

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 26, 2026**  
**The Casino at Roger Williams Park**

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

**Roll Call: Carol Horta Recording Secretary.**

**Club Present: \_\_14\_\_                      Affiliates Present: \_\_0\_\_**

**President's Report:**

**Kathleen** asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 26, 2026 Board Meeting which were sent out electronically. **Sheryl Hanson** made a motion to accept the minutes. **Deb Clickner** seconded it. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

**Thank you** to Cindy Wood Garden Club for Hospitality and the centerpiece.

**Reports From Officers:**

**Vice President Eileen Dennis** announced that Angle Tree Garden Club will no longer be affiliated with RIFGC.

**Treasurer Sally Troup** reviewed the financials for the period February 1 through February 28, 2026.

**Corresponding Secretary Heather Fraga** shared a thank you note from Ronald McDonald House for the donations of toiletries, etc that club members brought to the Holiday Party.

**Reports from Standing Chairs**

**Annual Meeting** — **Kathleen** reminded all that the **Annual Luncheon is April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Quonset 'O' Club. Dennis Del Signori will be our guest designer. Reminder: create and wear a fascinator for this luncheon. **Heather F** is the raffle

chair. Please contact her if your club will be creating a raffle basket ([heather.fraga@hattieidechaffee.org](mailto:heather.fraga@hattieidechaffee.org)).

**Awards — Kathleen announced:**

1. Any club that has an anniversary between July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 and it is divisible by 5, please contact **Cheryl Celeste** so we may acknowledge this anniversary ([gardenclubckawards@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubckawards@gmail.com)).
2. Also, don't forget to look at the NEGC Award possibilities and submit applications to Kathleen or Celeste (winners of the Program Award are the only awards that they automatically submit to NEGC).
3. Don't forget to submit for a Community Project up to \$500. Send an e-mail to Kathleen by April 15<sup>th</sup> ([kdamiani@yahoo.com](mailto:kdamiani@yahoo.com)). The same club may not apply two years in a row.

**Flower Show- Judy Gray reported:**

1. The Flower Show is right around the corner (April 10-12). The youth component has slimmed down due to lack of federal funding, so we do not have students to assist in setting up the show. We do have the floriculture schools with FFA Chapters (Narragansett, Ponaganset and Chariho). We will have 28 students participate in the Youth Design, and Eileen has 60+ for Botanical Artistic Craft. We are also having the Botanical Arts Division with 3 classes/12 designs creating functional items: a garter, a ring with a ring box, and a bridal headpiece — all out of dried and fresh plant material.

2. Demographics this year:

- 21 Judges from 7 States with 2 student judges from RI
- Designers from 9 states including CA, FL and OH
- Designers from RI - 21
- 17 out of 22 RI clubs are either judging, designing, volunteering
- Of 9 Novice entrants, 6 are from RI
- Out of the 6 from RI that are Novice, 4 never designed at this show, and 2 never competed in any show

3. A gentle reminder: this is the federation's only fundraiser that supports our yearly finances. We appreciate everyone who has stepped up to the plate to

volunteer. Please contact **Judy** ([judy.gray123@gmail.com](mailto:judy.gray123@gmail.com)) to sign up to assist in getting the show floor ready. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes! We provide drinks and snacks!

**RIFGC Newsletter** — **Judy G** reminded all to collect your pictures (with descriptions) of your club happenings for the next newsletter, due June 1. Do not embed your pictures in a document, but rather send them separately. Send PDFs of your flyers, etc.

**Send your newsletter items to a NEW email address:**

[rifgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rifgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

and please include in the subject line:

Judy (month of newsletter)(club name)

**Horticulture Show** — **Kathleen** reminded all that our **June 4th meeting** will also be a **Horticulture show**. Hattie Ide Chaffee Home will be hosting this event and meeting. The schedule was sent out and is also on the web.

**Plant a Tree Chair Sheryl Hansen** reminded all that donations are still welcome. She will report to the National Plant a Tree organization in June.

**Bristol Garden Club** invited all to attend their Garden Picnic at the Mrs. Perry's Gardens on October 4 from 1:00 - 3:00. Watch the email blast for details.

**Next meeting** is the annual banquet on **April March 23**.

#### **New Business**

**Kathleen** led a discussion on **Fundraising** and **Membership** for ideas. See the attached notes for thoughts that were shared.

**Sheryl H** motioned for the meeting to adjourn and **Diana Campbell** seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57.

After the meeting, **Collette Tours** gave a presentation for the upcoming **Holland tour**. Contact **Sandi Tinyk** if you are interested in joining at [sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com).

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Carol Horta*

*Recording Secretary*

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.		Operating Account	
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>			
<b>February 1 through February 28, 2026</b>			
<b>Beginning balance, February 1, 2026</b>			
			<b>\$ 37,574.87</b>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Interest		\$ 21.92	
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>			<b>\$ 21.92</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Administrative Expense	Safe Deposit Box Rental	\$ 100.00	
Design Study Expenses		\$ 1,933.39	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b>\$2,033.39</b>
<b>Ending balance, February 28, 2026</b>			
			<b>\$ 35,563.40</b>

## **RIFGC Group Discussion — March 26, 2026**

### **Attracting and Retaining Members**

1. Do not limit # of members
2. Do not limit WHEN you accept new members
3. Have members sponsor candidates OR provide a sponsor
4. Mentors for new members
5. Require attendance at 2 meetings before candidate applies
6. Make sure expectations for membership are clearly communicated
7. Designate members to make guests/candidates at meetings feel welcome
8. Be sure to follow up with guests/candidates
9. Have open meetings and advertise your meetings
10. Volunteer at the Flower Show and tell with guests about garden clubs
11. Get a QR code that links to your social media or website and put it everywhere:
  1. Sign at Plant Sales
  2. On any advertising
  3. Make tchotchkes (e.g., bags, key rings) with your code on them
  4. Yard signs for members on main roads
  5. Bookmarks
  6. Tags placed in centerpieces that are donated to libraries, etc.

7. On signs on anything you do (like wreaths and swags for holidays)
12. March in parades
13. Attend Farmer's Markets
14. Have applications available at your events
15. Schedule meetings at libraries — they will publicize your event
16. Use the newspaper to identify recent home sales and send welcome letters
17. Put notices in church bulletins

### **Fundraising Ideas**

1. Plant Sales
2. Garden Tours
3. Participate in holiday fairs
4. Luncheon with raffles, designer
5. Art in Bloom Show
6. Invite public to your workshop to make swags, wreaths, etc
7. Calendar
8. Sell wreaths, kissing balls, terrariums
9. Bulbs (e.g., Van Engelen in CT)
10. Auxiliary items to sell: birdhouses, aprons
11. Green Elephant Table at your plant sale
12. Do a community fundraiser through a restaurant (e.g., Applebees)
13. Proven Winners on-line sales charity coupon (*I couldn't find a reference online for this - CH*)

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs presents...

# Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise

April 27 – May 5, 2027



Book Now  
& Save  
**\$50**  
Per Person

**Upgrade to Elite Airfare! See inside for details.**

For more information contact  
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Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs  
**(401) 440-8369**  
**[sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com)**

**collette**