

## Minutes of the RIFGC Executive Board Meeting: February 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Vera Bowen at 10:20AM at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Prior to conducting the business meeting, she introduced Teny Gross, a former Israeli army officer and currently the Executive Director of the Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence; he spoke on the history, mission and programs of the Institute. It was founded in 2001 and in the past 10 years, a number of programs have been developed to serve students, families, schools, community members, police officers, street workers and others through the use of the principles and practices of non-violence. These were all described in detail, both in his presentation and in printed materials which were available. His presentation also addressed the similarities between the nurturing aspects of both the institute's programs and gardening.

Vera thanked all who worked on the Flower Show, Passions of the Heart, and commented on the creativity and beauty of the show, as well as the Preview Party the prior evening, when Bernie Laribee diligently sold raffle tickets. Later in the meeting, Ann Huntoon was applauded for her leadership, hard work and creativity as chairman and designer of the show.

In the absence of the recording secretary, Vera called the role and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice president, Sandi Tinyk, recorded the minutes. The minutes of the January meeting were unavailable and will be e-mailed at a later date.

Treasurer's Report: Adelaide Clifford reported that the checking account balance as of January 24 was \$19,792.89; cash receipts for the month were \$5,975 and disbursements were \$3,131.28, leaving a checking account balance of \$22,636.61. CDs and the Money Market Fund total \$98,477.05. Total RIFGC accounts are \$121,113.66.

Adelaide also announced that dues notices will be mailed March 1<sup>st</sup> and dues will be due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Members' dues have been reduced to \$3.50 because the *News* is being mailed electronically, which represents a considerable savings to RIFGC.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Meeting: De Feldman reported that tickets for the April 28 annual meeting will be sold at the March board meeting; this year's meeting includes the awards luncheon and installation of new officers. Tickets will also be available in April, but only by mail. The meeting will be held at Quidnessett Country Club and landscape designer Paul Split will be the featured speaker.

Awards: All silver bowls and trays need to be returned to Priscilla DiMarco, Doris Stephens or Vera Bowen as soon as possible in preparation for the annual meeting.

Blue Star Memorial: Vera announced that through the efforts of Sally DeSimone and Maureen Colton, a bi-way marker has been secured and will be placed at the Veterans' Cemetery in Exeter on a date to be announced.

Finance Committee: Sally DeSimone, committee chairman, announced that the committee will meet in March and members will be contacted with details.

Flower Shows & Flower Show Schools: Sue Redden reported that Rehoboth Garden Club is having a flower show on October 1, and Ann Huntoon and Marge DeAngelis will be attending Flower Show School II, April 26-28.

Garden Therapy: Vera thanked Annette Jarvis for submitting an excellent article which will appear in the next *News*.

Habitat for Humanity: Vera announced that volunteers will be needed to help with planting at 2 houses; date tba.

Hospitality: Chairman Sharon Gainey thanked members of Governor Francis Farms GC for providing today's refreshments.

Design Study Group: Sue Redden will lead the next workshop on March 1<sup>st</sup> in Scituate.

Life Member: Candace Morgenstern announced that the next meeting will be held on August (need date) at the Dunes Club; as this will be an evening meeting, from 4-7:00PM, members are urged to bring husbands or a friend, and there will be a silent auction. She is asking that each club donate 2 items in the form of a service (e.g. help with garden design, providing an arrangement for a party or dinner, etc.) to the auction. Further details will be forthcoming. Scholarship applications are being accepted now and will be reviewed by Anne O'Neil.

Ways and Means: Grace Klinger described items to be raffled at today's meeting.

Club President's Presentation: Alise DeBlanca of the Rehoboth Garden Club gave a slide presentation of her club's monthly workshops which focus on arranging basics, materials, and specific types of floral arrangements. These workshops are conducted by club members, and members are gaining experience and confidence in their arranging skills.

#### Old Business:

Vera reminded club presidents that the annual Program Seminar will be held immediately after the March 24 meeting, at the Casino. Presidents are asked to urge their program chairmen to attend as this is a useful tool as they plan their club's programs.

#### New Business:

Vera described a project initiated by the Dover, Delaware Garden Club. All members of the armed services who lose their lives in war are returned to the country via the Dover Air Force base. There have been no facilities for the families to stay until the recent past, when the club contacted the base commander to request housing for these people. A house was located for this purpose, was furnished and a garden planted, as well as a chapel established on the property. Dover presented this at the National Garden Club board meeting last fall. RIFGC will collect donations for their project from those attending the March board meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Lynne Merrill announced that the committee has met and proposes the following slate of nominations:

#### **Nominees - Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs 2011-2013**

President	Judy Hager – Edgewood Garden Club
First Vice President	Sandi Tinyk – Barrington Garden Club
Second Vice President	Catherine Moore – Gardeners of Westerly
Recording Secretary	Sharon Gainey – Gentian Garden Club
Corresponding Secretary	Holly Lippert – Sogkonate Garden Club
Treasurer	Adelaide Clifford – Barrington Garden Club
Ex-Officio	Vera Bowen – Bristol & Bayberry Garden Clubs

Nominating Committee: 3 persons to be elected from the following:

Ann Huntoon – Gentian GC  
Marjorie Johnston – Rehoboth GC  
Kathleen Damiani – W. Cranston GC  
Darcy Scott – Barrington GC  
Janice Panoff – So. County GC  
Karen Kestenberg– Bristol GC  
Bernie Larivee – Edgewood GC  
Linda Lacroix – Tiverton GC  
Annette Jarvis - Portsmouth GC

The Nominating Committee is composed of:

Lynne Merrill, Chair  
Sue Redden  
Emily Reade  
Vicki Iannuccillo  
Sally DeSimone

Each club may send 2 delegates to the March meeting, to be determined by the individual clubs, plus 1 additional member for every 25 members in excess of 50. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on March 24 at the Casino.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Sandi Tinyk*, Corresponding Secretary Pro Tem