**Minutes of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs April Board Meeting and Annual Meeting April 22, 2021**

The April 22, Board meeting was called to order by President, Deb Ort at 10:02 a.m. via Zoom. Kathy LaRiviere explained zoom etiquette and that the meeting was being recorded.

The roll call was taken by Kathy LaRiviere with 18 clubs present and 7 absent.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved and filed.

Treasurer’s Report: Paul Nunes reported that the balance on hand was $22,580.65 with expenses totaling $100. Final balance on hand as of the end of March was $22,480.65 Details are in the attached report. The report was filed.

President, Deb Ort introduced and welcomed special guests attending the meeting. The guests included NE Regional Director Suzanne Bushnell and NH Garden Clubs President Sue Miner. Members of the Ashland Garden Club of NH attending included Fern Doucette, Shirley Spillane, Linda Pare, and Tracy Burhoe.

**President’s Report:**

Deb spoke of how much she enjoyed meeting and visiting different clubs during the first year of her term. She was impressed and thankful as to how the garden clubs and federation continued to move forward throughout the COVID pandemic. Deb thanked her executive board and the club presidents for their help and hard work over the past two years.

**Executive Reports** – none

**Committee Reports:**

**Awards:** Cochairs Kathy Damiani and Cheryl Celeste urged all clubs to consider applying for Litter and Earth Day Awards.

**Education:** Vera Bowen reported that plans are in process for an Education Day to be held in the coming year.

**Flower Show School:** Candace Morgenstern said that NGC is encouraging garden clubs to plan flower shows. Sample schedules can be found on the NGC website.

**Life Member Group:** Sandi Tinyk reported that the LMG will host a luncheon on September 9 at the Dunes Club. Save the Date cards will be sent soon.

**Programs:** Sandi Tinyk reported that the newly revised and updated Program Book is 99.9% completed. She thanked her committee for their help and hard work on this endeavor. The Program Book will be available on the RIFGC website very soon

**The April Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:18**

**10:20 marked the opening of the Annual Meeting**

President, Deb Ort shared a slide show with highlights of the history of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs (to mark the 90th Anniversary celebration which was cancelled due to COVID).

**Finance Committee Budget Proposal:**

Candace Morgentstern, Finance Committee Chair acknowledged the difficulties that were incurred due to the cancelling of events during the past year. Therefore, funds were transferred from the reserves to balance the budget.

Since the Proposed Annual Budget for 2021-22 had been emailed to everyone before the meeting Candace asked if there were any questions. Adelaide Clifford asked why LMG and JC were included in the budget which was a departure from the usual reporting. Candace explained that the Federation is a non-profit entity which encompasses both LMG and JC. However, the funds are held separately and are maintained by each group each group respectively.

Candace made the motion to accept the proposed budget, Kathy LaRiviere seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

**Awards:**

Cochairs, Kathy Damiani and Cheryl Celeste announced Club awards (please see attached Awards Brochure.) Club anniversary awards were announced and included last year anniversary awards.

President, Deb Ort thanked the Award Chairs and congratulated clubs.

**Special Awards:**

Commendations were presented by Deb to Vera Bowen, Adelaide Clifford, and Sue Redden for their diligence and hard work updating the RIFGC bylaws.

Deb thanked Kathy LaRiviere for her assistance and support and presented her with a Commendation.

The Member of Honor Award was presented to Cheryl Celeste (by Deb Ort) for “her outstanding contributions to her club and community.”

After explaining the qualifications and requirements of the Ely Medal of Honor , Deb announced the 15th Award recipient was Candace Morgenstern.

**Installations:**

The installation of the Life Member Group was presided over by Sandi Tinyk, outgoing chair. She welcomed Cathy Moore Chair, Nina Kurtz Vice Chair, Paula Munko Secretary, Finance Chair Paul Nunes, Membership Chair Linda Alves, and Scholarship Chair Ann Gralnek.

The installation of the incoming RIFGC officers was presided over by Blakely Szosz, Past President. She welcomed the group with a unique description of their roles. Installed as new officers were: Sheryl McGookin President, Judy Gray Vice President, Recording Secretary Linda Alves, Corresponding Secretary Kathy Bessette, and Treasurer Paul Nunes.

**Program:**

At this point Deb introduced Judy Gray who presented a program on two of her beautiful floral designs.

Newly installed RIFGC President Sheryl McGookin addressed the meeting sharing her thoughts as she is looking forward to sharing her passion for nature.

Former President, Deb Ort congratulated Sheryl and the new officers. She thanked all for attending the meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:15**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy LaRiviere