

## Minutes of RIFGC Executive Board Meeting

June 6, 2013

At 10:00, the Advisory Board met briefly to discuss a proposed change to the Bylaws. Vera Bowen made a motion to recommend, seconded by Marnie Sandham, that the Bylaws be changed to read: to add February and May to Article VII, Section 6. Motion carried. Vice President, Blakely Szosz, will bring this up during the regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:13 am by President, Sandi Tinyk, who thanked everyone for being present at this important first meeting of the new term. Twenty clubs were represented.

Sandi noted the May 1<sup>st</sup> death of Ruth Anderson, who had been a member of the Judges' Council for more than 25 years. Lynne Merrill spoke, followed by Sue Redden. Lynne noted that Ruth had helped many members enjoy and develop their passion for flower arranging, and that she always had a joke to share. Sue remarked on Ruth's attention through the years to the flower show schedule. A moment of silence was observed in Ruth's memory.

Sandi noted that Treasurer, Bernie Larivee, was not able to be at the meeting today, and that because things are still in transition the financial report will be sent out soon electronically. Adelaide Clifford noted that dues are still due and that when the checks are sent in it's really very helpful to send member names and addresses in also, as requested.

**President's Report:** Sandi reported that she, Judy Hager, Vera Bowen, and Candace Morgenstern had all attended the recent NGC meeting in Seattle which included the installation of officers, including Linda Nelson as the new NGC President. Linda Nelson will be at the NER meeting in October, and at our 2014 Annual Meeting, as will Maria Nahom, the new NER Director. All State Presidents were installed and are now Board members of NGC. Vera will continue her work with NGC, on the Wild Flower Awards and Grants Committees.

The theme of the new NGC President is: "Making a World of Difference: Choices Matter," with particular focus on air, water, forest, and land use.

**President's Announcements:** The NGC website is: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
Member username is: member      Member password is: world

There will be changes this year for yearbooks: NGC President's project and member services have been eliminated as points. They may still be included but are not necessary.

RIFGC still has the white stands for flower shows. New music stands have been purchased in their place. If your club is interested, the white stands may be purchased for \$5 each.

Education Day is Thursday, October 10 (it was changed due to the NER meeting taking place on 10/17), at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Box lunches will be available for purchase. There will be four programs: Sue Redden will be demonstrating "I can do it" holiday designs for Thanksgiving and Christmas; Vera Bowen and Vicki Iannuccillo will demonstrate how to make stepping stones; staff from the Barking Turtle will present a horticultural program on growing microgreens; and Blakely Szosz will create a container garden. Sue's designs and Blakely's container garden will be raffled off.

Please make sure Corresponding Secretary, Marnie Sandham, has contact information for all new presidents so that you can receive National Gardener and the KIT (Keeping in Touch) newsletter. Marnie can be reached at [rifgc.marnie@gmail.com](mailto:rifgc.marnie@gmail.com) or 401-623-9051. Marnie has a scanner so if your club has information to be distributed but you don't have it in a digital form, simply mail it to her and she'll take care of that for you.

35 national scholarships at \$3500 each were approved for awards in the 2013-2014 year. This year, awards totaling \$1,435,000 were granted by NGC. Rhode Island gave close to \$10,000 last year for Life Member scholarships.

**Second Vice President's Report:** Blakely Szosz reported that Country Garden Club of Oaklawn has resigned due to low membership (only five) and the advanced age of the membership. First Vice President,

Cathy Moore, reported that she'd been in touch with the Arbutus Club and noted that they'd resigned their membership thinking there was a requirement that they hold regular flower shows. Cathy thought it might be possible to get some former groups, such as Arbutus to rejoin the RIFGC. Sandi suggested possibly having a membership desk at the Flower Show.

**Committee Reports:**

**Annual Meeting:** Emily Reade and Ann Huntoon are the chairs; Darcy Scott will serve as ticket chair; and Adelaide Clifford will be the Treasurer. Emily reported that the Annual Meeting will be on April 24, 2014 at Twin Rivers. They decided to have it there again because Twin River has been extremely accommodating, especially with regard to price and the help they provide. Except for Westerly, it's fairly easy for all member clubs to get there. We need to emphasize to members that the meeting is in the banquet facility and not in the casino. It was noted that the location once at the Casino is not the easiest to find. They'll work on that. The entertainment will be a fashion show, with complimentary floral designs. Emily said they're hoping to get some of the vendors there as early as 9:00 am so that there could be early bird shopping, before the awards ceremony.

**Awards:** Vera Bowen, Chair, and Sandi Tinyk, President distributed the following NGC Awards which were given out at the 2013 Annual Convention.

Member Award of Honor Recipient, New England Region, 2012 to Priscilla DiMarco for all around excellence. It was noted that "Priscilla shares her unique style of design with others and is always a willing helper in any event or project."

#44 Publicity Press Book, New England Region to: (Ai – Small Club) Hameho Garden Club and (Aii – Large Club) Barrington Garden Club.

Certificate of Commendation to Sogkonate.

#11 State Standard Flower Show (A. – small state, no more than 100 member clubs) to RIFGC for "Through the Eyes of a Child, winner of a Gold Rosette.

#16 Yearbooks by Regions, New England Region to Bayberry Garden Club.

NGC Scholarship Winners included RIFGC's nominee, Lauren L'Esperance, who received \$5,000 -- it was noted that she had also been awarded the \$3500 RI Life Member scholarship.

NER Certificates of Appreciation were presented to RIFGC and to Edgewood Garden Club.

Certificate of Appreciation from Shirliely Nicolai, NGC Past President, was given to Candace Morgenstern.

#24 Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs (B: membership 1,001 to 3,999) was given to RIFGC.

Sue Redden reported that the New England Region Awards are due to her or Vera by September 1. They may be contacting the clubs that won RI awrds to see if they might be eligible for NER awards.

Yearbooks are due to Sue by the October Board meeting, 10/24. She asked Presidents to please forward the award information sent out by Marnie to their Yearbook committees: having told everyone that the President's Projects and member Services must be included, they have now been removed and the four points have been redistributed.

Also, the club size categories have changed for yearbooks, newsletters, and publicity press books: Small is now 29 and fewer members (RI has 10 such clubs); Medium is now 30-59 members (RI has 14 such clubs); Large is 60-99 members (RI has 5 such clubs); and Extra Large is 100+ members (Barrington is the one such club in RI).

Sue announced that there will be an Awards meeting for Club awards chairs, presidents, and any other interested members, on Monday, October 28 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be at Vera's home at 11 Dolly Drive in Bristol.

**Blue Star:** Candace Morgenstern thanked Sandi Tinyk for having asked her to chair. The day after the Annual Meeting she got a call from Portsmouth Garden Club that their memorial marker will be installed on August 10 at 2:00 pm. The Blue Star project was started after WWII and is to honor those men and women who have served in the past, are serving in the present, and will serve in the future. She'd like to see even more Clubs get involved. Annette Jarvis discussed grants available for this purpose.

**Design Study:** Cathy Moore announced the dates for Beginner Design Study – October 2, Hogarth Curve; November 13, Reflective Design; January 15, Parallel Design; and April 2 will be with students using one of the containers from the previous sessions and creating one of those designs using the flowers provided. She noted that all three of the designs being taught this year will be in the February Flower Show and hopes that will move more members toward entering. The fee for all four sessions will be \$120: or \$35-\$40 for an individual session. Registration information, with locations and instructors, will be sent out soon.

Advanced Design Study will be on the same dates as BDS. Bring a bag lunch and the session will begin as soon as possible after clean up from BDS.

**Flower Shows and Flower Schools:** Sue Redden, Chair, was happy to report that the Symposium held last October made \$1,338.53 for RIFGC (60%) and NER received (40%) \$559.03. She noted that most of the printing was donated by a friend of Vera and the Marriott was extremely generous in not charging for many items (such as the platform) that could have cost us.

Edgewood Flower show and garden tour will be on June 15.

Newport Flower Show, "Jade," will take place June 21-23. Group tickets are less expensive to purchase than individual ones.

The RI Spring Garden and Flower Show will be February 20-23, 2014. The title is "Vintage Gardens" and our show's title is "It's All About Time." Sue Redden is Show Chair and Cathy Moore is writing the schedule with help from Vicki. Please be in touch with Sue if you're interested in working on the show. Sue is looking for one or two people to head up the Youth Artistic Crafts – this year they will be creating clock faces.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Karen Kestenberg, chair, said that there are two Providence homes being landscaped in the next few weeks. One of them is at 531 Union Avenue (which is not yet occupied) and the other is at 83 Waldo. Both of them are off Cranston Street. Karen has given the schematics to Sandi Tinyk who will be purchasing the plants and established trees from Andy's in Warwick.

**Horticulture:** Linda Alves, Chair, of Western Cranston, is involved with the Master Gardeners. She brought in a native plant, Solomon's Seal, and spoke of its many medicinal uses, noting that it's an elegant, drought-resistant shade plant. Go to [www.solomonsseal.net](http://www.solomonsseal.net) for more information.

**Hospitality:** Sandi Tinyk noted that refreshments have been cut way back as it got to be too much work and was becoming too competitive. Vera Bowen and Bernie Larivee will take turns making the coffee.

**Judges Council:** Lynne Merrill, Chair, reported that they will be meeting in October and will participate in the NER meeting 10/15-17 where one of the members will create a design complimenting an assigned poem.

**Life Member:** In the absence of BJ Stephens, Chair, Sharon Gainey reported that the next event will be September 19, 2013 in the Bayview Room at Quidnessett Country Club. There will be dinner, and the presentation of the scholarship to Lauren L'Esperance, and the entertainment will be an "MFA Road Show." Senior designers will create arrangements for raffle. The cost should be under \$35 per ticket.

Sharon explained that the scholarship application deadline is March 1, and urged that Presidents

spread the word to and through their club members. Sandi urged that we get more publicity for what the Life Member Committee does and make it known that they give away a lot of money. Sharon said it's just a onetime fee of \$100 to join. Adelaide Clifford added that the \$100 fee is invested and that it's the interest from the investments that makes up the scholarship money. Profits from the events they hold also go into the scholarship fund.

**NEWS:** Sandi announced that Judy Hager is our NEWS editor. The Summer issue (June, July, and August) will be going out very soon. The deadline for the next NEWS (September, October, and November) is August 1.

**Webmaster:** Sandi announced that Holly Lippert has taken this over and is working on making many new improvements.

**Youth:** Rochelle Kieron, Chair, announced Youth Awards for New England Region to Sogkonate for Isaac Cardello, Ellie Carr, Walker Carr, and Lily Coward.

**New Business:**

Second Vice President, Blakely Szosz, read a proposed change to the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6, whereby the February (during the Flower Show) and May (to be combined with the June meeting and held the first Thursday in June) Board meetings would be eliminated. Vote was taken with all in favor and the motion was approved.

**Announcements:**

De Feldman gave Vera thousands of Burpee seed packets left over from the URI free seed program. She has many melons and beans. If interested, please contact her.

The next meeting will take place on September 26 at the Roger Williams Park Casino, beginning with social time at 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Pollack,  
Recording Secretary

