

Presidents Report for the Annual Meeting. June 7, 2022

Margery and I are both newbies to Federation work. We are gardeners and that is what we really know about. We have spent the year learning about our duties from the executive committee, Sue Hinkel and Caroline Frey, and many other garden club members. They say it takes a village to raise a child and so it takes a willing FGCV board and club members to bring up new FGCV Presidents. We are grateful for everyone's help, good humor and patience as we learn the ropes.

Communication was Margery and my main goal for the first year. Getting familiar with the clubs, where they were located and their Presidents. I wrote a letter every 6 weeks or so to the presidents to keep them up to date as to what was happening in our State. I requested they send all communication out to their members to keep all members aware of what we were promoting.

Increasing membership in our clubs was another goal Margery and I tried to promote. We attended the Membership Monday zoom meetings presented by NGC to get more ideas on promoting our local garden club activities and encouraging new members. We passed on many of the ideas presented when writing our letters to the presidents. Many of the clubs shared good approaches they were trying that might draw new people to their clubs. We want to continue to encourage ways to bring new membership to garden clubs as we go forth this next year.

We attended the New England Regional Meeting in Wells, Maine. It was fun to meet the other state presidents and discuss similar issues even though they are bigger than Vermont. We tried to have a NE state presidents meeting but it turned out difficult since everyone is so busy in their own state. After making contact with the Maine president, she included Vermont in some webinars on photography and the Maine Botanical Garden. Working with the region presidents is an area that we need to explore more.

The Finance Committee of FGCV was very diligent and met many times via Zoom. Margery and I sat in on the meetings to keep abreast of their ideas and work. Many thanks to Doris Van Mullen for her leadership and for using her zoom account to set up lots of meetings for FGCV.

Margery and I attended most of the meetings presented at the September Board meeting via zoom.

I really enjoyed the 3 District Meetings held in April and May. It was wonderful to meet club presidents and District Directors in person at two out of three meetings. I have my fingers crossed that we will be able to have all of the meetings in person next year. It was terrific to listen to all the activities the clubs were able to continue in spite of Covid causing so much interruption. I talked about the Nursery Garden Club Day and the Tulip Festival Trip the finance committee is planning. I promoted and encouraged the clubs to use the new FGCV website that has been developed and maintained by a club member in Arlington. I also showed the QR code that opens our website Martha Dale, 2nd Vice President of FGCV, developed for anyone to use. The NGC website has many helpful ideas under Membership. I encourage members to go to that section to sign up for the very professionally done National Gardener and the National Blog as well as exploring the many other sections of the website. It is a wonderful website and has many interesting sections. The other fun experience for me was going to some clubs to install officers and meet club members.

The Leaf was published in the Fall, 21 and the Spring, 22. Doris Van Mullen was a great help to me when we did not have an Editor. A member of the Brattleboro Garden Club, Riina Viise, stepped forward and volunteered to be Editor of The Leaf. I am most grateful to Riina for her expertise. Many people contributed articles and we will continue to encourage current information be contributed for the newsletter.

The year was full of learning new information and meeting new people. I look forward to building on that for the 2022-23 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Fretz  
Co-President of FGCV

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