

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 24, 2022**

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Vice President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:11AM

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **9** clubs **present** and **19** clubs **absent**

Minutes of the February 2022board meeting were sent electronically; are there any changes or amendments? February minutes are accepted and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**– Paul Nunes reported: February 1 to 28, 2022

**Operating Account**

**Beginning Balance, February 1, 2022 $16,652.17**

**Cash Receipts**

**Programs –** WAM trip 644.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 644.00

**Disbursements**

Flower Show – Staging 109.11

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 109.11 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ending balance, February 28, 2022 $17,187.06**

**President’s Report:** President Sheryl McGookin unable to attend board meeting on a zoom meeting with RI Builders.

Upcoming events:

1. April 8st – Spring Newsletter due date
2. April 28th – RIFGC Annual Meeting & Awards presentation
3. May 16-20 NGC Annual Convention
4. June 2nd – RIFGC Board meeting and JC Horticulture Show and Youth Photo contest.

**Vice President’s Report:**

Judy apologized for canceling February meeting last minute it was because work on the casino was done and unhealthy to hold February board meeting. Judy thanked members for viewing her floral presentation at the February zoom board meeting.

Judy received wonderful comments from many who went to the Flora in Winter bus trip at the Worcester Art Museum. Judy is always very humble and honored to represent RIFGC.

Judy will be posting to the RIFGC Face book page pictures from the Small Standard Flower Show titled “Our Neighborhood” which was a Design Workshop presentation and held at the Portsmouth Friends Church in Portsmouth RI on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The designs were most impressive.

Judy invited herself and crashed the Western Cranston Garden Club meeting on March 8th, 2022. Their program that night was a floral designer, Sharon Thorpe sole proprietor of “Rose of Sharon” who demonstrated designs without using floral foam. It was great to see new ideas that are beneficial to the environment.

**Wet Your Whistle Wednesday (WYWW):** 6:00-6:45 pm

Judy did not hold a WYWW meeting in February but instead took a pottery building class using a slab of clay which was hosted by the Edgewood Garden Club. This was something Judy had never done, she met a great group of Edgewood GC members, many who had gone on the Flora in Winter bus trip and received many compliments on her design. Judy believes her talents lie in floral design and not clay building but had pure fun and is looking forward to seeing the final product. Judy wants the zoom WYWW meeting to take off and needs to know what topics members want more information and any ideas are welcomed. Next WYWW is April 13th subject will be to discuss RIFGC Flower Show. On May 11th; Cheryl Celeste and Kathleen Damiani will talk about awards.

**Flower Show:** The Flower Show is at the RI Conventions Center with the RI Home Show on April 7th – 10th. “Our World” is the title of the schedule written by Kathy Thomas. The times for the show are on the RIFGC website, [rigardenclubs.org](http://rigardenclubs.org/). Calendar, cost $10.00

Demographics: We have: 48 floral designers; 12 Botanical Arts; 3 Education Exhibits and 2 Youth Exhibits.

There is *one class open* a **Petite Design: Class 5 - Hanging Gardens (**please talk with Judy)

There over 100 children participating in design and artistic craft using repurposed materials.

The designers are as far away as Idaho and Florida! 5 from NH, 4 from VT, 4 Ct, 15 Ma, 21 RI (12 different garden clubs) 4 designers from the design workshops and 19 are NGC Judges.

We have some great speakers that will be on stage in the main hall. Full details on the Flower and Home show are on line @ RI Home Show. The Career Technical Training Board Meeting will be held on Thursday morning, April 7th that brings in superintendents, principals and board members.  They will have their monthly meeting and a tour of the show.  Also this year the students working on the show will have RIFGC Logo from the Home Show on their T-shirts!

Judy asked if any Flower Show committee chair have a brief announcement.

Linda Alves – Youth Design – Reuse – a floral design of the exhibitor’s choice  if you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew wants to participate please email Linda @ [lalves2@cox.net](mailto:lalves2@cox.net) sign up  Class 4 Ages pre-school – 7 years and Class 5 Ages 8 – 12 years need child’s name, age, school and contact phone number. Flowers & repurposed containers provided.

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

**Corresponding Secretary:** Kathy Bessette**–**

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Annual Meeting: Co-Chairs Deb McCartin and Karen Cipriano are pleased to let members know the speaker for the Annual Luncheon at the Cranston Country Club is Shana Santow, Development Director for the Southside Community Land Trust.  Since 1981, SCLT has significantly increased the supply of fresh produce and the number of farmers, markets and acreage for food production in the state, while promoting programs and policies to build a more equitable food system.   The luncheon is Thursday, April 28th from 10AM - 2PM at the Cranston Country Club. A flyer was sent out in the RIFGC email blast on March 20th with details of meal choices, cost and where to send your check.

Judy requested a flyer for the Annual Luncheon to be sent out as of now there is a “save the date” flyer only.  
Arbor Day: Deb Ort

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani – Cheryl reported Awards have been judged and are ready to be distributed at the Annual luncheon. I have not heard from NEGC about the yearbook award.

Community Involvement: Linda Alves/Debra McCartin – Linda Alves stated she will make calls to Housing for Habitat after the flower show for prospective areas to plant in the Fall.

Education Day: Vera Bowen – no report

Environmental Concerns: Environmental Day will be postponed to spring of 2023.

Pollinators: Vera Bowen – no report

Birds: Sue Redden – no report

Design Study: Linda Kirkpatrick/Marjorie DeAngelis - no report

Finance Committee Chair**:** Blakely Szosz – Paul Nunes stated the budget is being finalized and will be presented at the April Annual Luncheon.

Flower Show Schools**:** Candace Morgenstern –Candace reported there is a continuous need for judges; there is a course April 12-14th, 2022 in Milford MA; those interested should contact Candace.

Historian**:** Kathy LaRiviere – no report

Horticulture: Marjorie DeAngelis – no report

Judges Council: Ann Huntoon – Entries have been submitted for the Sylvia Street and Joan Pesola Awards.

We are getting ready for the Horticulture Specialty Show – “A Walk Through the Hundred Acre Woods” on June 2nd, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.  All members are encouraged to enter.  The show will take place at The Casino at Roger Williams Park.

The design study group's first flower show, “Our Neighborhood” was a huge success.  The exhibits were extraordinary.  The designers out did themselves and really showed off their talents.  We are looking forward to more programs or shows to showcase all of the talents of this organization.

Life Member:

Life Member Scholarship: No report

Photography: Candace Morgenstern –

Programs: Sandi Tinyk – Sandi stated the bus trip to WAM was successful and described Judy Gray’s beautiful floral design at WAM.

April: Annual Meeting/speaker

June: Horticulture show & Youth Photography Show

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)

Program Book: Sandi Tinyk/Vera Bowen – Program book on website

Properties: - Interim Sheryl McGookin – Judy stated the mannequin is still missing but was able to borrow 4 mannequins from Bristol Garden Club. Judy stated when anyone wants to borrow anything from the storage unit, please first contact Pres. Sheryl McGookin or Vice Pres. Judy Gray.

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). Blakely encourages presidents to send photos from club programs.

Ways & Means: Michael Seebeck /Blakely Szosz –No report

Website: Kathy Thomas – No Report

Youth Programs: Amanda Nickerson Toste – Amanda stated Candace and Amanda put together a schedule for K-18-year-olds. Photos must be full color no black and white, matted, no need to frame. Candace is reviewing the final program with the goal to complete it while on vacation. Amanda will be able to finalize the publicity and send the PDF to Sheryl for statewide distribution.

Old Business

Horticulture Specialty Show on June 2nd, 2022, at the RWP Casino and a Youth Photography Show, all of which will be chaired by Cathy Moore. There are 4 class entries: Pollination and Nature, Anything in your garden.

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 is the garden tour and flower show. The admission to the garden tour is $30.00.

New Business – Sandy Tinyk reported that the March Mini-program will be a guest speaker from Colette Travel who will present on the Spring 2023 Costa Rica trip.

Nina Kurtz introduce new president for Barrington GC is Rebecca Burke

Judy: The Newport Flower Show is June 17 – 19th at the Rosecliff Mansion and all information is on NewportMansion.org tickets are on sale starting April 1st.

Judy wants all garden clubs to develop a website, it’s a great way to get new members and piques the interest of the public.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:51A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Alves

RIFGC Recording Secretary

Mini Program: Casie Weidinger from Colette Travel gave a presentation at 11:00 AM for Costa Rica trip March 5-17, 2023