020.00	
Ads	350.00	
Subscriptions -- 1999	70.00	
Subscriptions -- 2000	70.00	
Affiliation refund	50.00	
Summer meeting	390.00	
Cider	694.00	
Apple Market Report	494.00	
Checking account interest	100.23	
Returned check replacement	53.00	
Fruit Notes 557.00		
UMass Tree Fruit Newsletter	1,695.00	
Horticultural Research Center donations	1,876.00	
IPM donations	697.00	\$50,628.23
Disbursements		
Administration	\$2,361.79	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	2,124.04	
Annual meeting -- 1999	19,096.11	
Annual meeting -- 2000	1,059.75	
Proceedings -- 1999	1,000.00	
Cider	2,064.66	
US Apple Association	5,867.00	
Affiliations 180.00		
New England Tree Fruit Research Committee	4,000.00	
Returned check plus fee	205.00	
Horticultural Research Fund	2,500.00	
Hauschild gift	210.00	
Summer meeting	390.00	
Fruit Notes 557.00		
UMass Tree Fruit Newsletter	1,695.00	
Horticultural Research Center Donations	1,876.00	
IPM donations	697.00	(\$45,883.35)
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/99		\$29,009.43

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND		
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/98	\$6,872.60	
Receipts		
Interest	\$74.12	
From General Fund	2,500.00	\$2,574.12
Disbursements		
Grant – Horticultural Research Center	\$1,419.65	<u>(1,419.65)</u>
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/99		\$8,027.07
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/98	\$164,698.32	
Cash – 12/31/99		\$36,986.27
Investments (value as of 12/31/99)		
MediaOne Finance Trust	\$17,543.40	
AMLI Residential Properties	4,037.40	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	54,225.92	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	11,774.26	
Royce Value Trust	17,019.78	
Zweig Fund	11,490.80	
Franklin Universal Trust	10,125.00	\$126,216.56
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/99		\$163,202.83
Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$171,229.90

Auditor's Report

Davis reviewed the Treasurer's Report and stated that he found it accurate as presented.

Committee Reports

Several committees had no report or brief comments. Dowse reported that several legislative issues will affect farmers. Davis reported that there will be no refund from the Apple Council this year, and area meetings will be held throughout New England in March and April. Nicewicz introduced Kip Graham who discussed the potential availability of disaster relief money. Nicewicz also introduced Rick Lablanc who discussed apple promotion billboards.

Nomination Committee Report

Autio presented the report of the Nominations Committee. Bill Broderick was nominated for President. Tim Smith, Ken Nicewicz, and Kim Wiezbicki were nominated for Vice Presidents. Wes Autio was nominated for Secretary and for Treasurer. Bob Davis was nominated for Auditor. Rick Bartlett, Frank Carlson, Bill Fitzgerald, Mario Lanni, Tony Lincoln, Robin Spitko, Mo Tougas, and Steve Ware were nominated to fill six Director positions (four 3-year terms and two 2-year terms). The report was accepted, and no further nominations were received from the floor. Ballots were distributed and all nominated officers were elected. Carlson, Lincoln, Tougas, and Ware were elected as Directors for three years, and Bartlett and Lanni were elected as Directors for two years..

President Bishop passed the gavel to the new president, Bill Broderick. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Wesley R. Autio
Secretary