

Minutes of RIFGC Executive Board Meeting
October 30, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:13 am by President Sandi Tinyk. Sandi thanked all those in attendance for accommodating the change of dates for the meeting, noting that it had been a horrendous month for her calendar!

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the role. 22 Clubs were represented. Deb Ort introduced herself as the new president of Sogkonate GC; Helen Davis was introduced as the new co-president of Rehoboth GC, and; Mary Sundlin introduced herself as the new president of Wantaknowhow GC.

Lisa then read the Minutes for the September 18 meeting, which were so nicely recorded in her absence by Second VP Blakely Szosz. The Minutes were accepted without correction.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee reported a checking account balance as of September 30, 2014, of \$24,970.77; a balance in other accounts of \$101,601.34; with a total for all accounts of \$126,572.11. The report was filed for audit.

Corresponding Secretary Marnie Sandham read a note from Sogkonate GC thanking RIFGC for its grant of \$425 for the placement of a Blue Star Marker in Little Compton.

Marnie read a letter from Bonnie Borne, NGC Scholarship Chair acknowledging Lauren Breen as the 2014 Scholarship recipient.

President's Report: Sandi thanked all RIFGC members for their work and contributions, noting that for a very small state we are very busy. She reported that there were 47 members who registered for the 4th Annual Education Day: 29 for the Mason Bees; 40 for Design; 30 for the Horticulture workshop presented by Joe Novak, the new Director of the Botanical Center, and; 41 for her own presentation on Gardens of Ireland & WAFA 2014. She gave special thanks to Sue Redden for filling in at the last minute for Candace Morgenstern who was unable to attend due to jury duty. Sandi also thanked Marnie Sandham for serving as registrar and collecting the lunch fees. She noted that the Education Days have been very successful and providing them for free is just one way the Federation gives back to its members.

Vera Bowen will be interviewed by NPR for her prison project.

Sandi Tinyk and Vera Bowen attended the Fall NGC Board meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. There were 238 attendees with a voting strength of 223.

The National Gardener is now on the NGC website, and paper copies will no longer be mailed out. To see a copy, go to www.gardenclub.org The **User ID is member** and the **password is world**.

Effective as of that meeting, President-Elect of NGC is Sandra Robinson; 1st VP is Nancy Hargroves; 2nd VP is Gay Austin; 3rd VP is Mary Warschauer; Recording Secretary is Shriley Tetreault; and Treasurer is Betty Grimes. That information will be needed for the next yearbook.

“Ecology Warriors,” an educational booklet prepared by the Environmental Concerns Committee for use in the classroom, with youth groups, or for a garden club meeting will be sent electronically to all members in the KIT e-mail address book. Sandi asked that Presidents please be sure to pass it on to all members.

Sandi wanted to remind everyone that there is lots of money available at the national level – consider applying for it!

Eight RIFGC members attended the NER Annual Meeting and the symposium in Burlington, VT in late-October. As of the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, on October 21, Vera Bowen is now the Director-Elect and Lynne Merrill is the Alternate Director-Elect. Congratulations to both!

Sandi noted that though she is not a designer she attended the Symposium and found it fascinating and educational.

Next Fall's NER meeting will be in Manchester, NH.

Sue Redden announced, and Sandi gave out, the NER and NGC Awards. (See next issue of the News for a complete list of awards.) Sandi noted that RI won the most prizes at NER and she's so proud of our little state.

Sandi announced that the RI Rose Society has been approved (on October 26) as an Affiliate Member of RIFGC. We welcome them.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Sue Redden announced that Yearbooks are due today.

Clubs applying for NGC awards must have the applications to Sue by December 15.

Publicity Press Books are due to Sue at the January Board meeting.

RI State Awards are due on February 15, 2015.

Vera Bowen discussed Publicity Press Books. They should cover the calendar year, January through December. They must be in an Oxford Folder. There is no limit on the number of pages. They can include flyers/brochures, newspaper articles and photos, awards won, website information, and press clippings for individual members as well as the club as a whole.

It was requested that some of the winning Yearbooks be made available for the membership to see.

Design Study: Cathy Moore announced that the next session will be Wednesday, November 5 at St. Matthew's Church, 87 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown. Lynne Merrill will be the presenter.

Finance Committee: Vera Bowen reported that in 2010 RIFGC had reduced dues from \$5.00 to \$3.50 per member, largely because the News was no longer being mailed out. However, at the recent National meeting it was reported that NGC dues will be increasing from 50 cents to \$1 per member as of 2016. This will be their first increase in 20 years. That means that the RIFGC payment to NGC will go from \$550 to \$1100. The Finance Committee voted this morning, despite the increase, to keep the RIFGC dues the same, at \$3.50, for the 2015-2016 year. Thanks to profits from the Flower Show raffles RIFGC is able to absorb this increase.

2015 is the 85th Anniversary of RIFGC. Rather than hold a gala (as was done nine years ago at RICC for the 75th Anniversary), there will be an Art in Bloom event at the Botanical Center. The plan is to hold it at night and have a cocktail reception, possibly in mid-September. Blakely Szosz and Sandi Tinyk will co-chair this event. It will not be judged.

Sandi Tinyk reported that as of now there are 17 people going on the March trip to Costa Rica. RIFGC stands to make \$4,000 from that enrollment and that money will be seed money for the Art in Bloom event.

Flower Shows and Flower Schools: Sue Redden, Chair, reported that several exams were taken recently, but there are no results yet

Five RI judges extended their "Good Standing" until 2017 by auditing the NER Symposium in Burlington, VT – Priscilla DiMarco, Janice Panoff, De Feldman, Candace Morgenstern, and Lynne Merrill. (Vera Bowen, Sandi Tinyk, and Sue Redden also attended.)

Everyone agreed it was an excellent Symposium with wonderful instructors.

Lynne Merrill, De Feldman, and Candace Morgenstern all created designs.

"The Spirit of Adventure" is the theme for our own state Flower Show, to take place February 19-22. Judging will take place on the 18th.

Short schedules are available now and the full schedule (all 16 pages) will be complete very soon and posted on the website.

Priscilla DiMarco is the entries chair.

Lynne Merrill is in charge of the Artistic Crafts entries. The class this year is "Extreme Sports," where a mannequin will be attired in sports dress.

Sandi Tinyk (Flower Show Co-Chair with Sue Redden and Vera Bowen, and well as Horticulture Chair) reminded us that for the Horticulture Class, houseplants must be in the entrant's possession 90 days before the show, which means no later than November 22. Bulbs should be forced as appropriate.

There is a photography class this year for the first time. Submissions are due to Sandi no later than January 10.

There will be a challenge class for spouses/partners of GC members.

Cathy Moore has sailboats today for the Youth Artistic Craft. They are due back to her, along with any unused boats, at the January meeting.

-page 2-

Bristol Garden Club is presenting "Blithewold...The Good Life," April 18 and 19 to coincide with Daffodil Days.

Gentian Garden Club's show, "Quintessential Country...A Study of Flora, Fauna & Fancy," is scheduled for May 16.

Habitat for Humanity: Sandi Tinyk reported that there is a house in Bristol that will be ready for landscaping in the Spring. More hands can always be used!

Horticulture: Linda Alves, Chair, reported that now is the time to clean up plants like peonies before the Winter. Gardens should also be limed to enrich the soil. Plant milkweed now so that monarchs can lay their eggs there in the Spring. And consider planting garlic around your roses in the Spring—that will help keep aphids down.

Linda also talked about forcing branches to bloom, as this will be one of the horticulture classes in the RI Flower Show. It's best to cut branches when the temperature is above freezing, in late January or early February. Select those with plump buds. Always cut more than you think you'll need. Make a knife cut in the bottom of the branch, 1-4", place in warm water, then cut off the bottom inch. Remove the lower twigs. Place in direct sunlight. Change the water every few days – it's okay to add preservative to the water. Depending on the type of plant, the branch will take one to eight weeks to bloom.

Judges Council: Lynne Merrill, Chair, says they are looking for one judge for door wreaths at Gentian on December 11

Life Member: Per Sharon Gainey, next Fall's event will take place on August 20 at the Dunes Club.

Life Member Scholarship: Janice Panoff reported that she had heard from the two scholarship winners and it was heart-warming. She reminded all that there is a one-time, tax-deductible fee of \$100 to join Life Member. The interest earned on those membership fees is what generates the funds for the scholarships. Scholarships are available to college sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as candidates for a masters degree in fields such as botany, horticulture, agriculture, and urban studies. It would be nice to have more applicants. Scholarships are available to students from all towns with RI member clubs, including Massachusetts towns represented in the Federation. Students can attend any US college, not just in RI.

NEWS: Blakely Szosz, Editor, reported that the deadline for the December/January/February Flower Show issue of the NEWS is Saturday, November 1. All articles must first be submitted to Sandi Tinyk for approval. Sandi encouraged all committee chairs to submit articles. Photos can also be submitted, and please cc Blakely on those.

Photography: Sandi Tinyk reported that there is still not a photographer in place. A point person is really needed. RIFGC needs documentation of such events as the Holiday Luncheon, the Flower Show (including setup), the Annual Meeting, and Blue Star unveilings.

Ways and Means/Member Services: Lisa Pollack, Chair, reported that photos for the RIFGC garden calendar will be selected soon. Pricing has still not been determined. They will be available for purchase at the December 4 Holiday Luncheon.

The deadline for ordering the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendars is November 7. They will be no more than \$6.50 each, depending on how many are ordered. Lisa will notify each Club how much is owed, and asks

that checks made out to RIFGC be brought to the December 4 Holiday Luncheon, when you may pick up your VOB calendars.

-page 3-

Website: Sandi Tinyk reported that she has been unable to reach Holly Lippert. The website is not up-to-date, and she's hoping to get the password so that she and Vera Bowen and Blakely Szosz can get to work adding things to the site.

Youth: Rochelle Kieron, Chair, reported that the deadline for the Smokey Bear posters is the January meeting. She's got goodies today for Clubs to share with participants. There are also poetry, high school essay, and sculpture contests. Visit the NGC website for more information.

Annual Meeting: De Feldman, Chair, distributed flyers regarding the event to take place on April 23rd at a new venue – The Imperial Room at One Rhodes Place in Cranston. There will be vendors selling jewelry – some sterling silver, and some from sea glass, to mention a couple. Susan Detjens, a designer who has spoken all over the country, will demonstrate “flowerflinging.”

De thanked everyone for sending sympathy cards after her husband's death – she remarked that she wasn't aware she knew so many people!

Old Business: Please note that the December 4 Board Meeting and Luncheon will both take place at the Casino (**NOT** at the Botanical Center).

Sandi Tinyk reported that tickets for Opportunity Drawings will be sold. The NGC has announced there can be no more Raffles, as those require permits. Sandi noted that we are able to sell raffle tickets for the Flower Show as Bernie gets a permit from the State Police.

New Business:

Bernie Larivee has ordered raffle tickets for the RI Flower Show. They will be available at the December 4 meeting. Clubs will get back 60% of the proceeds of their sales.

Bernie is looking for club donations for raffle items – especially for the wine basket.

Announcements:

South County GC presents its “Holiday House Tour,” Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, beginning at the Pointy Judith Country Club, 150 Windemere Road in Narragansett.

Rehoboth GC presents “Holiday Arrangements with a Twist” by Candace Morgenstern. Monday, November 3, 6:30 pm at the Carpenter Museum at 4 Locust Street.

Hameho GC presents “Holidays Inspired by Nature,” with Mary Kate Kinnane and Maureen Azize of The Local Bouquet in Little Compton. Thursday, November 13, at 7:00 pm at the United Methodist Church in Barrington.

With a reminder that the next meeting will be December 4 at 10:00 am on the first floor of the Roger Williams Park Casino, followed by the Holiday Luncheon and program, with special guest NGC President Linda Nelson speaking and Bill Graham presenting “Balsam and Bling,” on the second floor of the Casino at noon, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Pollack,
Recording Secretary

-page 4-