



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting Minutes October 26, 2023

President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll call Pat Yearwood, Recording Secretary was taken: 13 clubs present and 14 absent.

President's Report:

Minutes of the September 28, 2023, Business Meeting were sent out for review electronically.

Approved as submitted at today's meeting.

President Judy Gray's Executive Board

Vice President: Kathleen Damiani, Western Cranston Garden Club-present

Treasure: Paul Nunes: Rehoboth and Edgewood Garden Club-present

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette; Angle Tree and Gentian Garden Club- present

Recording Secretary: Pat Yearwood, Western Cranston Garden Club-present

Judy thanked the Hameho Garden Club for hosting today's Meet and Greet. Michelle Danish, Hameho's President shared that June 13, 2024 they celebrate Hameho Garden Club's 60th Anniversary. Congratulations. Also, the Club is putting on a show "Art in Bloom" at the Barrington Public Library April 26-29, 2024. Will be open to the public. Additional information as the date draws near.

Gentle Requests and Reminders:

Please wear a name tag and list your garden club. Tags are at the entry table.

All speakers will use the microphone and keep report to 3 mins or less.

Share written notes of your report with Pat Yearwood, Recording Secretary

Check the tables at entry for sale item Agra Wool-\$7.00 and used books for donation.

Calendar: Please contact Judy with any important dates for your club, especially events.

judy.gray123@gmail.com. . The sooner the better. Want to make sure clubs and federations are not doubling on the same day. **Send Flyers in word doc**. If you must cancel, change or move your event, please contact Judy to update.! Let us all support each other's events. The list of events will be updated after each meeting. RIFGC Calendar to be sent out in Judy's weekly email blast

Future events 2023-2024 to support

- RIFGC meeting: No November meeting. RIFGC Holiday Brunch at Santa Maria Di Prada in Cranston. December 7, 2023

- Mar 6, 2024 Wed, Education/ Environmental Day
- April 4-7, 2024, RIFGC Specialty Flower Show, Rhode Island in Bloom. More info to follow. Plenty of diverse opportunity for all clubs to be involved in this spectacular event.

Again, upcoming events will be included in President Judy Gray's weekly email blast.

Vice Pres. Report Kathleen Damiani: Please note the correction that the WCGC Flower Show is May 18, 2024

Treasurer's Report: Paul Nunes shared two clubs, Bayberry and Seaside, have yet to pay their dues. **Nov. 16th is the absolute reservation deadline to Paul** for RIFGC Holiday Brunch on Dec. 7th from 11-4PM.

\$40.00 Check payable to RIFGC. Include form from the event flyer.

Mail to RIFGC c/o Paul Nunes, 920 County Street Seekonk, MA 02771-1810

Clubs are asked to make a centerpiece for their table to be raffled off.

Remember to bring a new pair of socks for donation to Crossroads Family Shelter.

RIFGC NEWS: - Judy shared that the RIFGC is actively looking for a Webmaster. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact Judy. judy.gray123@gmail.com

NEGC Annual Meeting, Plymouth MA Oct. 10-11 was attended by RIFGC members: former Presidents Sheryl McGookin, De Feldman, Sandi Tinyk, Vera Bowen, also the NEGC Awards Chair, Pres. Judy Gray. W. Cranston G.C. Linda Alves and Deb McCartin and Ileen Chernoff VP of Portsmouth. We heard Presidents Reports from other NE states, there was an award ceremony, speakers floral design presentation as well as idea of Pollinator Pathways. Always a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Our own Vera Bowen, NEGC Awards Chair today presented to Linda Alves, W. Cranston GC NEGC Member of Honor Award. Congratulations Linda.

Also Vera presented to Hameho GC: 1) The Mary Lousie Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award: 2) The Nancy H. Atwell Award and 3) Yearbook Award Class 2, 20-29 members. Hameho President Michelle Danish accepted the award. Susan Escherich, Debbie Clickner, Carolyn Rosenthal, Neomi Kennedy, Pricilla DiMarco, Joanne Duval, and Karen Stitt all members of Hameho GC were also at our business meeting. Congratulations to the entire club.

President Judy Gray and Vera Bowen attended FGC of CT Awards luncheon on Oct. 25th along with NEGC Director Susan Miner and NH Pres. Winnie Schmidt. Two Hours+ of straight awards.

Standing Committee Report

Awards Chair: Kathleen Damiani & Cheryl Celeste: Deadline dates for Awards submittals

Yearbooks are due to the Awards Chairs by Oct. 26th.

National Awards are due to Kathleen and Cheryl by Dec. 15th.

Member of Honor Award due into Kathleen and Cheryl Jan 1st

All others due to Kathleen and Cheryl by Feb. 15th, 2024

If you have any questions, Contact Kathleen, or Cheryl

Education and Environmental Day: Vera Bowen & Sara Lee: Education Day To be held Wed. March 6, 2024. Sarah Lee talked about the harmful pests that are damaging our trees. Handout with pictures provided.

Horticulture Chair Carol Glanville: An Email was sent out on Tasks to do in the Fall Garden.

Design Study Mary DiBara/Kathy LaRiviere: Some openings still available for Jan 24th. Contact Mary or Kathy for more information

Newsletter/Photography Sheryl McGookin: Judy Gray communicated thanks from Sheryl for the submissions to the Newsletter. Next deadline Jan.12,2024 for submissions. Use word or google docs not pdfs.

Webmaster Kathleen Damiani: Hard at work to update the website. Please direct any issues with web to Kathleen. Reminder, we are in search of a new webmaster. Thank you.

Youth Programs. Linda Alves: Smokey Bear contest to celebrate 80th birthday.

For children 1st to 5th grade.

Details website www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids.

Also email Linda at. lalvesmgyoga@gmail.com.

Old Business: Sandy Tinyk reviewed the trip for May 15-23, 2024, trip to Great Gardens of Southern England and the Chelsea Flower Show. \$4,390.00 +airfare out of Boston. There is one opening (possibly 2) for this trip. Refer to brochure available on the entry table. Please note that this trip was organized as a fundraiser for RIFGC, and it appears the commission will be somewhere in the \$5,000. Range. Sandi is also looking at a possible trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Mar 3rd and 4th. Will advise.

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nov.5, 2023

Patricia Yearwood
Recording Secretary, RIFGC