



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

April 25, 2019

President Blakely Szosz called the April Board meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at The Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown.

As this preceded the Annual Luncheon and Awards Presentation, Blakely said the meeting would be very brief and highlighted only essential announcements.

Roll call was taken, with 18 clubs present, 7 absent and no affiliate societies in attendance.

The minutes for the March meeting were approved and filed as written.

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

Balance on hand as of April 1, 2019:	\$23,905.14
Total receipts:	20,714.50
Total disbursements:	13,357.27

Operating A/C balance as of April 24, 2019: \$31,262.37

Details are included in the itemized report.

The totals are in for the donations and fundraising for the Hasbro Children's Hospital Healing Garden. Details of which clubs and individuals contributing are in attached report. Summarized, the clubs donated, together with individual donations and proceeds from the December luncheon, a total of \$4,311. Together with the matching funds (\$3,346) from RIFGC, the RIFGC presented a check for \$7,657.00 to Hasbro.

RIFGC News:

Blakely thanked everyone for their participation in the Flower Show, with a special thanks to Kathy LaRiviere who was the Chair. RIFGC received the type of publicity and recognition desired with good coverage on social media, TV, newspaper and radio. Over 300 youth per day got to participate at various levels from putting the show together to entering designs as well. Blakely will be attending NGC Convention in Biloxi, MS at the end of the month with De Feldman, Vera Bowen, and Deb Ort.

Flower Show School Course 1 takes place in MA in OCT (16, 17 and 18)... Blakely is attending, and will drive and encourages anyone to join her. There is an advanced course in Sept. (for Judges) In CT.

Next RIFGC meeting is scheduled at Roger William Casino for JUNE 27, with Deb Ort presiding. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE, as it has been changed from what was originally on schedule.

Committee Reports:

Life Member Group President De Feldman reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting at the Rhode Island Country Club on July 25. LMG is awarding two scholarships and the recipients will be there. The luncheon fee is \$43 and open to all. Please encourage and promote others to come and also join LMG for \$100 lifetime dues. There are flyers on tables. Featured speaker is Julie Christina, horticulturist at Blithewold and floral designer.

On behalf of the **Finance Committee**, Treasurer Adelaide Clifford presented the proposed 2019-2020 budget, copy of which is attached and filed with the minutes, which was unanimously approved. This year there was no need to "borrow" money from any capital accounts as the income generated from both Polo and the Flower Show brought in sufficient income to fund RIFGC activities. This is the second year in a row for this fiscal health, having had to advance

funds from savings, the previous 16 years. There was an outside audit performed and the “books” are pristine. The Finance Committee has worked extremely hard to clean up the finances and fiscal procedures and RIFGC is now in excellent shape for being able to solicit outside funding or grant money now that the audit has been done.

April Board meeting adjourned 10:25 a.m.

At 10:30 our featured guest speaker, Shelby Doggett, Executive Director of What Cheer Farm, Olneyville, Providence, gave an informed and interesting slide presentation about the farm’s mission and growth.

11:30 a.m. marked the opening of the Annual Meeting.

Blakely presented Certificates of Recognition to those clubs celebrating anniversaries: Hameho 55 yrs, Apple Blossom 65, Quononoquott 70, Portsmouth 85, Rehoboth 85, Tiverton 85 and Newport 105!

A special commendation was presented to Vera Bowen for her significant support to the President over the past 2 years. The installation of the Incoming Slate of Officers for 2019-2021 was presided over by Chair of the Finance Committee, Candace Morgenstern. She thanked the outgoing Officers and welcomed the new: Treasurer Paul Nunes, Corresponding Secretary Kathy LaRiviere, Recording Secretary Nina Kurtz, First VP Sheryl McGookin and President Deb Ort.

The Life Member Group Officers Installation followed, with De Feldman, outgoing Chair presiding. She welcomed Sandi Tinyk Chairman, Marge De Angelis Vice Chair. George Champlin Finance Chair, Adelaide Clifford Membership Chair, Anne Gralnek Scholarship Chair, and Paula Munken Secretary.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was adjourned for lunch, and then continued with the Awards Presentations (attached in the brochure) during lunch.

The Member Award of Honor was awarded to Portsmouth Club member Annette Jarvis.

Several citations were presented, and Commendations to RIFGC members for contributions during the past year : Deb Ort for stepping up as Awards Chair, Kathy LaRiviere- (with a rosette) as Flower Show Chair, Elaine Di Chiara for Chairing the Francoise Weeks event, and Adelaide Clifford for her fiscal expertise and knowledge.

A very special Commendation and Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Sue Redden for her 20 year of Service to the RIFGC and invaluable support to the President.

Blakely then addressed RIFGC, thanking all for their contributions and support during her presidency and turned the meeting over to Deb Ort, newly installed President. Deb, as 48th President of RIFGC, said that her theme is “Plant Rhode Island: Remember you Roots” and will emphasize the continued importance of trees to our Earth and Environment.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:39

Respectfully submitted,
Emmy Reade
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC