

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
February 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:07 am by President Cathy Moore.

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the roll. 14 Clubs were represented.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee gave a financial report for the period December 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017.

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| Checking balance on 12/1: | \$39,393.97 |
| <u>Cash disbursements:</u> | <u>\$ 4,690.46</u> |
| Checking balance on 1/31: | \$34,703.51 |
| <u>Total for CDs/money market</u> | <u>\$65,317.42</u> |
| Total balance for RIFGC | \$100,020.93 |

Vicki Iannuccillo presented information about the NEW Flower Show Handbook, which will take effect as of July, 2017. She reported that it's simplified, easier to use, and much more user-friendly than prior editions. She discussed some of the major changes. Vicki will try to put together a PowerPoint presentation to take to Clubs, and reminded all that the Judges Council is very willing to mentor Clubs in the planning and holding of a flower show.

Vicki urged interested RIFGC members to order their own copies from the Member Services area on the NGC website. They are available for \$25 per copy, plus shipping.

NGC site is www.gardenclub.org Password is flight

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: Emily Reade reminded members that this year there will be awards and installation of officers. Please purchase tickets and show support for you Club.

The meeting and luncheon will be on April 27 at Quidnessett Country Club. \$37 per person. Speaker Thelma Shoneman will be presenting "Floral Designs Inspired by Fabulous Gardens." Reservations and checks are being taken by Lisa Pollack. Deadline for reservations is April 20. Deadline to request refunds for unused reservations is April 1.

Awards: Chair Holly Lippert reported that awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Cathy Moore reminded Clubs to submit proposals to her for Community Projects. She'll accept them up to the week before the Annual Meeting. There is a total of \$2000 to be awarded, with a cap of \$500 per clubs. She's got three proposals so far. She reminded us that Clubs cannot win this award two years in a row.

Flower Shows and Flower Show Schools: Chair Sue Redden offered hearty congratulations to Ann Huntoon who has passed her first refresher exam toward being and Accredited Life Judge.

The next regional Symposium will be hosted by RI. It will be held October 31-November 2, immediately following the regional meeting, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. Every member is invited to attend – you can purchase a day or register for the whole Symposium. Claudia Bates will be the Design instructor. Her subject will be two of the new designs in the new Handbook: Cascade and Low Profile. Dottie Howatt will be the Horticulture Handbook.

So far, there is only one Standard Flower Show scheduled this year: Barrington GC will be holding a judged flower show, "A Blithewold Wedding," at Blithewold from Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 9. The preview party on Friday night, 6-8 pm, will be a cocktail party wedding reception. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased from Darcy Scott. You can reach Darcy at 401-486-1474 (home) or 401-245-3976 (home) or Darcy@fullchannel.net

Sandi Tinyk offered details for the Show's Photography classes. Sandi has extended the deadline for photo entries to March 20. See the RIFGC website for complete information. (RIFGC site is www.rigardenclubs.org Password is flowers)

Sue announced the CT Flower Show is taking place today through 2/26 in Hartford. Linda Kirkpatrick, Barbara Blossom, and Ann Huntoon have entries in the show. The Philadelphia Show is in early March,. (Barrington GC and Barrington Community School are running a trip to the Show, March 16-17.) The Boston Flower Show March 21-26. The Newport Flower Show is scheduled for June 23-25.

Vicki Iannuccillo reminded members to purchase tickets for the *Ruth Anderson Series*, featuring designers Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz, on Thursday, June 15 at St. Andrew's School in Barrington. Tickets are \$15 each prior to April 1, and \$20 after that. Tickets may be purchased from Adelaide Clifford (adelaideclifford@cox.net)

Garden Therapy: Chair Rochelle Kieron reported on a design workshop Jamestown GC led recently at Atria Assisted Living. She said, "The best way to cheer yourself up is by cheering up someone else."

Judges Council/BDS/ADS: Chair Vicki Iannuccillo announced that photos of a design done in the last year for, or representing, your garden club, may still be submitted for the Sylvia Street or Joan Pesola Awards. Photos must be sent to her by February 28. These will be judged out of state.

Vicki also announced that the next BDS (which is full) will be on March 29 at Amicable Church in Tiverton. Candace Morgenstern will be the instructor for a creative design. Vicki reminded all that they are welcome to observe the ADS afterwards, or to participate if they wish. Contact Vicki for a mini-schedule for ADS.

Life Member: Recording Secretary Holly Lippert read Sharon Gainey's Final Report. (See last page for Report.)

BJ Stephens, former Chair, announced the Board Officers for 2017-2019: De Feldman, Chairwoman; Sandi Tinyk, Vice-Chair; Susan Talbot, Recording Secretary; Lisa Pollack, Corresponding Secretary; Vera Bowen, Treasurer; Adelaide Clifford, Membership.

NEWS: Editor Blakely Szosz hopes to have the March/April/May issue distributed next week. For the June/July/August issue, please submit items to her no later than May 1.

New Business:

Sandi Tinyk, head of the Nominating Committee, announced the slate of officers for the 2017-2019 RIFGC Board. The election will be held at the March 23 RIFGC meeting.

President – Blakely Szosz, Barrington Garden Club

1st VP – Deb Ort, Sogkonate Garden Club

2nd VP – Sheryl McGookin, Edgewood Garden Club

Recording Secretary – Emily Reade, Barrington Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary – Linda Alves, Western Cranston Garden Club

Treasurer – Lisa Pollack, Angle Tree Garden Club

Ex-Officio – Cathy Moore, Gardeners of Westerly

3 of the following 10 will be elected to serve on the next Nominating Committee (for the 2019-2021 Board):

Kathy Besette, Gentian Garden Club

Marj DeAngelis, Rehoboth Garden Club

Linda Kirkpatrick, Portsmouth and Bayberry Garden Clubs

Bernie Larivee, Edgewood Garden Club

Kim Magro, Gardeners of Westerly

Linda Poole, Hameho Garden Club

Sue Redden, Barrington Garden Club
Marnie Sandham, Cindy-Wood Garden Club
BJ Stephens, Bristol Garden Club
Sue Talbot, Sogkonate Garden Club

Cathy Moore announced that starting with the March 23 meeting Judges (and all RIFGC members) can start bringing in their donations of containers, flower show supplies, and books for the fundraiser sale table that will be at the Annual Meeting. Cathy will take responsibility for pricing all items – the goal is to sell everything. She will need a few volunteers to staff the table at the Meeting.

Cathy Moore announced that after the March 23 meeting, there will be a program round table discussion. Interested members should bring information about the program, the contact person and, if possible, the cost of the program being recommended. The plan is to create a booklet and post the information on the website so it's accessible by all Clubs.

The Newport Polo fundraiser was announced. Sunday, July 16, is a day made available by the Newport Polo Club for non-profits to use as a fundraiser. RIFGC will get an allotment of tickets to sell, for whatever price we choose, and RIFGC keeps all the proceeds. We will be holding a hat contest, using fresh and/or dried materials, with a winner being chosen by popular vote. Blakely Szosz is working on an idea for another class – decorated dog collars, possibly. This is a family-friendly, pet-friendly venue and event. Though we will have tables and a section to sit in, this is a BYO bottle, food, and chair event for this year. Admission is by advance ticket purchase only. Last year there were 1500 spectators in attendance, and they raised \$15,000 for the nine participating non-profits.

Program Chair Sandi Tinyk said RIFGC will be offering several trips this year. The first is two-day trip, “Gardens of Long Island: A Springtime Sea of Color,” on May 30 and 31. Contact Sandi for more details or a flyer. Prices are \$365 per person in a triple; \$389 per person in a double; and \$425 in a single. A deposit of \$125 will reserve your spot on the trip until April 30, when the balance is due. Reservations will only be open to RIFGC members (and their family/guests) until March 15; after that, any available spots will be offered to the general public.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Recording Secretary

LIFE MEMBER GROUP FINAL REPORT
2015-2017

At the April, 2015, Installation of Officers, the following were installed: Sharon Gainey, Chair; De Feldman, Vice Chair; Lisa Pollack, Corresponding Secretary; Holly Lippert, Recording Secretary; Lynne Merrill, Scholarship Chair; Marj DeAngelis, Membership Chair; and Vera Bowen, Treasurer. Lauren Breen, who won a scholarship in 2014, was awarded \$4,000 and Matthew Crudale was awarded \$2,000. Both attend URI. Lauren was also nominated for the NGC scholarship.

Ann Huntoon, Sue Redden and Candace Morgenstern entertained at the August, 2015, meeting at the Dunes Club with a Designer Challenge. Each designer had the same flowers but used different tools and containers. De Feldman narrated as each designer created her arrangement. The results were 3 beautiful and amazing creations. Our only cost was the flowers. Lauren and Matthew both gave very interesting and educational summaries at this meeting.

The LMG Luncheon was held on May 19, 2016, at the Rhode Island Yacht Club. Jim Donahue, Curator of Historic Landscapes and Horticulture at the Preservation Society of Newport County, delivered a very informative PowerPoint presentation. Joseph Loffredo was presented with a \$4,000 LMG scholarship and also with a \$4,000 NGC scholarship. He gave a very interesting talk about his interests and achievements. We also voted to change the number of meetings from three every two years to one each year. This motion passed unanimously.

The LMG Luncheon that was scheduled to be held at the Agawam Hunt Club was cancelled by the Board of Directors of LMG because of the low number of tickets sold. All checks were returned to those who had purchased tickets. The Board also voted to hold one meeting each summer at the Dunes Club, as that seems to be the place that draws the biggest crowd. This year the LMG Luncheon will be held on July 27, 2017 at the Dunes Club.

The Board voted again to award a \$4,000 scholarship to Joseph Loffredo and to forward his application to the NGC. He continues to maintain a 4.0 average and to receive outstanding recommendations.

We received memorial donations from the Judges Council and many, many others in honor of members who had passed and spouses of members as well. We also received a \$1,000 donation from the Jamestown Garden Club which was much appreciated. We broke even or made money on our events by selling the centerpieces and by the donation of raffle items by the Board of Directors.

LMG Board members have been visiting garden clubs throughout the state to promote the Life Member Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Gainey, Chair