

Minutes of RIFGC Executive Board Meeting
January 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the RogerWilliams Park Casino at 10:08 am by President Sandi Tinyk. Sandi wished everyone a happy new year, and hoped that all had enjoyed their families and traditions over the holidays. 2015 promises to be a very busy year, with next month's Flower Show and the Annual Meeting in April.

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the role. 19 Clubs were represented. Lisa made one correction to the December Minutes which had been distributed electronically: on page 3, under Announcements, the Bristol Garden Club flower show at Blithewold will take place in April (not in February). No further corrections were made.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee reported a checking account balance as of December 31, 2014 of \$16,940.02; a balance in other CD accounts of \$101,959.37; with a total for all accounts of \$118,899.30. The report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Sandi announced that with the earlier departure for the Costa Rica trip and some illness, the enrollment now stands at 14. RIFGC stands to receive nearly \$5000 in commission from Collette. This trip is in celebration of our 85 years. That money will, in part, be seed money for a fall flower show at the Botanical Center. Details will be announced at the next meeting.

The NGC annual convention will take place May 12-18 in Louisville, KY.

The NER Annual Meeting and Symposium have been split into two events this year, at different times and in different locations.

The NER Symposium will take place September 2-4 at the Radisson in Manchester, NH. Penny Decker (from MA and FL), Arabella Dane (from MA and NH), and Pam Braun (from TN) will be the instructors.

The NER Annual Meeting will take place October 20-21 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in downtown Portsmouth, NH.

National Garden Week is June 7-13. What a great time to have garden club events.

First Vice President's Report: President-Elect Cathy Moore is trying to fill her committees. Sandi encouraged everyone asked to try to say yes.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: De Feldman reminded us that the meeting and luncheon will be at the Imperial Room in Cranston on April 23. Susan Detjens will be presenting "flowerflinging." There are only 180 seats available, so please purchase your tickets early. \$35 each. Darcy Scott is selling tickets today. Reminder that Board officers and Past Presidents need to buy their tickets separately from their clubs as they will be seated separately. Remember that the festivities will also include the installation of Cathy Moore and her new Board. Unsold tickets can be brought to the March meeting for a refund. Sandi reminded us that this is also when the Awards are distributed.

Awards: Sue Redden announced that applications for NGC awards have been forwarded to the appropriate NGC Chairs.

Publicity Press Books are due to Sue today.

RI State Awards are due to Sue on February 15. She's hopeful that there will be many applications submitted. In most cases there is just a 3-page application to fill out.

Sandi Tinyk reminded us not to forget about the \$2000 available from RIFGC for annual community project awards. Clubs should think about projects they'd like to work on in their communities. Apply by April 1 by writing up the project. Recipients are expected to submit a report at the conclusion of their project or a progress report along the way. As an example, Sandi shared Hameho's report, submitted in September with photos of the work they'd done to landscape a traffic triangle in Barrington. Remember that Clubs may not be recipients of these funds two years in a row.

Blue Star: Candace Morgenstern brought in written information about the process. She reminded us that Sogkonate Garden Club and Gentian Garden Club are both installing markers on Memorial Day, May 25, at 10:30 am. This will bring to nine the number of Blue Star Markers in Rhode Island.

Design Study: Vicki Iannuccillo announced that the next BDS session will be Wednesday, April 1 at the Barn at Mount Hope Farm in Bristol. Sue Redden will be the instructor. If you're interested in participating, please sign up as soon as possible so containers and materials can be purchased in the correct amounts. \$35 for the single session. Vicki can be contacted at 401-253-4535.

The schedule for ADS has not yet been completed.

Finance: Vera Bowen reported that she, Sandi Tinyk, and Bernie Larivee met this morning to put together a preliminary budget. It will be presented at the next meeting.

Vera wanted to clarify that RIFGC is a 501(c)(3) which means they are tax-exempt for federal taxes but still pay state sales tax as they are not considered "educational" by the state. Member clubs are NOT covered by RIFGC's 501(c)(3) status. She shared that the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts does have an umbrella status for their member clubs but is reconsidering that. The state attorney general went after them regarding their umbrella and it cost them \$107,000 in legal fees to deal with the issue.

Flower Show Schools: Sue Redden announced that she, NER Director-Elect, Vera Bowen, and incoming Judges' Council Chair, Vicki Iannuccillo, will be traveling to Las Vegas next week to attend the Instructors' Symposium, to which Flower Show Schools personnel are also invited.

Maureen Colton, RI's most senior judge, who now spends most of her time in Georgia, has asked that her status be changed to Emeritus Master Judge.

Flower Shows: Sue Redden reported that entries are still needed for design and artistic crafts for next month's RIFGC Standard Flower Show. To encourage more entries, all design entrants will be entered in a drawing for \$100.

Raffle Chair Bernie Larivee is looking for donations for a wine and liquor basket and for a gardening basket. He's also looking for individual raffle item donations. Bernie can be reached at 401-345-9792. Items may be left at his home at 15 Kensington Road in Edgewood. If you bring items, Bernie promises a guided tour of his conservatory. Remember, this raffle is allowed because we have a license from the state to sell tickets.

Vicki Iannuccillo reported that she, De Feldman, and Cathy Moore have offered to take exhibitors to Carbone's to use their accounts. Please contact one of them to set up a time and day. Carbone's does not want anyone to visit February 7-15. You must place your orders by Friday, February 6.

Sandi Tinyk distributed cards for horticulture entries. She reminded us that horticulture entries will only be accepted on Tuesday, February 17, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Sandi Tinyk announced that she is hoping all photography entries submitted but not selected for awards would still be displayed, within the RI Horticulture Society's exhibit.

Bristol is presenting "Blithewold – The Good Life" on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19.

Gentian is presenting "Quintessential Country...A Study of Flora, fauna, and Fancy" at the home of their current Co-President, Jackie Marro, on Saturday, May 16.

Both shows are Standard Flower Shows.

Habitat for Humanity: Sandi Tinyk reported Karen Kesterberg can always use more help for the landscape installation.

Horticulture: Linda Alves shared tips on preparing horticulture specimens for the Flower Show:
Cut branches in the late afternoon, as this is when the most sugars have been stored.
Cut branches several inches longer than required.
Cut branches with scissors or a sharp knife at a long slant, as that allows maximum water uptake.
Ends of branches can be sealed with a candle flame.
Place branches in a container of tepid water overnight in a dark place.
Cut branches again, under water, JUST before the show.
Make sure branches have no insects, faded petals, or dry leaves.
Branches may not be polished or enhanced in any way.
Protect your specimens during transport – wrap them with paper, and put them in a front seat with the heat turned on.

Judges Council: Lynne Merrill reported that they are putting together a small group to figure out what to do with Ruth Anderson's \$100,000 gift. Ann Huntoon, Treasurer, said that after legal fees are paid there will likely be additional money coming to the group.

Lynne wants Clubs to remember that the Judges Council is available to help with flower shows. Sogkonate had three judges go to a meeting to explain the whole process of putting on a Flower Show. Use them as a resource.

Life Member Scholarship: Janice Panoff reminded us that the application deadline has moved to February 1. Remember, these scholarships are available to students in a broad range of academic fields. The simple application is available on the website. She encouraged applicants to also apply for NGC scholarship funds.

NEWS: Sandi Tinyk reminded us that items are due to her by February 1 for the March/April/May Presidents' Issue. A brief report should be submitted on one program or project that each club found especially popular or interesting. Remember, this is a great source for finding programs for your club! After approval, Sandi will forward items to Blakely Szosz, Editor. It would be nice to expand the Happenings section. Please send information about Open Meetings with the time and date, place (including street address) and topic so they can be included. Holly Lippert will also post this information on the website.

Nominating: Sandi Tinyk reported that they will be meeting next week, by telephone, as Judy Hager, Chair, lives far away. The nominations will be announced and voted on in March. Each club is allowed two voting delegates. If a club has over 50 members, they are allowed an additional voting delegate for every 25 members over the 50. In addition to the Board officers, we will also be choosing three members (of ten possibilities) for next year's Nominating Committee.

Photographer: RIFGC still does not have an official photographer. There will be a RISD student photographing all design entries for the February Flower Show. If you take other photos, please share them.

Website: Sandi Tinyk reminded us that Holly Lippert is the webmaster, but that everything should be sent to Sandi first for approval.

Youth: Chair, Rochelle Kieron reported that she had received entries from just one club.

Announcements:

Vera Bowen announced that there are still RIFGC wall calendars available for \$10 each.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2015 on the second floor of the Roger Williams Park Casino, with social time at 9:30 and the meeting beginning at 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

At 11:10 am the meeting was reconvened.

Priscilla DiMarco announced that she is still looking for entries in the following classes for the Flower Show:

D101 Circus Creative Hanging Design (two more needed)

D301 Blind Date Exhibition Table Type I

D302 A Great Race Traditional Mass Design (two more needed)

D402 Space Travel Type 2 Kinetic Mobile Design

Priscilla can be reached at 401-245-6928 or phd64@verizon.net

Lynne Merrill announced that she had a treasure map for the artistic craft; one more mannequin; and a sailing ship. All three of those entries will use dried plant materials.

The meeting was re-adjourned at 11:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Pollack,
Recording Secretary