

President's report, Fall Meeting, October 4,2022

I have had a busy year trying to keep information going out to the Presidents of the Vermont Clubs that might be of interest and help to them. They in turn send it on to their members. Many thanks for keeping the information flowing to members.

We held a casual Executive Board Meeting at my home in Shrewsbury this summer. First of such meetings in person. Nice to have some face to face time with such terrific ladies. Main discussions centered around standardized forms for registration of FGCV meetings, collecting credential information form and information that will help DD to set up meetings. We decided to stay with the simpler forms but I included the other forms for Jean Freeburn as she planned with the Southern District Clubs as a help with the details she had to make for the meeting. We also discussed the fundraising trip to Ottawa, Canada. Doris has been in charge of that and she will speak about that a little later.

There is a rotating person from two states every couple years to be on the NGC Nominating Committee for the next administration. It was Vt and Maine's turn. The qualifications are strict but we were able to have an excellent candidate qualify. Sue Hinkel will represent us well as she has a good understanding of members around the country, especially NE. We are proud that she agreed to accept this position.

A couple week ago I attended the National Fall Meeting in St. Louis. I got better acquainted with the NE Region Presidents and others attending from the NE Meeting. Talk around membership growth, activities of local clubs, sharing activities between states, and a memorial for past members are a few of the discussion. One of the speakers was on membership growth and the other speaker's topic was amazing. He spoke about how they were able to plan, find and plant 400 common native trees at ground zero. I asked about a possible video of the talk but no one seemed to know if that was possible or not. There was promotion of the programs that NGC sponsors, especially Pennies for Pines, Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear poster contest, Each one Plant One, Scholarship and awards. I highly recommend your clubs get involved in some or all of these projects. If you are working with a school or class on the poster we can have a person dressed up like one of the animals contacting the Forest Service. All the information for these programs and also the many awards you can apply for are listed on the NGC website. So much helpful information on the website and I can't urge you enough to go on the website. How many of you have applied for a free membership for the National Gardner??

Awards and Scholarship. We still have no awards chairperson. We really need for someone in the state to show interest and step forward. We will train and help along. Kitty is most ready to help someone learn the job. The next awards are National. Due to me by December 1, 2022. After reviewing them, I will send them on to the National Awards chair. Kitty will help me with this process. The NGC website list many awards you could apply for. I know you do amazing projects and getting recognition would be wonderful. If you would contact your HS counselor about our available scholarship or if you know of a kid who has interest in studying in our required areas, contact them directly. It is for \$1,000.00. National has one for junior and seniors for \$3800. With the cost of college now, finding scholarship helps a lot.

State Lifetime Memberships help us finance the State scholarship. If you have a person in your club you would like to honor for various reason, you apply to the FGCV for a life membership, which is a one time \$50. Fee. They are honored at the next FGCV meeting. Think about this for someone in your club who always steps up or always helps out or?  
Jo Fretz, FGCV Co-President

