

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 23, 2023**

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

President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

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

**Ex-Officio:** Deborah Ort provided a ballot with the slate of officers for 2023-25 and the candidates for the 2025 Nominating Committee. Deb explained the voting process then she and the members of the Nominating Committee handed out ballots and tallied the votes. The Nominating committee members included Deborah Ort, Adelaide Clifford, Ann Huntoon and Kathy LaRiviere.

New Officers:

President: Judy Gray – Bayberry/Edgewood

Vice President: Kathleen Damiani - Western Cranston

Recording Secretary: Patricia Yearwood – Western Cranston

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette – Angle Tree/Gentian

Treasurer: Paul Nunes – Edgewood/Rehoboth

Nominating Committee:

Vera Bowen – Bristol/Bayberry

Sally Phillips – Rehoboth

Blakely Szosz – Barrington

Pamela Delaney – Bristol as an alternate

**Presidents Report:** The Minutes from the February 23, 2023, board meeting were sent electronically. There were no corrections or edits. The Minutes stand as approved.

* Sheryl thanked Bristol Garden Club members Pam Delaney, Carol Granville, Vicki Iannuccillo and Vera Bowen for hosting this morning’s meeting with a variety of delicious foods.
* Sheryl thanked Vera Bowen and Sarah Lee for all their hard work on a successful Environmental/Education Day held on March 1st. RIWPS had an Educational Exhibit at our event and they have agreed to speak at the RI Standard Flower Show and set up their educational display for the duration of the show.
* Sheryl thanked Judy Gray for her fantastic job chairing this year’s flower show. It will be a great show.
* Sheryl also thanked Ann Huntoon for creating the flower show schedule and all the volunteers that help make the flower show a success.
* Sheryl thanked the nominating committee for all their work organizing on assembling the slate of officers for the next term and organizing today’s vote.
* The RIFGC Newsletter has been sent out please be sure to check out the list of upcoming events.
* Arbor Day is April 28th please let Sheryl know if any club is planting a tree. She needs to get a final list to NGC.

**Awards:** Cindy Gianfrancesco from Gentian Garden Club thanked RIFGC President Sheryl McGookin for the $500.00 RIFGC Grant. She gave a presentation on their project; Bell Garden located in North Scituate, RI. A committee was formed with Chairwoman Cheryl Hahn and committee members were Lois Hartley Nance Mende, Barbara Colvin Layanee DeMerchant and Cindy Grianfrancesco. The garden is approximately 1,300 square feet. A blue stone walkway was installed along with a variety of plants; “Forest Pansy” Eastern Redbud tree, 5 species of shrubs, 23 species of perennials and 6 species of bulbs, totaling approximately 800 bulbs. Ninety percent of the perennials planted are native. This project received additional funding from RI Wild Plant Society.

**Vice President’s Report:**

Judy Gray stated WYWW is cancelled for this month.

* RIFGC presents the Galleria – Living Artfully Specialty Flower Show March 30th through April 2nd. There are 12 design classes and 2 Youth Botanical Arts. RI Builders will supply all flowers. The tickets for the show can be found on the RI Builders website – RI Home Show. The price is $12.00 but there is a $2.00 coupon available if purchased online. The ticket is good for all four days.
* Judy thanked Candace Morgenstern for recruiting all the judges. They are from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.
* There will be speakers and challenge classes throughout the show.

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

**February 1 to February 28, 2023 - Operating Account:**

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

**Cash Receipts:**

Opportunity drawing at BOD meeting 13.00

 Annual Luncheon 245.00

 Ways & Means sale of gloves, Agra wool 146.00

 TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 404.00

**Disbursements:**

NGC Conference registration 420.00

 NEGC conference expenses 188.00

Holiday luncheon expenses floral demo 90.00

RWP Casino contribution use of meeting space 1,500.00

Ways & Means Agra wool 78.16

Awards supplies & Postage 61.15

 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2,337.31

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

**Ending balance, February 28, 2023 \_$ 28,206.78**

**Corresponding Secretary:** Kathy Bessette - All slots are filled for Hostess for the flower show.

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Annual Meeting: Deb McCartin/Karen Cipriano – The Annual Meeting is at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick RI which will include a business meeting; Installation of officers, Awards and a lunch. The events begin at 10:00 AM and please **RSVP** by **April 12th, 2023**. Please send checks with your meal choice to:  **RIFGC, c/o Paul Nunes, 920 County St., Seekonk, MA 02771**.

Programs: Paula Nunes - The trip to Costa Rica made a profit of $1,825.00 to RIFGC.

Life member: Sheryl reported for Sandra Jack - Life member Scholarship committee received 3 applications for the scholarship. The Life Member committee voted and awarded all 3 applicants a scholarship.

Old Business: None Reported

New Business:

* Plum Beach Garden Club will have a plant sale at the "Wickford in Bloom” Garden tour

On June 24thand 25th.

* Bristol Garden Club plant sale at Mt. Hope Farms, Bristol on May 13th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.
* Rehoboth Garden club has a plant sale on May 6th at Governor Francis Farms.
* Portsmouth Garden Club plant sale is at Portsmouth Free Library, 2658 East Main Road in Portsmouth, on June 3rd at 9:00 am to 1 pm. The sale includes annuals, perennials, garden equipment, gardening and cookbooks, floral arrangements, and a children's table will be featured.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Submitted by

RIFGC Recording Secretary,

Linda L. Alves