

**RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
DECEMBER 1, 2011, BOARD MEETING
CASINO AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK**

The combined November/December meeting of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs was called to order at 10:10 by Judy Hager, President. One word was eliminated from the October minutes, and they were approved as published. A slide show that included Candace Morgenstern's arrangements at the Barrington Garden Club meeting as well as pictures of the Playtime Elements that were purchased for Minimum Security Children's Visiting Area and Garden were presented. Our National Garden Club president, Shirley Nicolai; our New England Regional Director, Joyce Kimball; and Judy's mother were introduced and later joined us for our Holiday Luncheon and shopping extravaganza.

Roll was called; new presidents introduced themselves; and there was no correspondence.

Adelaide Clifford, treasurer, reported:

- A checking account balance as of November 30, 2011, of \$6,484.97
- A balance in other accounts of \$98,334.07
- Her report was filed for audit.

Judy Hager, president, reported:

- Shirley Nicolai and Joyce Kimball would speak at the luncheon.
- Barrington, Portsmouth and Hamemo Garden Clubs received awards from NER.
- Four elements (animals) for the Visiting Area/Garden were ordered in November and should arrive in February and will be displayed at the Flower Show.
- The Flower Show schedule "Through the Eyes of a Child" is finished and posed on the website, www.rigardenclubs.org.
- Thanks to Vera, Vicki, Candace, Priscilla, and Doris who will be serving as entry chairs.
- Please check the schedule to see whom to contact for a class you are interested in.
- The set up is February 19-21 with judging and an evening preview party on the 22nd.
- The show itself will run from February 23rd-26th.
- Raffle tickets have been distributed to all of the clubs and should be returned at the January meeting. Clubs receive 60% of the proceeds.
- Over 160 pinwheels have gone out to juniors for exhibition.
- There will also be a youth educational exhibit on wind power.
- For the first time there will be a youth horticulture special exhibit that will feature a succulent specimen. The containers will be provided and displayed on a painter's palette. The class is limited to the first 30 entrants. To become an entrant, email jhager@cox.net, the entrant's name, club, age and succulent name. Judy will then get the pot to the entrant. The plant must be in the entrant's possession by December 21 and will be brought in with the hort entries on Tuesday, February 21. If an entrant decides not to participate, the pots must be returned to Judy as no partially filled palettes will be displayed.
- The Coping Station will be staffed by Bristol, Portsmouth and Quononoquott Garden Clubs.

- She is looking for a few unique items for the show, e.g. a large aquarium or terrarium (empty), a large carousel horse and several costumes. Please let her know as soon as possible if you have any of these items.
- Holly and her husband Gary were thanked for continuing to make updates to the website. If you have calendar updates that you would like to have added to the calendar, please email them to Holly.
- There will be a 30-minute President's Forum immediately following the January 26th meeting at the Casino. This will specifically focus on awards—silver, rosettes and certificates as well as financial awards. Please try to stay and provide feedback for the direction in which we head in the future with awards.
- The February 23rd board meeting will be held at the convention center. It is opening day of the flower show, so after the board meeting, you'll have a great opportunity to visit the show. There will be a tea sponsored by the RI Horticulture Society that afternoon.
- RIFGC will be having a float in the Bristol 4th of July Parade. It will be a patriotic float featuring our Blue Star Memorial Marker program. Sally Phillips, from Barrington Garden Club, will be co-chairing the committee with Vera and Judy. De and Sandi have offered assistance, but many more members will be needed. There will be more updates after the flower show.

1st Vice President, Sandi Tinyk, reported:

- That the next Education Day would probably be held in September the week after Labor Day.
- Thanks to those presidents who returned the surveys.
- More information on the NGC President's Projects will be available at the March meeting.

2nd Vice President, Cathy Moore, reported:

- She and Bernie are planning the next Design Study Beginner Group workshop for January at a location to be announced.
- Design Study students will do the arrangements for the Annual Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting:

- Vicki shared details of the Annual Meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at Twin River Casino, in Lincoln, at 10 a.m. followed by the Awards Luncheon.
- The program is "Dance and Design" featuring the Johnson 7 Wales Competitive Dance Team in step with Interpretative Designs by RIFGC's best arrangers.
- Tickets are \$30, and tables can be booked in advance by contacting Priscilla at 401.245.6938.
- There will be complimentary valet parking and a convenient, side entrance.

Awards:

- NER award applications are due to Kathy Mulkerin by December 15th.
- The Publicity Press Book award is due by February 1.

Design Study Advance Group:

- The Advanced Group will meet on January 6 at the United Methodist Church in Barrington.

Habitat for Humanity:

- Two houses were planted, and gifts of hoses, garden tools, etc. were presented to the new homeowners.

Life Members:

- BJ reported that the first function will be held on May 31 at Rhode Island Country Club and will involve the National Park Services.
- Gloria reported that the Life Members are an important part of this organization.
- The second function will be announced at a later date.

Life Member Scholarships:

- Janice reported that any college sophomore through graduate student is eligible for a Life Member scholarship.
- One entry from RIFGC will be submitted to National for another scholarship.

Member Services:

- Grace announced that she has access to calendars and other NGC items.

NEWS:

- The NEWS was emailed recently.
- Cheryl Heroux was thanked for another great issue.
- It has been posted on www.rigardenclubs.org in the members-only section. The password is violet.

Ways and Means:

- As we meet, Karen is setting up our Holiday Boutique before, during, and after the lovely lunch arranged by Cathy.

Youth:

- Rochelle announced that essays are due on December 15 and posters are due at our January meeting.

Environmental Awareness:

- Kathleen Damiani did an enlightening presentation on the advantages of certain types of light bulbs.

There were no other reports, announcements, new or old business, so the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Gainey, Recording Secretary