



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2018

President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m. Roll call was taken with 18 clubs/affiliates present and 7 absent.

Minutes of the December, 2017 board meeting were approved without correction as previously circulated and will be filed.

Blakely welcomed Adelaide Clifford who is the new RIFGC Treasurer. Lisa Pollack has resigned for personal reasons and Blakely thanked Lisa for her contributions and the wonderful job she did for RIFGC while in office.

Treasurer's Report: Adelaide Clifford reported the following highlights for the operating account:

Balance on hand: December 5 2017	\$25,678.68
Total receipts	1,464.00
Total disbursements	4,554.57

Operating A/C balance: 1/24/18 \$26,588.11

Details included in attached itemized report.

NGC NEWS and RIFGC News: President's Report: Blakely reported that she has visited many clubs (13 so far) and has enjoyed her visits. She sees the impact RIFGC has on the region and feels visits have been affirming of RIFGC mission. She would welcome invitations to visit all the clubs and need not make it formal... a cup of coffee and a chat would do! She mentioned how fun the Edgewood GC meeting was with an event which paired floral designs with food and wine and a silent auction for a fundraiser! Blakely toured the new facility of New England Tech in East Greenwich with Julie Christina (Youth Chair) and Deb Ort as guests of the RI Builders Assn (RIBA). There was an excellent presentation on work-based learning. 5 different schools have approached RIFGC to see how they might work with us.

An email was received from Barbara Dawson of NGC on 1/23/18 announcing that Plum Beach GC has been awarded a \$1,000 NGC Plant America Community Project Award. Vera Bowen noted that over 100 clubs had applied and 41 grants were awarded, and not all were at the \$1,000 level.

The Winter Issue of RIFGC NEWS is available today. One copy per club is here or please go on line to the website for additional copies: **RIFGC: User Member password: Pumpkin** Also available is the April Flower Show Schedule.

Blakely thanked Cathy Moore for her organizing and delicious food contribution for the December Holiday luncheon.

RIFGC

Reports of the Officers

2nd VP Membership-Sheryl McGookin -reported she received a letter from a woman who is a Girl Scout leader who said our website had been very helpful providing gardening and other information and links to help develop a gardener's badge. There is someone who is interested in membership in a club who lives on Elmwood Ave and she will forward the information to Edgewood GC

Corresponding Secretary Linda Alves – received a thank you letter for RIFGC contribution of \$1,030 to the National Disaster Relief fund. Funds are used toward replacing trees, greening and park restoration in areas that have been subject to natural disasters like flooding, hurricanes etc.

Standing Committee Reports

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: Kathy Lariviere has placed flyers in the club folders for the April 26 Lunch and meeting at Rhode Island Country Club. The fee is \$40 and registration is due 4/19/18. No refunds after 4/1. No tickets are being used, just emailed reservations with checks to be sent to secure the reservation. Names of attendees are needed from each club in the event a club reserves a whole table. Past presidents need to register as such, as there will be a Past Presidents' table. The meeting will begin at 10:00 with coffee available at 9:30. The speaker/ presenter is "Semia", a fabulous floral designer who has a growing regional presence. She is known for her natural floral design style with use of locally grown material. She will **SPEAK AT 11:00** which is a departure from the usual "speaker after lunch" format... Semia has recently opened the Floral Reserve at 1 Simms Ave, near the Foundry Building in Providence as both a retail and wholesale store for all things floral. The floral design industry in RI has become "hot" nationally, given our proximity to both NYC and Boston and the fact that Newport now is the second largest wedding destination in the U.S.!

Arbor Day is April 27 and Rochelle gave a brief history of this which recognized internationally and timed to coincide with the best planting time/season for trees.

Awards Chair Holly Lippert said the next RIFGC awards due date is February 15. The Publicity Press Book was due today. Basically award presentations can be a 3 page submission which would include a summary on page 1, description and photos of the project/etc and budget, with some information of publicity and how the project has impacted the community. Also, think of Awards being on 3 levels: RIFGC, Regional and National, each with their own deadlines. To start off, go for an RIFGC award before getting confused or overwhelmed at either regional or national level. Most of the RIFGC awards are monetary now, with the large silver trophy bowls and plates being set aside. Holly will be staying after this meeting for those who would like additional information and help. Vera Bowen announced that the deadlines for submitting entries for the Sylvia Street Award (for creative floral design) and the Joan Pesola Award (traditional Floral design) are due March 3. Submissions should be a 4 x 6 photo of the design done, and the back should describe the design with the show, garden club and date presented.

BeeGap: Marnie Sandham said it's time to order the mason bees. Contact her if interested. Also she mentioned that National Geographic had an article indicating that bees love urban areas and linden trees in particular.

Hospitality-Sharon Gainey thanked Portsmouth for the refreshments. Hamemo is on for February, Sogkonate in April and Chatham Village in May. Portsmouth GC reported about their club's civic beautification project of Purple Ribbons which decorated the town recently to give awareness to the growing problem of addictions, particularly in the schools. They announced they will be hosting a small flower show on May 5th and 6th at Atria Aquidneck Place, which is the first show they have held in years.

Judges Council: Vera Bowen reported they held a meeting last week and will hold another in June. They are planning a "by invitation only" workshop to be held later in the year. Next year they plan/hope to have a presentation open to all at St. Andrew's School in Barrington as they did last year.

Life Member Group- Ann Gralnek (Barrington) is accepting scholarship applications due February 1. **De Feldman** said a "Save the Date" flyer has been placed in club folders for the luncheon on 7/26/18 at the Dunes Club. More details will be forthcoming such as price/speaker etc.

Newsletter: Blakely said submissions are due February 15 for the MARCH/APRIL/MAY newsletter. As this is the "President's Issue", please contribute something from your club about a program or event your club has held the past year. This is a very informative and helpful issue to club presidents and program chairs when planning club years. Also please submit all information about your club's events no matter how far out the dates may seem in order to prevent overlaps and double booking of events/flower shows/plant sales.

New Business-

The Flower Show (April 5-8) Chairs Deb Ort and Vera Bowen are meeting each week with RIBA for an hour. The schedule is on the RIFGC website. RIBA will be putting money toward the purchase of flowers for the design entries. Fall River Floral Wholesalers will be used for providing the material and there is a March 1 deadline to get your floral lists to Deb Ort (who hopes to have a helper to do this).

Contributions are to be as follows: \$25 toward small designs, \$50 toward exhibition, \$75 toward the table designs, \$50 toward the low profile designs, \$100 toward the cascade designs and \$150 toward the traditional designs... While this may not cover the entire cost of a design entry, it will help defray costs and should more extensive/exotic material be needed the designer needs to supplement with their own. This could be helpful at least toward the greens used in a design for the larger ones. The flowers will be available 2 days prior to the show and delivered to RIBA offices in East Providence off Veterans Memorial Pkway. On line, www.sierraflowerfinder.com, website can help with material selection and identification.. BJ Stephens is in charge of Clerks and has asked the club presidents to canvas their members to see who might be interested in clerking. She needs 6 people.

Announcements: There is a program at the Newport Library on 3/14 at 1:00 pm by Charles Clarkson from Virginia honoring the 2018 Year of the Bird.

March 8-9 is the Philadelphia Flower Show with a stop at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. Trip is co-sponsored by Barrington Garden Club and Barrington Community School. Contact Sandi Tinyk to reserve your spot.

Barrington Garden Club is presenting a documentary on the Life of Beatrix Ferrand on 2/13 at 12:00 at Barrington Library.

2 ladies from Gentian Garden Club are organizing a tour called The Gardens of Yorkshire 6/23-30/2018. Contact Cathy Bisette from Gentian for more information.

After the 2/22 meeting a roundtable discussion will focus on programs.

Today's roundtable discussion, led by Sheryl McGookin will follow the meeting, and focus on membership issues and how to fill Board positions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC