

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
October 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:1- am by President Cathy Moore, who called the roll. 18 Clubs were represented.

Emily Reade encouraged all to attend the Annual Meeting on April 27 at Quidnessett Country Club. She reminded us that not only would this be an awards luncheon, but the installation of officers will also take place. The speaker will be Thelma Shoneman, presenting “Floral Designs Inspired by Fabulous Gardens.”

Cost per person is \$37. Reservations may be made with Lisa Pollack at all RIFGC meetings through March.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee was absent due to an emergency. His report will be given next month.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Holly Lippert announced there would be a brief workshop after today’s meeting. All were invited to attend.

Bee Gap: Marnie Sandham has harvested her bees. Katy Wardlaw reminded us to avoid purchasing plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids, as they kill off bees. Be sure to ask your nursery whether their plants are treated with neonicotinoids.

Education Day: Sandi Tinyk announced that there has been an overwhelming response to next week’s planned Day. Registration is now cut off.

Flower Shows and Flower Schools: Sue Redden reported that nine RIFGC members attended last week’s Symposium in Milford, MA. Next year’s Symposium will be held in RI.

Barrington Garden Club will be presenting “A Blithewold Flower Show” April 7-9, 2017, with an opening reception to take place in the evening on April 7.

Garden Therapy: Rochelle Kieron shared a bouquet made of the last flowers blooming in her garden.

Habitat for Humanity: Cathy Moore reported that nearly \$1500 has been donated so far, thanks to the generosity of members and clubs. RI has planted more Habitat homes than all of the other New England states combined. Marnie Sandham suggested that we look into the possibility of using trees made available by the DEM and the Tree Council.

Judges’ Council/BDS/ADS: Sue Redden announced that the date for the first presentation in the Ruth Anderson Series has been changed. It will now take place on June 15 (not June 8), 2017 at St. Andrews School of Performing Arts in Barrington, RI.

Sue also announced that she will be the instructor for the next BDS session, Traditional Holiday Design, to take place on November 30 at the United Methodist Church in Barrington. The session is sold out. The ADS session will take place after BDS ends.

Life Member: Lynne Merrill reminded us that all scholarship applicants must be submitted to NGC by March 1, so RI’s scholarship recipient must be chosen by February 1. NC will be giving out 41 \$4,000 scholarships in 2017. Applicants may be in their junior or senior years or working toward a Master’s degree in any of a vast array of fields such as agronomy, agricultural education, floriculture, forestry, city planning, environmental studies, and horticulture. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Please contact Lynne

with any questions or names of students. The RIFGC scholarship is available to all eligible Rhode Island residents and those from Massachusetts towns represented by a RIFGC club.

NER: Vera Bowen, Director, reported that NER is now 82 years old. Last year NGC announced that it was dissolving all the regions. So far all of the regions have voted to remain as groups.

After discussion at last week's meeting, the group voted nearly unanimously, 46 to 5, to remain as a group and become their own 501(c)3. The name of the new group is New England Garden Clubs, Inc. and will represent VT, NH, MA, CT, ME, and RI. The group will be registered in Connecticut, and is using Janet Spaulding, a CT lawyer who specializes in 501(c)3 work. Sue Hinkel will become the NE regional chair at the National Convention in mid May 2017. The next Symposium and NEGC, Inc. meeting will take place October 31 to November 2, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

NER awards were announced by Sue Redden and presented to RIFGC clubs by Cathy Moore. Adelaide Clifford was given a standing ovation for receiving the National Medal of Honor for all her great work.

NEWS: Editor Blakely Szosz said that the Fall NEWS will be distributed in the next week or so. The Winter issue will be available in the first half of December.

Website: Reminder re. websites:

RIFGC site is www.rigardenclubs.org Password is flowers

NGC site is www.gardenclub.org Password is flight

Youth: Sue Talbot announced the upcoming contests concerning pollinators; keeping the planet green; recycling; preventing forest fires. There are differing formats and age groups for the contests, including sculpture; poetry; essay; poster. All entries are due to Sue by January 26, 2017. Please see the NGC website for further details or contact Sue Talbot for more information.

Cathy Moore announced that four years from now will be the 75th anniversary of Smoky Bear and the NWF is working as a partner with NGC.

Sandi Tinyk announced that the October Federation meetings in the even years are particularly important as that's when the first vice president become president-elect. As such, Blakely Szosz is now our President-Elect and that gives her permission to start forming her board. Sandi asked people to please say yes if asked to serve on the Board. Blakely will be installed in April. Blakely received a standing ovation.

Announcements:

Lisa Pollack announced she's taking orders and payment for Vision of Beauty 2017 calendars until November 2. Calendars feature an entry by Sue Redden and are available for \$8.00 each. Calendars will be available for pickup at the December 1 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Recording Secretary