



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

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President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Roll call Pat Yearwood, Recording Secretary was taken: 12 clubs present and 15 absent.

**President's Report:**

Minutes of the April 27, 2023 Annual Meeting and June 1, 2023 were sent out late electronically. Both approved with no corrections or edits 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-not present

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette; Angle Tree and Gentian Garden Club-not present

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

Judy thanked the Cindy Wood GC for hosting today's Meet and Greet. And introduced their President Jane Shaw who gave a brief overview of Cindy Wood sharing their desire to be more involved with the RIFGC and one of the club's platforms in 2023-24 was pollinator gardens. Also in attendance from Cindy Wood GC was Sally Corbin their Program Chair

Thanks to RIFGC Sue Escherich RIFGC Hospitality Chair for organizing this year's hospitality calendar.

Heartfelt thanks to all for the outpouring of support on the passing of her 97-year-old dad this summer.

Informed the attendees there were many items for sale: gently used garden books, and Agra wool. Please put a name tag on, available on the table as you walk in.

A gentle reminder for anyone giving a report from the floor, please give Pat Yearwood a copy of your report/information. Huge help in recording the minutes.

Calendar Reminder: Please submit club events and dates [judy.gray123@gmail.com](mailto:judy.gray123@gmail.com) for inclusion on RIFGC Calendar to be sent out in Judy's weekly email blast. The sooner the better.

Please support each other's events. The following list of events will be updated after each meeting. These events are submitted by RI Garden Clubs for the RIFGC Calendar to Pres. Judy Gray and information is included in her weekly email blast with details.

2023 Summer Events Enjoyed:

1. Newport Flower Show at Marble house for 1<sup>st</sup> time.
2. Life Member Group Luncheon, Hosted by Cathy Moore and welcome new officers and Judges Council Installation at home of Ann Huntoon
3. Judy cris crossing the state for various clubs' activities.
4. Judy attended the Edgewood Garden Club 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Vera Bowen and Sandy Tinyk. Pres. Sara Lee and Bernie Larivee shared stories, laughter, and a history timeline.
5. NGC Fall Meeting via Zoom
6. Judy had a design demonstration at Rehoboth GC
7. Judy, Vera Bowen, and Kathy Bessette represented the RIFGC at the Hattie Ide Chaffee Garden Club Community Celebration. The Mayor Roberto DaSilva presented a Certificate of Congratulations to the new Garden Club.

**Future events 2023-2024 to support**

- RIFGC meetings will be 2023 Sept 28, Oct 26, No Nov meeting, Dec 7-Holiday Brunch2024 Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28, Jun 13 (changed from Jun 6).
- Sept 30 Sat: WCGC Plant and Garden Sale, Bristol GC Fall Flea and Craft Fair:
- Oct 10-11 Tues & Wed: NEGC Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA
- Oct 18 Wed: Design Study Group
- Oct. 26 Thu: RIFGC RWP Casino
- Oct 28 Sat: Angle Tree GC Dinner Dance at N. Attleboro Elks Club
- 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.

Judy also emphasizes the importance of Garden Therapy programs. Many currently in place like Cup of Cheers, holiday cards, small arrangements bring joy to many residents of those facilities.

Upcoming ideas for the 2023-2024 might be of interest like local tours or workshops. Judy will research and advise.

**Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays:** Working on reinventing the program. Stay tuned.

**Vice Pres. Report Kathleen Damini:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Nunes report. Update at Oct 26 meeting

**Corresponding Secretary Report: Kathy Bessette: NGC NEWS:**

**RIFGC NEWS:** -

**Standing Committee Report**

**Affiliate Membership Chair: Sheryl McGookin:** Strategic effort to align more closely with affiliate organizations in 2023-24, also to identify other Nonprofits to align with. All would benefit. Community outreach have identified a group of Warwick ladies interested in forming a Garden Club and was a guest at our meeting.

**Awards Chair: Kathleen Damiani & Cheryl Celeste:** Yearbooks are due to the Awards Chairs by Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. 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. Details at Oct 26 meeting. Sara Lee shared information and handout on a devastating pest of boxwood. For more info check out [hiips://extlandscape@umass.edu](mailto:hiips://extlandscape@umass.edu). Sara also mentioned that some sod companies are offering wildflower turf.

**Finance Chair:** This committee has met over the summer.

**Judges Council Linda Kirkpatrick:** There will be a Horticultural show June 2024. Hatte Ide Chaffee Garden Club has offered their use of their facilities. Update to follow.

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

**Life Member Chair:** Ex-Officio Cathy Moore and Polo Fundraiser Chair Blakely Szouz thank all who supported the rained-out event that generated over \$1,200.

**Newsletter/Photography Sheryl McGookin :** Pollinator pictures or articles for the Newsletter deadline 9/30 to be included in the next issue due out by 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Oct.

**Webmaster Kathleen Damiani:** Hard at work to update the website. Please direct any issues with web to Kathleen.

**New Business-** Vera Bowen shared the RIFCG will host the 2024 NECG Annual Meeting next fall. Oct 23-24, 2024 and met with the Crown Plaza, Warwick. Details to follow. There are NGC Awards Plant America the due date for submittals is Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to South County Garden Club for their Luncheon and GCA Flower Show at the Dunes.

Sandy Tynk 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. Refer to brochure available on the entry table. There is a change in accommodations to the Windsor Castle Hotels Details available contact Sandy with any questions.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
October 8, 2023

Patricia Yearwood  
Recording Secretary, RIFGC