

**JUDGES' COUNCIL
OF
THE RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

**WORKING RULES
REVISED SEPTEMBER 22, 2008**

Article I The objects of this group shall be:

- A. To further the study of flower show procedures, horticulture and design, pertinent to the work of accredited judges through research, lectures, workshops, symposia and flower shows.
- B. To exchange knowledge, establish uniformity in decision and maintain National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) standards of presenting and judging flower shows.
- C. To assist member garden clubs of RIFGC who ask for help in presenting flower shows.
- D. To operate on a non-profit basis, solely for charitable, scientific and educational purposes conducive to the well-being of the community and useful to the public. In the event of its dissolution, any remaining assets will go the RIFGC.

Article II Membership

Eligible for membership are the following members of RIFGC who hold:

- A. NGC Master's Judges' certificate
- B. NGC Life Judges' certificate
- C. NGC Student Judges' certificate
- D. NGC Student Judges who have passed at least three courses in Flower Show School and have met the requirements to become Accredited Judges.
- E. Master Judge Emeritus
- F. Honorary Judges (voted by members of Judges Council).

Article IV Officers

- A. There shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who are elected by Council members.
- B. The Chairman shall hold office for two years and shall represent Judges' Council at RIFGC meetings as a member of the Executive Board.
- C. A nominating Committee of three members shall be appointed by the Chairman at the fall meeting (October) of the even year to present a new slate of officers at the winter meeting (January) in the odd (election) year, when election takes place.

Article V Meetings, Quorum and Attendance

- A. The Judges' Council shall hold three meetings a year:
 - Fall first Monday in October
 - Winter second Monday in January (awards meeting)
Election of officers in odd year.
 - Spring first Monday in May (annual meeting and dues payable)
 - Fourth at the discretion of the chairman. May be held on a Saturday to accommodate working members.Meeting dates may be changed subject to confirmation at a previous meeting or as necessary.
- B. Special meeting may be called by the Chairman when advisable.
- C. One-third and one of those present shall constitute a quorum.

- D. Judges are expected to attend all meetings/workshops of the Judges' Council to keep their judging ability in good standing. It is recommended a judge attend at least two meetings a year.
- E. It is recommended that each judge enter a design in a RIFGC sponsored event once every two years to practice her knowledge of designing.

Article VI Finance

- A. Dues of the Council shall be set yearly at the winter meeting (January), Payable at the Annual meeting (May). Those not present shall be notified in writing.
- B. Members in arrears two years will be no longer considered members of the Judges' Council.
- C. Master Judge Emeritus and Honorary members shall be exempt from paying dues and shall be non-voting members.
- D. The Treasurer reports yearly, as required, to the RIFGC Treasurer. Our identification number is 056010993, identical to RIFGC.

Article VII Design Study

- A. To provide an opportunity for education in basic and advanced floral design in a structured, hands on environment, exercising the Elements and Principles of Design for the purpose of entering NGC sponsored flower shows.
- B. Meetings four times per year per group.
- C. Experienced designers will provide instruction for beginner classes.
- D. Class fee to be determined on a yearly basis.
- E. Chairman to be appointed by the RIFGC President for a two year term.

Article VIII Parliamentary Authority

The procedure of this Council shall be bound by the bylaws of the RIFGC with Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, as its authority.

Article IX Amendments

These working rules may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a two-thirds vote of voting members present, provided notice of proposed amendment/s has been submitted at the previous meeting and all members have been apprised of the proposed amendment/s.

Working Rules

Amended and approved by the Judges' Council Members, Candace Morgenstern, Chairman, on May 5, 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. The President of the RIFGC, if not a member of Judges' Council, shall be invited to all Council meetings.
- B. Judging Panel for Flower Shows are suggested to consist of three members selected from the following: Master, Life, Accredited and/or Student Judge.
- C. Evaluation Forms are required to be completed, legibly, in ink or typed, and sent to Judges' Council Chairman no later than twelve days after judging. Please follow instructions about evaluation on pages 178-180 in the Handbook before filling out your evaluation sheet. Illegible forms with too little information may be returned to the sender to be revised.
- D. In the event of a death of a member, her spouse or child, expressions of sympathy shall be extended from the Council and a donation may be made to the RIFGC Life Member Group.
- E. Get-well wishes shall be sent to a member with an incapacitating illness, as well as a gift that may be sent or preferably personally delivered.