



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2017

President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Roll call was taken with 17 clubs present and 7 absent.

Blakely apologized for the lack of agenda distribution ahead of time, going on to explain that life, kids, job, the season upon us, sometimes interfere and one of the reasons she agreed to becoming President was to show all that anyone can manage this and participate and not be afraid that other parts of life often need to take precedence.

Minutes of the October, 2017 board meeting were approved without correction as previously circulated and will be filed. (NOTE: There was no November Board meeting)

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Pollack reported the following highlights for the operating account:

Balance on hand : 10/22/17	\$25,919.13
Total deposits made	6,508.00
Total disbursements	2,748.45

Operating A/C balance :12/4/17	\$29,678.68
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Details included in attached itemized report.

NGC NEWS and RIFGC News: Little new news to report this month as last month was a big news month both on RIFGC and national level. Blakely would like to focus forward to upcoming events in 2018, such as the Flower Show April, which will be addressed by forthcoming speakers today. the business part of Also looking forward to today's Annual RIFGC Holiday Luncheon with clubs immediately following the meeting .Club tables are decorated and looking festive!

RIFGC NEWS: -

Reports of the Officers

1stVP Deb Ort- Deb spoke about the upcoming Flower Show in April and has asked for volunteer help for data entry for the show. This includes using a template for entries, as well as judges' notes, comments and awards. Please contact her and canvas your club members for interest.

2nd VP Membership-Sheryl McGookin -reported there are no newly joined clubs presently but Cumberland and Perennial Planters both want to rejoin after the first of the year.

Corresponding Secretary Linda Alves – Thanked contributors in the disaster relief fund. She is sending the updated Presidents list to NGC in January, so the club presidents can receive the National Gardener publication. Please keep her updated as to the new club presidents.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Chair Holly Lippert not present but Blakely said she had spent time going over the applications and the new requirements can seem challenging. Look at the RIFGC newsletter as there is much information to assist. And there have been some major changes. For instance there is no longer a Publicity Press Book Award, rather it is substituted for an **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION MP-1 (NEW and replacing #44, Publicity Press Books)**- for the most innovative activity or activities, or most outstanding effort, to increase public visibility; to increase club membership, or to make the public aware of the mission and activities of garden clubs; including membership brochures, leaflets, or any other publication used, as well as any publicity received. (Printed materials, materials for electronic publication and publicity may be attached in their entirety to the application and are not counted as part of the three-page limit. Club Awards chairs need to look at the NGC award list carefully on the NGC website USER NAME: Member PASSWORD: PUMPKIN (RIFGC web info USER NAME: Member; PASSWORD : Flowers) as there are a lot of new and updated awards. Noted that for instance, individuals can apply for some awards and there are container garden awards etc. Blakely acknowledged those clubs receiving awards, which were presented at the Regional meeting in October. Barrington received the Marie E. Lewis conservation award for work with invasives at Osamequin and The Maureen Colton Award was presented to Barrington for its best display of mantels in Blithewold Wedding Flower Show in 2017. Year book awards were presented to Barrington and Edgewood. Publicity Press book award for small clubs presented to Hameho and Sagkonate received the Pamela C. Hebert Garden of Youth award.

Education Day - Chair Sandi Tinyk reported a successful day was held in November. The venue was changed to the Casino, from the Botanical Center, and the luncheon with salads were offered and well received. \$218 was raised thru an opportunity drawing for the Ikebana designs Elaine Di Chiara did during her presentation.

- **Flower Show and Symposium**- Sue Redden gave a full report (copy of which is attached in the minutes book) of the 50th regional symposium , which RI had the pleasure of hosting. Despite Hurricane Irma, loss of electricity, flooded rooms and stormy weather, it was judged a success with over 126 attendees and 91 judges having the opportunity to gain credits needed. Re: Flower Show schools, Lynne Merrill is now NGC Emeritus Master Judges due to her relocation to New Hampshire and limited time spent in RI. Barbara Blossom and Linda Kirkpatrick passed the Handbook exam and now are accredited judges. Ann Huntoon and Marj De Angelis passed point scoring exams. RIFGC is presenting NGC Specialty Flower Show called “Springtime Floral Fusion at the RI Convention Center April 5-8, 2018 . Portsmouth Garden Club is hosting a Small Standard Flower Show May 5 &6 and Hameho is hoping to have a show in September.

Hospitality-Sharon Gainey would like a volunteer to host the January meeting. Portsmouth volunteered. Sandi Fisher talked about fundraisers that restaurants like Texas Roadhouse offer for groups. Hosting a lunch where a % of the proceeds go to the clubs. This could be spread out through the state for broader participation. Please see Sandi if you want to be on a committee to explore this. This might be an option for next year’s RIFGC Holiday Lunch.

Life Member Group- Ann Gralenk (barrington) is taking over for Katy Wardlaw as Scholarship Chair. Please contact Ann for information 401-289-0195 or at thegral1@yahoo.com. February 1 is the deadline for applying. LMG reported that Barrington’s \$1,000 donation was received this week and likely a donation in memory of Marie Ford, a MA judge is forthcoming. Membership makes a good Christmas gift!

New Business-

Judy Gray (Bayberry) presented the schedule for the RIFGC "Springtime Floral Fusion" Flower show. It is fairly complete, not finalized. Priscilla Di Marco (Hameho) is design entry chair and Cathy Moore (Westerly) is design consultant. This show will be in the new style, as a NGC Specialty Design show, following the new 2017 Handbook rules. There will be 48 design entries, 2 educational exhibits and no horticulture. New designs will be incorporated such as the low profile and cascade in order to get them presented.

Old Business: .Lisa Pollack will deliver the total collected for the disaster relief fund at the luncheon following.(As it turned out \$998 was collected which included the donation (by Cathy Moore and Blakely)of the proceeds of the \$5.00 per head for the luncheon. \$2.00 was generated from member at large to round the total to \$1,000.)

Blakely then introduced 2 special guests from the RI Builders Association, Cheryl Boyd and Lou, to talk about the Flower Show in more detail.

The RI Builders Assn talked about the sponsorship and how they envision the show working. There will be a large amount of space (137 x 44 ft) available for design largely in the lobby area. Over 300 youth will be utilized and participate in all aspects of putting the show together and maintaining, in order to encourage and promote the "trades" among our student and youth populations. Help will be available to us for staging/moving/building and also some financial assistance with floral material purchase. Ticket purchase includes unlimited entry for all 4 days.

Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m. for the festive holiday luncheon, complete with Christmas carols downstairs at the RW Casino.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC