

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 23, 2023**

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Vice President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

Minutes from the January 26, 2023, board meeting was electronically sent. There were no corrections or edits. The Minutes stand as approved.

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **13** clubs **present** and **14** clubs **absent**

Mini Program: The guest speaker, Rachel Holbert from the Newport Tree Conservancy gave an informative power point presentation. Their mission is dedicated to fostering a healthy growing urban forest in the City of Newport, RI through permanent tree management and planting programs, for the benefit of present and future citizens of Newport. Rachel provided an opportunity for members to ask and answered any questions about the Newport Tree Conservancy.

**Vice President’s Report:**

Judy Gray gave a report about upcoming events in the absence of President Sheryl McGookin who was out of town caring for her parents.

* March 1st is Environmental/Education Day held at Roger William Park Casino.
* March 2nd – 5th Flora in Winter at the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester MA
* March 23rd is next RIFGC board meeting which will include a vote for the new slate of officers for 2023 through 2025.
* RIFGC presents the Galleria – Living Artfully Specialty Flower Show March 30th through April 2nd.
* April 27th Annual Luncheon and New Officer induction ceremony at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Deb McCartin and Karen Cipriano are planning the event.
* Winter Newsletter will be available February 27th.
* Newport Flower Show is June 27th through 25th at the Marble House in Newport RI. .
* Please email all club upcoming events to President Sheryl McGookin at [sherylmcgookin@gmail.com](mailto:sherylmcgookin@gmail.com) .

**Treasurer’s Report –** Treasurer, Paul Nunes reported.

**January 1 to January 31, 2023**

**Operating Account:**

**Beginning balance, December 31, 2022 $ 30,283.51**

**Cash Receipts:**

-0-\_\_\_

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS -0-

**Disbursements:**

RI Sales Tax 30.88

Safe Deposit box rental 100.00

Awards supplies & postage 12.54

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_143.42

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ending balance, January 31, 2023 $ 30,140.09**

**Vice President:** Judy Gray stated it was an honor to be a designer representing RI for the Flora in Winter Flower Show at the Worcester Art Museum. There will be 27 designs along with programs and lectures. The Flora in Winter is March 2nd through March 5th, 2023.

Judy is working diligently on the RIFGC flower show, Galleria – Living Artfully which is March 30th through April 2nd. RIFGC is honored to announce a new award, ‘The Blakely Szosz Award of Sustainability’.  You will find all the information on this award on page 7 of the Schedule. Judy stated there are 24 design entries to be filled in Division I and Botanical Arts in Division II. Kathy LaRiviere asked members to consider entering- advance registration required to Kathy; 401-316-5828 or [knlariv@outlook.com](mailto:knlariv@outlook.com). This is an important fund-raising event because it supports the RIFGC Operating Budget. There are 3 Career Tech Schools involved, especially with show set-up; totaling 1500 students. The students will also enter the RIFGC Standard Flower Show Youth Designs. RIFGC is providing Masquerade Masks for the Artistic Crafts entries and quart size mason jars will for Floral Expression. Judy is looking for donations of wide or small mouth mason jars, please contact her.

If you are interested in Clerking at the Flower Show on March 29th see the sign-up sheet or if contact Vicki Iannuccillo; [viannuccil@aol.com](mailto:viannuccil@aol.com)

Erik Hanson created an application to streamline flower show design entries. Designers will be asked to access a link when choosing their design entries. There is an easy to use Drop down menu of garden clubs, plant material, and class entry numbers. This new format will be a huge help to the data entry committee. Designers will be able to update their information any time before the show.

Judy will be setting up committee chairs for her presidency in the next couple of months.

**Wet Your Whistle Wednesday (WYWW):** Judy Gray – The “Wet Your Whistle Wednesday”

Scheduled for February 22nd was cancelled.

**Recording Secretary:** Linda Alves–Please email any reports for the board meeting to Linda at [lalves2@cox.net](mailto:lalves2@cox.net)

For the upcoming RIFGC flower show, Linda provided a sign-up sheet for anyone with a child, niece, nephew, or grandchild; design entry age categories: preschool to 7 years and 8 years to 12 years old. Designs will be created at Convention Center on Tuesday, March 28th; 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, materials will be provided.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Kathy Bessette asked that club presidents share the RIFGC email blasts with their membership. Kathy is scheduling Hostesses for the upcoming Flower Show; please email her if you wish to volunteer; [pegluke146@verizon.net](mailto:pegluke146@verizon.net). Hostess responsibilities include educating the public, keeping design entries safe by monitoring the attendees, and encouraging the attendees to enter a vote for the People’s Choice award. The shifts are 3 hours, and you get free entry to the show.

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Annual Meeting: Deb McCartin/Karen Cipriano – Deb McCartin reported that the Annual meeting/luncheon is April 27th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick RI. A flyer has been emailed to club presidents & included in the Winter Newsletter. The cost of $49.00 includes a meal choice of Chicken with lemon and capers, green beans and herbed basmati rice or Wild mushroom ravioli in sage butter madeira sauce. Please **RSVP by April 12th, 2023. Send check to: RIFGC, c/o Paul Nunes, 920 County St., Seekonk, MA 02771**. The program will be an award-winning designer Linda Pare’. She is a recent recipient of NGC’s Floral Design Award at the Newport Flower Show. She is the owner of the Mountain Laurel Design Flower Shop for 40 years and is an accredited member of AIFD and CIFA. Linda is also an NGC Student Judge and NH Master Gardener. Vera Bowen will be the Installation Chairwoman.

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani– Cheryl read a thank you letter to RIFGC President Sheryl McGookin for the $250.00 given to the Western Cranston Garden Club in April 2022. The letter included a summary of where and how the funds were spent: WCGC used the funds to update the grounds of The Cranston Central Library located on Sockanosset Cross Rd. The front garden beds were refurbished with new shrubs, bulbs, mums, compost, fertilizer, and annuals which were planted with help of local children.

Education Day: Vera Bowen /Sarah Lee – Sarah reported that the flyer recently went out to the membership. Education Day events will be held on March 1st at RWP Casino. Bring your own lunch; coffee, tea and water will be available. Please RSVP to Sarah at [sklee02905@gmail.com](mailto:sklee02905@gmail.com) or call 401-742-7831 this will enable members to receive sample bags, guests can purchase for $10.00.

Nominating Committee: Deborah Ort announced the new slate of RIFGC Executive Officers for 2023 - 2025:

President: Judy Gray – Bayberry/Edgewood Garden Club

Vice President: Kathleen Damiani – Western Cranston Garden Club

Recording Secretary: Patricia Yearwood – Western Cranston Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette – Angle Tree/Gentian Garden Club

Treasurer: Paul Nunes – Edgewood/Rehoboth Garden Club

Ex-Officio: Sheryl Hanson McGookin

Ballots will be distributed at the RIFGC March 23, 2023, meeting.

The new slate of officers will be presented at the April 27th meeting.

Candidates for Nominating Committee 2025-2027:

Club Presidents and their chosen club delegates will be asked to choose 3 candidates from the list below:

\_ \_\_\_Kathy Romeo, Plum Beach

\_\_\_\_ Pam Delaney, Bristol

\_\_\_\_ Sally Phillips, Rehoboth

\_\_\_\_ Cathy Moore, Westerly

\_\_\_\_ Linda Poole, Hameho

\_\_\_\_Vera Bowen, Bristol/Bayberry

\_\_\_\_Linda Kirkpatrick, Portsmouth

\_\_\_\_Candace Morgenstern, Tiverton/Newport

\_\_\_\_Eileen Moser, Sogkonate

\_\_\_\_Blakely Szosz, Barrington

Finance Committee Chair**:** Blakely Szosz – The Finance Committee has been busy reviewing the Operating and Restricted accounts; Life member and Judges Council are also consolidating accounts and CD’s. Finances to purchase 5traditional past president’s pins was approved: gold in 2021 was $565.00per ounce now the market supports $1861.87 per ounce. Finance committees decided it would be prudent to purchase 5 pins as we anticipate continued increase in the gold market. Vera Bowen added that the mold for the pin and the new pins will be kept secured in the RIFGC safe deposit box.

RWP Casino has increased their rental fee so RIFGC will be increasing club dues to $5.50. The dues amount was previously reduced because we no longer distribute printed copies of the Newsletter.

Flower Show School: - Candace Morgenstern – Judy Gray reported for Candace that there are two scholarships available to cover fees associated with Flower Show School. The scholarship will cover registration and hotel expenses. Please contact Candace at [candacemorgenstern@gmail.com](mailto:candacemorgenstern@gmail.com) if anyone is interested.

Hospitality: Sarah Lee president of Edgewood GC presented information about EGC as they generously provided baked goods for the February RIFGC Board meeting. Edgewood Garden Club was established in 1930 beginning with 60 to 70 members. Sarah described club activities and projects including a trip to Bellingham Botanical Gardens. The club’s meetings are held at the William Hall Library on the East side of Cranston. Judy thanked Patricia Venagro and Kathy Armstrong of Edgewood GC for the delicious food and beautiful centerpiece.

Ways and means – Blakely Szosz brought the foxgloves, bird nests, and 100% natural, reusable, biodegradable floral foam product called Agra wool. The wool was sold for $5/block.

Website: Kathleen Damiani stated the ‘members log-in’ is not working at this time and she and Erik Hanson are working with the company hosting the website to fix the issue.

There was no Old or New Business reported.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Submitted by

RIFGC Recording Secretary,

Linda L. Alves