



## Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2018

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President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:06a.m. Roll call was taken with 11 clubs/affiliates present and 14 absent.

Minutes of the January, 2018 board meeting were approved as corrected when previously circulated and will be filed. A reminder that the minutes are posted on the RIFGC website if needed.

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

Balance on hand: January 25, 2018	\$26,588.11
Total receipts	0.00
Total disbursements	177.65

Operating A/C balance: 2/21/18            \$26,410.46

Details included in itemized report.

Adelaide reminded all present that club dues are due to RIFGC by May 1.

**NGC NEWS and RIFGC News: President's Report:** Blakely reported that last month's roundtable discussion has a fantastic turnout. The topic was about membership and how to fill Board positions at your clubs. Sheryl McGookin will recap notes and the event and the excellent feedback received in the upcoming Newsletter. 2 new membership requests have come in and have been forwarded to the appropriate clubs. These individuals cannot make daytime meetings and Blakely requested clubs to please consider holding one or two evening or weekend events to include people who cannot make daytime events. It is important for the future health and growth of RIFGC and member clubs to broaden the demographic base to include the "back to work force" and "working moms" as well.

Blakely received an email blast from NGC that announced P. Allen Smith ( Proven Winners ) would like to partner with NGC Plant America Program for fundraising so the grant program can continue in the future. There is information on the NGC website about how to order certain plant selections from P. Allen/ Proven Winner and the proceeds would go to NGC for the Plant America Program.

Blakely was excited to announce that "Art in Bloom" (Boston MFA sponsored event) recently paid \$75.00 to RIFGC for a full page ad for the event in the newsletter. Regarding the Blue Star Memorial there is a price break through May 1... A By -way marker will be \$510 and the large 7' marker would be \$1530, both of which include the freight/delivery in the price.

Please mark your calendars for the Life Member Luncheon on 7/26/18 t the Dunes Club. More information will be forthcoming.

## **RIFGC**

### **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. Please send reservation checks to Liz Pesce at PO BOX 568, Barrington, RI 02806. The meeting will begin at 10:00a.m. with coffee available at 9:30. The speaker/ presenter is "Semia", a fabulous floral designer who has a growing regional presence. She will **SPEAK AT 11:00** which is a departure from the usual "speaker after lunch" format... there will be no vendors but there will be an opportunity drawing for the beautiful designs Semia creates and the table arrangements. As this is not an installation year, the thought is the lunch be fun and relaxing, without making it a fundraising event or too long.

**Hospitality**-Sharon Gainey thanked Hameho for the refreshments .Hameho reported that theirs is a service oriented club and participates in maintaining Barrington town gardens, shares the Blue Star Memorial Marker care with Barrington GC and works with garden therapy Atria Senior living. Membership is limited to 29 members (26 presently) and they meet in the evening, who's topic was "Beautiful Blooms and How to make your Garden Sing".

**Life Member Group- Katy Wardaw** (Barrington) reported there were 2 qualified applicants and they will divide a total of \$ 4,000. One will intern at Blithewold and is an undergrad, the other is pursuing a Masters' degree in tree pathogens. There was some discussion as to whether the RIFGC could sponsor the winner to go on to NGC being a Southeastern Massachusetts resident, an area covered by RIFGC but perhaps not eligible for NGC scholarship sponsor through RIFGC. This needs to be verified at NGC level, as it would seem since our area includes Southeastern Mass for federation, then that resident should be able to be sponsored by RIFG at NGC level.

**Newsletter: Blakely** said submissions were due February 15 for the MARCH/APRIL/MAY newsletter. 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-**

Announcements: Art in Bloom at Boston MFA is being held April 28-May 3 . There are a lot of wonderful designs and special speakers. Please go to [mfa.org/artinbloom](http://mfa.org/artinbloom) for more information.

On May 1 Rehoboth Garden Club will have a meeting at 6:30 pm which will include a dessert buffet and feature a presentation by Blakely Szosz "Jewelry of the Garden" and an opportunity drawing. All are welcome.

The Flower Show (April 5-8) Chair Deb Ort reported that things are moving along. Staging, hostesses and clerks chairs are developing their lists of volunteers.

Priscilla Di Marco, Design Entry Chair, said that many more designs are needed... 22 openings of the needed total of 48. Please consider entering!

Sue Redden is handling the orders for the flowers and needs everyone's list by March 15 by email at [sueredden@verizon.net](mailto:sueredden@verizon.net) if anyone wants the purchasing assistance from RIBA. Pickup will be Monday 4/2 at RIBA at 450 Veteran's Memorial Parkway RIBA. They haven't settled on a time yet. The flower show schedule is on the RIFGC website. The delivery times for the finished designs to the Convention center were being worked out but it appears that 7am would be the earliest something could be delivered on Wednesday April the 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be an "al fresco border" being designed and installed by Blakely and she would welcome all assistance if 'floral design' is not "your thing". Next month's Roundtable discussions will concentrate on the Flower Show and designs. Also, Google "low profile designs" with NGC website for images to see some examples.

Today's Roundtable discussion, will follow the meeting, and focus on "programs".

Old Business: Marnie Sandham talked about Bee Gap and the importance that gardeners' are adding pollinators to their gardens. Edgewood has adopted this as a youth program adding "pipe houses'. These type of bees, crown bees, do not produce honey but are pollinators the size of flies... beware the size of the pipes used for houses.. Too big allows predators so, skinny tubes best and day lily stems or large hosta stems could be used for a natural approach. The website: [crownbees.com](http://crownbees.com) gives 5% individual rebates and use NGC-RI discount code as also, 5% rebate goes to NGC. Marnie is available for powerpoint presentation for any club interested. RIFGC has a slide projector that can be borrowed for the powerpoints.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade  
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC