

**RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
JANUARY 26, 2012, BOARD MEETING
CASINO AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK**

The January meeting of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs was called to order at 10 a.m. by Judy Hager, President. After wishing everyone a Happy New Year, she introduced some guests from the RI Food Bank—Kelly Nichols and Cindy Elder, who spoke about the Flower Show Preview Party “Taste of the Show.” This RI Food Bank benefit will be held on Wednesday, February 22, from 6-9 p.m. at the RI Convention Center. Tickets are \$65 for garden club members and \$75 for others.

Roll was called and correspondence from Habitat for Humanity, the RI Tree Council and Nature Conservancy was read. As there were no corrections, the previous minutes were approved as published.

Adelaide Clifford, treasurer, reported:

- A checking account balance as of January 24, 2012, of \$3,658.76.
- The balance in other accounts of \$98,574.94.
- The report was filed for audit.
- RIFGC made \$901.42 on the Holiday Boutique.
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Judy Hager, president, reported:

- She conducted the installation of officers for the Quononoquott Garden Club on December 12, and she shared some photos of the event.
- She introduced Kathleen Damiani and Bernie Larivee, who are in charge of the raffle and hostesses for the Flower Show. Kathleen’s correct email address is KDamiani@crimsonrose.com for anyone who wishes to serve as hostess. There are still several openings.
- The schedule is posed on the website, www.rigardenclubs.org as well as entry forms for horticulture and design plant lists.
- D100 and Artistic Craft classes are filled, but there are openings in several other classes.
- This year the entry process for horticulture is much more streamlined. Entry information can be emailed by 9 p.m. on Monday and revised on Tuesday if necessary. There are going to be 3 people handling computer entries.
- The Youth horticulture is new and is due with the regular horticulture.
- Training for computer operators will be done on February 13. One more volunteer is needed.
- Set up is February 19-21 with judging and the preview party on the 22nd. The show itself is the 23rd-26th.
- Volunteers are still needed for several days/activities.
- Pinwheels for the Youth Project were due January 26. The list of plant material used by each child should be emailed to Judy.
- The Youth horticulture will feature a succulent specimen. The containers will be displayed on a Ferris Wheel.
- Bristol, Portsmouth and Quononoquott have volunteered to staff the coping station. All supplies will be at the Convention Center. Contact Judy if there are questions.

- The Thematic Staging includes a train, a stuffed bear, our animals, and costumed hostesses. There will be a contest for the public to guess the number of Beanie Babies in an aquarium and photo opportunities for children with one of the animals. Photos will be \$2.
- Donations are needed for the wine basket and garden basket. Contact Bernie at bernie281@verizon.net if you have anything to donate..
- Help is needed for photos, for loading and unloading, painting, and mulching before the show and loading on the following Monday.
- The February 23rd board meeting will be held at the Convention center in the Rotunda. Please meet Vera at 9:30 on the lower level. All presidents and committee chairs attending the meeting will also receive complimentary admission to the flower show. If a board member brings others with her, they will have to pay for entry to the show. That afternoon a wonderful tea sponsored by the RI Horticulture Society will be held. Tickets are \$22.
- The date for the next Education Day is Wednesday, September 12th. More information will follow.

2nd Vice President, Cathy Moore, reported:

- Extra supplies from the last Design Study workshop were donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- The next workshop will be held on Friday, April 13, in Watch Hill.
- The group will make the centerpieces for the Annual meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting

- Vicki reported that the Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, at Twin Rivers.
- Tickets are \$30, and tables can be reserved.
- The theme is “Dance and Design.”

Awards

- RIFGC award applications are due to Kathy Mulkerin by February 15th.

Design Study Advanced Group

- The next meeting will be on April 13.

Flower Shows/Schools

- Vicki is now a Life Judge.
- Judy Gendron has become a Judge Emeritus.

Habitat for Humanity

- Garden tools and supplies have been taken to the new homeowners. Photos are available.

Judges Council

- The next meeting will be held on May 7.

Life Members

- BJ reported that the luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 31, at RI Country Club.
- Alan Bates, Brookline, MA, will be the speaker.
- Tickets are \$35.
- Scholarship applications are due to Janice Panoff by March 1. Applicants must be residents of RI or nearby MA but can attend school anywhere.

Member Services

- Grace asked that you go to our website to order pins, calendars, etc.

NEWS

- Presidents' reports are due to Cheryl now.

Ways and Means

- Karen Calkins produced a wonderful and profitable boutique for us. Remaining jewelry and purses will be for sale again at our annual meeting. If there are additional donations, please get them to Karen or Judy.

New Business

- Videos of the Dover Air Force Base project are available.
- There is a Community Project Award of up to \$2,000 available for a club to start or fund a community project. Three clubs shared \$2,000 last year and will report on those projects at the annual luncheon.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15. Presidents were asked to stay for the Presidents' Forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Gainey, Recording Secretary