

NEGC 10th Annual Business Meeting - Oct. 9, 2026

First, I'd like to thank President Martha Dale and the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont for hosting the **NEGC 10th Annual Meeting**. Having hosted last year, I truly appreciate the time and thoughtfulness involved.

Thank you also for the opportunity to share an update on **Connecticut**. We have 6,269 members in 111 very busy and creative garden clubs, ranging from 8 to 154 members, along with 37 Affiliate organizations. This year we presented **17 NGC Certificates of Merit and Presidential Citations**, recognizing anniversary celebrations – including 10 clubs marking 100 years or more!

Our **40-member Board** provides clubs with a wide range of resources, including Conservation, Civic Beautification, Floral Design, Youth and Senior Gardening, Historical Preservation, and more. We also have a bi-monthly online Newsletter, Annual Awards, a Speakers Directory, Scholarships and an extensive International Tours program.

Accurate membership and leadership records are essential to all of this. Our part-time Office Administrator maintains complete club and member information, and clubs can report changes throughout the year through an online form. This allows us to keep our communications reaching the right people.

BEE RESILIENT ~ Garden for Nature! is my President's theme and project, promoting sustainable gardening and climate resilience. With advance Federation funding, clubs are creating small native gardens in public spaces. I'm thrilled that 36 BEE RESILIENT projects are now underway across Connecticut—at schools, libraries, town halls, cemeteries, and even a recycling center. Our members are working together, having fun, and making a difference, while advancing the goals of **NGC's PLANT AMERICA** through environmental stewardship, community beautification, and education.

We continue to strengthen our Clubs through **Educational Opportunities and Personal Connections**.

- This past year, Connecticut presented **all four NGC Schools**. Members completing two courses in any school become eligible for Tri-Council programs and field trips to outstanding public and private gardens throughout New England.
- Our **annual Club Officers' Day Zoom workshop**, where Board members present information on a variety of topics, recently attracted more than 100 members, representing 59 clubs.
- Our monthly **Federation Fridays** Zoom workshops provide in-depth guidance on topics ranging from club finances and fundraising to youth programs and parliamentary procedure.
- Our popular in-person **Regional Roundtables**, held in towns across the state, bring club leaders from neighboring communities together to exchange ideas, share resources, and address common challenges.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for February 18-21, 2027, when Connecticut will present an extraordinary NGC Standard Flower Show, ***Art Blooms in Connecticut ~ Where Creativity, Nature and Artistry Flourish!*** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Please join us! The Schedule and Exhibit Registration is live now on our website.

We're very proud of what our clubs accomplish in their communities, and we remain committed to providing the resources, education, and connections that help them thrive.

Thank you, and I wish you all continued success.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Merolla
President, The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.