

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
Minutes of the Fall Board Meeting  
September 3-5, 2014  
Holiday Inn, Redding, California  
**President, Rita Desilets**  
Host: Cascade District

President Rita Desilets called the meeting (Business Meeting #1) to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4.

The recording secretary was present.

Winter Board Meeting Co-Chairman Diane Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Advisory Council member Mary Lou Goodwin gave the inspiration.

President Rita Desilets introduced the Executive Committee and CGCI Presidents: Mary Lou Goodwin (1991-1993), Robert Gordon (2003-2005), and Robin Pokorski (2007-2009).

President Rita Desilets presented Anne Capes with a certificate designating membership in the Circle of Poppies.

President Rita Desilets announced the page for the president is Jeanne Desilets and the general page is Chris Chambers.

Without objection the chair appointed Lorraine Ornelas as timekeeper.

Co-Chairman of the Fall Board Meeting Anne Capes welcomed members to Cascade District.

President Rita Desilets thanked Cascade District for hosting the 2014 CGCI Fall Board Meeting.

President Rita Desilets installed Mary Jane Sutliff (Sacramento River Valley District) and Penny Binney (Valley Lode District) as District Directors.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst called the roll and the chair declared a quorum.

**EXCUSED:** Gloria Aminian, Lynn Batchelor, Terri Blomker, Beverly Brune, Diane Charbonneau, Pat Claves, Laura & Rob Crenshaw, Joyce Dean, Sara Delperdang, B.J. Doerfling, Dann Dunst, Ann Durgerian, Janet Eyre, Helen Gates, Launa & Mike Gould, LaVerne Harms, Wanda Hewett, Jeff Higday, Joelle Holford, Rosalie Hooper, Martha Hunt, Madelyn Jameson, Tonya Judkins, Linda & Ron Lang, Monica Lewis, Arthur & Nancy Lee Loesch, Maryanne Lucas, Carole Lung, Niarja Marchand, Angela Michaels, Sherry Molinari, Doris Nagy, Sue Nolan, Gertrude Paul, Ruth Pimental, Judy Powers, Merrilee Ray, Linda Riddle, Sandy Rogers, Lynn Rose, Dorothy Roton, Hoberley & Robert Schuler, Pauline Sechi, George Speer, Shirley Stewart, Margaret Strachan, Sue Swackhammer, Bob Taylor, Jane Troutman, Elisabeth Tufo, Judy & George Unrine, John Vafis, Carolyn Villi, Bonnie Wagner, Martha Ann Walter, Julie West, Emily Wisneski

President Rita Desilets announced the Rules of Order for the Board Meetings were accepted at the Organizational Meeting in June 2013 for this entire term and can be found on page 6 of the Fall Board Meeting Program as well as on pages 27-28 of the 2014-2015 *Yearbook, Manual, & Roster*.

Anne Capes, CGCI 2014 Fall Board Meeting Co-Chairman, moved to adopt the Fall Board Meeting Program as printed. **Passed.**

Minutes Review Chairman Lorraine Ornelas moved to adopt the Minutes of the June 6, 2014 Pre-Convention Board Meeting as distributed for Gail Vanderhorst on July 13, 2014. **Passed.**

Lorraine Ornelas moved to adopt as corrected the Minutes of the June 8, 2014 Organizational Meeting distributed for Gail Vanderhorst on July 13, 2014. **Passed.**

Without objection the Chair appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Lorraine Ornelas, Chairman, Sue Bennett and Greg Pokorski.

Treasurer Joan Patten reported.

**Financial Reports: August 23, 2014**

Net Worth	
Total Cash including CD's	\$ 175,085.16
Other Assets including GG:	\$ 243,185.06
Total Assets:	\$ 418,270.22
Of which Restricted Funds are:	\$ 301,852.55
Cash Balance Available	\$ 116,417.67

CGCI Fall Board Meeting Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a total of 115 registered and reported on the registration process.

**Officers' Reports**

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Communications Director Jane McKee reported. See Attachment A.

Treasurer Joan Patten reported.

Financial Secretary Shane Looper read the Independent Accountant's Review Report dated August 29, 2014 by Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA and moved to accept the report. **Passed.**

Corresponding Secretary Rosa Radicchi reported.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline for submitting reports is Tuesday, September 9, 2014 for the Fall Board Meeting. It was reported that the Executive Committee voted that the District Directors and Chairmen reports will only be accepted via email to the Recording Secretary starting at the 2015 Winter Board Meeting.

Second-Vice President and Membership Krystal Migliore reported.

**Number paid as of August 31, 2014**

Clubs – 211 paid – 12,824 members  
APS – 36 paid – 2,380 members  
Affiliates – 7 paid  
Total Clubs and APS paid: 247  
Total members: 15,204  
Unpaid: 6 Clubs, 17 APS, 10 Affiliates

Krystal Migliore moved to ratify the following:

- Club:** Orchid Society of California, Inc. Bay Bridges District  
73 members, President: Paula Shiu
- APS:** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society,  
112 members, President: Dale La Forest
- Affiliate:** San Diego Floral Association, Inc.  
President: Bonnie Gephardt

**Passed.**

President-Elect Sue Bennett reported. See Attachment A.

President Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment A.

**Standing and Special Committee Reports**

Board of Trustees member George Perko reported and moved that Robert L. Gordon and Robin Pokorski be removed as authorized signers on the Principal Financial Group Investment accounts; replacement authorized signers to be the CGCI President, CGCI Treasurer, CGCI Financial Advisor and one other CGCI Board Member to be appointed by the Board of Directors. **Passed.**

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Sue Bennett introduced the committee: Beverly Brune, Krystal Migliore, Lorraine Ornelas and Greg Pokorski.

There was a discrepancy in the numbering of a new Standing Rule that was voted on and passed at the June 8, 2014 Organizational meeting. The second of these two 2013 - 2014 Standing Rules 109 will actually be called SR110 and is listed as such on page 97 of the new 2014-2015 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

This Committee has received numerous suggested changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules that will be presented at Winter Board. We welcome your input. Any proposed changes must be submitted to this Chairman by November 1, 2014.

Endowment Funds Promotions Chairman Bob Gordon reported regarding using live and/or silent auctions at future Board Meetings and Conventions.

Life Membership Chairman Carlotta Wixon moved to ratify the following members:

- |                 |                |                              |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Dana Boyd       | Toluca Lake GC | San Fernando Valley District |
| Caroline Russom | West Valley GC | San Fernando Valley District |

**Passed.**

Nominating Committee Chairman Shane Looper reported and introduced the committee: Robin Pokorski, Shirley Stewart, Alexis Slafer, Janean Guest, Carolyn Villi, and George Speer.

Non-Profit Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) Bev Davies moved to ratify the following to the GTEP program:

- Cascade District of California Garden Clubs, Inc
- Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild, Palms to Pines District

**Passed.**

President's Project, Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Sara White reported. See Attachment C.

President-Elect Sue Bennett, reporting for Youth Chairman Linda Riddle, moved to ratify four Youth Groups

- Sponsor: Hanford Garden Club, Sequoia Foothills District

St. Rose McCarthy Youth Garden, Junior - 150 members  
Kit Carson Elementary School Gardeners - 150 members  
Lee Richmond Elementary School Gardeners – 30 members  
Lincoln Elementary School Gardeners – 34 members

**Passed.**

2014 Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski reported. See Attachment C.

Meeting was recessed at 5:21 p.m.

Meeting (Business Meeting #2) was reconvened Friday, September 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

President Rita Desilets introduced Dawn Jones as the general page and Jeanne Desilets as the President's page.

Communications Director Jane McKee gave a presentation on the website and the changes to be introduced in the near future.

Meeting was recessed at 9:51 a.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

2015 Winter Board Meeting Co-Chairmen Diane Lane and Carley Metcalf invited the members to the CGCI Winter Board Meeting to be hosted by Sequoia Foothills District in Fresno (February 2 to 5, 2015, Fresno Hotel).

#### **Executive Committee Ratifications/Recommendations**

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst moved to ratify/adopt the following Executive Committee Ratifications/Recommendations:

##### **Ratifications:**

1. To ratify Josie Goodenow as Bees Chairman. **Passed.**
2. To ratify Chuck Goodwin as Recycling Chairman. **Passed.**
3. To accept the invitation from Costa Verde District to host the 2016 CGCI Winter Board Meeting. **Passed.**
4. To accept the invitation from Orange County District to host the 2016 Convention. **Passed.**

##### **Recommendations:**

1. That the 2015 Winter Board Meeting registration fee be \$45 and early registration fee postmarked before January 12, 2015 be \$35, one-day fee be \$20 and early one-day registration fee postmarked before January 12, 2015 be \$10. **Passed.**
2. That 25% of the balance as of June 30, 2014 in the Principal Financial Group Investments be transferred to the respective Vanguard Investment Fund accounts; the amounts transferred shall be split 50/50 to the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund and the Vanguard High Dividend Yield Fund. **Passed.**
3. That an additional 25% of the balance as of June 30, 2014 in the Principal Financial Group Investments be transferred on or about three months following the initial transfer; the amount transferred shall be split 50/50 to the Vanguard Total Stock Index Fund and the Vanguard High Dividend Yield Fund. **Passed.**
4. That live and/or silent auctions be utilized as fundraisers to benefit the CGCI Endowment and CGCI Scholarship Endowment equally at the 2015 Convention. **Passed as amended.**

President-Elect Sue Bennett introduced the District Directors who reported.  
See Attachment B.

Meeting was recessed at 11:31 a.m.

Meeting (Business Meeting #3) was reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Price Sheppy from Golden Gate Park Conservancy presented an update on the CGCI Mission Blue Butterfly Project.

President-Elect Sue Bennett continued with the District Director reports.

Meeting recessed at 2:56 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:12 p.m.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst moved to adopt the following Executive Committee Recommendation:

1. That authorized signers on all Endowment accounts be the CGCI President, the CGCI Treasurer, the CGCI Financial Secretary and the CGCI Financial Advisor. **Passed.**

Chairman Coordinator Bob Gordon introduced the Chairmen who reported.  
See Attachment C.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Gail Vanderhorst  
Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment A – Officers’ Reports

### Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

A number of changes were made to the bylaws and standing rules in the last year (bylaws can only be changed at conventions; standing rules can be changed at any board meeting) and they are printed in the new *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* which was distributed at this Fall Board Meeting. If you have a question relating to bylaws or standing rules, please be sure to refer to the new *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

“Parliamentary procedure is an organized system that allows a group of people to come together and make a decision. One of the fundamental principles is that parliamentary procedure is a method for the group process to *proceed* in an orderly and fair fashion. It protects the individual, but it’s really all about the group. It’s about the group making a decision that supersedes the decision made by any individual within the group.

The group of people who meet, referred to as the *deliberative assembly* (such as this board of directors), discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of the entire group. *Parliamentary procedure* is the set of rules that the group agrees to follow in the deliberation process. The terms parliamentary procedure and parliamentary law are frequently used interchangeably.”  
(*The Guerrilla Guide to Robert’s Rules*, Sylvester, 2006)

Parliamentary procedure can be your friend. Let this officer know if I can help to make parliamentary procedure your friend.

### Communications Director, Jane McKee eNewsletters

- GoldenGardenseNews: July/August distribution - 2422
- Council Thymes: August distribution - 482
- WACONIAH: First FREE issue/electronic distribution. August – 2578 (combination of full GG & Council Thymes list less duplicates)
- Social Media “shares”: 10 Facebook, 28 Twitter, 27 LinkedIn

### Forms & Publications

- Club/APS Annual Information Form or email confirming info
  - Received from 8 Affiliates, 38 APS and 257 clubs. This is an 87% response.
- Dues Forms (new and additional members): Updated to include name, phone/email of submitter

### Website:

- Phase 1 (July 1-August 31)
  - Test site established; basic theme and design selected
  - Existing directories and files “scubbed” and uploaded to test site
  - Site layout and menus have been configured
  - Test data input for demo Sept 6 at Fall Board meeting
- Phase 2 (September 1 – December 31)
  - Finalize configuration of menus, pages and forms
  - Copy data from old site to new
  - Create new pages and forms where needed
  - Update information
  - Test all forms and links
  - Update user manual for club/district website managers
  - Send test site link to ExCom for review
  - Determine date to launch “live”.

NOTE: The existing website will be up and running during the transition to the new website. There will be NO interruption in service.

**President-Elect, Sue Bennett****Convention and Board Meetings Chairman Report – Sue Bennett**

One of the responsibilities of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is to secure locations for 2015-2017 meetings and conventions. Fall 2016, Winter 2017 and 2017 Convention are still open. This Chairman hosted the District Directors Forum and tried to twist a few Districts to hold the Fall 2016/2017 meetings/convention. This Chairman should not have to keep pestering District Directors – District and Clubs should be eager to hold a meeting or convention – this is the future of CGCI. If your District can help, don't hesitate to call this chairman.

**Official Calendar Chairman – Sue Bennett**

This chairman has not had anything to do with the calendar and 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. The Double Tree Hotel has been selected for the January 23 – 25 CGCI Flower Show School Symposium in Bakersfield.

**President, Rita Desilets**

It was an honor to represent California at the Pacific Region Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho from July 1-3. Learning about the projects and activities of the seven other Pacific Region states was inspiring. Pacific Region Director Elaine Gunderson, special guest, NGC President Linda Nelson and attendees enjoyed the cruise on the lake to visit the home and gardens of the resort's owner.

We were reminded of the recent partnership between NGC and Ames Tools. The Ames Company is giving away free tools for qualifying projects. The application and information is on the NGC website.

The Pacific Region project involves collection of data regarding conservation projects and is due very soon. President-Elect Sue Bennett will be giving you the details and we are appreciative of her efforts in collecting and assembling the data.

Your President will be traveling to Des Moines, Iowa in late September to attend the NGC Fall Board. Shortly after, she flies to New York to board the MS Eurodam to cruise up the east coast to Quebec, Canada, returning on October 14. Twenty-three individuals will be participating in this CGCI fundraiser. Chris Merkel believes we will raise over \$2,500.

Your President has visits to several Districts already scheduled and is looking forward to scheduling more. Everyone has been gracious hosts and every District and club visit has been most enjoyable.

We are proud to report that CGCI's membership numbers have improved since last year. When many state's numbers are declining, we are growing. Please encourage your clubs to look for new members to keep our clubs virile as our valued long-time members age and become less active.

The Nominating Committee needs your help to find new officers for the 2015-2017 term. Serving on the Executive Committee is a rewarding experience that will enrich your life, just as being CGCI President enriched mine.

## **Attachment B - District Directors Reports**

### **Bay Bridges District, George Perko**

This district is looking forward to an unusual District Meeting on September 25, 2014: a garden picnic and historic house tour at Shinn Park and Arboretum in Fremont, hosted by Friends of Heirloom Flowers Garden Club. The Shinn House dates from the 1850's. The Arboretum has several specimens from 130 to 150 years old. Three prime examples are a magnificent Moreton Bay Fig (*ficus macrophylla*), a Belota from Chile, and a Ginkgo from China. The meeting will also be a joint effort between Bay Bridges District and Diablo Foothills District. Each district will hold its own meeting (in two different spots), and they will enjoy the garden picnic and historic house tour together.

### **Bay Ocean, Nancy McDougal**

Two last-minute activities proved quite successful. When our program speaker cancelled, we gave attendees the option of leaving early or the opportunity to discuss specific problems & successes in their clubs. No one left; and the resulting discussion lasted well beyond our normal meeting time.

The County Fair offered clubs the opportunity to help decorate the Floral building by loaning decorated birdhouses for display. Each house was mounted on its own pole and posted with the name of the club that supplied it & contact information. It proved so successful that it will be repeated next year.

### **Buttes District, Carol Jauregui**

District projects are like seeds; they stay dormant until just the right conditions occur. Then, a bit of time and nurturing can bring them to life.

I learned that the Buttes District is the only district without a yearbook. This is on our project list for this year.

We also have decided on the idea of an electronic "kiosk" type newsletter. The goal is a single site where information about our nine clubs can be shared.

We are offering to our members a district wide bus trip to the 2015 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show for a positive effect in our district.

We will be honored to have President Rita Desilets at our fall Membership Meeting Nov. 7.

### **Cascade District, Carolyn Hoyum**

This district under the direction of Anne Capes, chairman of the 2014 CGCI Fall Board, had many meetings. Thanks to CGCI President Rita and to Robin who did so very much in organizing it.

Happenings: Shasta Lake Project GC again had their big event, Plant Faire in the park. They also planted in pots and gave away trees to anyone who wanted them! Red Bluff GC worked out a deal with the Tehama County Fair Board to promote and run their Horticulture Dept. at the 2014 Fair in September under the Flower Show rules of the NGC! Other clubs busy and sweltering in the hot sun of this area maintaining their respective gardens and worrying about the water situation.

### **Channel Islands District, Maggie Crane**

Channel Islands District will have 4 meetings this year. The first two will be informal roundtable discussions, the first on Membership and second on Programs. We will have our District Luncheon fundraiser with the elections in the spring. The end of year will be a backyard luncheon party to celebrate all things Garden Club.

The goal for the year is to provide a time and space for the different clubs to come together and share information and get help for their clubs. To educate and inform the members of local clubs to help them grow and have more fun.



### **Costa Verde District, Kitty Guzman**

The Costa Verde District presented Gudrun Kimmel with the Award of Distinction in June for many years of outstanding and devoted service.

Long Beach Garden Club raised \$210 with a Scholarship Brunch in July. They also accomplished the President's Project, Habitat for Humanity Landscaping, for a home in Long Beach in August. This District Director attended San Pedro Garden Club's Tea and Hat Parade and Hermosa Garden Club's Brunch in August.

CVD has three general meetings planned for the year and a Holiday Party in December.

### **Desert Empire District, Cecile Campbell**

DED has a new Assistant Director, Terry Fairfield. Our first meeting program: "The Building of 18 Garden Terraces in Haifa, Israel" by Ann Richardson. November 15 DED participates in Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival.

The Desert Rose Garden Club's first evening program meeting, by Gloria Aminian, "Line Designs" and "What Judges are Looking for in Horticultural Judging" with a potluck.

Oasis GC first meeting program: "How to Prepare for a Flower Show" by Wanda Hewett, fall plant sale and both clubs sponsoring a Near Garden Club Flower Show.

### **Diablo Foothills District, Rebecca Ferguson**

The District is comprised of 9 clubs with a membership of over 900 + and 4 District-CGCI affiliates. Youth groups total of 6 within the District.

DFD just successfully hosted Course 3 of the Flower Show School in Livermore, CA.

At District awards luncheon hosted by Discovery Bay Garden Club short boat tours of the California Delta, highlighting water and drought issues were offered.

Walnut Creek Garden Club, in support of Rita Desilets' project, has completed their successful participation in a local Habitat For Humanity Landscaping Project.

Antioch-Riverview GC took a Blue Ribbon / 1ST place for their booth at the Contra Costa County Fair this summer.

Clayton Valley GC is busy working to improve the town's "Educational and Historic Gardens". The Herb Society- Northern California Unit hosted a very successful national convention in Concord this summer.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden has had many water-wise gardening seminars over the summer.

The Diablo Foothills District Board is working with Sue Bennett on the details of the upcoming CGCI Board meeting September, 2015.

### **Golden Foothills District, Carlotta Wixon**

This director last reported that we had a good percentage increase in memberships. We now find some clubs have lost members. This is a bit discouraging. We are encouraging interesting speakers at our club and district meetings.

The members approved revisions to our Bylaws, and approved an increase in our dues. One club is landscaping the new Sheriff's Department grounds and installing hanging baskets in town. Another club had a Victorian Tea. Several clubs had annual garden and house tours. We encourage clubs to advertise their meetings in the media.

### **Humboldt District, Janean Guest**

There are seven garden clubs in the Humboldt District, that consists of approximately 250 members. The district meets 3 times a year, with the clubs rotating as hosts, similar to CGCI Board Meetings. The Meeting in June was located at the Humboldt Botanical Gardens and President Rita was the special guest. She was presented with a paver for the garden, with her name, title and date. She presented many award certificates to garden club members and the Humboldt Botanical Garden also. Most of the Humboldt District Garden Clubs have garden tours in the summer.

### **Luther Burbank District, David West**

Sharing of district structures and organization at the district director's forum this past year has been very helpful. On June 14 (Flag Day) SRGC dedicated their 1<sup>st</sup> By-Way Marker at Santa Rosa Memorial Park. Rita Desilets and Sue Bennett attended. This was a joint effort by SRGC, Post #40 Sonoma County AMVETS, Mother of Military Service (M.O.M.S.) and Santa Rosa Memorial Park. Area renamed "Blue Star Memorial Garden". Rita presented SRGC with NGC Certificate for anniversary of 65 years.

### **Sacramento River Valley District, Mary Jane Sutliff**

ACHEIVEMENTS: This year the Shibui Flower Arrangers brought home 19 awards at the state level.

Ron Byrd of the Folsom Garden Club won the CGCI award for the water wise transformation of his yard.

MEETING NEWS: Arden Park Garden Club added "Plant Talk" a 15 minutes segment of the meeting where gardeners share questions and answers about gardening issues.

The Vallejo Club used a radio talk show to advertise their club. They also developed a professional brochure.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sacramento River Valley District will be presenting materials on water wise plantings and landscaping.

### **San Fernando Valley District, Albert Chang**

The San Fernando Valley District had eighty-eight members register for the CGCI Convention in June, and over one hundred members contributed their time and efforts to making it a success. The boutique raised over two thousand dollars for the individual clubs who participated. A special thanks to Robin Pokorski, Convention Chairman and President Rita Desilets, who made the convention bags and the Smokey Bear figures for the youth luncheon. One half of the convention profit, nearly \$2900 was presented to CGCI at Fall Board.

### **Santa Clara Valley District, Roseann Costabile**

Furyu Designers hosted designer Helga Sellman in March and OFAD held a weekend design seminar featuring workshops with Nancy Colvin, Shane Looper, Eileen Chun & Barbara Gordon. In May, Ikebana members held a design workshop for 70 elementary school children in Seaside. New club, the Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas is excited about a Blue Star Memorial project for their community. This year Sunnyvale's youth club will be working with four classrooms at Bishop Elementary School. In October, the District is holding a General Meeting at the Agricultural History Project in Watsonville.

### **Sequoia Foothills District, Judy Silguero**

Host the Winter Board in February 2015.

Create a District website.

Finalize a half-page District handout to be used as a membership tool at various flower and garden shows.

One club is planning to have a lawn-free garden tour. The goal is to provide attendees with attractive and water-wise alternative ideas to having a lawn that needs a lot of water. The members feel it is important to show the community that, even during a drought, one can still have pleasing landscaping.

## **Attachment C – Chairmen Reports**

### **Awards, Robert Gordon**

It is time to be gathering materials and information to apply for awards. Please watch the deadline dates closely. No entries will be accepted after the deadline dates. Take time to look through the Special Awards. If you know someone who deserves one of those awards, please nominate them.

### **Awards Finance, Launa Gould**

The completed awards list showing all awards and sponsors for the 2013 award year has been uploaded to the CGCI website  
Awards Sponsor Statements for the 2014 awards to be given out at the 2015 convention were mailed in August of 2014.  
As of August 25, 2014, Awards Finance has received \$490 which has been reconciled with the CGCI Treasurer.

### **Convention Chairman, Robin Pokorski**

The San Fernando Valley District was pleased to have you visit our interesting part of our Golden State. We welcomed nearly 300 from all over California. The final registration count was 284, comprised of 135 board members and club or APS presidents; 60 spouse and guests; and 88 San Fernando Valley District members. 220 room nights were used. The Awards Banquet continues to be the most popular banquet with 137 attending. 69 souls left for Forest Lawn; 69 souls were returned safe and sound to the Hilton.

For future consideration, the full-time or multiple day registration fee of \$35 might be cutting it very close. Approximately 60% of the total registration fees collected went to covering the cost of audio-visual expenses. This left little money available for speakers, printing, workshop materials, and everything else that needs to be covered. Don't be surprised if registration fees simply must be increased to cover costs and keep districts interested in hosting these conventions.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience for our district, this chairman would encourage every district (large AND small) to offer to host and bring us to your lovely part of California.

Revenue received totaled \$38,020.09 less expenses of \$32,220.81 for a net excess of \$5,799.28. Split 50-50 with CGCI, it is with great pleasure that I present a check in the amount of \$2,899.64 to President Rita with our district's heartfelt thanks for giving us the opportunity to host the convention as we found that Together We Grow!

### **Flower Show Symposia, Mary Arakelian**

Attendance at the 54<sup>th</sup> California Symposium, August 3-5, 2014 in Auburn was 20 Judges testing, 22 Judges auditing and 7 others attending for a total of 59.  
NGC Instructors were Char Mutschler for Design and Darlene Newell for Horticulture.  
Save the dates of January 23-25, 2015 for our next Symposium at the Double Tree by Hilton, in Bakersfield. Former NGV President Barbara May will teach "Underwater Design in Multiple Containers" and "Degrees of Abstraction in Design". David Robinson of the University of Illinois will teach "Orchids" and "Branching Out, Arboreals".

### **Gardening Study Schools, Greg Pokorski**

23 Gardening Consultants took the June Glendale Tri-Refresher for credit. Accreditation is complete and refresher cards are being distributed. Annual updating of Gardening Consultant information was completed and appears on pages 50-53 of the new yearbook. We have 145 Consultants (regular, Provisional, Master and Emeritus). Warning notices have been sent to 12 who will lapse 12/31/14. Articles have been written for *The Council Thymes*, *Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener*. This chairman **would like to have a new school in progress before the end of this term.** Clubs or districts interested in sponsoring Series 25 should contact this chairman.

### **Golden Legacy Society, George Perko**

CGCI has established the Golden Legacy Society to recognize gardeners who wish to remember and finance CGCI's current and future nonprofit educational activities through bequests in their wills. Future donors can remain anonymous if they wish, but notifying CGCI of their intentions can help CGCI keep track of potential donations. For anyone who would like to consider this, this chairman has a brochure which provides information on how to donate to CGCI via a bequest.

### **Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Bev Davies**

Since CGCI 2014 Convention: The annual GTEP report to CA Franchise Tax Bd was mailed August 9<sup>th</sup>. GTEP member Bonita Garden Club, Bay Bridges District disbanded 06/30/14. Orchid Society of California, Bay Bridges District submitted but later withdrew their GTEP application. Garden & Floral Arrangers Guild, Palms to Pines District and the Cascade District of CGCI GTEP applications submitted and ratified at this Fall Board. Sunshine Garden Club, San Fernando Valley District application not yet complete and has been put on hold until Winter Board. 2015-16 renewal packets have been mailed to club presidents and district directors as well as emails sent to club & district treasurers notifying them of the renewal mailings.

### **Judges Council Liaison, Rilla Crane**

The CGCI Convention Judges Council Banquet hosted by Southern California Judges Council was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Flower Show Awards were presented by CGCI President Rita Desilets and NGC President, Linda Nelson. The Flower Arranger of the Year was presented to Janet Switzer and the Judge of the Year was presented to Mary Arakelian. An outstanding floral design program, presented by Pauline Sechi, was a highlight of the banquet and enjoyed by everyone.

A Judges Symposium was held in Auburn in August. Many attended to renew credentials, but some also attended to learn more from the instructors.

Everyone, please take time to go see flower shows presented in your area, even if not judging them, to support and encourage all our members in presenting their shows.

### **Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer**

This Chair is pleased to report that the 26<sup>th</sup> series of the CGCI Landscape Design Schools is being sponsored by Luther Burbank District, beginning on October 23, 2014. Check with this Chair regarding questions about your credentials.

Remember, our 124 Landscape Design Consultants are great resources that can participate in your local clubs or districts as speakers. Please don't forget them!

This Chair is available and eager to assist clubs and district members with sponsoring a new landscape design school.

### **Pacific Region Special Project Chairman, Sue Bennett**

District, Clubs and CGCI Chairman have been asked 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 and extra copies are here for the CGCI Chairman.

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.

**District Directors, it would be great if you could collect the data at club level and then forward it to this chairman.** This chairman will be contacting the District Directors, Club Presidents and other CGCI Chairmen **over the next few weeks to collect this data.** It is less than a month away. **You can always send it to this chairman's email at [sue\\_c\\_bennett@att.net](mailto:sue_c_bennett@att.net).**

This information will be reported by November 1, 2014 to qualify for the Pacific Region Director's award.

### **Penny Pines, Pat York**

Already many of our clubs are participating in a reforestation program, but with this dry season in our state, fires are already starting to devastate some of our forests. If you are a new director, please let your clubs know of this great way to help keep our state green and beautiful. You can visit these reforestation plantations, but check with the forest service first. This chairman is available for any questions your clubs may have either via email or phone.

### **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, **\$5,300** has been collected, \$750 since Convention 2014! Two grants have been fulfilled and there are five more currently in the works. This leaves a **balance of \$3,550 for 14 more grants to help HFH!**

Please contact one of 49 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates and find out what construction projects they have planned. Clubs and districts can then apply for a CGCI grant of up to \$250 to cover or augment their funds to purchase plants, trees, shrubs, seeds, compost, mulch, tools, irrigation equipment, weed abatement and/or hardscape. Join with another club and double your money!

The donation form and the grant application are on the CGCI website.

### **Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose, Chuck Goodwin**

For the balance of the 2013-2015 term, this Chairman will be soliciting stories of successful projects of Reusing, Recycling and Repurposing from Directors and Officers. Some of these projects will be Garden Club projects and some may be developed by other community groups.

This Chairman, using the communication resources of CGCI, will share these ideas with our CGCI family of clubs and districts so that other communities can gain from the success of others. Send your good stories to [Goodwin-CGCI@northcoast.com](mailto:Goodwin-CGCI@northcoast.com) and put Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose in the Subject Line.

### **San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, Bob Gordon**

Dates: March 18-22, 2015

More Floral Design Programs, International Designers doing programs  
Floral and Fashion Show and Flower and Produce Exhibit similar to Chelsea.  
Special group rate for CGCI Clubs. \$15 per ticket for 15 tickets or more purchased by March  
1, 2015. You may sell the tickets for whatever price you wish so it can be a minor fund raiser.  
Regular price at the door is \$22 and early bird tickets are \$17.50 and the regular group ticket  
price is \$16.  
Program and special event schedules will be released by October 1, 2014.

### **Shrubs/Trees, Linda Smith**

Would you like to light up your garden? Then you need a little “Sunshine” with its dazzling  
foliage. This “Sunshine” shrub is one of the hottest shrubs anywhere and it is called:  
“Sunshine Ligustrum”.

Sunshine produces brilliant golden foliage that lights up the garden. It has a moderate growth  
pattern and not aggressive like its invasive privet cousins. It can be sheared into a glowing  
hedge or stand alone as an accent plant against a dark green background. It is cold hardy  
from zones 6-10, meaning most the country can enjoy its beauty.