



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2017

President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Roll call was taken with 18 clubs present and 6 absent.

Minutes of the September 28, 2017 board meeting were approved as previously circulated and will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Pollack reported banking information as follows:

As of 9/27/17 Operating Account:

Balance on hand	\$27,961.93
Deposits	0.00
Total Disbursements	(2,042.80)
Bal. 10/22/17	<u>\$25,919.13</u>

Disbursements included NEGC Board meeting expenses, NEGC registration fee for President Szosz, and \$1250 annual donation to RWP for use of facility for RIFGC meetings etc.

- Book order deadline is 11/10 to Lisa Pollack, who will have the NGC books available for pick up at the holiday December luncheon.
- NGC Disaster relief fund collection deadline will be extended through December 7, at the Holiday Luncheon. Please encourage your clubs to be generous.. So far funds have been received from Barrington, Western Cranston, Wantoknowhow, Chatham Village, Quononoquott and some personal donations. Once all money has been received, a single check will be sent from RIFGC on behalf of all our state clubs.

NGC NEWS: Blakely reminded everyone that the NGC initiative "Plant America" grant deadline is coming up for November 1, for applying for grants for either new or existing club garden projects. NGC website has information for reference. Also the Espoma grant is a "rolling grant" without deadline. But will be on a first come/ first serve basis . That is for \$100 worth of product, not funds.

NGC President Nancy Hargroves has announced that perhaps the best way NGC can help clubs is by offering the opportunity to sell Garden Design Magazine. The magazine itself may be expensive at \$48 per year for quarterly (4 issues) publication but it is worth it in terms of quality of content. \$12 per subscription sold will go directly to the member club which has sold the subscription and a free Fall issue is given. If someone already has a subscription, this can be used to extend their existing subscription. Information is available to get the promotion code to effect this contribution. (Check out the NGC website) or ask Blakely for further direction) Excellent holiday gifts for those gardeners!

Other reminders included the wholesale account at Sylvan Nurseries in Westport, MA for any club garden project... Contact Blakely or Deb Ort for more information and price lists.

RIFGC has loads of staging materials available to those clubs doing flower shows. All are easily accessible at the new storage location in Swansea.

Any club having photos to share of activities, please send them to Blakely for posting on social media, namely Facebook. We want to keep "the traffic up" and "sharing" is better than merely "liking" on the Facebook page.

RIFGC NEWS: -

Reports of the Officers

1stVP Deb Ort- talked about the upcoming Flower Show being held in April, 2018 , being sponsored by the RI Builders' Association(RIBA) at the Convention Center April 5-8. Deb Ort, Vera Bowen and Blakely are the RIFGC Show chairs. There will be a chairperson who acts as a liaison between the wholesaler for flowers and the clubs as the RIBA has offered to pay for the floral materials for the designers. This will be an all design show with NO horticulture, no photography, no educational exhibits, no youth competition, and no raffle. The schedule should be ready for the December meeting as there will be 48 design entries and this will really help our judges get or stay accredited as the new Floral Design handbook has increased stricter requirements. There will be an emphasis on Youth involvement throughout the state ... between career tech students and RI Nurserymen Association planning to involve some 350 youth per day in the show. Someone from the RIBA will attend our holiday luncheon and make a presentation about the show.

2ndVP Sheryl McGookin – reported that we have had a few membership inquiries and referred them to Edgewood, Quononoquott and Gentian clubs. A suggestion was put forth to offer free membership in the 2nd year, as an incentive to keep a new member coming back!

Also, there are some members who reside at Laurelmead on Blackstone Blvd on the East Side of Providence and Lucinda Dohanian suggested it might be a good place to hold the annual meeting and luncheon at some point.

Corresponding Secretary Linda Alves – hoped everyone got the email blasts and please contact her if not. Files that have to be downloaded are in PDF format to prohibit editing and changing and need to be sent/received that way.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards- Holly Lippert –will be hosting a round table discussion immediately following the meeting to further discuss Awards. She would like a list of Presidents and Awards Chairs of the clubs so she can send general information and also provide a link for people looking for award sample submissions. Basically there are 3 levels of Awards, RI (State level), Regional and national, with varying due dates. There are some changes being made to the awards, so please contact her for information and review info on NGC website.

-Blue Star –Candace announced that several clubs in the state do not yet have a Blue Star memorial and urges all to consider this project, so that every club has 1 memorial. Information is in the newsletter re: details about the project.

Education Day – **Sandi Tinyk** reported that currently enrollment was at 41, half of what it was the prior year. While the attendance is free of charge, November 3 is the deadline for checks to get to Lisa Pollack if interested in the boxed lunch. It's the Federations way of 'giving back' to member clubs by hosting this event. Regarding books, Sandi recommended the "Saved Seed" from NGC for children as a way of introducing children to the glory of gardening. She will be putting together a list of various books from fictional, how-to, and landscape gardens for our reading/gift giving interest and it will be in the next newsletter.

Flower Show and Symposium- **Sue Redden** reported that next week's Symposium is full at 130 registrants, with 50 taking the exam. This represents 20 from RI and 13 states in all are represented, including the NGC national President. A great turn out as initially they thought we might have 75 attendees!

Garden Therapy-**Holly Lippert** said going forward one club per meeting would share its program for garden therapy. Going first, Holly said that Sogkonate worked with the Wellness Center and the K-8th grade after school program to host workshops to produce a little show open to the public, combining floral and art work of youth and seniors... it fostered interaction between the 2 age groups and created some public awareness of Sogkonate's activities as well.

Hospitality-**Sharon Gainey** said there were still 2 openings for providing refreshments for RIFGC meetings: JANUARY and MARCH. Please volunteer your club to do this. Vera thanked Rehoboth for refreshments and then they commented on a few programs they had done recently: (1) field trip to Swan Point Cemetery, was wonderful and informative. Free admission and a beautiful place to visit. (2) Peter Alden (peteralden.wildlife.com) spoke on invasive and birds and coming up they were looking forward to Barbara Blossom presenting floral demonstrations for the holidays on November 6 at the Carpenter Museum. Blakely is scheduled for May 1, 2018. All are welcome...

They also posed a question to all: they have several openings on the board... with 39 active members and 16 "patrons" how do you recruit for board positions? Lisa Pollack of Angle Tree said not to discount newer members, and Plum Beach said their current president became president after being a member for 6 months... It was discussed that this would be an excellent topic for a "round table" discussion in the future for maybe January or February.

Judges Council- **Vera Bowen** noted that there would be a Flower Show at the 1st ever NE Garden Clubs meeting next week, right before the National Symposium at the Crown Plaza in Warwick. All 16 design entries are filled. Another NE Garden Clubs meeting is in the works for next May, probably at Elm Bank In Wellesley, MA.

Life Member Group- RI Colleges/Universities are being contacted before Thanksgiving with information about what scholarships are available. All applications are due to Chair Katy Wardlaw by February 1 2018 .

Newsletter/Photography Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter covering December, January, February, is November 1.

New Business- RIFGC Holiday Lunch will be December 7 at RWP Casino, following the December Board meeting. The Orchid Society will be on hand to talk about their activities. Stay tuned for details.

Meeting adjourned 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade
Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC