



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2019

President Deb Ort called the meeting to order at 10:05. Roll call was taken with 16 clubs present, no societies present, and 8 clubs absent.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Nunes reported the following highlights for the operating account: beginning balance as of April 30, 2019, \$30,006.88. Income from club dues \$658.00. Expenses totaled \$2,165.99. Expenses represent Deb Ort and Blakely Szosz attendance at the NGC meeting in Biloxi. Ending balance in the operating account as of May 31, 2019, is \$28,498.89

President's Report: Deb Ort introduced the executive board.

Deb announced the RIFGC Newsletter, **The News**, will be distributed 3 times a year, fall, winter, and spring. It will be sent by email to Club Presidents who may send it out to their club members. The first edition will be in September. Clubs may provide club notices, events, and photos to be included in the editions. Send all information to Deb Ort. Fall deadline is **August 19, 2019**.

Blakely Szosz, the ex-officio, has worked with a web designer to create this new site. It is beautiful, informative, and easy to maneuver. The new web master is Kathy Thomas. Kathy has worked to make the website easier for searching as well as holding important information. Deb thanked both Blakely and Kathy for their hard work.

Deb reminded clubs "she is always available to help you as we work together to beautify our communities and preserve the beauty of the natural resources of our state".

Reports of the Executive Board:

Vice President, Sheryl McGookin—Reminder that club membership information goes to Kathy LaRiviere.

Recording Secretary, Nina Kurtz—No report

Corresponding Secretary, Kathy LaRiviere—Kathy reported she hoped everyone was receiving notices from her. If not, please email her and let her know. She also asked all present to check the mailing lists distributed for accuracy. Mail received included a Thank You from Hasbro Children's Hospital for RIFGC endorsement of their capital campaign. The donation from RIFGC in the amount of \$7,657.00 was acknowledged with deep gratitude. The money is allocated to the Healing Garden Renovations.

Standing Committee Chairs:

Arbor Day reported the National Garden Club is supporting new trees being planted across the country. A suggestion to make a unique collection box to be passed at each club meeting collecting loose change. This change is to be used to reach the amount of \$68.00 which allows clubs to choose an area in the US to plant their trees. There is an award to clubs for participation in this endeavor.

Awards, Report will be given by Deb Ort later in the meeting.

Blue Star, no report.

By Laws, Vera Bowen, no report.

Environmental Concerns, Kathy Bessette, No report.

Finance, Candance Morgenstern. Reported the committee is meeting and working on streamlining and efficiency of RIFGC finances.

Flower Show Schools, Candance Morgenstern, reported Rehoboth will have a Flower Show on 9/6-9/7/19. RI Judges need to maintain credits to keep credentials. She referred clubs to the National Garden Club site for a stimulus package for small shows. All the information is available there. Newport Flower Show awards were received by Kathy Moore, Judy Gray, and Barbara Blossom. Flower School/Judges Course in Milford MA 10/16-10/18. Tri State Symposium is in October 2020, in Arlington, VA.

Habitat for Humanity (HFH), Linda Alves. The RIFGC is currently working with the HFH to help with donating trees and shrubs for houses. Deb suggested we look for new ways of planting as it has become physically difficult for many members to do the work.

Horticulture, Marge DeAngelis, Master's Gardener's Open House coming up soon through URI. 7/14/19 Garden Conservatory in Seekonk.

Hospitality, Linda Alves is filling in for chairs.

Design Study, Marge De Angelis, *Design study* classes will begin in November. Additional dates to be announced. *Advanced Design Study* classes in Barrington 9/18, 11/6 or 11/13 in Jamestown, 1/15 Barrington.

Life Member, De Feldman, information mailed for the Life Members Luncheon, date is 7/25/19, 11:30, RI Country Club, Barrington. All proceeds benefit scholarship fund. Additional tickets send \$43 to George Champlin, 18 Adams Point Rd., Barrington, RI 02806

Programs, TBA

Youth, Sheryl McGookin, Working to plan for youth participation.

Awards, President Deb Ort, announced the following awards:

Congratulations to Apple Blossom for their 65th year.

Awards from NGC:

An NGC Flower Show Achievement Award is the recognition given to an NGC member organization for its sponsorship of a superior flower show. The RIFGC was awarded a Blue Ribbon at the 2018 Flower Show. The Ribbon was given to Blakely Szosz. Blakely thanked all those who participated in any way.

Sogkonate GC—award for litter/recycling/reclamation. \$100

Sogkonate GC—Civic Project with Native Plants, \$500

Sogkonate GC—NGC Youth Poetry Award (awards were given to the children before school ended).

Plum Beach GC—NGC Roadside Beautification.

Barrington GC—NGC Newsletter

Cindy Wood—NGC Yearbook Award 1st place (group 3, 30-44 members).

Western Cranston GC—NGC award for yearbook 1st place (group 4, 45-69 members).

NGC Member Award of Honor- recognizes volunteer efforts of outstanding contributions to their club and community in one or more activities. Award given to Annette Jarvis, Portsmouth GC.

Old Business: Polo Series 7/14, send checks to Paul Nunes. You must order tickets before the event. No tickets sold at the gate.

New Business: None

Announcements: RIFGC needs assistance with Hospitality Manager. Current managers are unable to continue to assist due to illnesses. Please contact Deb Ort.

Next meeting 9/26/19 Refreshments at 9:30AM, meeting at 10:00AM.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina L. Kurtz
Recording Secretary RIFGC

