

NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
MINUTES OF THE 7TH ANNUAL MEETING
1620 HOTEL, REGENCY BALLROOMS A & B
PLYMOUTH, MA
OCTOBER 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The 7th Annual Business Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc. was called to order by Region Director Susan Miner at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in Regency Ballrooms A & B in the 1620 Hotel in Plymouth, MA.

INSPIRATIONAL READING and the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Winifred Schmidt, President of the New Hampshire Federation, gave the inspirational reading, and Judy Gray, President of the Garden Clubs of RI, led the members in the pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS: Carol Hartnett, Chairman of the Annual Meeting and NEGC Protocol Chairman introduced the members seated at the Honor Tables. This included NGC President Brenda Moore who was in attendance. Region Director Susan Miner introduced the six former Region Directors who were also in attendance (Nancy Atwell, Dee Mozzochi, Vera Bowen, Susan Hinkel, Suzanne Bushnell, and Suzanne McCance).

WELCOME: Garden Club of Massachusetts President Marjorie Dienhart welcomed members to Plymouth and to the Annual Meeting.

RESPONSE: Rhode Island President Judy Gray invited members to the 2024 NEGC Annual Meeting to be held October 23-24, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI.

PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS and REGISTRATION REPORT: Joscelyn Varieur, NEGC Annual Meeting Registrar, gave the preliminary numbers for credentials and registration. 134 people had registered and 96 were present for a voting strength of 96. Her report was APPROVED.

QUORUM: A quorum was declared present by Director Susan Miner.

ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES: Parliamentarian Susan Davis read the Standing Rules. A motion to approve the Rules was made by Winifred Schmidt and the second was given by Sheryl Hanson. The motion was APPROVED.

CORRECTIONS TO THE PRINTED PROGRAM: Region Director Susan Miner noted that Becky Gallery of Maine would be replacing Karen Rea, President of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, in giving Karen's state report. Also, Becky will serve in Karen's place on the Minutes Committee. Annual Meeting Chairman Carol Hartnett made the motion to approve the Program with corrections and Judith Tarbox gave the second. The motion was APPROVED.

APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: Maine 1st VP Becky Gallery and Massachusetts President Marjorie Dienhart were appointed to the Minutes Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF PAGE TO NGC PRESIDENT: Susie McPherson, 2nd VP of the Massachusetts Federation, was appointed as Page to NGC President Brenda Moore.

APPOINTMENT OF TIMEKEEPERS: Susan Hinkel and Jo Fretz, both members of the Vermont Federation, were appointed as timekeepers.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 2022 NEGC ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE: Region Director Susan Miner reported that she and former President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Jo Fretz reviewed the Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting which were approved and posted on the NEGC website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS – REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Region Director Susan Miner gave her report which is included with the Minutes of this meeting. She also stated that the NGC's Penny Pines project will be her director's project during her term.

TREASURER'S REPORT: NEGC Treasurer Judith Tarbox gave the Treasurer's Report which will be included with these Minutes. While the main expenses for our Region are the Director's travel expenses and the hosting fee and domain fee for our website, we are in good shape. For the last two-year period income was \$7,769.55 and expenses were \$3,221.30 for a net gain of \$4,548.25.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET: Judith Tarbox, as Treasurer, also prepared the 2023-2025 budget. She indicated the budget going forward is basically the same one she has used for the past few years. She also indicated that income and expenses are gradually coming back to pre-pandemic levels. Income is from our state dues and from any profit realized from the annual meetings after expenses are accounted for. A copy of the 2023-2025 budget is included with these Minutes. Judith also prepared a preliminary 2026 budget which is also included. The budget was previously approved by the Executive Committee (by an email vote) and so no second to the motion was needed to put the budget forward for a vote. Susan Davis made a motion to approve the proposed budget. The budget was APPROVED.

REPORTS OF STATE PRESIDENTS: The reports of each state are included with these Minutes. Giving their reports were: Karin Pyskaty (FGCCT); Becky Gallery (GCF of ME); Marjorie Dienhart (GCF of MA); Winifred Schmidt (NHFGC); Judy Gray (RIFGC); and Doris Van Mullen (FGCVT).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Judith Tarbox of Maine was elected as Treasurer and Suzanne Bushnell of Maine was elected as Recording Secretary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Region Director Susan Miner indicated we are desperate to find a Chairman of Youth Activities. She asked that members help her find someone to take on this important position for the Region.

RECESS OF BUSINESS MEETING: Susan recessed the meeting at 9:50 a.m. and asked that members be back in their chairs no later than 10:05 a.m. for the morning floral design program.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING: Massachusetts President Marjorie Dienhart introduced Bob Whitney whose program was entitled "Mosses, Sticks, Twigs and Stones". He designed four beautiful floral

arrangements which were used as silent auction items later in the afternoon. Bob's program concluded at 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH BREAK: Time for socializing, purchasing raffle tickets, bidding on the silent auction arrangements, and visiting our vendors commenced at 11:30 a.m. Our buffet lunch began at 12:15 p.m. The blessing was given by Marjorie Dienhart.

BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENES: At 1:15 p.m. Susan Miner reconvened the business meeting and introduced NGC President Brenda Moore to give her remarks.

AWARDS: Susan introduced Vera Bowen, NEGC Awards Chairman who was assisted by Sandi Tinyk, both from the Rhode Island Federation, to present the awards to our state federations. A copy of the Awards brochure is included with these Minutes. Also included with these Minutes is an email from Region Director Susan Miner, dated June 27, 2023, whereby the Board was asked to approve changes to the awards which would now include Design Specialty and Horticulture Specialty Shows in future awards. She had indicated in that email that the results of the votes received would be included in these Minutes. Eleven Board members had responded in the affirmative to approve adding these changes to future flower show awards.

FINAL CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION REPORT: NEGC Meeting Registrar Joscelyn Varieur gave the final numbers – 137 registered for the meeting and 72 were present at the final count. The report was APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT: Susan thanked the members of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for all their hard work to make the meeting such a success. She also thanked Arabella Dane for once again conducting a fabulous photography competition for this year's Annual Meeting. Susan adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Bushnell
NEGC Recording Secretary
October 17, 2023**