

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

JANUARY 28, 2011 BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order @ 10:22am by President Vera Bowen.

Vera welcomes Liza Gentile from the RI Food Bank who spoke about the preview party at the Flower Show on Wednesday February 23, 2011. There will be 25 restaurants, wineries and breweries involved. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. Garden Club members can purchase a ticket for \$65.00.

Judy Hager noted that the December luncheon was successful and will be continued going forward. Cathy Moore will run this luncheon next year.

Judy introduced 2 ladies from Warwick Neck Garden Club. They are considering joining the RIFGC.

Roll Call was taken.

There was no correspondence.

Adelaide Clifford read the Treasurers' Report and it was filed for audit.

Judy Hager continued speaking about some of her thoughts going forward for the RIFGC. She wants to have a presidents' luncheon to get feedback and ideas. She wants to have a RIFGC president's project which will be followed through to completion by the president.

Vera Bowen's president's project is a prison project. 2 years ago she thought about gardens in the prison system. She researched the possibility and found there is a children's' garden for women in medium security prison and there is also a farm for maximum security prisoners. The garden is 135'Lx60'wx20'h. The gardeners would be lifers. The vegetables would be to eat and any extra would go to the local homeless shelters. There are also accredited programs to educate inmates w/ skills to use when they are released. It is a 28 week course. Vera visited Rikers Island Prison in NY which has this accredited program. This program helps will lowering the revisit rate of convicts. Rikers also has the best garden in the country.

Vera will be looking for old seed books and other hort. Books to start a library in the prison. She will also be looking for volunteers to teach and help out. This will be of no cost to the RIFGC.

The tickets for the Annual Luncheon are available for \$35.00 per person. It is April 28, 2011 at Quidnessett CC. Paul Split-"Gone to Pot" is the speaker. Tickets are refundable until the March board meeting.

Priscilla DiMarco and Doris Stephens have emailed info to clubs' awards chairperson. The applications must be in by February 15, 2011 for State awards. The awards are also posted on rigardenclubs.org. If you have any Silver please return it by the next board meeting – Feb. 24, 2011.

Sally Desimone and Maureen Colton won a Blue Star Memorial by-way marker which will be placed at the military cemetery in Exeter, RI.

There will finance meeting this afternoon with a proposed budget.

FS '11

Anne Huntoon, Chairperson, reported the show is coming along. We need one more club for the horticulture club competition class. Youth entries are due today.

Sue Redden reported on FSS. Congratulations to Vera Bowen for passing the schedule test and to Marjorie DeAngelis for passing Course I. De, Candace and Sue attended FSS Instructors and Symposium in San Antonio, TX. Troughs/hypertufas are being added to handbook for combination plantings for a flower show. RI is hosting the 2012 NE Regional Symposium.

We have 2 homes to start planting in spring for Habitat of Humanity. This time we will plant 6' trees instead of 18" trees.

Sharon Gainey thanked Apple Blossom for hospitality at this meeting.

Vicki Ianuccillo reported on Design Study. We are in the fifth year of design study. The last classes for this year are March 1, 2011, Crescent design by Sue Redden in Scituate, RI and Creative Design on April 19, 2011 in Watch Hill, RI. Entry forms are available on the website and at this meeting. The cost is \$30.00 per person.

Life Member Scholarship applications are due to Anne O'Neill by May 1, 2011. Officers for Life Member will be installed at the April Board Meeting. The August fundraiser will be held @ The Dunes Club w/ Cocktails and Silent Auction.

Vera Bowen reported that RI has a very good chance at winning the daffodil planting project this year.

Rehoboth GC will do the president's report for February.

There will be a program meeting after the March Board meeting.

The Advisory Board approved combining the May and June meeting to either June 2 or June 9. The May meeting would fall at the same time as the National Convention.

Rochelle Kieron reported about the Youth posters due Feb. 15, 2011 to National.

Next month's meeting will have the new slate of officers read and in March will be voted on.

The RI Master Gardeners are giving a Spring Symposium in a new Award Winning Bldg. @ URI. The event takes place Sat. April 30, 2011 and cost \$70.00 per person.

The next board meeting is February 24, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned @ 11:22am