

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2023**

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President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

Minutes from the December 1, 2022, board meeting were electronically sent. There were no corrections or edits. The Minutes stand as approved.

**President’s Report:**

President Sheryl McGookin talked about the upcoming events for 2023.

* March 1st is Environ-Education Day held at Roger William Park Casino.
* March 30th – April 2nd is RIFGC Flower Show – “Galleria – Living Artfully
* 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 available end of February .
* Flyers for all these events will be sent out electronically via email.
* National Garden Club convention is May 1st – May 5th at The Green brier Hotel/Resort in White Sulphur Spring West Virginia.

President Mary Warshauer would like each state to report on the number of trees planted by each Garden Club during her term 2021-2023: So far we have:

Barrington GC 2 trees, Edgewood GC – 2 trees, Garden Time – 15 trees, Gentian GC – 1 tree, Hameho GC - 1 tree, Plum Beach GC 6 trees, Rehoboth GC – 2 trees, WantoknowHow – 1 tree, Western Cranston GC – 1 tree. Please let Sheryl know if there are any more trees planted by other garden clubs.

Sheryl asked to please email her at [sherylmcgookin@gmail.com](mailto:sherylmcgookin@gmail.com) about any club’s upcoming events such as flower shows, plant sales or fund raisers. It is important to get them on the RIFGC Calendars on our website, in the Winter Newsletter and put on the social media pages.

* The RI Wild Plant Society Website and the Newport Tree Conservancy Websites both host some wonderful events.
* Clubs that are starting to work on their 2023-24 programs be sure to check the resource for the digital Program book on RIgardenclubs.org website.
* Small changes to the format of the RIFGC monthly board meetings such as return to coffee/tea/treats and mini-programs. Sheryl thanked Western Cranston GC for the delicious treats and beautiful centerpiece.

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **16** clubs **present** and **11** clubs **absent**

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

**November 1 to December 31, 2022**

**Operating Account:**

**Beginning balance; October 31, 2022 $ 31,992.43**

**Cash Receipts:**

Holiday Luncheon 3,596.00

Sale of Foxgloves 441.12

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 4,037.12

**Disbursements:**

Holiday Luncheon 2,976.68

Accounting & tax preparation 2,100.00

Website hosting 107.88

Miscellaneous Meeting planning calendar 28.84

Treasurer’s Expense Postage 24.00

President Expense NEGC Conference 438.64

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 5,676.04

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

**Vice President:** Judy Gray thanked Ann Huntoon for writing the schedule for the NGC Design Specialty Flower Show presented by RIFGC, the title is Galleria – Living Artfully. All design classes are open and inspire creativity. Help is needed for Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

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

was on January 25, 2023, with Arabella Dane of New England Garden Clubs Photo Group. Arabella Dane was interesting, very knowledgeable and provided the group's mission and programs offered to all RIFGC members in photography. She was one of the speakers at the RIFGC Education Day in 2021. There are future plans for a RIFGC photo club within the Newsletter. The next WYWW is February 22 and the topic is Flower Show School. This event is by Zoom only and the time is 6:45 -7:45 pm.

**Recording Secretary:** Linda Alves– Linda asked when anyone that has a report for the board meetings to please email her at [lalves2@cox.net](mailto:lalves2@cox.net)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Kathy Bessette – Kathy asked membership to be patient with her as she will be sending out many emails over the next couple of months. Also Kathy is scheduling Hostesses for the upcoming Flower Show; please email Kathy if you wish to volunteer at [pegluke146@verizon.net](mailto:pegluke146@verizon.net) .

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Flower Show Schedule: - Ann Huntoon wrote the Galleria – Living Artfully flower show schedule and it is available on the RIFGC website. Ann explained the Division Design Rules and the staging the various Designs in Sections A thru D.

Kathy LaRiviere – explained Division II Botanical Arts – Rules and Classes available. Both Ann and Kathy are willing to help all designers with questions and/or guidance.

Education Day: Sarah Lee and Vera Bowen gave details of this year’s Education Day on March 1st.

9:00 am – 10:00 am Dying Silk Scarves by Textile Designer and Fiber Artist Robyn Borges. 10:15 am – 11:15 am Prudence Memorial Park – A green Burial Cemetery.

11:30 am – 12:30pm The RI Nature Conservancy presents “Explore the Places We Protect

12:45pm – 1:45pm Floral Spring Basket

Annual Meeting: Deb McCartin/Karen Cipriano – Deb McCartin reported the Annual meeting/luncheon is April 27th at the Plaza in Warwick RI. The event will include a Floral Design program, a business meeting, club awards program, and lunch. A flyer will be emailed soon with more details.

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani–Cheryl reported RIFGC awards are due by February 15th.

Ex-Officio: Deborah Ort stated a vote will be taken at the March 23rd RIFGC board meeting. In addition to the President, each member club shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and to one (1) additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members in excess of fifty (50). The new slate of officers will be presented at the April 27th meeting.

Finance Committee Chair**:** Blakely Szosz – Blakely congratulated Deb Ort for working diligently with the nominating committee. Blakely stated it is an honor to serve on the executive board and is a positive impact to the community. Within the current budget RIFGC approved an expense for ordering 5 new pins for our outgoing Presidents. The Foxgloves will be available to purchase at the February, March and April meetings.  Also in February, Blakely will have available a 100% natural, reusable, biodegradable floral foam product called Agra wool to sell for $5/block.

Life Member: Cathy Moore – Paul Nunes reported there are two students that have applied for a Life Member scholarship. The Life Member Group will have a virtual meeting Tuesday, January 31st, 2023. A few members of the LMG will be visiting various garden clubs to provide information about the Life Member Group.

Newsletter: Ruby McGookin–The Winter Newsletter will be out in February 2023.

Mini program: Ann Huntoon gave a power point presentation created by the National Garden Club; Why attend Flower Show School/flower show judge. Ann Huntoon expressed the need for judges. JC has begun a new program; they will be offering scholarships. The Ruth Anderson scholarship will be used to pay for two people interested in attending Flower show school. The scholarship will cover School expenses including hotel. The dates for the next school are May 24th through May 3st, to be held in Connecticut.

Old Business: The RIFGC projector that was in the RIFGC storage is missing. Anyone that may have borrowed the projector, please return to Vera Bowen as soon as possible.

New Business: Co- President Heather Fraga from the Hattie Ide Chaffee Garden Club announced that their first program on January 19th was making terrariums, Blakely Szosz was there to assist and the program was a success. Their next program is February 16th about succulents at 3:30 at the Hattie Ide Chaffee Nursing Home in East Providence, RI.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30A.M.

Submitted by

RIFGC Recording Secretary,

Linda L. Alves

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