

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2021**

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Pre-meeting Mini Program: Vera Bowen is the former President of the RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Former director of the New England regional district, and was President of the Bristol Garden Club. Vera presented an interesting, fun, and unique horticulture quiz for everyone’s enjoyment. The quiz was developed for the group she supervises at the prison garden.

President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **12 clubs present** and **16 clubs absent**

Minutes of the September 2021 board meeting were sent electronically: “minutes stand as approved”.

**Special guest: N/A**

**Treasurer’s Report** - President Sheryl McGookin read the Treasurer’s report for the operating account in Paul Nunes absence

**Beginning Balance, August 31, 2021**

**Cash Receipts $ 20,362.59**

Member Club Dues 689.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 689.00

**Disbursements**

Dues – New England Garden Club 125.00

Tax Return & Financial Statement Preparation 2,100.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2,225.00

**Ending balance, September 30, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$ 18,826.59**

**President’s Report:**  Sheryl has been hosting small meetings of 6-8 committee chairs; we are brainstorming programs, fundraising and how to better help our membership. There is an amazing wealth of talent and experience in this organizations and this was very clear during these small committee meetings. We are hoping the membership will see the benefits of these intensive meetings soon. Thank you to all of you who have made the trek to Happy Valley RI.

Sheryl and Kathy Bessette have been working hard to send as few email blasts as possible by saving information/flyers until we have multiples. I appreciate your feedback if anyone has ideas on how to improve this system further.

On October 28th (today) NGC is hosting a speaker about vertical gardening at 2:00 – 3:00 pm. These events are called “Virtual Resource Experiences”, they are conducted on the Zoom platform, all are welcome, and they are free. Look for the link to the recorded version of this program in the next week.

**Vice President’s Report:** WYWW (Wet Your Whistle Wednesday) is moving forward. V.P. Judy Gray will be hosting this event. All are invited. Representatives from your clubs will engage in a roundtable type discussion via zoom. The Executive Board wants to hear from the clubs about any topics they would be interested in discussing. We will exchange ideas and work as a team to share ideas and issues. WYWW will be held on the second Wednesday of each month running approximately 45 minutes. Program begins at 6:00 PM. We would like all club presidents and/or as many representatives from each club to join in. The first WYWW zoom meeting is November 10th at 6:00 PM, the topic will be Fundraising. We want to learn what each club is doing for fundraising events, successes or failures. An email will be sent out to all club presidents with the zoom information ASAP.

The New England Garden Clubs held their Annual Meeting in Wells, Maine on October 12th -13th. Judy Gray of Bayberry Garden Club & RIFGC VP, Cheryl Celeste and Kathleen Damiani (Awards Chairs of RIFGC) of Western Cranston Garden Club represented RIFGC at the meeting. Judy was able to meet and greet the new incoming Region Director Susan McCance, new National Garden Club President Mary Warshauer, and New England Club Presidents. This was a great opportunity to discuss the changing needs of garden clubbing, especially after the last two years. The keynote speaker was Arabella Dane of NH, Photography. She will be one of our guest speakers at our upcoming RIFGC Education Day, November 3rd. She is a real delight and has extensive experience.

GCF of Maine Judges Council held a small standard flower show called ‘Country Fair’. Barbara Blossom of the Bristol Garden Club was awarded 3rd in the Class Titled: Roller Coaster, a multi rhythmic design. Judy Gray of Barberry Garden Club was awarded 1st and Best of Show in the same class.

Cheryl Celeste received the Member of Honor Award, of the New England Region. Cheryl has an amazing amount of time and energy to her club, the Federation, and her community. More will be revealed in this Winters Newsletter.

Lastly, there are five or six RIFGC members competing this weekend at a NGC Standard Flower Show at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston MA (Horticulture, Design and Educational Exhibits) “Spirits of the Season” Friday, October 29th Saturday, October 30th 10:00AM – 5:00 PM Sunday, October 31st, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Recording Secretary: Linda Alves** – no report

**Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette -** no report

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Annual Meeting: Allison Mercer/Ann Huntoon - no report

Arbor Day: no report

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani – Cheryl reported: Program books are due by the end of October to RIFGC awards chairs.

Mailing address: Cheryl Celeste, 90 Salem Ave., Cranston, 02920.

National awards are due to RIFGC awards chairs by December 15.

Member Award of Honor awards are due to RIFGC chairs by January 1st

RIFGC awards are due by February 15th to RIFGC awards chairs. Kathleen stated there will be comments only on the Edith Fricker and Heffenrefer Award, Program Yearbook and Newsletter. NGC expects clubs to complete a form listing all their award submissions, please send a copy to RIFGC Award Chairs as well.

 If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Damiani or Cheryl Celeste at:

[gardenclubckawards@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubckawards@gmail.com).

Cheryl presented the description of the new State award which will be open for discussion and voted on at the December RIFGC meeting.

The new award will be very similar to the membership award; an award given to the club with the largest number of new members. This new award would be given to the club with the largest number of new Life Members. The club with the most new Life Members in any given year would be awarded a certificate and a monetary award.

The goal of the new award is to encourage clubs to promote Life Member Group and the important scholarship work the group does to support those pursuing studies inspired by the environment

No application is necessary.  Awards chairs/LMG will keep track of new Life Members, beginning April 1, 2022.

Community Involvement: Linda Alves/Debra McCartin – no report

Education Day: Vera Bowen – Education Day will be November 3rd, 2021, at the RWP Casino. It is free, bring a lunch and drink. 10:00 AM Photography Power Point presentation by Arabella Dan; 11:30 AM Daniel Finnegan presents: The Use of Sheep in Addressing Invasives.

12:30 PM Floral Design: Easy Designs that transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

1:30 PM Diane Greggerson presents a power point on Rhode Island’s Invasive Species

Environmental Concerns: no report

Pollinators: Vera Bowen – In October Newsletter; Animals that Pollinate.

Birds: Sue Redden – In October Newsletter; Puffins.

Design Study: Linda Kirkpatrick/Marjorie DeAngelis – The first design class on October 20th went well. The class was fully attended, and the designers were informative and helpful. The next class is in Jamestown on November 17th, there are currently no openings. Cathy Moore will present an Angular Design; Candace Morgenstern will present a Multi-Rhythmic Design and Ann Huntoon will present a Parallel Design. Linda encourages others to join next year.

Contact Linda Kirkpatrick 401-595-5955.

Earth Day Program: Sarah Lee - April 2022 detail forthcoming.

Finance Committee Chair**:** Blakely Szosz – Currently RIFGC has more expenses than income. The RI Home and Flower show provides a substantial part of our income. There was no show last year due to Covid-19. We need more sources of income; the committee is planning events and hope to share the details soon.

Flower Show Schools**:** Candace Morgenstern - Flower Show school Course II is April 12th - 14th, 2022 at Garden Club Federation in Medford, MA.

Who is Ruth Anderson/Ruth Anderson workshop; Ruth Anderson was a wonderful floral designer, after she passed she left money to be used for education.

Historian**:** Kathy LaRiviere – no report

Horticulture: Marjorie DeAngelis – no report

Judges Council: Ann Huntoon - Judges Council: interested in becoming a flower show judge - it is 4 courses that no longer need to be taken in order.

Judge's Council will stage a Horticulture Show at the RIFGC Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park Casino on June 2, 2022. Cathy Moore will chair this show. The Schedule should be completed within the next month. Now is the time to plant something in your garden that should bloom late May/early June.

 Life Member: Cathy Moore - no report

Life Member Scholarship: no report

Newsletter: Sandra Jack/Ruby McGookin – Sheryl stated the October Newsletter will be sent out electronically tonight or tomorrow. Photos are great of newly installed presidents and board. Deadline for the Winter Newsletter is January 1st; this will be the Presidents Issue – club presidents can participate in this issue by sending her a write up of their favorite program of 2020-2021. The write up should be separate from the photos. The Newsletter designer will combine them when she creates the newsletter.

Photography: Candace Morgenstern – no report

Programs: Sandi Tinyk – Mini programs at the board Meetings began in October. They will be 15-minute programs. Cathy Moore has agreed to present a short holiday design workshop at the December 2nd board meeting/holiday luncheon.

Program Book: Sandy Tinyk/Vera Bowen – Program book on website and look for field trip book this spring.

Properties: - Interim Sheryl McGookin – Please let Sheryl know if you need to get into the storage unit.

Social Media: Blakely Szosz – Blakely will put the Ruth Anderson award on the website. If any garden club has an event, please message her on Face Book or send her an email [blakelydesign39@gmail.com](mailto:blakelydesign39@gmail.com) .

Ways & Means: Michael Seebeck w/Blakely Szosz – Michael Seebeck will present the upcoming RIFGC Fundraisers once details are finalized.

Website: Kathy Thomas – No Report

Youth Programs: Amanda Nickerson Toste – Amanda stated the poster for The Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl is due January 2nd, 2022, and should be sent USPS at PO Box 591, Little Compton, RI 02837. Youth Poetry and Photo Contest is due January 15th for school age children; elementary, middle and high school subject will be native plants and gardening. This can be sent electronically/emailed to: [amanda@sakonnethomes.com](mailto:amanda@sakonnethomes.com). Samples and rules are on the NGC website.

The newly added RIFGC Youth Photo contest dates and guidelines/parameters will be announced soon. Amanda is working with Candace Morgenstern to develop this program. There will be a release form to sign for permission to post photos on the RIFGC website.

Old Business – none

New Business – Sheryl stated the next board meeting will be part of the December 2nd Holiday Luncheon. Look for upcoming details as to the venue, cost, and program.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:09 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Alves

RIFGC Recording Secretary