

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.
Annual Meeting, June 7, 2022
Castle Hill Resort and Spa, Cavendish, VT

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont (FGCV) was called to order by Co-President Jo Fretz, Rutland Garden Club, at 9:35 a.m. at Castle Hill Resort, Cavendish, VT.

The Invocation was read by Janet Ellison of Mountain Gardeners.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Esther Swett of the Rutland Garden Club.

Therese Burton of the Springfield Garden Club welcomed Garden Club members, on behalf of the Central District, to Castle Hill Resort and thanked all Central District clubs for their contributions to this meeting. Jean Freebern, Southern District Director, Arlington Garden Club, gave the response, announcing the June 6, 2023 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Southern District. Further details will be provided at a later date.

Co-President Jo Fretz announced a Penny Pines jar will be circulating for donations. FGCV needs a minimum of \$68 to send a contribution to the National Garden Club's tree planting partnership program with the USDA Forest Service. Each \$68 contribution goes to a Penny Pines plantation to assist with the costs of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area.

Jo made introductions: Past Presidents Caroline Frey and Pam Hebert and the FGCV Executive Board Members seated at the head table. Jo reminded club membership chairpersons to stay in touch with FGCV Second Vice President Martha Dale and send Martha a copy of their yearbook and updated electronic membership list.

Jo then introduced special guest Mary Warshauer, president of the National Garden Club (NGC), and thanked her for her visit to our annual meeting. It was an additional pleasure to recognize the visit of Mary's sister-in-law Jan Warshauer. Jan chairs the National Garden Club's Flower Show Committee.

President Warshauer stated how pleased she was to join the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont. She researched our Federation's history and discovered that 250 people attended the first meeting held at the Equinox Inn in Manchester, VT. President Warshauer reported, due to the pandemic, Zoom has changed how we do business and many of those changes are here to stay. NGC has become more virtual and offers many online gardening tips, club resources, and webinars. She encouraged everyone present to take advantage of the website. All members should subscribe to The National Gardener magazine and NGC's weekly blog. There are Membership Monday workshops open to all members and many online education programs. The Blue Star Memorial program continues to grow. There are now 3,840 memorials across the country. April is Plant America Month, as well as Arbor Day, National

Gardening Day and Earth Day. NGC awarded 82 Plant America grants this year. The application is simple and President Warshauer encouraged all clubs to apply. The program promotes the planting of trees. President Warshauer ended her presentation with the message, "In all you do, do it with kindness." She then presented Co-President Jo Fretz with a National Garden Clubs Certificate of Appreciation, recognizing Jo and the work she is doing as Co-FGCV President.

A preliminary credentials report was presented by Jan Semp, Rutland Garden Club. Nine (9) of the fifteen (15) member clubs are in attendance and a quorum was declared present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

In the President's Report Jo Fretz reiterated President Warshauer's urging that all club members spend time on NGC's website, taking advantage of this important information resource. The new FGCV website is also an important source of garden-related information and club event news. Clubs wishing to have events or other information posted to the site should submit the information to Sue Hinkel, Manchester Garden Club. A copy of the full President's Report is attached.

Therese Burton, Treasurer, Springfield Garden Club, presented the Financial Report. Jean Swanson, Springfield Garden Club, moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Janet Ellison, Mountain Gardeners, seconded the motion. Jo expressed her appreciation for the diligence of Therese and the Finance Committee for the many activities they accomplished this past year. A copy of the full Treasurer's Report is attached.

Cheryl Pierce, Recording Secretary, Springfield Garden Club, stated that the minutes from the FGCV July 2021 Annual Meeting were reviewed by the Minutes Review Committee and approved by the Co-Presidents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Fall Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022. It is hoped we will have the meeting at the State House in Montpelier but the availability of the State House will depend upon the status of the pandemic. More information will be available as we get closer to that date.

Fundraising Committee Report by Therese Burton; Martha Dale, Green Mountain Gardeners; Doris Van Mullin, Burlington Garden Club. One of the first tasks undertaken by the Finance Committee this past year was to identify FGCV fundraising opportunities.

- Vermont Nursery Garden Club Day - The Finance Committee established partnerships with five (5) garden centers/nurseries across the state. Instead of ending up as a fundraiser, the project evolved into an opportunity for local garden clubs to spotlight their work by having a table at the garden centers. On May 21, participating clubs spoke to customers, distributed club brochures and promoted club activities and membership. This event garnered good publicity as well as

increased visibility and public relations. The Arlington, Burlington, Manchester, Middlebury and Springfield Clubs participated. A flyer was printed for the event. Using the event survey results, a decision will be made if this event will be held again next year.

- An exciting bus trip to the Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa, Canada is planned for May 16-17, 2023. A bus will pick members up at locations across the state. A minimum of forty (40) participants is needed. Ottawa is a beautiful city and we will be staying at the landmark Lord Elgin Hotel. People can register online now. The trip online registration information can be found on the FGCV website. This will be a fundraiser for our Federation.

Awards and Scholarship Committee report presented by Kitty Furman, Rutland Garden Club. The Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest named a New England Garden Clubs regional winner this year from South Burlington (Orchard School) - third-grader Trisha Jindal. Trisha will receive a certificate in recognition of her accomplishment. Local clubs can work with art teachers to incorporate this poster contest into their curriculums. No scholarships were awarded this year.

No New Business was reported.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:00 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m. the meeting reconvened for a presentation by guest speaker, Charlie Nardozi. He spoke about the benefits of NOT clearing the plant material out of our beds every fall and the science behind companion planting. Charlie is always a favorite speaker and Jo thanked him for stepping in at the last minute after a previously scheduled speaker could not attend.

Winning raffle tickets were drawn for items provided by each club present at the meeting.

The final Credentials Report was presented and is on file.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Pierce
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Doris VanMullen, Minutes Review Committee
Approved by Jo Fretz, Co-FGCV President