

## **Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 22, 2026**

### **Roger Williams Park Casino**

**Ex-Officio President Judy Gray** called the meeting to order at 9:58 AM. There were 15 clubs present.

#### **• President's Report:**

**Judy** announced that the **minutes of the December meeting** will be distributed shortly. She introduced the members of the Executive Board who were present.

- **Judy** noted several **sympathy announcements**: President Kathleen Damiani's son, and Paul Nunes' father. Donations in their names will be made to the Life Member Scholarship Fund. Judy also noted the passing of the husband of Emeritus Master Judge Kathy Thomas.
- **Judy** thanked Western Cranston for **hospitality** and the centerpiece. **Sharon Casey** from Western Cranston greeted the members and noted that their club has been experiencing good attendance at their meetings. All are welcome to attend.

#### **President's Agenda:**

**Judy** passed on a **message from Kathleen D** thanking everyone for their outreach after the death of her son. She feels blessed to have so many wonderful people a part of RIFGC. She will be back in February and will resume the email blast soon.

#### **Reports from Officers:**

- **Treasurer Sally Troup** reviewed **RIFGC's finances** for the period 10-01-25 through 12-31-25. See attached.
- **Recording Secretary Carol Horta** reminded chairpersons to please provide a digital copy of their report, if possible, but at minimum a paper copy at the meeting to help generate accurate minutes. She also passed along an announcement from **Eileen Dennis** that **Hameho will have an Art in Bloom show** at the Barrington Public Library from May 15 - 17. Art will be from Barrington High School and St. Andrew's School. Designers will be from Hameho GC and the staff of the library.
- **Corresponding Secretary Heather Fraga** reminded the members to send Kathleen news and announcements to be distributed to the clubs.

#### **Reports from Standing Chairs:**

**Annual Meeting Chair Debbie Clickner** announced that the luncheon will be held at the Quonset "O" Club and Dennis Del Signori will be the guest designer. Attendees are asked to create a fascinator to wear for this function. A raffle chairperson is needed to coordinate and sell tickets at event; please email Kathleen or Debbie if you can fill this role.

**Pat Yearwood** spoke on behalf of the **Awards Committee** and reminded everyone that awards are due by February 15. Awards should be sent in electronically with the exceptions of the Newsletter and Fricker awards which require both a hard copy and an electronic copy. Send award submissions to [gardenclubckawards@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubckawards@gmail.com).

**Chair of the Judge's Council De Feldman** announced:

- The **Pesola and Street Award submissions are due by February 1**. If you entered our state flower show or a club flower show with an innovative, traditional, or oriental design, please submit your design with a 4x6 or 5x7 photo (no ribbons shown in the photo) and place a sticky on the back with your name, your club, and the location and date of the show. Send this photo to De Feldman at 6 Seal Island, Bristol RI 02390.
- She reminded everyone that there is now an **Art in Bloom category in the RIFGC awards**. Send in your submissions by February 15.
- De congratulated two new **NGC Student Judges, Maria Kallis and Blakely Szosz**, who have joined the Judge's Council. They need judging credits so De encourages clubs to have a flower show!
- **Linda Kirkpatrick** obtained **NGC Accredited Master Judge status**.
- **Flower Show in a Box** has its first taker: Bristol Garden Club is planning a show. Remember that a member of the Judge's Council will come to your club's meeting to give a presentation of the box with no obligation to then have a show.
- **Candace Morgenstern** will lead the **February 18 Design Workshop**. **Maggie Rezendes** noted that there are still a few openings. Contact her if you are interested in attending,

**Plant A Tree Chairperson De Feldman** reminded clubs to send in their donations. This worthy NGC project helps to replace trees lost to fire, weather-related events, or just plain old age.

**Judy** passed along a message from **Kathleen** regarding the **By-Laws Committee**: they are pleased to report that the Zoom meeting to discuss and approve the new By-laws resulted in their successful passing. Kathleen sends her gratitude to the committee that worked faithfully to make this happen. The new By-Laws will be posted on the website.

**Education / Environmental Day** will be Thursday, March 5 at 10:30 at the William Hall Library. Watch the email blast for more information.

**Judy** shared a note from Kathleen that complimented the organizers of the **Holiday Party** and noted that it was enjoyed by all, including the table design demonstrations by **Judy** and **Blakely**.

The **Flower Show schedule** will be posted on the website soon. There is a Botanical Arts Craft Division that is very interesting.

**Judy** reminded all that the deadline for the next **Newsletter** is March 1. Send news and announcements to Judy. Always send photos in actual size and separately, not embedded in a document.

**Maggie Rezendes** will have copies of the NGC book *Designing by Types* available to purchase for \$5 at the next meeting.

The June 4th RIFGC meeting will be a **RI Judges' Council Horticulture Show** at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home.

**Sheryl Hanson** reminded all about the **NGC Youth Contests**. Bring submissions to the February meeting.

**Eileen Moser** led a presentation and discussion about **Asian Jumping Worms** and what clubs know about them, and what they are doing about them vis a vis plant sales. A lot of good information was shared.

Next meeting is February 26 at Roger Williams Casino at 10:00.

Sandy Tinyk motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, and Debbie Clickner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Carol Horta*

*Recording Secretary*

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Treasurer's Report  
October 1 through December 31, 2025**

**Operating Account**

**Beginning balance, October 1, 2025** **\$ 40,131.59**

**Cash Receipts**

Member Club Dues		\$ 165.00
Design Study Group Income		\$ 1,060.00
Interest		\$ 83.88
Holiday Luncheon		\$ 3,345.00
Plant-A-Tree	Pass Through to NGC	\$ 150.00
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$ 4,803.88</b>

**Disbursements**

National Garden Clubs Dues	2025-26	\$ 1,060.00
Design Study Group Expense		\$ 1,105.58
Donation	Roger Williams Park Casino	\$ 1,500.00
Flower Show Expense		\$ 239.23
Administrative	Office Supplies and mailing	\$ 375.32
Committee Expense	Hospitality	\$ 37.96
Holiday Luncheon		\$ 3,037.25
Plant-a-Tree	Pass Through to NGC	\$ 150.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$7,505.34</b>

**Ending balance, December 31, 2025** **\$ 37,430.13**