

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH
December 15, 2004

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by President Ken Nicewicz. President Nicewicz offered words of welcome to the membership. Twenty-five individuals were present.

Secretary's Report

The Annual Business Meeting was held on December 17, 2003, with 20 members present. Directors met on March 9 and November 19, 2004. Trustees of the MFGA Horticultural Research Fund met on January 13, March 30, and August 17, 2004. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 14, 2004 at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. Approximately 130 individuals attended the meeting.

One-hundred and forty-five individuals were members of the Association in 2004, similar to 2003 (with the exception of exhibitor members). Below are the membership figures for 1995-2004.

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Active members	52	51	47	45	45	43	42	49	44	43
Associate members	58	73	62	59	56	60	65	73	78	79
Exhibitor members	67	72	69	56	62	57	60	59	50	0
Courtesy members	18	16	15	15	15	14	16	11	16	16
Life members	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	4	7	7
Total	203	220	200	182	185	181	189	196	195	145

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$32,963.11. Receipts totaled \$63,960.36, and disbursements totaled \$50,966.69. The balance on December 31, 2004 was \$45,956.78. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$438,664.18. A total \$14,034.00 were received as donations (\$12,324 in memory of Ronald J. Prokopy), and \$130.80 were received as interest. In total, \$6,147.63 were expended on grants. The balance on December 31, 2004 was \$532,531.37 (an overall increase of 21.4%). *Please note that the data presented here are slightly modified from those presented at the meeting, reflecting the final activity and balances of 2004.* Details follow.

GENERAL FUND

Balance -- Fleet Bank + Galaxy Fund, 12/31/03		\$32,963.11
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2004	\$8,600.00	
Associate member dues -- 2004	\$1,975.00	
Stone Fruit School -- 2003	\$5,675.00	
Annual Meeting -- 2004	\$28,900.00	
Annual Meeting Registration -- 2004	\$9,400.00	
Summer meeting	\$820.00	
Galaxy Fund interest	\$180.19	
Apple Market Report	\$336.00	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$1,085.00	
Service charge refund	\$54.17	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$250.00	
Fruit Notes & Healthy Fruit	\$5,170.00	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$770.00	
IPM donations	\$745.00	\$63,960.36
Disbursements		
Administration	\$1,924.82	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,700.00	
Stone Fruit School -- 2003	\$4,977.09	
Annual Meeting -- 2003	\$1,094.16	
Annual Meeting -- 2004	\$19,885.14	
Summer meeting	\$1,575.00	
Affiliations	\$535.00	
US Apple Association	\$7,301.00	
Transfer to Horticultural Research Fund	\$1,085.00	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$627.75	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$539.91	
Service charge	\$87.97	
Miscellaneous	\$1,612.85	
Apple Market Report	\$336.00	
Fruit Notes & Healthy Fruit	\$5,170.00	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$770.00	
IPM Donations	\$745.00	\$(50,966.69)
Balance -- Bank of America + Galaxy Fund, 12/31/04		\$45,956.78

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND

Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/03		\$10,079.14
Receipts		
Sincuk Fund	\$6,187.34	
From General Fund	\$1,710.00	
Prokopy Memorial	\$12,324.00	
Interest	\$130.80	\$20,352.14
Disbursements		
Sincuk Fund	\$1,344.61	
Autio Grants	\$1,506.00	
Weis Grant	\$2,500.00	
Irrigation Grant	\$254.33	
Clements Grant	\$249.26	
Leahy Grant	\$293.43	\$(6,147.63)
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/04		\$24,283.65
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/03		\$428,585.04
Cash -- 12/31/04		\$107,258.00
Investments (value as of 12/31/04)		
Altria Group	\$12,220.00	
AMLI Residential Properties	\$6,400.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$49,500.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$21,875.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$51,260.00	
General Electric	\$36,500.00	
Puget Energy	\$12,350.00	
Southern Company	\$16,760.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$28,960.00	
TXU Corporation	\$32,280.00	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$9,060.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$64,118.92	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$10,668.54	
Royce Value Trust	\$42,699.16	
Zweig Fund	\$6,338.10	\$400,989.72
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/04		\$508,247.72
Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$532,531.37
Overall change in value in 2004		21.4%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		18.2%
Approved expenditures for operation of the Horticultural Research Center		\$29,863.01
UMass Foundation--MFGA Horticultural Research Fund, 11/30/04		\$245,443.23

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. Davis, after auditing the 2004 data, reported that the Treasurer's Report was accurate as presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Auditor's Report.

New England Fruit & Vegetable Conference – 2004

Motion: *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. will compensate John Howell \$500 for his assistance with developing the program and George Hamilton \$500 for developing the procedures and acquiring pesticide-license recertification credit. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Committee Reports

The Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund (Davis) and the Labor (Davis), Program (Greene), Legislative (Nicewicz), Cider (Ware), and Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion (Nicewicz) Committees reported.

Nominations Committee Report and Elections

Nicewicz presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Ken Nicewicz for President, Steve, Ware, Gordon Kimball, and Bill Fitzgerald for Vice Presidents, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Davis for Auditor, and Rick Bartlett, David Chandler, Artie Keown, Mario Lanni, Mark Parlee, Andre Tougas, and Robert Tuttle for directors. No nominations were received from the floor. All nominated officers were elected, and Chandler, Parlee, Tougas, and Tuttle were elected as Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary/Treasurer*