

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 20, 2018**

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President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:12a.m. Roll call was taken with 14 clubs/affiliates present and 11 absent.

 Minutes of the June, 2018 board meeting were approved previously circulated and will be filed.

**Treasurer’s Report: Adelaide Clifford** had no comments regarding the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the morning, except that the Club is solvent and doing well and reported the following highlights for the operating account:

Balance on hand: 6/01/18 $33,396.38

Total receipts 2,261.50

Total disbursements 12,021.61 .

Operating A/C balance: 9/15/18 $23,636.27

Details included in itemized report.

**Special Guest Introduction: Chris Josephson of Hasbro Children’s Hospital:** Presentation was made regarding the $30 million campaign for renovations of both Bradley and Hasbro Children’s Hospital in light of their 25th year anniversaries. The plan calls for upgrades to the outdoor spaces to create a “Healing Garden”, an outdoor park concept, with better security, larger garden and play areas. There will be “naming” opportunities of various pieces of the project by garden clubs’ participation. Further discussions will be held to determine what level of participation the Federation wants to have and see how we can support this endeavor.

**NGC NEWS and RIFGC News: President’s Report**: Blakely has enjoyed her many visits to the clubs around the state to events including the Newport Flower Show, Polo in July, participating in a Design challenge and talking with the DeSisto Middle School in Providence who is looking to for guidance in how to connect youth to horticulture. .She will be attending the Regional meeting in CT and a National Board meeting in Florida next week.

**1st VP** Deb Ort announced yearbooks were due today but said they’d extend the deadline and to bring them to the October Board meeting on the 25th. Deb will collect them for Holly Lippert (Awards Chair) and please bring 2 copies. The Polo event was a lovely day with 50 attending in July and they collected $1,000 in ticket sales. All proceeds came to RIFGC.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Awards:** The Plant America award filing deadline is October 15 and grants up to $1,000 for community service projects are available. Look at the NGC website as there are a lot of new awards and also a lot come with monetary awards.

**Blue Star Memorial:** Barbara Blossom of Bayberry Club in Bristol said they will dedicate a memorial in May and the Veterans’ Group will be defraying the cost.

**Holiday Lunch:** Cathy Moore said the date is 12/06/18 and more details will be forthcoming in October.

**Judges’ Council:** Sue Redden they would love to have more judges and the council will pay for the 2nd class if any are interestedFlower School.

**Life Member Group** will hold its annual luncheon in July (either the 25th or 26th) at Rhode Island Country Club. Details will follow later.

**New Business:**

RIFGC is co-sponsoring a trip with Barrington Community School: **Christmas in the Brandywine Valley** onDecember 8 and 8 with highlighted stops at the NY Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens and the Brandywine River Museum. See Sandi Tinyk for details and to sign up.

Elaine DiChiara announced that RIFGC is sponsoring “European Floral Design by Francoise Weeks” November 14 from 2-4 pm at the Agawam Hunt. Reception to follow. Please see her for registration. She is also hoping that clubs/members might volunteer to make a few small arrangements for small cocktail tables.

The Flower Show will be held On April 4-7, 2019 at the RIBA Home Show again. Kathy LaRiviere is Flower Show Chair. Stay tuned for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade

Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC