



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2022

President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M.

Minutes from the October 2022 board meeting were sent electronically. There were no corrections or edits. The Minutes stand as approved.

President's Report:

- Sheryl thanked Deb McCartin and Karen Cipriano for putting together a wonderful luncheon. Sheryl acknowledged the time and effort needed to create this event and the ease with which they get everything together.
- Sheryl thanked Judy Gray and Blakely Szosz for all their hard work in putting the RIFGC Flower Show 2022 together; a belated thank you as the After-Show-Appreciation-Party was canceled.
- The RIFGC board meeting has now returned to the “coffee and chat” pre-meeting social time: we are looking for a garden club to take on Hosting the January meeting, supply a few baked goods, flowers for the table, and we invite you to share your club’s happenings.
- RI hosted 7 flower/horticulture shows this past year
- Many of our Garden Clubs have hosted plant sales this past summer and fall
- We had two amazing fundraisers: RIFGC Polo event and LMG cocktail/floral design event.
- RIFGC will be creating a digital gallery of all the gorgeous design entries from all the 2022 flower and horticulture shows: RIFGC Flower Show, the JC Horticulture show, BGC Flower Show and garden tour, Sogkonate GC Flower Show and Hameho GC Horticulture Show: this will become a publication that will be available to the membership as a resource/record and updated regularly.

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: clubs 12 **present** and 14 clubs **absent**; **81** members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Paul Nunes reported.

October 1 to October 31, 2022

Operating Account:

Beginning balance; September 30, 2022, **\$ 32,680.44**

Cash Receipts:

Holiday Luncheon	816.00
Member Club Dues	<u>371.50</u>

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 1,187.50

Disbursements:

Annual Luncheon Venue deposit	500.00
NGC Dues	998.00
President's Expense NGC Conference	<u>447.51</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 1945.51

Ending balance, October 31, 2022

\$ 32,922.43

Vice President's Report: Judy Gray–

Wet Your Whistle Wednesday (WYWW): Judy Gray – The next “Wet Your Whistle Wednesday” will be January 25, 2023, with Arabella Dane of New England Garden Clubs Photo Group. The event is by Zoom only. Topics are announced ahead of time, and we try to align them with what our clubs need most.

Time: 6:45 -7:45

Recording Secretary: Linda Alves– No Report

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette – No Report

Standing Committee Chair Reports

Annual Meeting: Deb McCartin/Karen Cipriano – No report

Arbor Day: Deb Ort - No report

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani – Cheryl reported:

Member of Honor is due to RIFGC award chairs by January 1st 2023.

RIFGC awards are due to RIFGC Award chairs by February 15th 2023.

The following awards were submitted to the **NEGC** for the Sept 1st deadline.

Hameho

- 1) Sears Civic Beautification Award-work done by club members to beautify their communities.
- 5) Cornelia Williamson Watson Award for Historic Preservation

Barrington

- 16) Nancy H Atwell Award – Outstanding Publicity
- 17A) Jeanne-Marie Parks Award- creating an educational exhibit.
- 19) The Lina F Wagner Perennial Garden Award- creating and maintaining a perennial garden on private or public land.
- 27) The Maria J Nahom Table Design Award- Best table design exhibited in a standard or small standard flower show.

NGC submissions

Plum Beach

- CE2) Permanent Community Improvements
- CE9) Landscaping a Historical Area.

If there are any questions, please e-mail us at gardenclubckawards@gmail.com we will get back to you with an answer. Please include your phone number so we can speak to you personally if necessary.

All awards and descriptions are on the RIFGC web site along with the application.

Finance Committee Chair: Blakely Szosz – Blakely stated the RIFGC fundraiser is foxgloves and displayed the various type of foxgloves. Blakely was available to sell the foxgloves at the end of the holiday event.

Life Member: Cathy Moore – Cathy stated the Life Member had a successful cocktail event in September at Bernie Larivee's home which raised \$7,000.00 for scholarships. A scholarship is given in the amount of \$5,000.00 to an applicant whose education majors are in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science and related subjects. Sandra Jack is the new Life Member Scholarship chair. Life Member Group is always looking for new members; in January

2023, a member of the Life Member group will visit various garden clubs to provide information about the Life Member Group in the new year.

The Life Member Group flyers with the Life Member application were available at a display table at the holiday event.

Newsletter: Ruby McGookin– The deadline for material for the upcoming Winter Newsletter will be January 2nd.

Properties: Deborah Matson– Please contact Deborah Matson if anyone wants to borrow anything from the storage unit; deborahmatson@aol.com.

Social Media: Blakely Szosz –If any garden club has an event, please message her on Face Book or send her an email at blakelydesign39@gmail.com. Blakely encourages presidents to send her photos from their club’s programs.

Ways & Means: Michael Seebeck /Blakely Szosz –Blakely brought various styles and sizes of Foxgloves. The gloves were available to purchase at the holiday event.

Website: Kathleen Damiani/Erik Hanson –Kathleen asked for any club with flower show pictures and/or corrections on the RIFGC website to please send to President Sheryl McGookin and Kathleen Damiani.

Old Business: We are looking for someone with computer skills to create a map we can upload to the RIFGC Website that delineates the ‘where’ of each of our garden clubs.

New Business: RIFGC Executive Board and Advisory Council voted unanimously for a brand new and unique garden club from East Providence. The club will meet at the Hattie Ide Chaffee Senior living facility. They have chosen their board members and are working on their programs and program book.

Barry Zeltzer spoke about the Hattie Ide Chaffee Senior living center being rated a five-star facility - one of the best in Rhode Island. Their Executive Board collected poetry and artwork created by their clients. These creative pieces will be incorporated into their program book. Many of their programs are resident based and will focus on garden therapy, “hands in the soil”. The programs will also include medical students from Brown University and culinary students from Johnson and Wales.

- Barry Zeltzer and Heather Fraga Co-Presidents
- Lisa Bell – Vice President
- Kerri Smith – Corresponding Secretary
- Marlene Verrier – Recording Secretary
- Carrie Sylvester - Treasurer

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by

RIFGC Recording Secretary,
Linda L. Alves

This meeting was abbreviated so as to accommodate the Holiday Luncheon and Floral Design Demonstration by Judy Gray.