

California Garden Clubs. Inc.
Minutes of the 83rd Annual Convention
June 7-8, 2014
Hilton Hotel, Glendale, California
President: Rita Desilets
Host: San Fernando Valley District

Business Meeting #1:

President Rita Desilets called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. on Saturday, June 7. The Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst was present.

Shrubs and Trees Chairman Linda Smith gave the inspiration.

Water Conservation Chairman Marlene Kinney led the Conservation Pledge.

President Rita Desilets introduced NGC President Linda Nelson, the Executive Committee and former CGCI Presidents, Beverly Brune (1997-1999), Bob Gordon (2003-2005), Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009) and Julie West (2011-2013).

President Rita Desilets recognized NGC and Pacific Region Board Members.

First Vice-President Sue Bennett moved to ratify Rebecca Ferguson as delegate to the 2014 Pacific Region convention in Idaho. Motion **Passed**.

President Rita Desilets announced the page for NGC President Linda Nelson is Alexa Moss and the page for Rita Desilets is Jeanne Desilets, and Bea Nichols is the general page.

Without objection the Chair appointed Lorraine Ornelas as timekeeper.

Convention Credentials Chairman, Greg Pokorski gave the initial credentials report with a total voting strength of 132 and moved its adoption. Motion **Passed**.

The chair declared a quorum.

Convention Registrar, Robin Pokorski gave the initial registration report indicating a total registration of 282.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to adopt the Convention Rules of Order. Motion **Passed**.

2014 Convention Chairman, Robin Pokorski moved to adopt the Convention Program as distributed. Motion **Passed**.

President Rita Desilets thanked the San Fernando Valley District for hosting the CGCI Convention and asked the San Fernando Valley District volunteers stand to be recognized.

Lorraine Ornelas moved to adopt the minutes of the 2013 CGCI Convention in San Diego, California as distributed on July 17, 2013 by Recording Secretary Margaret Strachan. Motion **Passed**.

Without objection, President Rita Desilets appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Lorraine Ornelas, Chairman, Sue Bennett, 1st Vice President and Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian.

Officers Reports

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See attachment A.

Communications Director Jane McKee reported. See attachment A.

Treasurer Joan Patten reported, and also reported for Financial Secretary Shane Looper.

Net Worth	
Total Cash including CD's	\$190,535.75
Other Assets including GG	\$221,857.86
Total Assets:	\$412,393.61
Of which Restricted Funds are:	\$302,793.65
Cash Balance Available	\$109,599.96

Corresponding Secretary Rosa Radicchi read three pieces of correspondence:
 Thank you for a donation to Project Mission Blue from Kathryn Morelli, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.
 Thank you for a donation to NGC Sage and Roses Fund from Pam Braun.
 Thank you from Cecile Campbell concerning the Wildflower Conference. See attachment A.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline to file reports is Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

Third Vice-President Josie Goodenow reported and announced five new clubs, three new APS, one new Affiliate and three club name changes. See attachment A.

Second Vice-President Krystal Migliore reported. See attachment A.

First Vice-President Sue Bennett reported. See attachment A.

President Rita Desilets reported. See attachment A.

The Meeting recessed at 10:06 a.m.

The Meeting reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Standing Committee Reports

Youth Chairman Linda Riddle moved to ratify the following new groups:

Berry Creek School Junior GC, 40 members	Lake Oroville Area GC	Buttes District
OLG Garden of Grace, 275 members	Southern California GC	San Fernando Valley District
3 – RUP Garden Clubs, 30 members	Desert Rose GC	Desert Empire District
Hacienda 4 th Grade Junior Gardeners, 35 members	Desert Rose GC	Desert Empire District
Hacienda 5 th Grade Junior Gardeners, 35 members	Desert Rose GC	Desert Empire District
Hacienda 6 th Grade Junior Gardeners, 35 members	Desert Rose GC	Desert Empire District

Ratified.

Awards Co-Chairman Bob Gordon discussed the new awards ceremony format.

Advisory Council Chairman Julie West reported. See attachment C.

Board of Trustees Chairman Robin Pokorski reported that Julie West was elected Chairman and Mary-Jo Noth was elected Secretary of the Board of Trustees for one year.

Treasurer Joan Patten reported for Budget & finance Committee Chairman Shane Looper.

Golden Legacy Chairman George Perko reported.

Bylaws and Policy committee Chairman, Sue Bennett reported and introduced committee members. The Committee has received numerous suggestions to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. As per the bylaws,

Article XIX – Amendments, on page 90, the proposed amendments have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors at the Winter Board, 2014 meeting.

The bylaws are now being considered for membership approval. If approved they are effective immediately.

Bylaws and Policy Chairman Sue Bennett moved to approve the Bylaw Amendments.

1) ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP & DUES (page 83)

Now Reads:

Sec. 3. (b) The per capita dues of any new club or associate plant society shall accompany application for membership. Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Sue Bennett moved on behalf of the Bylaws and Policy Committee to adopt the Clubs or associate plant societies shall forward dues on a quarterly basis for new members accepted during the previous quarter to the membership chairman.

Amend by replacing the words "on a quarterly basis" with "periodically", replace "new" with "additional" and replace "accepted during the previous quarter" with "joining after July 1".

To Read:

Sec. 3. (b) The per capita dues of any new club or associate plant society shall accompany application for membership. Clubs or associate plant societies shall forward dues periodically for additional members joining after July 1 to the membership chairman.

Rationale: To coincide with what the membership chairman sends out.

PASSED

2) ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES (page 84)

Now Reads:

Sec. 5. The corresponding secretary shall:

(c) mail (electronic or postal), following the organizational meeting, the official roster of names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of CGCI officers, district directors and chairmen to the Pacific Region alternate director and to NGC headquarters, and subsequent changes as they occur; (d) mail (electronic or postal), following notification from the membership and life membership chairmen, the names and addresses of CGCI president, *Golden Gardens eNews* editor, club and associate plant society presidents, and current list of NGC life members to NGC headquarters, ATTN: Circulation,

Amend by removing CGCI in (c) and (d).

To Read:

Sec. 5. The corresponding secretary shall:

(c) mail (electronic or postal), following the organizational meeting, the official roster of names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of officers, district directors and chairmen to the Pacific Region alternate director and to NGC headquarters, and subsequent changes as they occur; (d) mail (electronic or postal), following notification from the membership and life membership chairmen, the names and addresses of president, *Golden Gardens eNews* editor, club and associate plant society presidents, and current list of NGC life members to NGC headquarters, ATTN: Circulation,

Rationale: To remove unnecessary wording.

PASSED

3) ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (page 85)

Now Reads:

Sec. 1. OFFICERS:

(b) Eligibility:

3. The treasurer, communications director, recording, corresponding, and financial secretaries, shall be eligible for two terms. No officer shall serve longer than four years in any one position except that eligibility restrictions shall not apply to the appointive office of parliamentarian.

Amend by replacing “two” with “four two-year” and replace “four” with “eight”.

To Read:

Sec. 1. OFFICERS:

(b) Eligibility:

3. The treasurer, communications director, recording, corresponding, and financial secretaries, shall be eligible for four two-year terms. No officer shall serve longer than eight years in any one position except that eligibility restrictions shall not apply to the appointive office of parliamentarian.

Rationale: To allow specialized skilled members to serve longer in a position.

PASSED

4) ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (page 85)

Now Reads:

Sec. 1. OFFICERS:

(b) Eligibility:

Amend by inserting new 7.

To Read:

7. The following documents shall be sent directly to the Nominating Committee Chairman:

- 1. Two (2) one-page letters of recommendation
- 2. A written endorsement from the candidate’s district
- 3. A one-page resume of the candidate’s qualifications

Upon receipt, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall send copies to the committee members.

Rationale: Requires some minimum level of commitment on the part of the prospective candidate and creates more transparent nomination process – eliminating elements of secrecy surrounding those candidates who are being considered for office.

PASSED AS AMENDED (Robin Pokorski moved to table the original version of the bylaw amendment to the end of the meeting. That motion passed. This revised amendment was adopted in the 3rd business session [on June 8] after the motion by Robin Pokorski to substitute with this earlier version passed.)

5) ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 86)

Now Reads:

Sec. 1 Composition of the CGCI board of directors shall be: (a) officers; (b) district directors, (c) members of the nominating committee; (d) members of the board of trustees; (e) members of the advisory council; (f) members of the bylaws committee; (g) members of the Circle of Poppies; (h) editor and

members of the *Golden Gardens eNews* committee; and (i) all committee chairmen. One-third shall constitute a quorum. No member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

Amend by deleting "CGCI".

To Read:

Sec. 1 Composition of the board of directors shall be: (a) officers; (b) district directors; (c) members of the nominating committee; (d) members of the board of trustees; (e) members of the advisory council; (f) members of the bylaws committee; (g) members of the Circle of Poppies; (h) editor and members of the *Golden Gardens eNews* committee; and (i) all committee chairmen. One-third shall constitute a quorum. No member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

Rationale: To remove unnecessary wording.

PASSED



6) ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 86)

Now Reads:

Sec. 2. The board of directors shall be the governing body of this corporation and shall:

- (a) at no time modify action taken by members at the annual convention;
- (b) transact routine business,
- (c) adopt policies and procedures;
- (d) adopt standing rules; and
- (e) ratify all classes of membership.

Amend by striking "c) adopt policies and procedures" and re-alphabetize.

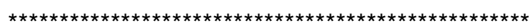
To Read:

Sec. 2. The board of directors shall be the governing body of this corporation and shall:

- (a) at no time modify action taken by members at the annual convention;
- (b) transact routine business;
- (c) adopt standing rules; and
- (d) ratify all classes of membership.

Rationale: Board does not adopt policies and procedures.

PASSED



7) ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 87)

Now Reads:

Sec. 7. Business may be conducted by mail (electronic or postal) when necessary. A report of any action taken by mail shall be made a part of the minutes of the next board meeting.

Amend by replacing Section 7 with new Section 7.

To Read:

Sec. 7. Business of the Board of Directors (including all committees and the Board of Trustees) may be conducted by mail (electronic or postal) or by telephone conference (as long as all members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting). A report of any action taken by the Board of Directors by mail or by telephone conference shall be announced and made part of the minutes of the next board meeting.

Rationale: To allow for electronic meetings for all committees and the Board of Trustees.

PASSED

8) ARTICLE IX - DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS (page 87)

Now Reads:

Sec. 1. The state shall be divided into districts as set forth in the standing rules. A district shall be governed by its individual bylaws which shall not conflict with those of CGCI. Dues in a district shall be at the option of the individual district.

Amend by inserting: "of California" after state, insert "All clubs shall belong to a district." as the 2nd sentence; replace "Dues in a district" to read "District dues"; and delete both cases of "individual" (3rd & 4th sentence).

To Read:

Sec. 1. The state of California shall be divided into districts as set forth in the standing rules. All clubs shall belong to a district. A district shall be governed by its bylaws which shall not conflict with those of CGCI. District dues shall be at the option of the district.

Rationale: To clarify that clubs shall belong to a district.

PASSED AS AMENDED (Greg Pokorski moved to defer this issue to later. That motion passed. The amended bylaw provision was adopted in the 3rd business session [on June 8].

9) ARTICLE XI - ANNUAL MEETINGS (pages 88/89)

Now Reads:

Sec. 11. Financial records of the convention shall be maintained under the direction of the district convention chairman and shall be reviewed by a member of the budget and finance committee. Copies are to be filed with the president, financial secretary, treasurer, and boards and conventions chairman within ninety (90) days of the close of convention.

Amend by deleting "district".

To Read:

Sec. 11. Financial records of the convention shall be maintained under the direction of the convention chairman and shall be reviewed by a member of the budget and finance committee. Copies are to be filed with the president, financial secretary, treasurer, and boards and conventions chairman within ninety (90) days of the close of convention.

Rationale: The title is convention chairman; it is a CGCI ratified office.

PASSED

10) ARTICLE XII – FINANCES (page 89)

Now Reads:

Sec. 7. (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$1,500.00 for verified expenses incurred in attending one meeting of NGC;

Amend by replacing “\$1,500.00 with \$2,000.00” and replacing “one meeting of NGC” with “the Pacific Region and the NGC Conventions; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval;”.

To Read:

Sec. 7. (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$2,000.00 for verified expenses incurred in attending the Pacific Region and NGC Conventions; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval;

Rationale: Increase reimbursement due to rising cost. The president-elect attends both the Pacific Region and NGC Conventions.

PASSED

11) ARTICLE XII – FINANCES (page 89)

Now Reads:

Sec. 7. (d) a reimbursement of up to \$1,500.00 annually for verified expenses when the Pacific Region director is from California.

Amend by deleting and replacing with new Sec. 7. (d)

To Read:

Sec. 7. (d) Pacific Region director’s reimbursement of up to \$1,500.00 annually for verified expenses when from California.

Rationale: To clarify

PASSED

12) ARTICLE XIII - Golden Gardens eNews (page 89/90)

Now Reads:

Sec. 5 The financial secretary shall submit the annual *Golden Gardens eNews* budget for adoption at the organizational meeting.

Amend by deleting Section 5.

Rationale: There is no separate *Golden Gardens eNews* budget.

PASSED

13) ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES (page 90)

Now Reads:

Sec. 1. The board of trustees shall consist of six (6) members, two of whom shall be replaced each even- numbered year, to serve for a six-year term. In the even-numbered year the immediate past president shall become a member, and the president shall appoint a member who has served on the board of directors. No trustee shall serve more than two terms, and the terms shall not be consecutive. No trustee shall serve concurrently as an officer.

Sec. 2. Immediately following the post-convention meeting in an odd-numbered, election year and immediately following the pre-convention meeting in an even-numbered, non-election year, the president shall call a meeting of the board of trustees to elect a chairman and secretary who shall serve for one year and may be reelected for an additional one-year term. Four members shall constitute a

quorum. If the chairman is unable to represent the trustees at board meetings, the secretary may act as alternate. Board of trustees shall meet upon the call of the chairman, or secretary acting in the absence of the chairman.

Sec. 3. After the following reviews, board of trustees shall make recommendations in writing to the executive committee before any action by the board of directors: (a) review of investments; (b) review of new gifts or donations to assure the best resolution for the donor and the corporation; (c) review of existing gifts or donations to assure that the administration of the funds is as directed by the grantors; and (d) monitor bank accounts to ensure they do not exceed the limit insured by the FDIC.

Sec. 4. The board of trustees, together with the scholarship chairman, shall constitute the scholarship committee.

Sec. 5. Board of trustees chairman shall report to the board of directors at all board meetings and conventions.

Sec. 6. Board of trustees is established as the endowment funds committee.

Sec.7. The board of trustees together with the Golden Legacy Society chairman, shall constitute the Golden Legacy Society committee.

*Amend by deleting entire **ARTICLE XIV** and replacing it with new **ARTICLE XIV**.*

ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES (page 90)

To Read:

Sec. 1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of six (6) members, two of whom shall be replaced each even-numbered year, to serve for a six-year term. In the even-numbered year, the immediate past president shall be extended the option to become a member, and the president shall appoint a member who has served on the board of directors. Assumption of duties shall commence upon the close of convention. No trustee shall serve concurrently as an officer. A trustee may serve more than one term but terms shall not be consecutive.

Sec. 2. The Board of Trustees shall meet upon call of the chairman, or secretary acting in absence of the chairman. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. The chairman shall report to the board of directors at all board meetings and conventions. If the chairman is unable to report the secretary may act as alternate.

Sec. 4. Prior to the organizational meeting each year the Board of Trustees shall elect a chairman and secretary who shall serve for one year. The name of this chairman shall be given to the president prior to the organizational meeting.

Sec. 5. The Board of Trustees shall make recommendations in writing to the executive committee prior to any action by the board of directors regarding: (a) investments, (b) new gifts or donations to assure the best resolution for the donor and the corporation, and (c) existing gifts or donations to ensure that the administration of the funds is as directed by the grantors.

Sec. 6. The Board of Trustees, together with the Scholarship Chairman, shall constitute the Scholarship Committee.

Sec. 7. The Board of Trustees, together with the Golden Legacy Chairman, shall constitute the Golden Legacy Society Committee.

Sec. 8. The Board of Trustees shall constitute the Endowment Committee which shall oversee the Endowment Fund and Scholarship Endowment Fund as directed in the charters of the two funds. The Endowment Promotion Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Endowment Committee.

Rationale: To update and standardize the wording and to allow a non-Trustee to serve on the Endowment Committee.

PASSED

Flower Show School Chairman Gudrun Kimmel conducted a memorial service.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Sue Bennett continued with the presentation of the proposed bylaws amendments.

14) ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES (page 84)

Now Reads:

Sec. 6. The financial secretary shall: (a) issue authorization, using the warrant system, to the treasurer for all budgeted expenses, transfer of funds, and for payment of all bills authorized by the board of directors; (b) prepare financial statements for board of directors meetings; (c) serve as chairman of the budget and finance committee.

Amend by inserting “; and” after committee and adding new “(d)” to end of Section.

To Read:

Sec. 6. The financial secretary shall: (a) issue authorization, using the warrant system, to the treasurer for all budgeted expenses, transfer of funds, and for payment of all bills authorized by the board of directors; (b) prepare financial statements for board of directors meetings; (c) serve as chairman of the budget and finance committee; and (d) monitor bank accounts to ensure they do not exceed the limit insured by the FDIC.

Rationale: To bring up-to-date with new Board of Trustees changes **ARTICLE XIV.**

PASSED

15) ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES (page 84)

Now Reads:

Sec. 7. The treasurer shall: (a) receive all monies collected in the name of CGCI; (b) deposit all monies in the name of CGCI with a bank(s) authorized by the board of directors in designated general or specific accounts; (c) administer CGCI funds as authorized by the board of directors; (d) sign all checks; (e) upon receipt of authorization from the financial secretary, issue checks for payment of bills; (f) upon receipt of authorization from the awards chairman issue checks to award winners; and (g) prepare financial statements for the board of directors' meetings.

Amend by deleting “and” before “(g)” inserting “; and” after “meetings” and adding new “(h)” to end of Section.

To Read:

Sec. 7. The treasurer shall: (a) receive all monies collected in the name of CGCI; (b) deposit all monies in the name of CGCI with a bank(s) authorized by the board of directors in designated general or specific accounts; (c) administer CGCI funds as authorized by the board of directors; (d) sign all checks; (e) upon receipt of authorization from the financial secretary, issue checks for payment of bills; (f) upon receipt of authorization from the awards chairman issue checks to award winners; (g) prepare financial statements for the board of directors' meetings; and (h) monitor bank accounts to ensure they do not exceed the limit insured by the FDIC.

Rationale: To bring up-to-date with new Board of Trustees changes **ARTICLE XIV.**

PASSED.

Special Reports

CGCI Winter Board Meeting Chairman Shirley Stewart reported a profit of \$3,052 from the 2014 Winter Board Meeting.

Operation Wildflower Chairman Merrilee Ray reported on the 2014 Wildflower Conference. There were 48 in attendance. See attachment C.

District Directors Reports

District Director Coordinator Julie West introduced those directors who reported. See attachment B.

Meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Co-Chairmen of the 2015 Convention, Joan Craig and Myrtle Findley extended an invitation to the convention in Reno, Nevada (June 8-12, 2015), hosted by Golden Foothills District.

Chairmen's Reports

Chairmen Coordinator Bob Gordon introduced the chairmen who reported. See attachment C.

Meeting recessed at 4:29 p.m.

Business Meeting #3

Meeting reconvened Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

Bylaws items #4 and #8 were finalized.

Convention Credentials Chairman, Greg Pokorski gave the Interim Credentials Report with a total voting strength of 137 and moved its adoption. Motion **Passed**.

Convention Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the Interim Registration Report indicating a total registration of 290. Motion **Passed**.

The reports of the chairmen continued with the Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski introducing those chairmen who reported. See attachment C.

Meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:56 a.m.

NGC President Linda Nelson was introduced and briefly addressed the assembly.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the Final Credentials Report with a total voting strength of 137 and moved its adoption. Motion **Passed**.

Convention Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the final registration report indicating a total registration of 290.

It was announced that Orange County District will extend a formal invitation to host the 2016 CGCI Convention.

Joan Craig read and moved to adopt the Courtesy Resolution. Motion **Passed**. See Attachment D

President Rita Desilets announced 1st Vice-President Sue Bennett is now CGCI President-Elect.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. Sine Die.

Gail Vanderhorst
Recording Secretary _____

Date _____

Attachment A – Officers Reports

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

This officer keeps busy with parliamentary procedure related activities including:

- Review of minutes from the Winter Board Meeting
- Ongoing review of bylaws, standing rules and policy, and participation in Bylaws and Policy Committee meetings
- Updating the convention rules of order
- Participation in the preparation of agendas for the meetings held at this convention
- Obtaining continuing education, including attending the NGC Parliamentarian’s workshop at the NGC convention last month
- Credentialing activity for this convention – that work reveals challenges: perhaps the process needs to be simplified; there are also challenges in the execution. All clubs were asked (with the Call to Convention) to complete credentials reports. Only 18 such forms were received. It has been suggested that information about this be presented to District Directors at the next Fall or Winter Board Meeting.
- Responding to questions from clubs and districts. Some of these reveal situations where parliamentarians have assumed too much authority. Club presidents and District Directors are reminded that they run their meetings; parliamentarians are in an advisory/consultative role.

Communications Director, Jane McKee

VONAGE TOLL-FREE NUMBER

- Payment Plan changed to lower rate; approximate annual savings - \$415

MAIL DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

- Switched to two free services
 - **Vertical Response** for newsletters
 - **Mail Chimp** account for official correspondence
 - Savings: approx. \$450 annually
 - Reason for 2 plans: if you “unsubscribe” from newsletter you won’t lose receipt of official notifications
- Subscribers: *Golden Gardens eNews* – 2320; *Council Thymes* - 473
 - Recipients of *Golden Gardens eNews* will see icons for social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) at the top. Recipients can “share” the newsletter and the tracking report will include the number of “shares” for that issue.
 - May-June eNews – 8 “likes” on Facebook, 13 shares Twitter, 13 shares LinkedIn

WEBSITE:

- Communications Director conducted 2 Website Workshops – one at Temecula Library with 17 attendees and one at the 2014 Convention with 10 attendees
- Over the summer the website will be upgraded:
 - Will retain same basic look but will display correctly on all platforms (smart phones, tablets etc)
 - Existing content will be moved BUT any club or district website hosted on the CGCI website must be up to date or it will not be moved. Clubs/districts affected will be notified.
 - Target date for demonstration of the new site is Sept 2014

FORMS & PUBLICATIONS

- New Handbooks (information on several webpages or other documents consolidated into one document that can be downloaded)
 - Website user guide for clubs/districts (for those with websites hosted by CGCI)
 - GTEP
 - Guidelines for Treasurers
 - In draft: Youth Activities (updated from 2003 document)
- New/updated forms/info sheets
 - Club/APS Annual Information Form & Dues Form (annual & additional members)
 - Introduced May 1 – received to date:
 - 111 club/APS information forms (approx. 30% of clubs/APS)
 - 4 affiliate membership forms
 - 25 annual dues forms
 - 4 Youth annual reports
 - 8 Youth new membership forms
 - Many other new forms – check the Forms & Publications page
 - There are two types of forms: pdf & webforms
 - Pdf used primarily for things that require a check (donations, convention registration etc)
 - Webforms primarily for information
 - Submitted directly, no envelopes, stamps or looking up an address
 - Dues: It is requested that member organizations send the electronic submission as well as printing form to be mailed with check. This allows a double check in the event the envelope goes astray OR the organization forgets to send it.

Corresponding Secretary, Rosa Radicchi

The Call was successfully sent out electronically & posted to the website by Communications Director, Jane McKee. It was also mailed to members without email. In addition, updated mailing information for District Directors and Club Presidents was provided to NGC.

Since Winter Board, we have received the following correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Kathryn Morelli, Golden Gate National Parks for the recent gift of \$2,000 in support of Project: Mission Blue.
- Thank you email from Pam Braun, Vice Chair, NGC Sage & Roses Fund for our recent donation
- Letter from Cecile Campbell, District Director, Desert Empire District recognizing the Wildflower Committee for the wonderful job they did with the Wildflower Conference
- Letter of resignation from Maryanne Lucas - Board of Trustees.
- Letter of resignation from Carol Mayo - Angel Fund.
- Letter of resignation from Josie Goodenow, 3rd VP, Membership Chair.

Third Vice-President, Josie Goodenow

The following numbers reflect paid 2013/2014 memberships as of May 30, 2014

273 Clubs with 18,155 members

56 Associate Plant Societies with 3,624 members

Total #: 329 organizations with 21,779 members

Affiliates: 17

Clubs:

Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild, Palms to Pines District, 20 members

President: Ronald Lang

The Garden Faire, Santa Clara Valley District, 10 members

President: Sheryl McEwan

Palisades Beautiful Corporation, Greater LA District, 15 members

President: John Holcomb

Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas, Santa Clara Valley District, 52 members

President: Linda Worth

Cool Growing Orchid Society, Orange County District, 10 members

President: Theodore Johnson

APS:

Palomar Orchid Society, 85 members

President Alex Nadzan

Tropical Plant Society of Modesto, Inc, 28 members

President: Susan Wedegaertner

The California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, 25 members

President: Susan Wedegaertner

Affiliate: Clovis Botanical Garden Committee

Name Changes: Carmel Valley Garden Associates – Carmel Valley Garden Club

Conejo Valley Organic Garden Club – Organic Garden Club of Ventura County

Las Gabrielinas of Costa Verde District – So. Coast Floral Designers.

Second Vice-President, Krystal Migliore

This officer continues to promote the benefits of CGCI Membership. The focus is on identifying and recruiting APS, new clubs and existing clubs that are not currently affiliated with CGCI.

This officer urges all of you to be a busy bee as you go about your own garden club activities. Always “bee” marketing. Promote the benefits of garden club membership in your club, district, CGCI, Pacific Region and NGC. Please notify this officer of any potential candidates or direct them to our CGCI website at: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/membership-join-us>

First Vice-President, Sue Bennett

Official Calendar Chairman – Sue Bennett

Have you asked yourself where will CGCI be in 2025 what about 2020, 2015? Think about it 2015 is just around the corner. This chairman has certainly been thinking about 2015, 2016 and 2017. In fact this chairman is pleased to be working with the members of the Diablo Foothills District for the 2015 fall board

meeting; however, this chairman is still looking for hosts for either a board meeting or Convention in both 2016 and 2017. If your District can help, don't hesitate to call this chairman.

This chairman welcomes additions to the Official Calendar at anytime. Before choosing dates for your event, please check with the Official Calendar Chairman to avoid unnecessary scheduling conflicts. Visit the calendar webpage for a list of upcoming events. Don't forget to send changes and/or corrections to this chairman as well.

Pacific Region Special Project Chairman – Sue Bennett

This chairman is eager to work with District Directors and Club Presidents to identify, collect and publicize new or ongoing projects that educate members and the public, in making responsible choices that protect and conserve our natural resources... Air, Water, Forest, Land, Plants and Wildlife. Copies of the "Expand Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow" Report of Activity Form are in the District Director mailboxes.

We will be keeping track of hours, cost to plan and execute, and the number of individuals as they relate to conservation and environmental activities. Projects include gardening study schools, landscape design schools, seminars, workshops, district/club programs and tours. The reporting period is from April 2013, to October 1, 2014. This information is due to this chairman by October 1, 2014 and will be reported by November 1, 2014 to qualify for the Pacific Region Director's award.

President, Rita Desilets

Thank you for the opportunity of representing California at the NGC Convention in Norman, Oklahoma. Representing over 12% of the total membership of NGC, keeping California's membership numbers strong is of great importance. We are identifying existing clubs and plant societies and inviting them to join our almost 22,000 members.

A well-attended Wildflower Conference was held in Tehachapi in early April. The conference featured seven speakers and a tour. Attendees learned about a Feline Rescue Center, native plants, invasive plant species, wildflowers, plants used by Native Americans and herbs. Of special interest was a CA Native Plant Society project to identify, map locations, propagate and cryogenically preserve the seeds of rare CA native plants. Partnering with CA Native Plant Society will create a meaningful new CGCI 5-year project, the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt.

My President's Project is **Habitat for Humanity Landscaping**. The CGCI grants of up to \$250 will encourage support Habitat projects. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, clubs and districts we now have over \$4000 available.

At the NGC Convention in Oklahoma, each state president was given two minutes to report. My report ended with the following statement: "Being President of California Garden Clubs is the most rewarding experience anyone could have!"

Attachment B – District Directors Reports

Arboretum District, Mary Betlach

The Arboretum District had Eva Shaw, PD of Carlsbad, CA speak at our fundraiser. Her book entitled SHOVEL IT-NATURE'S HEALTH PLAN was given to all who attended. The theme was plants and flowers in your garden. About 90 boutonnières were made from vegetables and tiny flowers. Photos were taken of all in attendance against a background of a scarecrow in a cornfield which then were placed in a folder which said "Me In The Garden". One club was responsible for selling the donated plants and another club maintained the sale of the White Elephants also donated by the members. Centerpieces were made out of vegetables and flowers. A decorated succulent was a party favor. Another club made an origami jumping frog. We definitely were sharing together, learning together and having fun together.

Bay Bridges District, George Perko

The district celebrated 60 years under the name Bay Bridges, having previously been known as District 4 from 1932 to 1954. The district year opened with a September meeting at historic Alta Mira House in San Leandro, with sales tables and a talk by internationally known daffodil hybridizers. Next, the district celebrated Veterans Day with a Blue Star marker installation at the Castro Valley Veterans Memorial. It was the first Blue Star marker in the southern part of our district. The April 2014 meeting was a celebration of the district's clubs and their activities, with district awards and presentation of two \$1,000 scholarships to Merritt College horticulture students.

Bay Ocean District, Nancy McDougal

While clubs continued the various traditional activities supporting friendship and members' personal growth, most also support their local communities. San Bruno Garden Club supplies floral designs for each city council meeting. The monthly free public garden information series by the Arboretum Society offers speakers and Christmas wreath-making how-to. Members also plant and maintain rose, butterfly and fairy gardens in San Mateo Park. Half Moon Bay Garden Club participates in the annual citywide sale, gaining exposure & funding for support of the historic garden restoration and favors for "Meals on Wheels." Garden Club of San Carlos offers scholarships to local students.

Buttes District, Carol Jauregui

Clubs in the Buttes District promote learning in various ways. Several clubs sponsor a field trip every month in addition to their general meetings. Trips are planned to local venues, be it a unique nursery or a registered historical spot. These increase member participation and enhance learning. Two clubs offer annual bus trips, one being a trek to the annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. More than half of the clubs encourage their members to participate in their local county fairs by entering floral designs, potted plants, and evergreen specimens, with monetary prizes being strong incentives.

Cascade District, Carolyn Hoyum

Pondering Encouragement! So many young people are searching. We can help them by giving scholarships. Red Bluff Garden Club goes to great lengths to raise money for scholarships yet this year they had no applicants!

Shasta Lake Garden Project has given up on scholarships. They had few responses and their scholarship committee felt it too much work so they still raise money in the name of scholarships but give the whole amount to the FFA program at the school. Cottonwood Garden Club doesn't give out scholarships. Lake California Garden Club doesn't give scholarships either. Anderson Garden Club gives \$ to the community scholarship. Trinity Garden Club gives a scholarship and now lets the schools committee determine who needs it. Redding Wonderland Garden Club went to the college for applicants and only had one response. Not only do students need encouragement to look for scholarships they can use but instructors need to help out too. Maybe we need to encourage them by going to the schools ourselves and soliciting.

Costa Verde District, Kitty Guzman

CVD consists of 11 clubs, societies and affiliates with 735 members. We have four CVD programs a year. Clubs are active with home and major garden tours, interesting speakers, have fundraisers for scholarships, community projects and CGCI donations, help maintain small local parks, give landscape awards, two have Junior Gardener Clubs.

Four major clubs netted \$10,887.00 in plant sales. Total scholarships awarded by clubs: \$4,000. Long Beach

Garden Club awarded Rose Robinson CGCI Lifetime Membership. Dahlia Society planted various pink tubers for Breast Cancer Awareness, bought from the Breast Cancer Collection, at South Coast Botanic Garden.

Desert Empire District, Cecile Campbell

CGCI President presented with 3 checks for President's Project from Desert Rose Garden Club, Oasis Garden Club and Desert Empire District.

Also a Penny Pines Certificate was awarded to her from the Desert Rose Garden Club. Oasis GC fundraisers: Annual garden tour and garden party, potting workshops and plant sales. \$500.00 scholarship awarded to local high school. Desert Rose Garden Club fundraisers: Annual garden tour, plant sales, and youth garden parade participation, trip to Getty Gardens. Median Rehabilitation Project with California City and (3) \$200.00 scholarships awarded to local high school.

Diablo Foothills District, Rebecca Ferguson

Plant sales for five DFD garden clubs went through the roof for a total of over \$21,500 in sales. Most have added a used garden tool, pots and supplies component to their sales. Walnut Creek has been awarded the 1st \$250 grant in support of Rita Desilets' Habitat for Humanity landscaping project.

DFD is hosting the Flower Show School, Course III to be held July 9-11, at the Alden Lane Garden Center in Livermore, CA. Remember, courses do not need to be taken in order, nor the with the desire to become a flower show judge.

The next District awards luncheon will be hosted by the Discovery Bay Garden Club. Since it sits on the California Delta they have chosen an on the water location for the luncheon with short boat tours of the area afterwards.

DFD yearbook and roster will have ads as a center pull out. It is anticipated we can cover all printing costs for the roster and expand our community footprint.

It has been approved by DFD membership to host the September 2015 CGCI Fall Board meeting.

Golden Foothills District, Carlotta Wixon

This director had the privilege of being invited to three special anniversary parties, celebrating 60 years, 80 years, and 85 years and also to several of the club's event parties.

We were honored to have our CGCI President attend 3 club and district events. We have been working on amending our Guidelines, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Our clubs continue to remain active with projects and fund raising events. One club became inactive and disbanded.

The theme for this term is "Growing Gardens, Growing Members, Growing Friendships". Growing gardens and friendships is easy. Growing members is not easy. We try to attract newer members by presenting interesting programs and varying the meeting times or days.

Humboldt District, Janean Guest

Humboldt District Garden Clubs have been keeping their Blue Star Memorial Gardens looking maintained and colorful, especially for Memorial Day. The district has a committee to refurbish some of the Blue Star memorial markers in the county. The Fortuna Garden Club has been working on the Main Street flower beds. This year a new idea was implemented. Twenty-four members agreed to adopt a corner. Each corner has a budget. They can work on their own schedule and it is looking great! We get good exposure for our service to the beautification of the community.

Luther Burbank District, David West

Price Sheppy from Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy was the featured speaker at February's district meeting. Price gave a fabulous program and upon conclusion of his report, there was no doubt about CGCI's Project Mission Blue and its success.

Club plant sales are generating less revenue as a result of the drought. One club even canceled one of their two plant sales.

A new idea by one club was creating the position of volunteer coordinator and various teams to encourage member participation. The volunteer coordinator has a table at each meeting to recruit and share information.

Mendo-Lake District, Rhea Pitchard

The highlight for me was an invitation to the annual Daffodil Tea that Clear Lake Trowel and Trellis Club held in March. This was my first time. Members host tables decorated with their fancy chinaware and festive centerpieces. Daffodils were everywhere. A raffle is held, and everyone receives a prize. There is no charge. All our clubs featured methods of conserving water now that there is a drought in California: selling drought tolerant and native plants at their plant sales, mulching, using native and unthirsty plants in our gardens, and having essay contests about water usage.

Montana De Oro District, Ruth Pimental

Montana de Oro District consists of 6 clubs and one associate.

Floral Design Study and Morro Bay garden club will participate again this year in "Dahlia Daze". Floral design will have a flower show. The theme will be "Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes. All clubs have plant sales and award scholarships to Morro Bay High students. I have approached Gorilla Gardeners about joining MDO. I will pursue this further this summer.

Most clubs participate in local projects to improve their habitat.

Palms to Pines District, Carolyn Daniels

The Palms to Pines District has 14 clubs and affiliates. We gained two new clubs, the San Geronio Garden Club and The Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild. At present we do not have a District Director but do have a liaison to CGCI. The Board continues to meet quarterly. The Palms to Pines District held its second annual Garden Festival and Flower Show in March 2014. This event was primarily an educational event. We are planning an end of the year member pot-luck for our last meeting this month. Our speaker will be Buck Hemenway, an expert on cacti and succulents.

Palomar District, Lynne Batchelor

Palomar District's civic beautification project (plus Penny Pines):

Support for school gardens/projects: Bonita Valley (4), Fallbrook, San Carlos, Bernardo Gardeners, Temecula Daffodills: Descanso (10,000 in 20 years)

Trees: The Village Garden Club of La Jolla (2,200 Jacarandas in 28 years), Dos Valles, Fallbrook, Chula Vista, Temecula Bernardo Gardeners

Gardens in public parks/spaces/buildings; Poway (4), Fallbrook, CHIRP, Del Mar, Crown, Chula Vista, Pt. Loma (3), La Jolla

Memorial Plantings; Fallbrook, Pt. Loma

Botanic Gardens; Temecula

Sacramento River Valley District, Jeff Higday

Our district was established in 1934, so this year we celebrated our 80th anniversary.....which exciting. It has been very rewarding to watch the ears of interest perk up, as the clubs become more educated as to what our district role is and of being a member of CGCI. As an example, we have two members from our SRVD, who traveled this weekend to attend their first convention to experience how this all works.

This year we spent some time on promoting more participation in the CGCI's awards program. As a result clubs chose to enter some entries that brought them numerous awards, including a sweepstakes award for having the highest number of CGCI awards in their class. We were fortunate enough to have another club within our district be rewarded for their efforts with the same ribbon award in their class.

Santa Clara Valley District, Roseann Costabile

Two new clubs in SCVD were ratified at convention, the Garden Faire of Scotts Valley and Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas.

Green Thumb Garden Club projects include working in school gardens, maintaining landscape at historic sites and supporting civic projects.

Garden Faire is an education focused garden group lead by an impressive team of leaders. Founders include Master Gardeners, landscape designer and Vice President of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.

San Jose & South Valley Fleurs clubs had major fundraisers featuring plant sales with heirloom vegetables.

Sunnyvale held a very successful fashion show raising funds to support scholarships.

Sequoia Foothills District, Judy Silguero

Held Honors Dinner for all members as a thank you for all their hard work (Four Seasons Garden Club).
Planted and maintained community gardens.
Held plant sales and garden tours.
Prepared displays for National Garden Week, county fairs, parades & home shows.
Held public and youth gardening workshops.
Had interesting gardening-related program speakers at monthly meetings.
Awarded scholarships.
Had a brunch and members-only garden tour.
Held teas or luncheons; some members only; some open to public as fundraiser. Hosted District Meetings.
Provided seedlings and supervision for vegetable garden maintained by Boys & Girls Clubs.

Attachment C - Chairmen Reports**Advisory Council, Julie West**

The 1999 edition of the *President and President-Elect Procedure Manual* was updated May 2014 and presented to President Rita Desilets including a CD with electronic documents referred to in the three-ring binder. Included are "What I Learned as CGCI President" reports from Bob Gordon (2003-2005); Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007) and Julie West (2011-2013). In addition to board meeting and convention scripts, Greg Pokorski's script for election of officers and Nominating Committee are also on the CD.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Janet Eyre

In 2012-13 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park turned 80 years old. June 30, 1864 President Lincoln signed the "Yosemite Grant Act", land held for public use and Yosemite became the first state park. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park became a state park in 1928. With Guy Fleming of the Natural History Society and the State Park Commission a case was made for the Borrego Springs Desert section of land to be a new state park with private land donations by Louis Busch and other private donations as well as government land transfers. The park began to take the shape that we now recognize by joining with the Anza Desert State Park. That gives us the combination of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Arbor Day, Laura Crenshaw

April 25, 2014 was a holiday meant to honor all of the sky-high sentinels around us and a time when individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees in an age of deforestation and urban sprawl. Information on Arbor Day is available through community sources as well as on the web. This chairman wrote an article and submitted it to CGCI *Golden Gardens eNews* for the membership. Although this is a National, State and Regional holiday and always celebrated on the last Friday in April, it is mostly a local celebration within communities. Often cities plan and educate their citizens on the importance of planting and maintaining trees as elements of landscaping and agriculture. This year because of the lack of water, not as much emphasis has been placed on planting. Even though Arbor Day is a great time to think about seedlings, domestic organizations like Million Trees NYC and international groups like the Green Belt Movement are wonderful places to get involved with year-around.

Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, Sherry Molinari

There is one new botanic garden in Oak Glen, CA. It is the So. Cal. Montane Botanic Garden & Children's Outdoor Discovery Center. The Wildlands Conservancy has opened phase 1 of the garden on the conservancy's 2100 acre Oak Glen Preserve. It is free and open 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. In Ventura, CA more than 1000 members and 400 volunteers have been working toward the creation of a world class botanical garden. Located in Ventura's Grant Park, it has breathtaking views of the coastline, the mountains and lush agriculture greenery. Again, please notify me of new gardens in your area.

Awards Finances, Launa Gould

Award money donated by sponsors given at the 2014 CGCI convention for the 2013 awards year total \$3620.

An award master spreadsheet has been created by this chairman listing all 360 possible awards. The document includes sponsors, contact information and a history of awards given for three years. The document is available to the awards committee and CGCI President on the CGCI website.

After convention, Sponsor statements will be sent announcing winners, thanking the sponsor and request payment as needed.

Backyard Habitat, Carolyn Villi

We work to create an environment to attract wildlife to our gardens, only to have them destroy our treasured plants and flowers. My goal is to find and report on products and ways to bring peace and tranquility to our Habitats. Such materials as MoleMax, or a mixture of 3-eggs to 5 gal of water, sprinkled on plants, can accomplish this.

Banner Order, Launa Gould

Seven banners were ordered for the year. Each banner is \$75 for a total received \$525.

A reminder was put in the most recent CGCI *Golden Garden eNews*. Orders placed usually arrive within two weeks.

Blue Star Memorial Markers, George Unrine

The cost of small markers has increased to \$470 and the cost of large markers has increased to \$1460. This Chairman has been asked to assist in adding a new highway to California's Blue Star Memorial Highway system. The original goal of NGC's Blue Star Memorial Project was to create a network of highways, crossing every state in the union, dedicated to America's servicemen and servicewomen. Clubs and Districts have the task of placing markers on the highways to so identify them. Check the Blue Star Memorial Highways near you for an opportunity to help keep our Blue Stars shining.

Business Commendations & Discounts, LaVerne Harms

Since the 2014 Winter Board 23 new *Participating Business Sponsor* letters were sent to business along with *Welcoming Post Cards* that had previously received *Commendations* from various clubs and Thirteen *Certificates of Commendation* were awarded.

Desert Rose of California City, Ace Hardware, California City.

San Clemente Garden Club, Bemus Landscape, Inc., San Clemente; DeNault's Hardware; Glen's Landscape & Lighting, San Clemente; Living Gardens, San Clemente; Ron Dwinnell Building & Landscape Materials, San Clemente; Serrano Creek Soil Amendments, Lake Forest; Shore Gardens Nursery, San Clemente; San Clemente Inn; Tom Benton – Surterre Properties, San Clemente; Tree of Life Nursery.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club, Jacquie Williams-Coutright Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore.

Shasta Lake Garden Project, Creekside Gardens, Redding.

California Consultants Council, Julie West

The tri-fresher has 38 participants registered and the tour to Forest Lawn on Friday was part of the tri-refresher curriculum. Three great instructors have been obtained for Monday's lectures followed by a docent tour of Descanso Gardens. Everyone was reminded of the Council meeting scheduled and guests are welcome. Two Landscape Design Commendations were approved to be awarded:

Descanso Gardens will be presented with their Commendation certificate Monday, June 9 before the tri-refresher tour begins during lunch at their picnic grounds.

Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation will be presented with their Commendation certificate on June 13 at the Humboldt District meeting that CGCI President Rita Desilets is attending.

California Native Plants, Margaret Strachan

Here are some reminders as to why each garden should have at least a few native plants.

They save water. They reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides. They invite wildlife into the garden and support local ecology.

Places to find native plants include National forests, State Parks, specialty nurseries, arboretums, botanic gardens and nature preserves. Conventional nurseries and garden centers are now beginning to carry California native plants.

Remember that the best time for planting native plants is in the fall and that natives can take three to five years to become established. Check the watering needs of each plant with your supplier as proper watering can present a challenge when first becoming acquainted with native plants.

District Director Coordinator, Julie West

The district directors finished their sharing of district meeting structure and organization that began at winter board. Some district directors are visiting each other's district meetings and/or events as a result. The District Directors respectfully request more time be scheduled (2.5 - 3 hours) for the District Director Forum to facilitate discussion among each other on specific topics of interest and allow for breaking into smaller discussion groups. Districts were reminded they need to volunteer to host a board meeting or convention for the 2015-2017 term. Where will CGCI meet if nobody volunteers?

Facebook Page, Pat Clayes

The Facebook page is updated regularly with information taken from club and district newsletters which are sent to this chairman. Information of interest to our members from other organizations is also posted on the page from time to time. All members are welcome to post on the page or send posts to this Chairman.

Flower Show Schools, Gudrun Kimmel

CGCI has two new judges that took the Handbook Exam in October and qualified as NGC judges. Another student completed her April Handbook Exam, passed and her paper work was sent two days ago to National. Livermore Flower Show School Course III starts July 9-11, 2014. Anyone can register for the course, even if one does not want to become a judge. It is two days of intense Flower Show Procedure, Horticulture and Design. This makes anyone a better exhibitor in a flower show. Contact me if you want to start a Flower Show School in your district. We need one in Northern California.

Judges Council Liaison, Rilla Crane

As Liaison of the seven judges councils, I am the link or connector of the parts of the whole. I need to know what each council is doing and your directories are so important. This year I received directories from Capital JC, Cascade JC, Founders JC and SW JC.

NGC FSS Committee requested information about each council's activities. I glean this from directories and our treasurer needs to know who the officers are, especially the treasurer of your council. We need to know who and where our judges are.

We want to encourage more flower shows. At the same time we need to increase and keep the number of judges in CA. I sent an article to *Golden Gardens eNews* for the March/April 2014 issue. The important message is the "Flower Shows Need Judges and Judges Need Flower Shows".

We all must work together to achieve our goal of beautiful flower shows and garden club member participation.

Gardening Study Schools, Greg Pokorski

Articles about and promoting schools have been written for *Golden Gardens eNews*, *Keeping in Touch*, *The National Gardener*, *The Council Thymes*, club and district newsletters. Refresher reminders have been sent; warning notices have been sent to Gardening Consultants who will lapse this year. The only GSS refresher opportunity this year is the convention Tri-Refresher. 24 Gardening Consultants are taking it for credit. **A new school is needed.** There has been no course activity since last October. Good opportunity to have a major club or district project that can also raise funds. Information is being placed in the District Director mailboxes.

Garden Therapy, Bonnie Wagner

Our clubs are doing a good job with the many programs in rehab and convalescent centers and we want to continue to do so. However, I have been thinking about where else we should consider Garden Therapy. Perhaps we need to consider home therapy.

This chairman received a note from Dave Rekus of Pt. Loma about a yearly memorial program at a children's hospital. The bereaved families come together and plant flowers in large pots and then take them home to see them grow and bloom. What a nice remembrance!

There are many ways to do garden therapy which we need to explore with children and young adults. Everyone needs some garden therapy. So, this year, let's think about going outside "the box."

Girl Scout Liaison, Terri Blomke

A troop in Wrightwood planted daffodils along HWY 2. A troop in Hesperia helped the Roadrunner Garden District at a recent Home and Garden Show as well as Hesperia Relay for Life. The girls helped attendees plant California poppy seeds and explained how to take care of the flower. A troop in San Diego refurbished a raised planter at an Alzheimer facility. They planted edibles in the box and have been asked to put more plants in the box, such as sensory type plants. These girls earned the Bronze Award.

Golden Gardens eNews, Pat Clayes

Golden Gardens eNews, the national award winning publication, is improving with every issue! Chairmen are urged to write articles. District Directors, Presidents and members are welcome to contribute articles also.

Group Tax Exemption Program, Bev Davies

Convention, 2014: Since Winter Board, 2014, Notifications of GTEP Approval were mailed to the (3) new clubs. The annual IRS GTEP Report was filed in March listing 108 clubs and 6 districts. Cascade District and Malibu Garden Club applied for GTEP membership, but were advised no new applications would be accepted until after July 1, 2014. For the *Golden Gardens eNews*, GTEP article 'Organization Information Sheet' was submitted in February and fiscal year end filing information was submitted in April. July 1st begins the preparation of the annual Franchise Tax Board GTEP Report and the mailing of the 2015-16 GTEP Renewal packets.

Home Grown, Myrtle Findley

This chairman received many entries for HT-3 and HT-4 horticulture awards. Some great recipes were entered in HT-3 and will be published following Convention in the *Golden Garden eNews*. Lucky winners in HT-3 and HT-4 received a total of \$200 between the three winners in both awards. A club or club member cannot win unless an entry is made. Start now by downloading the evaluation forms for these awards. Take pictures to verify your work. Winning is so easy if you follow the rules, and read the evaluation sheet.

Honor Book, Emily Wisneski

Since the last Convention, this chairman has received \$193.00 in Honor Book donations.

IN HONOR OF	DONOR
Betty Myhre	Chicago Park Garden Club
Marjorie Finkelson	Chicago Park Garden Club

IN MEMORY OF	DONOR
Joan Thompson	Pacifica Garden Club
Sharon Kessey	Cascade Judges Council
Aldiva Buran	Rosa Radicchi

Invasive Plants, Carole Lung

Tumbleweeds were first reported in the United States around 1877 in Bon Homme County, South Dakota. Within two decades the plant had tumbled into a dozen states, and by 1900, tumbleweed had reached the Pacific Coast. *Sololá tragus* is the inland variety of tumbleweed and *S. kali*, for the more coastal variety. The juvenile plant's bright green, succulent, grass-like shoots are usually red or purple striped. Mice, bighorn and pronghorn sheep eat the tender shoots. A severe drought in the 1930's in Canada led farmers to use young tumbleweeds as hay and silage for livestock. Russian thistle plants disperse seeds, which typically number 250,000 per plant. Plants thrive in salty and alkaline soils and disturbed soils, but will generally be out competed by natives in undisturbed habitats. Elevation range is from below sea level in Death Valley to over 8500 feet.

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

This Chair is pleased to report that there is a CCC sponsored Tri-refresher being held at this Convention. The LD Refresher sponsored by Colfax GC was a success with 11 consultants refreshing at UC Davis. And, the 26th series of the CGCI Landscape Design Schools being sponsored by Luther Burbank District, beginning on October 23, 2014, has been approved by NGC. This Chair is available and eager to assist clubs and district members with sponsoring a new landscape design school.

Liability Insurance, Gloria Aminian

Membership dues do not cover CGCI's Insurance. They are separate fees. Forms for insurance coverage are mailed in November to club treasurers. If your treasurer changed since November, send the new treasurer's information to cgcinsurance@bak.rr.com so the current treasurer will receive the form for next year.

The \$1.00 per member fee does not insure event locations. The Additional Insured Certificate does. All events held at one location can be listed on the certificate application. The number of attendees anticipated must be on your application. Work on the Certificate by the insurance company will not start until that is known.

Member Award of Distinction, Martha Hunt

This chairman has issued four Member Award of Distinction certificates.

Jeanetta Moore: The Lodi Garden Club, Valley Lode District

Evelyn Warrington: West Valley Garden Club, San Fernando Valley District

Byron F. Foote: Los Angeles Garden Club, Inc., Greater Los Angeles District

Gudrun Kimmel: Costa Verde District

Memorial Gardens, Groves & Plantings, Bob Taylor

Contacted 24 District Directors for those Districts listing Memorial Gardens. Asked the District Directors to contact each club and update the status of their Memorial Gardens by mid April. Eight (8) Districts responded with updated information.

NGC Liaison/NGC President's Project, Marilyn Oberti

Here are some highlights of a letter written by our NGC President Linda Nelson. Many states have focused on projects such as: Penny Pines, Green the Gulf, The Mason Bee Project, Running Waters, the Fallen Hero Memorial, Hurricane Katrina's cleanup and the cleanup after Hurricane Sandy, and the list goes on.

Clubs, on the other hand, have focused on plans to promote Education through seminars, workshops and speakers etc. Garden clubs have donated nationwide. There is still plenty of time during the next few months to start planning a project, join an on-going project or plan at the club level. As our President wrote in her letter, "We give with our time, money, hearts, and hands to make things better". Please remember that many awards will be monetary: \$200 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place in each category of membership, depending on the size of your club category: A B C or D. The presentation ceremony will be held at our 2015 Convention. The deadline to submit an application is prior to **January 15, 2015.** You will have over six months to make more CHOICES and that could MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. Check it out on the NGC's website.

Operation Wildflower, Merrilee Ray

CGCI sponsored a Wildflower Conference in Tehachapi, CA on April 6-8, 2014. The registration count was 41, not including speakers. The total attendance was 48. The conference started off with a Meet and Greet reception on April 6th at the La Quinta Inn. There were seven speakers. There were three educational exhibits, which included California Native Plant Society, Exotic Feline Conservation Center and youth projects in the Desert Empire District. The "Old Time Fiddlers" entertained us at dinner. On April 8th, in the morning attendees carpooled to the "Adorable Alpacas Ranch". The committee members were pleased with the success of the conference, and all in attendance also enjoyed, and highly commended the speakers, the dinner, the entertainment and the tour.

Penny Pines, Pat York

Picture in your mind an orphaned fawn looking for its mother, or a mother bird looking for her nest with eggs ready to hatch in it, or maybe a family looking for their special camping spot in one of our forests. These are very sad

pictures. But most important is one of our members, a family member, or even a friend who is really looking for their name listed in my report in our *Golden Gardens eNews*. In the District Directors folder is all the information so that the information can get to your clubs.

Post Office Box, Julie West

Please remind clubs to send their checks to the appropriate CGCI chairman and not the P.O. Box. The post office box is reserved for "official" CGCI mail received i.e. Group Tax Exemption list from the IRS; Endowment quarterly statements; direct bill from insurance company, etc. It is NOT to be used to mail dues (both annual and additional members) nor Additional Insured Certificate payment. Dues are sent directly to the CGCI Membership chairman and the liability insurance items are sent directly to the Liability Insurance Chairman.

President's Project 2013-2015, Sara White,

This project will assist Habitat for Humanity with their landscaping needs all around the state. It is being funded by clubs, districts and individuals. Since June 2013, **\$4,250** has been collected from 38 sources! After two fulfilled grants, there is a balance for 15 more groups to help HFH! Please contact one of 49 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates and find out what construction projects they have planned. Work with them as to their requirements. Clubs and districts can apply for a CGCI grant of up to \$250 to cover or augment their funds to purchase plants, trees and/or shrubs or hardscape. Join with another club and double your money.

If there is no active Habitat affiliate in your area, send in a check to help those who will be gardening. The donation form and the grant application are on the CGCI website.

Looking for *another way* to donate to Habitat for Humanity? Donate or shop at one of their ReStores. Call ahead for hours of operation and donation criteria.

Zip Code Club Finder Services, Mike Gould

There have been several Directors who have reviewed their district data and corrections have been forthcoming. The annual fee for the zip code lookup routine used on the website (Fast Site Lookup) was renewed and reimbursed for \$99.95.

The adding of new clubs to the Zip Code list is still very informal. Anyone can request to be added to our Zip Code list from the website, whether they are a CGCI member or not. This Chairman would like to see stronger control over the add procedures.

Technical concerns still outstanding.

Attachment D Courtesy Resolution

**California Garden Clubs, Inc. 2014 Convention
Hilton Hotel – Los Angeles North, Glendale, California**

WHERE AS,

The members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. attending the 83rd Annual Convention “Together We Grow” in at the Hilton Hotel – Los Angeles North, California, June 5 – 8, 2014 have benefited from information learned at this convention and will disseminate this information to their districts, clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates; and

WHERE AS,

California Garden Clubs, Inc. President, Rita Desilets, the officers, chairmen and members have served this organization with distinction, now therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That CGCI President Rita Desilets, through her gracious presiding, and the members, chairmen and officers, through their dedicated concern in the deliberations of this meeting, be commended for their spirit of cooperation; and

RESOLVED, That appreciation be extended to the Los Angeles Commandery #9 York Rite Masons for opening this meeting with dignity; and to all the special donors to this meeting---the tour leaders, the many exhibits, the large group of vendors and all the floral designs painstakingly made, and

RESOLVED,

That sincere appreciation be extended to our special guest Linda Nelson, National Garden Clubs President from Oregon in our own Pacific Region for her presence with us this entire convention; and to Shane Looper who attended all meetings with a smile on her face---even when she fell off her chair, and

RESOLVED,

That sincere thanks be given to the Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski and her convention committee, the San Fernando Valley District Director Albert Chang and the 11 district clubs and especially those clubs that hosted particular events leading to the success of the entire convention, and

RESOLVED,

That appreciation be given to our workshop leaders, Monica Lewis, Jane McKee, Joyce Dean, Pat Zarnowski, Rosemary Ecker, Martha Parker and Jane Troiano; and our program presenters, our own Pauline Sechi and Krystal Migliore; also Rene Hunter and Sara Sutton and our entertainers, The Bill James Group; and

RESOLVED, That thanks be extended to those involved with the tour to Forest Lawn Cemetery (no one was left behind) held on June 6; and the Tri-Refresher Event held June 9; and

RESOLVED,

That our thanks be extended to the entire staff of the Hilton Hotel – Los Angeles North for their many courtesies extended; and

RESOLVED,

That this resolution be incorporated into the minutes and that copies be sent to our CGCI President Rita Desilets, District Director Albert Chang, Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski, Secretary Gail Vanderhorst and the staff of the Hilton Hotel – Los Angeles North.

Joan Craig, Courtesy Resolutions Chairman