



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting Minutes June 1, 2017

President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll call was taken and the new Executive Board was introduced to all present: 1st Vice President: Deb Ort; 2nd Vice President: Sheryl McGookin; Recording Secretary: Emily Reade; Corresponding Secretary: Linda Alves; Treasurer: Lisa Pollack; Ex-Officio: Cathy Moore.

Blakely expressed that she viewed her role to support and aid all the member garden clubs any way possible, and addressed administrative issues such as reaching out to corresponding secretary to make sure club presidents and contacts are up to date and emails are being received. **RIFGC website info: RI Garden Clubs.org and password: Flowers.** She told members if any garden club events need promoting, RIFGC will ensure posting on Facebook page (limiting to 1 posting a day) and urged us all to “share” these events for widespread distribution.

Treasurer’s Report: None given, as books are currently being audited. Deferred report to September meeting. Dues are due now from all member clubs.

NGC NEWS: Attendance at NGC Convention was reported on by Blakely. De Feldman , Vera Bowen and Deb Ort joined her in Virginia. Interesting demonstrations/talks by P Allen Smith. New NGC President is Nancy Hargroves, whose theme “Plant America” is expected to carry on through the next 3 administrations - 6 years). The theme will focus on pushing organic, planting natives and pollinator gardens. She would like all garden clubs to include her message (found on NGC website) in their yearbooks.(**NGC Website: [www. gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) , user name: member (member id) password: pumpkin.)**

NGC has a new national sponsor, Espoma, whose brand Hollytone, echoes this theme. Espoma has a \$250 grants available and also offers free very interesting presentations to clubs through their regional reps..Blakely will work on lining up a presentation on an interesting topic for a future RIFG meeting.

RIFGC NEWS: -RIFGC is sponsoring a Polo afternoon at Newport Polo on Sunday July 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each through Lisa Pollack. This is a fundraiser for RIFGC and all ticket proceeds go directly to RIFGC. Families and pets are welcome and there will be a hat and pet collar decorating contest. BYO picnic, drinks and chairs. Club Presidents: Please keep track of who you sell tickets to and which of your members are attending.

- There is a wholesale account for clubs to use for purchasing plants for garden installations at Sylvan’s Nurseries in Westport , MA. Please reach out to Blakely who will be the coordinator and deliver the plant list to Sylvan’s.

- Habitat for Humanity house is in the works at 379 Friendship Street Providence. June 3 sod is being delivered from SodCo, a So. Kingstown sod farm in RI that is donating 100% the sod. Blakely will organize a tour of this interesting sod farm as there seemed to be considerable interest to visit this largest contiguous farmland in RI and largest sod grower in New England. Volunteer requests were asked for June 17 to help plant the hostas and knockout roses and impatiens at the habitat house. See Linda Alves for more info.

Reports of the Officers

1stVP Deb Ort- read an email from Noah Wilson who lives in the Bahamas and is interested in joining RIFGC. Upon his relocation to RI, Deb will refer him to a member club in his residential area.

- A membership directory publication was discussed, which would be inclusive of all RIFGC clubs and its members with contact info such as addresses and phones. Many people thought this was a good idea for ease in contacting people for committees, events, flower shows, etc. Blakely would not allow club lists to be published or used for personal promotion or outside events... only RIFGC sponsored events.. and perhaps it would be available on a members only section of the website..Some clubs object and Blakely will shelve the discussion/decision for the time being, while she pursues more thoroughly the exact objections those certain clubs had in releasing member names... A point was raised that it would be beneficial to RIFGC, though, to ensure all dues were accurately being paid for accounted members.

Corresponding Secretary Linda Alves had nothing to report.

-Point brought up about sending group "email blasts" to RIFGC and members. To use "blind copy" only when sending mass emails for virus protection for recipients and users. Not necessary if you have a smaller committee or list of 10 or so, but definitely do so when sending to groups. Blakely said there will be an RIFGC "IT" person conducting a "technical "workshop in the Fall (Jane Donnelly of Barrington Garden Club) who will provide some instruction.

Standing Committee Reports

-**Blue Star** – Candace Morgenstern reported that she attended a lovely dedication for a new Blue Star Memorial by Chatham Village, chaired by Jan Marcello. Since the re-dedication of the Westerly Blue Star Memorial in 2004, there have been 10 new memorials done throughout the state..The goal would be to have 30, one sponsored by each RIFGC club in the state.

-**Bee Gap-** Marnie Sandham has leaf cutter houses and bees for \$20.00 each. She thanked RIFGC Past President Cathy Moore for her support of the program thru her presidency.

Flower Show, Schools and Symposium- Sue Redden announced the Rose Society has a show June 17 and the Newport Flower Show is June 23-25.

She encouraged all clubs to consider holding a small standard flower show, as RI has 17 judges that need ongoing accreditation. Any and all kinds and a lot of help is available to all clubs who are considering a show. A question was raised regarding a "Wells Table"(gc members bring in a hort specimen from their gardens and display at meetings and it is discussed and informally judged at the meeting) and eligibility for judges' accreditation .Someone will talk with Judges Council and see about that possibility.

The NGC Symposium is being held here in RI October 31-November 2, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, following the New England Garden Clubs Regional meeting Oct 30 & 31. National President Nancy Hargroves will be in attendance. All are encouraged to attend and participate at the events. There will be a small flower show and dinner on Monday and Tuesday features awards presentations on a regional level. Sue Hinkle, new Regional head who is from Vermont will be present. Contact Vicki Iannuccillo :((vianuccil@aol.com 401-253-4535) for registration and details.

Hospitality- Sharon Gainey will be making calls to the various clubs to ask to provide refreshments for the monthly board meetings. Vera Bowen will make all the coffee for each meeting. The clubs that are providing the food will be asked to talk about a favorite project they are doing to share. This month

Sandi Fisher from Wantaknowhow spoke about the butterfly garden they established at the YMCA in Greene.

Judges Council- Vicky Iannuccillo announced the June 15 Design Seminar by Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz. Being held at St. Andrew's School in Barrington, tickets are \$20 and available through Adelaide Clifford.

Life Member Group- will be holding its summer fundraising and scholarship awards lunch on July 27, 11:30 at The Dunes Club in Narragansett. Features a cash bar, trio of summer salads and Designer Challenge, Part II and our scholarship winners, one of whom is Joseph Lofreddo (Gentian sponsored) . Joseph is also a NGC scholarship winner. Adelaide Clifford, membership chair for LMG said to look for application of membership in the "box" as it is important to generate new members for LMG. All club presidents are asked /urged to join. Jamestown has sent in a \$1,000 donation and Barrington will be also donating \$1000.

Newsletter/Photography- Sept/Oct/Nov newsletter deadline in July 1. Please send all news and photos to Blakely for inclusion. Also "Save The Dates" for upcoming events.

New Business- 3 spots available for entries in Hort at Newport Flower Show per Cathy Moore. Also she had some fertilizer bags available for free on the table. She also requested nametags be returned for next meetings.

Awards- presented by Holly Lippert and Blakely, several clubs received awards on regional and national level. NE Garden Clubs : Hameho 2016 Publicity Press Book 1st place for small club; Sogkonate 2016 Publicity Press Book 2nd place for large club.

NGC: Certificate of Commendations to Edgewood #16A5 yearbook, Barrington #16A6 yearbook
Sogkonate Youth Sculpture Contestant Riley Lucia and Certificate of Merit Hameho #44Ai Publicity Press Book.

Announcements: Tiverton GC presents Kent Russell , The Garden Guru June 26 at Sandy Woods Farm, 7 pm \$5 guest fee.

Meeting adjourned 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC