

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Minutes, June 1, 2009, Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, Vermont

The Chairman of Protocol, Past State President Caroline Frey introduced the club presidents and their representatives, the Regional Directors, and our State President Susan Robinson.

The President, Susan Robinson, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

Sally Ayrey, Asst. Treasurer. Arlington GC, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elaine Dates, Past State President and a member of the Burlington GC read William Wordsworth's poem "The Daffodils", in honor of our new National Garden Club President Renee Blashke's project 'Golden Days.'

Rita Langlais, Northern District Director, St. Alban's GC gave the Welcome.

The Response was given by incoming Central District Director, Therese Burton, Springfield GC, who invited us to the Lilac Inn in Brandon on Tuesday, Oct 6, 2009, for the fall meeting of the FGCV.

The Credentials Report was given by Rita Langlais.

- State president: 1
- Past state presidents: 5
- Club presidents: 12
- Past club presidents: 20
- District directors: 2
- Past district directors: 2
- National life members: 6
- State life members: 16
- National Board members: 3
- State board members: 10
- Total members present: 63

President Sue Robinson introduced her Board: 1st VP Lisa Perrault, Asst. Treasurer Sally Ayrey, Treasurer Pat Durfee, Parliamentarian Elaine Dates, Rec. Secy Stephanie Hockensmith, Central District Director Gay Gaston, 2nd VP Glenda Clarke, Northern District Director Rita Langlais, Corresponding Secy Caroline Frey.

The Minutes Review Committee moved that the reading of the minutes of the Spring Meeting, April 6, 2009, be waived by General Consent. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Minutes Review Committee for the Annual Meeting will be Caroline Frey, Corresponding Secretary and Lisa Perrault, 1st VP.

Treasurer's report: Pat Durfee, Garden Club of Manchester

Pat reported that our total income as of April 30, 2009, has surpassed our expenses for a positive balance of \$552.74. She asked that all requests for reimbursement be submitted by June 30, the close of the fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS**Report of the Nominating Committee for 2009-11** state officers:

Dot Closs, chairman. proposed the following slate:

- President: Stephanie Hockensmith
- 1st VP: Gay Gaston
- 2nd VP: Rita Langlais
- Treasurer: Sally Ayrey
- Asst. Treasurer: Pat Durfee
- Recording Secretary: Gail Lynch
- Northern District Director: Glenda Clarke
- Central District Director: Therese Burton
- Southern Regional Director: Dot Closs

President Sue Robinson asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Sue asked for a motion to elect the slate of officers. The motion was seconded and passed.

Results of Spring Meeting Round Table Discussions- Sue Robinson

Sue summarized the answers to the following 3 questions:

1. How to increase membership.
 - a. Communicate more- advertise
 - b. Outreach to children
2. Problems
 - a. Publicity—need for better internal communication and external advertising
 - b. Need for a speaker list on website
3. Four Study Schools sponsored by NGC: would you participate if they were held locally
 - a. Resounding yes!
 - b. Garden Study School will be offered online—if successful, others will likely follow.

NEW BUSINESS: Timekeeper, Glenda Clarke, 2nd VP**Committee Reports****Elaine Dates: Vermont Flower Show**

Elaine reported that there was 74% participation among the 17 clubs. More than 10,000 viewers attended. The judges gave the Flower Show an overall grade of 95, making the state eligible to apply for a National Award. The sponsor Green Works has offered to give even more support for another flower show in 2 years.

Elaine Dates: Woodsey Owl and Smokey Bear

Elaine announced the results of the Poetry and Smokey Bear Contests. (Report attached). Vermont had a 2nd place National winner at the 4th grade level. The winning poems can be found in a booklet obtainable from NGC for \$5.00. Elaine called the club presidents' attention to the packets in their folders announcing the youth contests for 2010, including several new ones this year.

Jan de Sarno: Grandma & Grandpa's Garden

Jan announced the planting date for the garden: Thursday, June 4 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Workdays for the summer will be the first Thursday of each month. (Report attached).

Frankie Gibson: Flower Show Schools

Frankie explained the responsibilities of the Flower Show School Chairman. (Report attached). She also announced that a new student has successfully passed two Flower Show School Courses. Another has completed all the requirements to become an accredited Flower Show Judge and is awaiting the results of her written exam. Frankie asked clubs to consult with her when scheduling a Standard Flower Show to avoid conflict and to send her a rough draft of their schedule for advice.

Joan Gates: Garden Therapy

Elaine reported for Joan Gates that the winner of the 2009 Garden Therapy Cash Award is the Springfield GC. (Report attached).

General announcements- Sue Robinson

1. Sue reiterated the reminder to committee chairs that all requests for reimbursement need to be submitted to the Treasurer by June 30.
2. Sue spoke of the Apple Core project, in which a group of young people planted a vegetable garden at the statehouse in Montpelier.
3. Sue announced the new NGC president Renee Blashke's national projects:
 - a. Golden Days- the planting of daffodil bulbs all over the country to honor members no longer able to attend meetings.
 - b. Beautify Blight- working with other agencies to transform a weeded lot into a community garden.
 - c. Plant it Pink- the partnership with the Susan Komen Foundation to help fund breast cancer research. A stoneware birdhouse can be obtained for \$65, and the donor will also receive a packet of dianthus (pinks) seeds to be planted in a pink garden. The proceeds from the sale will go to the NGC and the Susan Komen Foundation.
4. Ways & Mean Chair Cathaleen Fitzgerald announced a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction for a beach bag filled with garden items donated by Mr. Twitters Garden Shop.
5. The Manchester GC offered herb plants left over from their sale for \$3 each.
6. The Rutland GC announced that there were still openings in the 2:00 p.m. time slot for lunch at their Strawberry Festival on June 19.

7. Gay Gaston spoke of having visited Lady Bird Johnson's wildflower farm in Austin. She identified the Texans' Bluebonnets as our blue lupine.
8. Sue called our attention to the poster highlighting the work of Manchester youth, who were given seeds to plant earth boxes for the Flower Show through the generosity of a \$200 grant from the VT Country Store.
9. Sue passed out posters for National Garden Club Week, June 7-13, for clubs to use in their public displays spotlighting the activities of the FGCV.

Awards

1. Glenda Clarke, 2nd VP, announced the clubs showing a net membership gain in 2008: Arlington, Brattleboro, Middlebury, Newfane, Rutland, Springfield.
2. Valerie Cleary, Chair of the Judges Council announced the clubs meriting Design Awards for the year 2008-2009: Burlington GC, Randolph GC, and Arlington GC. The rotating trophy for the highest level of creativity was awarded to the Burlington GC. Valerie reminded clubs that an application form has been given to each club president and will also be on the website for next year. (Report attached.)

Scholarship: Jenn Hanlon

Jenn announced the winner of the \$4,000 National Scholarship: Carrie-Anne Elizabeth Palmeri, a UVM undergraduate majoring in Environmental Studies.

A brief discussion of the \$1,000 state Mabel Mayforth scholarship ensued, and Sue Robinson said that in this period of difficult economic times, when the interest on the principal was not equaling the \$1,000 needed for the scholarship, the finance committee was pursuing the possibility of dissolving and consolidating several smaller funds to make up the difference when that committee meets this summer to work on next year's budget.

Speaker: Sandy Anderson, owner of Mill Brook Bonsai, Jericho, VT, presented the program "Bonsai a Living Art Form". In narrating his slideshow, Sandy explained the basics of Bonsai: its history, the various accepted designs, and the horticultural methods used to create and maintain a bonsai tree. Sandy prefers to use native Vermont plants, which he selects, prunes, and wires to achieve the shape he has visualized for the particular plant he has selected. Bonsai is a man-made shape that suggests nature rather than duplicating it like a photo. Each tree, regardless of the specific design principle employed, should be airy enough to let the birds fly through. Sandy brought samples of various trees and shrubs that he had transformed into bonsai so that we could see and touch the art form.

During the **social time**, members were encouraged to view the side gardens off the conference room, after which they partook of a delicious buffet **luncheon** of salad, quiche, and dessert.

Awards: Marge Masino (Report attached.)

Marge introduced her new co-chairs Nancy Howe of Brattleboro GC and Marilyn Houston of Arlington GC.

National Awards:

Youth poetry, Naomi Husher, 4th grade, sponsored by the Randolph GC.

Springfield GC, 3rd place, Press Book.

Burlington GC: Kellogg Civic Achievement award.

The state of VT achieved an award for participating in National Awards.

The state of VT and the Manchester GC each received Penny Pine awards for reforestation.

Caroline Frey, Seed & Weed GC, received a certificate of appreciation for serving on the Nominating Committee of the NGC.

State Awards:

The following garden clubs received awards: Arlington, Burlington, Covered Bridges, Four Seasons, Manchester, Middlebury, Randolph, Rutland, Seed & Weed, Springfield.

Jenn Hanlon of Four Seasons GC received a past club president's award for her work as chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship: Jenn Hanlon

Jenn introduced Corina Dailey, winner of the \$1,000 Mabel Mayforth Scholarship.

Corina is a graduate student at Antioch College, specializing in riparian tree buffers.

Presidential Citations: Sue Robinson

Sue honored the following:

Charlie Nardozi, senior consultant with the National Gardening Association for his many contributions over the years to FGCV.

Pat Durfee, for her work as Treasurer over the last few presidential terms, as well as her ongoing commitment to the GC of Manchester.

Elaine Dates, for her assistance as mentor to president Sue Robinson and her chairmanship of the state flower show.

Installation of New Officers: Elaine Dates, past state president.

duly installed the elected slate of officers.

Carol Lavallee won both the beach bag and the 50/50 raffle.

Final Credentials report:

Rita Langlais announced that the Credentials Report given at the beginning of the meeting remained unchanged.

President Sue Robinson adjourned the meeting at 2:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hockensmith,
Recording Secretary

