



**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 2, 2021**

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President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **13 clubs present** and **15 clubs absent**

Minutes of the October 2021 board meeting were sent electronically; "minutes stand as approved".

**Special guest: N/A**

**Treasurer's Report** - Paul Nunes reported: **Operating Account**

**Beginning Balance, September 30, 2021** **\$ 18,826.59**

**Cash Receipts**

Holiday Party Reservations	1,840.00	
Member Club Dues	<u>98.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>		<b>1,938.00</b>

**Disbursements**

NEGC Annual Meeting	J. Gray	275.93	
Programs		30.00	
Web hosting		120.00	
Dues	NGC	1,051.00	
Holiday Luncheon deposit	Old Grist Mill	<u>200.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b><u>1,676.93</u></b>

**Ending balance, November 30, 2021**

**\$ 19,087.66**

### **President's Report:**

1. Sheryl stated she sent an email about Award of Excellence. The Award of Excellence is given to an outstanding **non-club member**. RI won a few years ago nominating Trudy Cox for this award. She came to the NGC Convention; Sue Redden was on the Board of Directors at the time along with several others from RI and pointed out to clarify that in an email. The Member Award of Honor is for a club member, nominated by his/her club.
2. NGC has their Visions of Beauty Calendar 2022 available now on their website. Membership Matters Zoom workshop will be on 12/13/21 at 2 pm, Sheryl encouraged clubs to participate in this informative fun event; look for the link soon, its second Monday of every month.
3. National Garden Club is looking for suggestions on how they can better help the states and their local club members. If anyone has any suggestions, please send me an email.
4. Sheryl thanked Vera Bowen for a wonderful Education Day!
5. Sheryl thanked club members who brought floral designs and Cathy Moore for volunteering to do a floral design during dessert & coffee. All of which were donated to an opportunity drawing at the end of the event.
6. Sheryl also thanked Deb McCartin & Karen Cipriano for all their hard work in making this a great event: Please note the beautiful poinsettias for you all to take to decorate your own homes, the yummy Pizzelles they made to add to our cheesecake dessert, and the table markers they fashioned especially for today's event
7. Sheryl thanked Paul for running the ice breaker activity and turned it over to him and Vera for all her efforts on a wonderful Education Day.

**Vice President's Report:** WYWW (Wet Your Whistle Wednesday) Judy reported WYWW is December 8th at 6:00 pm Zoom Meeting An email will be sent out with meeting ID and password. The topic will be garden therapy.

**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:

Awards

- National awards are due to RIFGC awards chairs by December 15.
- Member award of honor needs to be sent in by Jan 1st.
- All club awards need to be sent in by Feb 15.
- Email is [gardenclubckawards@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubckawards@gmail.com) or sent by mail both are found on the RIFGC web site.

Cheryl read the proposed new Life Member award: A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

The new award would be much like the award we have now for the club with the most new members, except this new award would be for the most new Life Members.

We want to encourage clubs to promote the Life Member Group and the important scholarship work the group does to support those pursuing "green"-related fields of study. The club with the most new Life Members in any given year would be awarded a certificate and \$25.

No application is necessary. We will begin to track the club of new Life Members to determine the winning club each year. Much like the award for the most new club members, we would take the tally as of April 1.

Community Involvement: Linda Alves/Debra McCartin – no report

Education Day: Vera Bowen –

Environmental Concerns: no report

Pollinators: Vera Bowen –

Birds: Sue Redden –

Design Study: Linda Kirkpatrick/Marjorie DeAngelis – Linda reported: The Design Studies participants and members of the Judge's Council are preparing for a Small Standard Flower Show on January 19, 2022. The goal of the show is to learn what is involved in having a flower show, as well as providing the students with a chance to exhibit and display their design talents. The flower show is at Portsmouth Friends Church, 11 Middle Rd., Portsmouth, RI  
Contact Linda Kirkpatrick 401-595-5955.

Earth Day Program – Sarah Lee will be in April 2022 – TBD

Finance Committee Chair: Blakely Szosz – Paul Nunes reported relying on the flower show for revenue needs to diversify. Committee is working with Ways and Means for ideas, housekeeping account in order and accept donations such as name RIFGC in estate planning.

Flower Show Schools: Candace Morgenstern -

Historian: Kathy LaRiviere – no report

Horticulture: Marjorie DeAngelis – no report

Judges Council: Ann Huntoon –

Life Member: Sheryl/Cathy Moore reported Marnie Sandham has stepped down from Life Member Scholarship due to family responsibilities. There is a search for a replacement: the Life Member Scholarship chair goes to various colleges to solicit for applicants. Please see Cathy Moore if you are interested or know of someone that would be a good choice.

Life Member Scholarship: No report

Newsletter: Sandra Jack/Ruby McGookin – Sheryl stated deadline for the Winter Newsletter is January 1<sup>st</sup>; 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 – Sandi thanked Vera Bowen for conducting a horticulture quiz!

Mini Programs will continue for the remainder of our board meetings: Paul Nunes will present a primer on Federation Finances in January; Judy Gray will demonstrate a floral design in February; and Blakely Szosz and Paul will present a program on bees in March. Let me know if there is a topic you would like to hear more about in the coming year. [Sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com](mailto:Sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com)  
Trips and tours are being planned for Federation members. Stay tuned!

Program Book: Sandi Tinyk/Vera Bowen – Program book on website and look for field trip book this spring. Sandi stated additional ways to raise revenue will be day trips or tours. There will be more information to come in the spring.

Properties: - Interim Sheryl McGookin – Sheryl recently went to the storage unit and was surprised to see everything well organized. Sheryl thanked whoever did a great job of the organized storage unit. Please let Sheryl know if you need to get into the storage unit.

Social Media: Blakely Szosz –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 /Blakely Szosz –

Website: Kathy Thomas – No Report

Youth Programs: Amanda Nickerson Toste – Amanda no change in program or dates: the poster for The Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl is due January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, and should be sent USPS at PO Box 591, Little Compton, RI 02837. Youth Poetry and Photo Contest is due January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Photo contest dates, and guidelines/parameters will be discussed with Candace Morgenstern but have not met as-of-yet. There will be a release form to sign for permission

Old Business – Blakely Szosz – save the dates

Save the dates!

Barrington Garden Club Garden Tour chaired by Blakely Szosz ‘Sharing our Gardens’ which will include a Small Standard Flower Show called ‘We are Having a Party!’ chaired by Sue Redden. June 21 is the cocktail party and opening night reception and June 22 for the garden tour and flower show.

RIFGC State Flower Show at the RI Home Show in the Convention Center; “Our World” is taking place April 7-10. Linda Alves requested members to save their 28 oz cans for the Juniors Arrangements. The cans need to be clean with the label intact and can be brought to the RIFGC board meeting in January, February and March or dropped off at her home.

New Business – Cathy Moore announced that on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 there will be a Horticulture Show at the RWP Casino. The Schedule will go out in the spring. Judy Gray reported this will be a prelude to practice for the Newport Flower Show which is June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Alves  
RIFGC Recording Secretary