

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

February 26, 2026

Via Zoom

President Kathleen Damiani called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Roll Call: Carol Horta Recording Secretary —

Clubs Present: _____15_____ Affiliates Present: _____0_____

President's Report:

Kathleen asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 22, 2026 Board Meeting which were sent out electronically. **Sheryl Hanson** made a motion to accept the minutes. **Sandi Tinyk** seconded it. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Kathleen introduced the guest speaker, **Julie Christina from Kinney Azalea Gardens** who spoke about the many exciting initiatives at the property. She encouraged club members to come see the garden, possibly get involved in a project there, and to certainly participate in the Holiday Tree Festival next fall.

Reports From Officers:

Treasurer Sally Troup read out the financials for the period January 1 to January 31, 2026. See attached.

Recording Secretary Carol Horta reminded those attendees giving a report to please send an electronic report to her.

Reports from Standing Chairs

Annual Luncheon — April 23rd — Kathleen announced that it will be at the same place as last year, the Quonset 'O' club. Dennis Del Signori will be our guest designer. Send in your reservation to **Sally Troup**. All attendees are asked to create a fascinator for this luncheon.

Heather Fraga has volunteered to be raffle chair to coordinate and sell raffle tickets at the luncheon. Please let her know if your club will be donating a basket.

Awards — Kathleen asks that any club with an anniversary that is divisible by 5 between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, please contact **Cheryl Celeste** so we may acknowledge this anniversary at the Annual Luncheon.

Education Environmental Day — Vera Bowen reminded all that this event is Thursday, March 5th at the William Hall Library in Cranston. She asks that clubs bring a display to show any environmental projects they have done recently.

Flower Show — Judy Gray reminded everyone that we are just over a month from the show. The committee will meet next week to finalize some of the plans. This year, due to lack of federal funding, the youth participation will not be as we have become accustomed to. We will have far fewer students to assist in getting the staging all in place. We will need help starting Easter weekend. On Saturday April 4th we will load staging into the moving truck, and then we start up on Monday April 6 in the RI Convention Center. There are jobs for everyone, and no experience is necessary. Some of the tasks are physical but nothing more strenuous than gardening and hauling bags of soil. No shift has to be lengthy as long as we have volunteers. This is a great way to see behind-the-scenes how the show transforms into this spring event. Please answer Judy's request when the email goes out in the next week. Flower show schedule is out. Check the website.

Flower Show Hostesses — Kathy Bessette announced that she needs more hostesses, and that she will be sending out an email asking for more volunteers.

RIFGC Newsletter— Judy Gray announced that the next deadline is March 1. Covers dates from January 1 to March 1. Please make sure you have announcements or flyers for events through June sent in at this time. Plant sales, garden tours, membership drives etc. Next Deadline is June 1st.

Our June 4th monthly meeting for RIFGC will also be a Horticulture Show. Hattie Ide Chaffee Home will be hosting this event and meeting. Plant specimens must be in the entrant's possession for 90 days prior to the show; arboreal specimens for 6 months, and combination plantings for 6 weeks. More information to come.

The next meeting is March 26 at Roger Williams Casino at 10:00 AM.

New Business

Holland Tour 2027 - Sandi Tinyk

Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise

April 27, 2027 - May 5, 2027

RIFGC has 15 spaces on the trip, and 6 registrations have already been sent in. Registration deadline is May 28 to lock in the current pricing. Deposits refundable until this date. Travelers will spend 6 nights aboard the MS Nobleman, Van Loon Cruises; 3 meals per day. Prices include airfare. Other inclusions: round-trip transportation to Logan Airport, admissions to sites outlined on itinerary, miles of tulip fields in bloom. Tulip fields, museums, historic sites, charming towns including a tour of the fairy tale city Brugge, and notably the Keukenhof Gardens, several acres of floral exhibits; also some World War II important sites.

Aidan Ardine, our Collette sales rep will speak about the trip at the Board meeting March 26, when brochures will be available. Can also be accessed by visiting <https://gateway.gocollete.com/link/1403057>

Eileen Moser provided a report on the Asian Jumping Worm club survey. See below.

Sheryl Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and **Eileen Moser** seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carol Horta
Recording Secretary*

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Treasurer's Report
January 1 through January 31, 2026**

Operating Account

Beginning balance, January 1, 2026 **\$ 37,430.13**

Cash Receipts

Design Study Group Income		\$ 120.00	
Interest		\$ 24.74	
Plant-A-Tree	Pass Through to NGC	\$ 78.00	
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS			\$ 222.74

Disbursements

Plant-a-Tree	Pass Through to NGC	\$ 78.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$78.00

Ending balance, January 31, 2026 **\$ 37,574.87**

ASIAN JUMPING WORM SURVEY FEEDBACK

January 22, 2026

Following up from our October 2025 meeting, we held another discussion session at the Federation January meeting on preventing the spread of Jumping worms and what to do if you discover them in your gardens. Attendees were given this survey to assess what their club is doing regarding the jumping worm. Below are the collated responses.

1. Has your club taken any steps or initiatives to prevent the spread of the Asian jumping worm in your community, such as changes to your plant sale or plant exchanges? Educational efforts? trainings? resources? Programs for your members or for your community?

Plum Beach -Yes, 2025 plant donations had to have roots washed and then planted in new or scrubbed pots and sterilized soil. Members who have jumping worms did not donate plants.

Bristol – Yes. Bought better soil. Sterilized pots. Started more from seed.

Rehoboth – Individual members are watching for jumping worms and warning others, but the club as a whole has not addressed the issue.

Barrington – We no longer have a plant sale. We promoted education on our website.

Portsmouth - No

Western Cranston – Not this year. But we will definitely have a program meeting regarding the jumping worm for our next year plant sale.

Sogkonate – Yes, we changed our 2025 plant sale to offer annuals which we grew from seed in new pots and new soil (most were grown in the greenhouse of our local school), and perennial plugs purchased from two reliable vendors. We had members who are experienced with plugs train others, and at our plant sale we educated out customers the advantages of plugs and how to plant them. We did not allow any plants that had been dug up from a garden.

2. Is your club considering taking any steps in 2026 to help prevent the spread of the Asian jumping worm?

Plum Beach – No plant sale in 2026. Next sale in 2027.

Bristol – Yes, see above. Also, will buy new pots.

Rehoboth – Yes, we would like to inform and educate our club members and our surrounding communities at a club meeting and using social media.

Barrington – We will have a program on this.

Portsmouth - No

Western Cranston – We were not, but after this presentation we will obtain much information and present the knowledge to our club members.

Sogkonate – Yes, after much discussion with committees and the board, we are again growing the annuals from seed at the school, and selling plugs purchased from reliable vendors. We are expanding the number of club members involved in the seed growing, especially members of our Horticulture Committee, and we are reaching out to members who have a greenhouse or other at-home growing equipment to take on some of the plants. We will order plugs again. No dug plants in our plant sale. Having an educational session for members in April.

3. Would you like more information, training, programs or resources on how to help prevent the spread of Asian jumping worms in your community? If yes, what would be helpful? Literature? Training? Program? Resources?

Plum Beach – We are all set. Maybe workshops on starting from seed. Conduct wash off process not in your yard.

Wantaknow – Interested in literature and training re: Jumping worm.

Bristol – Literature that we can send to members via email.

Rehoboth – Yes, the assistance will be appreciated. Photographs depicting the accurate coloring of the jumping worms would be especially helpful, as well as information regarding locating, killing and disposing of them. Thank you!

Barrington – Program on jumping worm and resources.

Portsmouth – Yes, all of the above

Western Cranston – Yes, please before planting season arrives, a program would be so very helpful.

Sogkonate – We continue to seek more information, and more up-to date data. One of our members would like to survey all clubs in RI to ascertain the number of their members who have identified jumping worms. We hope that the Federation will continue to educate clubs, and hopefully have a program for members in the near future.

Eileen Moser, Sogkonate Garden Club