

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Board Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2019

President Deb Ort called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll call was taken with 16 clubs present, no societies present, and 8 clubs absent.

The minutes of the September meeting were sent out electronically and the following correction was added. *The Blue Star report was given by Candace Morgenstern for Sandi Tinyk, Chair, who could not attend. Candace passed out fliers of Blue Star Memorials and reported on how many Blue Star Memorials are in Rhode Island.*

There being no further corrections the minutes stand approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Nunes was unable to attend. President Deb Ort read the following highlights for the operating account:

beginning balance as of August 31, 2019, \$28,498.89.

Income \$3,031.1

Disbursements \$2,085.11

Ending balance in the operating account as of September 30, 2019, is \$26,050.01.

Executive Board Reports:

President's Report: Deb Ort

Deb reported October has been a very busy month. We have been working on a plan for a Habitat for Humanity home in Bristol. We plan to put in 26 bushes and an American Holly tree. The family was very happy for our help.

In November there will be NO RIFGC board meeting. Please plan to attend Education Day instead. Information was distributed. Please note the deadline to register and order lunch is November 12.

In December we will have our Holiday Luncheon and a short meeting. This year it will be held at Sogkonate Point Club (the former Fo'c'sle) at Sakonnet Point, in Little Compton. A flyer was distributed by email and in the president's folders. The deadline for reply for the luncheon is November 22nd

In January our board meeting will be January 23. The DEADLINE for the NEWSLETTER is January 24, 2020. Please share what is going on in your garden club and add photos if you can.

We have distributed our "Arbor Day Tree List". There are 10 free trees to choose from: Large Shade Trees, Ornamental Flowering Trees and Evergreens. Many are pollinator friendly and native to Rhode Island. Please let us know by April 1st if your club would like a free tree. Please send your request to Deb Ort by email. We ask if you receive a tree from RIFGC or elsewhere that your club apply for the Arbor Day Award. The application is simple, the club name, the tree's location, description, pictures, and any publicity.

Deb stated we have a busy season ahead of us. Let us continue to share our love of gardening with each other and our communities.

Reports of the Executive Board:

Vice President, Sheryl McGookin—No report.

Recording Secretary, Nina Kurtz—No report

Corresponding Secretary, Kathy LaRiviere—Kathy apologized for a “typo” in her recent blast to RIFGC President’s. Kathy reminded the clubs of her new email address, knlariv@outlook.com. She also reminded clubs of the Holiday Luncheon on December 5, 2019. Send reservations and checks to Paul Nunes, Treasurer.

Standing Committee Chairs:

Annual Report, Ann Huntoon, Annual Meeting will be 4/23/20. More information to follow.

Awards, Kathleen Damiani and Cheryl Celeste, direct questions regarding awards to gardenclubckawards@gmail.com. Yearbooks are due today. If your club is applying for a Member of Honor Award, they are due to RI Award Chairs by January 1, 2020. Any National Awards are due to RI Awards Chairs by December 15, 2019. Two regional awards were submitted: 1. Hameho Garden Club, Flower Show Schedule award 2A. 2. Bristol Garden Club, The Marie Parker Award 17A. Creating an educational exhibit at a flower show or public building.

Blue Star, Sandi Tinyk, no report.

By-Laws, Vera Bowen, no report.

Design Study, Linda Kirkpatrick and Marj DeAngelis, design classes are still going on. If you wish to attend give chairs 2 week’s notice. There are still spaces at Jamestown.

Education Day, Vera Bowen, fliers available and discussed in President’s report.

Environmental Concerns, Kathy Bessette, no report.

Habitat for Humanity (HFH), Linda Alves. Planting will be at a Bristol home Saturday November 2nd at 10:30AM. **Trees will be purchased at Silvan’s Nursery in Westport, MA**. If you want to assist, please contact Linda Alves.

Horticulture, Marjorie DeAngelis, upcoming events include: “Botanizing Land of Blue Poppy”, Tibet Botany Lecture, lunch, book signing at RI Country Club. Fundraiser for Blithewold, \$75 Members, \$85 Non-Members.

Tuesday, 11/12, 10-11:30, Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, The Japanese Garden. A Tour of Roger Williams Park Japanese Garden. \$3.00, for information call 401-680-7221.

Have your Garden Club consider a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show. Rules and regulations are available through Marj.

Hospitality, Linda Alves, thanked the Jamestown GC for refreshments today. Reminder that clubs doing refreshments must arrive early. She will send monthly reminders via email. Deb Ort suggested a sign stating “nuts in items” would be helpful. Deb also announced that the RIFGC Board will take on the refreshments in February.

Life Member, Sandi Tinyk, no report.

Penny Pines, De Feldman (absent). Deb Ort reported her visit to Barrington Garden Club. Barrington GC collected \$68.00 collected at their first meeting and continues to collect at each meeting. She reminded the group Penny Pines money goes to Paul Nunes, Treasurer, 290 County Road, Seekonk MA.

Programs, Blakely Szosz, Blakely reported NGC site is a nice resource for programs. Log in with the password “conserve”. Blakely and Sheryl (VP) are compiling a database with program information. It should be ready soon. Flower Show with RI Builders Association is 4/2-4/5. Ideas for theme are World of Ideas, Gardens of the World, England, France, and Italy. This show is a great youth outreach. Blakely reminded clubs to be sure and have background checks on all people working in youth programs.

Youth, Sheryl McGookin, reminded clubs of Youth Award deadlines being sent via email.

Webmaster, Kathy Thomas, Deb reminded all clubs the RIFGC website is available for all clubs to place their events.

Old Business: Blithewold event 11/7, 10-11:30, 11/12 Planetarium Tour of Japanese Garden, \$3. Education Deadline for Education Day is 11/12, RSVP to Vera Bowen. Life Member Luncheon will be in August. Date to be determined.

New Business: Edgewood GC discussed “new members disappear” and they are working on keeping them involved and active. Ideas include developing a mentor program, having open houses including members, creating a 5-minute video about the club and what membership responsibilities entail. Barrington GC offered their mentoring program includes VP being in communication with new members and having a new member tea reviewing all information.

Next meeting: 12/5/19 at Sakonnet Point Club, Meeting 10:30. This will be the RIFGC Annual Holiday Luncheon and Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina L. Kurtz

Recording Secretary RIFGC