



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting Minutes April 27, 2023

President Sheryl McGookin called the meeting to order at 10:15A.M.

Presidents Report: President Sheryl McGookin welcomed everyone to RIFGC Annual Luncheon/Awards Ceremony/Officer Induction.

Roll Call was waved as Club attendance was recorded on attendance spreadsheet. The number of clubs attending 16

Treasurer's Report: Report was waived as the Finance Committee will present Budget for 2023-2024 and the 2022-2023 Actual for all to review with discussion and a vote for approval during the annual meeting, directly followed by this business meeting.

President Sheryl McGookin:

The Minutes from the March 23, 2023, board meeting were sent electronically. There were no corrections or edits. The Minutes stand as approved.

- Sheryl thanked Debra McCartin and Karen Cipriano on behalf of the RIFGC board for creating a beautiful luncheon.
- Sheryl thanked Cheryl Celeste and Kathleen Damiani on behalf of RIFGC board for all their hard work on organizing and assembling awards.
- Arbor Day: Sheryl asked that clubs see her today so she can update the RI tree count with National Garden Club.
- Newsletter: Sheryl asked clubs to send her their upcoming event dates & photos from their annual meetings/officer induction ceremonies by May 15th.
- Program Book: Sheryl reminded membership that there is digital program book available on our website for those clubs that are still working on their programs for the upcoming year.

- Life Member Group: Sandi Tinyk reported that LMG is presenting three students with scholarships this year. LMG is planning a late summer fund raising event. Look for details to come. The new Life Member Chair will be Blakely Szosz and the new Vice Chair will be Linda Alves.
- Sheryl Thanked Judy Gray for all the hard work and time she devoted to this year's RIFGC Standard Flower Show.

Vice President's Report: Judy Gray was Chair of the RI Specialty Flower Show "Galleria – Living Artfully". It was held in conjunction with the RI Home Show. She gave accolades to all who participated in making the show a great success! Judy stated that the show was evaluated by National GC judges and with our well-earned high score we will be able to apply for a National GC Award. Attendance was up 20-25% from last year and an impressive 450 people voted for the People's Choice Award.

- 15 out of 24 clubs from RI participated in the show: designing, chairing a committee, working behind the scenes with staging, setup, youth, hostess etc.
- Designers: 19 from RI, 2 from NH, 1 from VT, 16 from MA, 4 from CT, 1 from NY
- Judges: 14 from MA, 5 from CT
- The Youth Volunteers: Over 45 students participated in all aspects of the show: staging, painting, loading and unloading the RIFGC moving truck and participating in the Youth Design Class.
- There were over 50 entries in the Youth Botanical Arts Class/Youth Design Class. A group competition was added this year, students were asked to design a Mass Design in 6 urns using Agra-wool.
- 13 Designs scored 90+ and the Petite Class "Dance" was given a Commendation as all four entries scored 90+
- There were two first time designers at the RIFGC Show: Joanne Duval of Hameho GC, she won a Blue Ribbon and the Table Artistry Award. Ashley Sparks of Sogkonate GC earned a Blue Ribbon for her Petite Award.
- A new award was added to RIFGC Awards List; The Blakely Szosz Award of Sustainability. This award is given to a designer for the best use of sustainable components in a design; environmentally friendly mechanics, up-cycling and/or fully compostable materials are judged in equal proportion to the overall design. Judy Gray expressed how honored and humbled she was to be the recipient of this award. She used recycled materials retrieved from discarded construction materials at a recent jobsite.
- Judy thanked Suzanne McCance, Director of the New England region, for entering RIFGC -SFS for the second year in a row.
- RI is the only state in New England Region to host an NGC Specialty Flower Show.
- Judy thanked Past President Blakely Szosz for her endless dedication to making the flower show a success year after year.
- She thanked Ann Huntoon for an outstanding flower show schedule.
- Erik Hanson wrote an application that helped RIFGC to more easily and efficiently register the designers and their materials in each of the design classes.
- Judy thanked President Sheryl McGookin for Scheduling FS Speakers and Education Exhibits. She helped with many aspects of the RI Standard Flower Show including painting and handling of the staging.
- Next year's flower show is April 4th – 7th, 2024.

Judy chaired Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays. This program is on hold as we will be reevaluating the details in the upcoming months.

Annual Meeting:

Awards Presentation: Cheryl Celeste and Kathleen Damiani presented the Club Awards.

President Sheryl McGookin presented Citations and Commendations:

- Judy Gray for all her hard work and innovation of the flower show.
- RI Wild Plant Society, a RIFGC affiliate for their Education Exhibit in the flower show.
- Citation was given to RI Builders Association sponsor of the Home and Garden Show.
- Erik Hanson for his work on the RIFGC Website and program application for the flower show.
- Mary Cool for her endless efforts in painting and building for the flower show.
- What Cheer Flower Farm for their presentation at the flower show.
- Member of Honor award was presented to Linda Alves of WCGC.
- The Ely Medal was presented to Blakely Szosz of Barrington GC

Finance Committee: Blakely Szosz presented the 2023-24 budget. It has been many years since it was necessary for us to access restricted funds. The JC and LMG accounts are all in compliance with Federal Regulations. Kathy LaRiviere moved to accept the proposed budget, and all agreed.

Meeting recessed at 10:56 AM for luncheon, installation of the new slate of officers, and Linda Pare Floral Demonstration.

Submitted by,

Linda L. Alves
RIFGC Recording Secretary