

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2018**

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President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:02a.m. Roll call was taken with 14 clubs/affiliates present and 11 absent.

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

**Treasurer’s Report: Adelaide Clifford** reported the following highlights for the operating account:

Balance on hand: 09/16/18 $23,636.27

Total receipts 140.00

Total disbursements 500.00 .

Operating A/C balance: 9/15/18 $23,276.27

Details included in itemized report.

**NGC NEWS and RIFGC News: President’s Report**: Blakely has been on the road non-stop! DeSisto Middle School in Providence is interested in guidance with raised beds and possibly a weekly class with a Master Gardener. She has been to the Fall NE Regional meeting in NH , NE Judges Council at the Mass Horticultural Society, Hameho meeting, NGC Fall meeting in Orlando and the NE Annual Meeting in CT with Deb Ort. She participated in the design challenge with Barbara Blossom there, Portsmouth GC demonstration and several meetings with RIBA and Kathy LaRiviere about theFlower Show which will be again held April, 2019 at the Home and Garden show.

Blakely announced that Holly Lippert has resigned as Awards Chair and recognized Deb Ort who has stepped up to the job, working hard to update the awards information on the RIFGC website in order to give clubs as much support as possible to help clubs win those awards.

**1st VP** Deb Ort talked about certain awards needing wording changes and would incorporate that into the website. An example : NGC no longer gives out a Publicity Press Book award and we need to reflect this change among others on the website. All Community Project award apps should go to Blakely, and there are up to $2,000 cash awards available divided among the clubs. A club is not eligible 2 years in a row ! Also, there is the National Member Award of Honor which is a nice tribute to an outstanding club member. Youth will be eligible for the Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster contest/awards a bit later in the year.

NGC awarded a commendation : Social Media /website to Sogkonate GC for the Litter recycling Program. A cert of appreciation was given to Sogkonate for their History Book, and also they received the Pamela C Herbert Youth garden award from NE Region.

RIGC was awarded the Mildred Black Petit Award for increasing membership in the NE Region and Hameho received a 1st place from NE Region for yearbooks for clubs with 20-29 members.

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**Standing Committee Reports**

**Holiday Lunch:** Cathy Moore said the date is 12/06/18 and details in attached flyer. Cost is $5.00 and proceeds will be used to benefit the Hasbro Childrens’s Garden Project. Contact her is you want to help.

**Hospitality:** Sharon Gainey said meeting as are all set for the year: Jan: Plum Beach, Feb:Barrington; March:Quononoquott; June:Sogkonate

**Programs:**Sandi Tinyk announced the Holiday weekend trip to the Brandywine Valley for Federation Dec 8-9 , complete with evening light show at Longwood Gardens, Brandywine River Museum and a guided tour at Winterthur. Needs 5 more people to ensure the trip will run!

**Publicity Report:** Be mindful of Facebook and Instagram about posting events for your garden club and please try to “share” postings from RIFGC as to gain the maximum exposure possible. We want the public to know who we are, and will want to join! An interesting side note: Sunday nights receive the most traffic and reaches out to the most people!

**New Business:**

RIFGC is again having a Flower Show in conjunction with the RIBA on April 4-7th 2019. Kathy LaRiviere is Chair and Sue Redden has written the schedule which will be available at the Christmas lunch. There will be a Youth category with bird houses . 3-4 chairs have been lined up and the title is “Dream, Discover, Design”. Judy Gray is in charge of entries.

Elaine DiChiara announced that RIFGC sponsored event “European Floral Design by Francoise Weeks” November 14 from 2-4 pm at the Agawam Hunt with Reception to follow is not accepting reservations without a surcharge after Nov. 5.

**Old Business:**

Regarding the Hasbro Children’s Hospital garden project, a motion was made , seconded and passed that the proposal for RIFGC match any funds raised or sent by member clubs to fund a “named” bench or picnic table .The cost threshold amount is $5,000.00 donation total for this community project with high visibility.

**Announcements:**

Hameho meeting on Nov 8 at Barrington Congregational Church will feature a program by Blakely on winter containers: Jewelry in the Garden”

Rehoboth’s meeting on Nov 5 will feature a local designer doing Thanksgiving and Christmas designs

Blakely announced that Deb Ort is now officially President Elect of RIFGC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade

Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC