

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
May 20-21, 2016  
Hotel Irvine, Irvine, California  
Host: Orange County District  
**President: Susan C. Bennett**

**Business Meeting #1**

President Sue Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Friday May 20, 2016. The recording secretary was present.

California Native Plants Chairman Berni Hendrix gave the Inspiration.

Hotel Irvine Executive Director of Catering & Events Jeffrey Chirinos welcomed and thanked CGCI for using the hotel for the Convention.

Roadrunner District Director Ted Benson led the Conservation Pledge.

President Sue Bennett introduced 2015-2017 NGC President Sandra Robinson, NGC Officer Robin Pokorski; recognized those serving on the NGC and Pacific Region boards of directors and introduced the CGCI Executive Committee Members, former CGCI Presidents, Mary Lou Goodwin (1991-1993), Bob Gordon (2003-2005), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Maryanne Lucas (2009-2011), Julie West (2011-2013) and Rita Desilets (2013-2015).

President Sue Bennett announced the page for NGC President Sandra Robinson is Robin Pokorski and the CGCI president's page is Patty Carlson. The general page is Annie Hall Bosché.

Convention Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the initial credentials report with a total voting strength of 117 and moved its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

The Chair declared a quorum.

Convention Registrar Launa Gould gave the initial registration report with total registration of 142.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski read the Convention Rules of Order (pages 13-14 of the Convention Program) and moved their adoption. **Motion Passed by 2/3 vote.**

2016 Convention Chairman, Annie Hall Bosché moved to adopt the Convention Program as corrected. **Motion Passed.**

President Sue Bennett thanked the Orange County District for hosting the 2016 CGCI Convention and asked the Orange County Districts volunteers to stand to be recognized.

Without objection, the minutes of the 2015 Convention in Reno, Nevada were approved as distributed by Jane McKee for Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst on July 26, 2015.

Without objection, President Sue Bennett appointed the following committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski, Chairman, Communication Director Jane McKee and Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Hoyum.

## Officers' Reports

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Communications Director Jane McKee reported. See Attachment A.

Treasurer Sandra Graff reported:

### Financial Reports: April 30, 2016

Net Worth

Total Cash in Checking/Savings Accounts	\$111,105.05
Total Other Assets	\$316,500.50
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$427,605.55
of which restricted funds are:	\$290,312.75
Cash Balance Available	<u>\$137,292.80</u>

Financial Secretary Rebecca Ferguson reported.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline for reports to be emailed is Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Hoyum reported. See Attachment A.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Lynne Batchelor reported that \$5,095 was awarded to winning recipients.

Membership Administrative Assistant Rita Desilets reported for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Rilla Crane and announced new clubs and APSs.

#### Clubs:

Alpine Garden Club, Palomar District – 21 members, President: Christine Vargas

Las Floralias, Channel Island District – 25 members, President: Donna Faulkner

#### APS:

Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society – 7 members, President: Linda Holub

South Bay Epiphyllum Society – 70 members, President: Tony Yanko

#### Number paid as of Friday, May 13, 2016

Clubs – 272-17,341 members

APS – 57 APS - 3,762 members

Total Clubs/APS: 329 – 21,103 members

Affiliates – 11

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Krystal Migliore reported.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy representative Price Sheppy was introduced. He gave information on Phase I and introduced Phase II of Project Mission Blue.

## Committee Reports

Advisory Council Chairman Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment B.

Awards Co-Chairmen Lynne Batchelor and Bob Gordon reported.

Board of Trustees Chairman Julie West reported. See Attachment B.

Life Membership Chairman Carlotta Wixon reported. See Attachment B.

Scholarships Chairman Martha Smyser reported. See Attachment B.

Nominating Committee Chairman Carole Lung reported.

President's Project Chairman Maryanne Lucas reported.

**Memorial Service**

San Fernando Valley District Director Rita Desilets and Official Timekeeper Jeanne Desilets conducted a memorial service.

The meeting was recessed at 11:26 a.m.

**Business Meeting #2:**

The meeting was reconvened at 2:32 p.m.

NGC President's Project – Monarch Watch Vice-Chairman Julie West reported.  
See Attachment D.

NGC President's Project – Leap Into Leadership Chairman Robin Pokorski reported. See Attachment D.

President Sue Bennett announce the page for CGCI President is Patty Carlson and the general pages are: Barbara Foster and Stephanie Gillette

Bylaws & Policy Committee Chairman Krystal Migliore reported. On behalf of the Bylaws & Policy Committee, Krystal Migliore moved to adopt the following bylaws amendments:

**1) ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 87)**

**Now Reads:**

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.

*Amend* by inserting “All board members except members of the advisory council and the Circle of Poppies shall hold membership in a member garden club.” Immediately after statement (i).

**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. All board members except members of the advisory council and the Circle of Poppies shall hold membership in a member garden club. One third shall constitute a quorum. No member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

**Rationale:** Now only officers are required to belong to a member club. To best represent the interests of CGCI, board members should be members of member clubs. Exceptions: members of the advisory council and Circle of Poppies currently have lifetime board positions and are not always active board members and because of age or other reasons may at some point be unable to participate in a club, or have one geographically available to them.

**Adopted by 2/3 vote.**

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**2) ARTICLE XII - FINANCES (page 90)**

**Now Reads:**

Sec. 10. Accounts of the financial secretary and treasurer shall be audited/reviewed annually at close of fiscal year by a certified public accountant approved by the board of directors. This audit/review report shall be presented for action at the fall board meeting. A special audit/review shall be ordered by executive committee in the event of a vacancy in a financial office.

*Amend* by deleting “audited/” after “treasurer shall be”, by deleting “audit/” after “This,” deleting “audit/” after “A special”, and replacing “shall” with “may” before “be ordered by executive committee.”

**To Read:**

Sec. 10. Accounts of the financial secretary and treasurer shall be reviewed annually at close of fiscal year by a certified public accountant approved by the board of directors. This Review Report shall be presented for action at the fall board meeting. A special review may be ordered by executive committee in the event of a vacancy in a financial office.

**Rationale:** To be consistent with change to SR 41.

**Adopted by 2/3 vote.**

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**3) ARTICLE XIII – GOLDEN GARDENS eNEWS (page 91)**

**Now Reads:**

Sec. 4. Funds from advertising and donations shall be deposited in the general fund.

*Amend* by striking “advertising and”.

**To Read:**

Sec. 4. Funds from donations shall be deposited in the general fund.

**Rationale:** Advertising is not needed to fund the publication since it is delivered electronically. No advertising is being accepted.

**Adopted by 2/3 vote.**

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**4) ARTICLE XIV – BOARD OF TRUSTEES (page 91)**

**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 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.

*Amend* by deleting the last sentence.

**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.

**Rationale:** As the duties of the board of trustees have become more complex in understanding CGCI's finances involving the endowment funds, various restricted funds and overall finances, it is better for the organization to keep qualified individuals with financial knowledge and willingness to serve on the board of trustees rather than limit their service that currently excludes serving consecutive terms.

**Adopted as amended by 2/3 vote.**

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GTEP Chairman Krystal Migliore reported with Financial Advisor George Perko.

The meeting recessed at 3:51 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

**District Director Reports**

District Director Coordinator Robin Pokorski introduced those directors who reported. See Attachment C.

The meeting recessed at 4:54 p.m.

**Business Meeting #3**

The meeting reconvened on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Convention Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the Interim Credentials Report with a voting strength of 119 and moved its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Convention Registrar Launa Gould gave the Interim Registration Report with total registration of 159.

District Director reports continued.

The meeting was recessed at 10:14 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

**Chairmen Reports**

Chairmen Coordinator Bob Gordon introduced the chairmen who reported. See Attachment D.

President Sue Bennett announced that convention-related bylaw Article XI. Section 1. Could not be acted upon since the location and date of the 2017 convention are not yet resolved.

President Sue Bennett announced that Joan Craig and Robin Pokorski have been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the 2016-2022 term.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Krystal Migliore was congratulated in becoming President-Elect at the close of convention.

The meeting was recessed at 11:41 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

Convention Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the Final Credentials Report with a total voting strength of 120 and moved its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Convention Registrar Launa Gould gave the Final Registration Report with a final registration of 203 (with 200 in attendance).

Courtesy Resolutions Chairman Joan Craig read the Courtesy Resolution and moved its adoption. **Motion Passed.** See Attachment E.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Sine Die.

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

## **Attachment A, 85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes Officers' Reports**

### **Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski**

Since Winter Board Meeting, this officer has reviewed the minutes of that meeting, worked with the president on agendas for this convention, reviewed and updated convention rules of order, participated in the work of the Bylaws and Policy Committee, given advice to the Nominating Committee and responded to inquiries and requests from several garden clubs. I have been asked to make parliamentary rulings, so I remind you that parliamentarians are consultants and advisors – it is presiding officers who make rulings.

This officer also served as convention credentials chairman and thanks those club presidents who responded to the request sent with the call to convention to submit credentials forms in all cases where presidents, their alternates and/or club delegates were planning to attend convention. The result was not as good as last year when 42 forms were submitted. This year 20 forms were submitted without prodding and nine more were received based on this officer's follow-up outreach to clubs. Remember that club members cannot just designate themselves as delegates. They must be elected or appointed to represent the club and the club must formally inform us of this information.

Nominating Committees are very important in helping determine the future of any organization. Please help our Nominating Committee by letting them know if you are willing to take a leadership role in the next administration and if you know of candidates who should be considered for leadership roles.

Prepare for the next convention. All districts other than the seven districts represented on the Nominating Committee this term will be eligible for representation on the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee that will be elected at the next convention. Prepare in advance to identify candidates from your districts. They must attend all board meetings and conventions. They should have some experience, background and history in our organization. If your district offers a candidate, you should have a back-up who can replace a representative from your district if that representative has to resign for any reason.

Parliamentary procedure is a continual learning process. This officer has attended Leap Into Leadership workshops in Nevada, Arizona, and Michigan and presented a parliamentary workshop at the recent Pacific Region convention and will present one next month at the convention of Montana Federation of Garden Clubs.

### **Communications Director, Jane McKee**

Facebook:

- We average 1500-2000 “views” per month
- Of those approximately 60% click on a photo or link
- Most popular postings involve floral design

Annual Contact Information Forms: Only 33 have been submitted for 2016-17 to date

Newsletters: *Golden Gardens eNews* and WACONIAH subscriptions are holding steady at about 2600 each; Council Thymes is up a bit to 850.

### **Corresponding Secretary, Carolyn Hoyum**

CGCI Corresponding Secretary and Calendar Chairman, member of Cascade District and Anderson Valley Garden Club Report

This chairman has written and sent 4 condolences as per CGCI President Sue Bennett's direction since the last meeting. Also a box of See's Candy and a “Most Happy Retirement” card to NGC Administrative

Assistant, Kathy Romine.

The call was sent out by the Communications Director for the CGCI 2016 Convention in Irvine. This Corresponding Secretary sent via snail mail, 4 copies to those without email.

**President, Sue Bennett**

It is my honor and privilege to have with us NGC President, Sandy Robinson – welcome.

A few items this President would like to highlight

- 1) Pacific Region is not going away! – was the message we received at the Pacific Region Convention in Henderson, Nevada and the message the President is spreading. Those in attendance were told we would hear something within six months regarding status of EIN and Group Tax Exemption.
- 2) Your president presented the same report at both the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan and the Pacific Region (adjusted within time limits) explaining how CGCI is trying something new when it comes to board meetings and conventions. My report
  - a. There is no longer a one-day attendance registration fee, unless you are a district worker or spouse you pay the same registration fee as a full-time attendee. For convenience and less confusion, the registration and hotel deadline date is the same, thus only one date for members to have to remember. The “Package Plan” for registration, which is discounted from the part-time plan, has been successful and is being continued.
  - b. We have scheduled “open discussions” during our Business Meetings encouraging all members to participate. Two topics in particular to mention: 1) change from having three meetings to two meetings per year - the message was clear from the board members present they wanted to keep three meetings; 2) Season’s Greetings reinstated – again, the message was clear and did not come thru the Executive Committee but the board members, reinstate Season’s Greetings, a tradition where members/clubs/ districts contribute monies to place a holiday greeting in our Golden Gardens eNewsletter.
  - c. Inviting local “donor” organizations to attend a luncheon or dinner. Members are excited to meet representatives from the organizations while the representatives learn more about CGCI.
  - d. In our Rules of Order, we have a new item #8 that I will read. All electronic devices shall be muted during board meeting functions. A person will donate five (5) dollars towards the President’s Project when an interruption occurs.
  - e. At the Convention in May, the *CGCI District Awards* will be presented at the afternoon Business Meeting. The *CGCI Special Awards, Pacific Region* and *National Awards* will be presented that evening at the Awards Banquet. Hopefully this change will allow more attendees to participate in all award ceremonies.
  - f. To educate our attendees, the President’s theme of “Growing Minds, Planting Seeds” is emphasized --what better way to say “Thank You” and give them a Chia Pet, in this case a Chia Head. We have a contest and the person with the shortest hair donates monies to the President’s Project.
- 3) Your president learns from attending both Regional and National as well and brings ideas home. Ideas you will see in the Golden Garden eNewsletter over the next few months.
- 4) California has almost twice as many members (21,346) as the second largest state (Massachusetts 11,304) and we (CGCI) are looked to for direction/guidance. A good example was my report at the Pacific Region President’s Meeting, asking how we achieved some of this.
- 5) Another example was former CGCI Presidents, Robin Pokorski and Maryanne Lucas gave workshops at Region as well.
- 6) Your president learns a lot from traveling to your district/club events. I look forward to traveling to Southern California in June.
- 7) I am grateful for all the members.



## Attachment B, 85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes Committee Reports

### **Advisory Council Chairman, Rita Desilets**

The Advisory Council met to review one policy item from the Bylaws and Policy Committee. The wording approved by the Advisory Council reads:

**“All expenses incurred due to misuse of CGCI's EIN shall be charged to the offending organization.”**

The Council provided suggestions for improving continuity in CGCI:

1. Contact the District Directors who took “time off” after their term to see if they are willing to serve as an officer or chairman.
2. Invite the CGCI Presidents to meet with the Advisory Council.
3. The Executive Committee could meet during the summer to develop a cohesive team.

### **Board of Trustees Chairman, Julie West**

The Principal endowment accounts were closed April 7, 2016 and Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund endowment accounts opened April 28, 2016 with monies from Principal as approved by the Board of Directors at CGCI's winter board meeting. The Board of Trustees are working with Bob Gordon and Jane McKee on an endowment brochure that promotes both the CGCI and Scholarship Endowments. We hope to have the printed brochure available by the Fall Board Meeting.

### **Life Membership Chairman Carlotta Wixon CGCI**

Herigstad, Lela	Desert Empire District
Clark, Sandra	Palms to Pines District
Sutliff, Mary Jane	Sacramento River Valley District
Baciocco, Joanne	Bay Ocean District
Cooper, Irene	Orange County District
Stone, Alberta	Luther Burbank District
Brown, Mary	Luther Burbank District
Appleyard, Elizabeth	CostaVerde District
Petersen, Dorothy	Luther Burbank District
Smart, Pamela	Orange County District
Hill, Doreen	Orange County District
Buratti, Ilona	San Fernando Valley District

### **Pacific Region**

Hoskins, Dee	Channel Islands District
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### **National Garden Clubs**

Slafer, Alexis	Costa Verde District
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### **Scholarships, Martha Smyser**

The Scholarship Committee voted to award the \$2,000 Robert Gordon Scholarship to Benjamin Brown, a junior at Cal Poly-Pomona who is studying Plant Science and Environmental Biology. The \$2,000 Rita Desilets Scholarship was awarded to Rebecca Hendricks, a first year graduate student in Organismal Biology at Cal State San Jose. Rebecca was also awarded a Scholarship by the National Garden Club. Irene Lona, a Cal State Chico graduate student with a focus on Entomology won both a Pacific Region and an NGC Scholarship. This chairman thanks the Bonita Valley and the Hermosa Garden Clubs for donations to the CGCI Scholarship Fund.

## **Attachment C, 85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes District Director Reports**

### **Arboretum District, Emily Wisneski**

The Arboretum District had a successful Spring Luncheon. At the luncheon there was a plant and white elephant sale, a silent auction and an opportunity to win plants that were donated by our speaker. This event greatly benefited our bank account.

As fund raisers the Monrovia and Sierra Made clubs partnered with other civic groups in their city. Monrovia partnered with the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group. The club provided docents for home tours. In turn the garden club had a plant sale at one of the house museums. Sierra Madre took part in the community Art Fair. They had a booth at the fair selling plants, which was a great success.

### **Bay Bridges District, Bonnie Smith**

Our district is located within the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa. Clubs participate in a myriad of events and affairs to promote gardening, membership, awareness, and education. The Bay Bridges District hosted California Garden Clubs, Inc. President, Sue Bennett, at its District Luncheon Meeting, April 28<sup>th</sup>. President Bennett's shared project was the program. We dined, and toured The Lakeside Gardens conducted by The Hillside Gardeners of Montclair. District Director's goals: help clubs achieve goals, bring knowledge and resources of our NGC, CGCI, PR organizations to our district, bring our clubs together to share their unique "Beautiful Bay Area Living" experience.

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

One district club (Carolands Garden Club) which had been weakening for several years began a series of floral design lessons to address the personal interest of individual members. Over time, focus on this shared activity and work on periodic flower shows strengthened camaraderie while their skill levels and sense of accomplishment increased. The newly positive relationship with focus on fun and learning drew friends to meetings, resulting in a steadily increasing membership.

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

California is in its fifth year of a drought, which means water conservation is a high priority for clubs in our district. Club speakers amplify this with members. Drought tolerant plants have been chosen for civic beautification to differ water use. Club plant sales feature succulents, and a garden tour includes homes with low water use landscaping. Additionally, clubs continue to raise money to award scholarships to E.H. or agriculture students, who are our future planners and business owners. Plus, horticultural shows at our four local county fairs provide a way for our clubs to participate in a flower show.

### **Cascade District, Kathy Bramhall**

Spring, Cascade District Garden Clubs do what they do best—Plant Sales, Garden Tours, Flower Shows, and Community Service Projects (including Scholarships and Garden Therapy).

Red Bluff Garden Club's "exchange" with Lake Oroville Area Garden Club. We toured Hearthstone Charter School's project of raised beds of fruits and vegetables, trees, and composting, directed by Matthew Trumm. Toured Butte County Administration Building's atrium garden maintained by LOAGC. Toured LOAGC President's home and hillside garden. Shared lunch, and our installation ceremony.

Come January 29-February 1, 2017 as CASCADE District hosts the CGCI Winter Board Meeting at the unique Gaia Hotel, in Anderson!

### **Channel Islands District, Lisa Cosand**

The District Luncheon was held May 10 with the following clubs attending: Conejo Valley, Ojai, Organic Gardening, Pleasant Valley and Westlake Village. The Presidents had voted in February to donate \$6,000

of district funds to 3 local gardens: Ventura Botanic, Conejo Botanic and the new Veterans Garden at the Westlake YMCA. Representatives of each garden gave a description of their projects.

The clubs are very active: hands-on fun creating pumpkins with succulent hair, very charitable with the community raising money with teas, tours and selling wreaths, and encouraging youth gardens.

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

Costa Verde District hosted Winter Board, San Pedro, Port of Los Angeles, January 31- February 3, 2016, Hilton Doubletree Hotel. Co-chairwomen: Alexis Slafer, Gudrun Kimmel. Registrations: 147 CGCI record breaking number of volunteers: 79.

Raffle baskets: 26.

\$650 in silver multi-rose handbag presented to Sue Bennett at Winter Board for President's Project.

Four main clubs donated \$1,000 scholarships.

Long Beach Garden Club-Life Membership-Elizabeth Applegate

Riviera, Long Beach Garden Clubs won top awards from National, Pacific Region, CGCI.

District Director Kitty Guzman's three year term ended, Gudrun Kimmel installed as District Director at Convention.

### **Diablo Foothills District, Marlene Kinney**

It is with much regret that I accepted the dissolution of the Concord Garden Club. This decision was made by the remaining few based on ageing members, passing of some, and others moving on to another phase in their lives. There are plans in the works to honor the Concord Garden Club.

I am happy to announce that I was able to meet one of my goals this year by arranging a Group Tax Exemption Workshop with speakers Krystal Migliore CGCI 1<sup>st</sup> VP and CGCI Group Tax Exemption Chairman, and George Perko, CPA and CGCI Tax Advisor. All in attendance went home with more than they were expecting.

The Clayton Valley Garden Club had another very successful plant sale in spite of the rain. The proceeds from their annual plant sale helps to finance different projects at schools, the Hoop House, and Civic Beautification. Clayton Valley Garden Club delivered 1,230 gifts of love and compassion for Valentine's Day in the fifth year of the Blossoms for Barbara project.

The Livermore-Amador community service project, The Eden Project Organic Garden has two simple goals: To provide fresh, organic produce to those in need and to provide a place where people can learn to grow their own food. Last year they donated over 2000 pounds of produce.

### **Humboldt District, Chuck Goodwin**

The District Director reported on the activities of the Humboldt District during the 2015-2016 year. President Sue Bennett and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Krystal Migliore visited the District. Several clubs were recognized for their projects, including receiving CGCI awards. Flower shows of state-wide impact were held. CGCI members were invited to attend an International Heather Conference in August, and the CGCI Fall Board Meeting, hosted by Humboldt District, September 7-9, 2016.

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

CGCI President Sue Bennett was LBD's guest in February. 75 people attended the meeting, the largest attendance this term.

This Director is pleased to report that we have now completed the last course of series 26 of Landscape Design School! It has been quite a journey starting with the process of obtaining approval for 3 new instructors from NGC. At the conclusion of the course we visited an outstanding garden designed by Sara Malone. Wish you could all have seen it. Citations of Appreciation were issued to the six members of the committee.

### **Mendo-Lake District, Gary Bodensteiner**

CLTT Garden Club hosted the winter 2016 Mendo Lake District meeting and thirty members attended. District Director Bodensteiner answered question about the non-profit status of garden clubs. Mary Welch spoke about growing roses in Lake County.

Gladdy Bransford thanked the Willits Garden Club for a \$500 donation to rebuild their garden destroyed by the valley fire.

On April 24, 2016, the ML District plant sale raised \$400.

May 9, 2016, Willits garden club members attended a picnic attended by past directors Virginia Stranske and Rhea Pitchard.

The call letter for the June 22, 2016 ML meeting was sent.

**Montana De Oro District, Millie Benson** First of all our big drive is to get prepared for the June 2017 Convention. With Sue here on June 17 we will try to work out a site, hopefully in SLO.

We have 6 Garden Clubs, 4 of which are active with various local projects from local beautification, educational programs, water conservation projects, and scholarships.

This weekend is the two day cactus and succulent sale in SLO. That's their big fund raiser. Cayucos garden club raises money for scholarships. They have a large, and very successful Table Setting Lunch, silent auction and raffle every other year. In between they do raffles to provide food baskets and toys at the Holidays.

Paso Robles Garden Club has 21 different committees, doing fundraisers for scholarships for local High Schools. Floral Design has a large flower show in Morro Bay each year. They were the big winners with design awards this year.

Los Osos Garden Club had their plant and flower sale rained out but held the next weekend. We made \$1000.00. We gave two \$750.00 scholarships to local High school grads. We plan on selling left over plants and planters in Pismo at the Crafts Faire.

I'm going to work with a friend who runs a "Days for Girls" group, which I volunteer with, to have the Girl Scouts work on a president's project at a local elementary school.

Again our District's major focus will be planning for the 2017 Garden Club Convention!

### **San Fernando Valley District, Rita Desilets**

San Fernando Valley District is fulfilling our theme: "Growing Together." Clubs are increasing membership by providing a variety of programs, activities and special events.

A club sent complimentary tickets to their annual tea to each club president.

Another club program called "Civic Beauty" recognizes beautiful landscaping at two residences and one business. This year the Fallbrook Shopping Center was the business chosen. The owner attended the meeting and was so impressed with the students receiving scholarships that he donated \$5,000 for future scholarships.

Our District project, the Speakers' Directory, has been electronically distributed. This valuable resource contains information about 35 speakers and programs.

### **Santa Clara District, Roseanne Costabile**

Santa Clara Valley clubs hold plant sales and tours as major fundraisers. Funds are used throughout the year for community outreach, education projects and scholarships.

South Valley Fleurs, Gardeners' Club and San Jose Garden granted scholarships and "seed money" to 10 schools and organizations. The organizations work urban farms, supplying fresh vegetables to low income individuals.

Outreach by Marina Tree & Garden includes educational workshops & information tables where participants are encouraged to "dig in". Providing flower arrangements to a hospice care facility, Ikebana International creates a calming environment for patients.

Gardening and sharing our knowledge through outreach builds community.

### **Sequoia Foothills District, Brenda Leal**

Sequoia Foothills District is a prime example of how the 'Drought' has affected our home of the Central Valley. All of our Clubs have to adjust to this way of life when it comes to our gardening habits. It affects our way of thinking, regarding the long term planning of the landscape, its maintenance and enjoyment we receive from our efforts.

Home Garden Tours, visits to local nurseries, programs and education within our Clubs are largely centered on the realization of the lack of unending sources of water for our gardening needs. Rethinking the kinds of plants, hardscape and the overall planning and final project is universal to our Valley. Succulents have always been out there for our enjoyment. Now they are very popular with most gardeners. Succulents, California Natives and drought tolerant plants are in the lime light. Surprisingly, we are finding that these plants provide so much color and beauty in our environment without much water or even as much care. I continually find gardeners that do not know how beautiful these plants can be in their home gardens and landscape.

Garden Tours are used for fundraising, of course and providing a wonderful event for enjoyment of what we love. This season, as in the recent past, it is very apparent that a wonderful garden, large or small can consist of roses, trees, shrubs, ground cover, bulbs, and all the usual plants that provide color, shade and the esthetics nature lover's desire and be water-wise. With the fact that these plants don't require the gallons of water that this Valley does not provide now is the reason to consider changes.

Hanford Garden Club hosted their very successful Garden Tour this April. It was mentioned from every home owner that including plants that require less water in their gardens were very much a priority to them. Sequoia Garden Club hosted their 2nd Lawn-Free Tour. Wonderful examples of homeowners that embraced their special space and enjoy what they have created, lowering the use of water significantly.

Even the Fresno Master Gardeners Garden Tour was a great example to incorporating the less thirsty varieties in with the cherished plants that need more water. Every drop not used makes a difference.

There are so many contributions that these amazing plants bring into our environment. Birds, good insects, great pollinators which provide beauty while doing their job in nature.

Our clubs provide education through knowledgeable speakers, trips, and programs that give inspiration to our communities and children. These tools are the backbone to sustaining our home for the next generation who will be responsible for the care of our Valley. Clubs in Sequoia Foothills District do much more than think about water use, of course. But what is more important than a resource that every human requires in this world.

### **Valley Lode District, Judy Scheppmann**

The Valley Lode District is comprised of 19 clubs, and 1474 members. Our Spring District Meeting was sponsored by the Foothills Garden Club on May 10, 2016. It was Western-themed, and many of the 100 + attended were garbed in Western regalia.

Many of our clubs have been very successful holding tours of member's gardens. Some hold unique, and spectacular Decorated Table events. Others have arranged tours of special Public Gardens. Many clubs award scholarships, prizes, and certificates to students in our communities. Report submitted by Pamela Fish, Assistant Director

### **Yosemite Gateway District, Mary Brooks**

There are four clubs in the Yosemite Gateway District: Atwater, Butterfly Garden Club-Mariposa, LeGrand and Merced. These 167 members are very active and have two District Meetings each year. All four clubs provide scholarships for high school and college student. They have fund raising activities that include garden tours, speaker luncheons, plant sales and flower shows. Two of the clubs have Blue Star markers in their community. This Fall Merced Garden Club will rededicate their Blue Star marker--the original one was damaged and donated to the Merced County Museum. LeGrand Garden Club is in the planning stages for their marker. All clubs were honored with Blue Ribbon Achievement Awards.

## **Attachment D, 85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**

### **Chairmen Reports**

#### **Calendar, Official, Carolyn Hoyum**

As Calendar Chairman it has been determined there will be one past set of dates possibly ratified along with 4 new dates over the next year. Rather an interesting task when there are so many other preset dates and entities with which to deal.

#### **California Consultants Council, Julie West**

Nine CCC awards have been issued between July 1, 2015 and May 15, 2016 including two Outstanding Private Gardens, two Landscape Design Recognition of Achievement Awards, three Landscape Design Commendations and two Awards of Merit in Landscape Architecture. Applications for these awards are available on CGCI's website with a 30 day minimum lead time requested.

Eight students from Series 26 of Landscape Design School sponsored by Luther Burbank District have joined the CCC. Total membership of Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants is now 43.

The *Council Thymes* is the CCC's eNewsletter published three times a year. While the CCC may only have 43 members in total, the May 2016 issue was distributed to 820 subscribers!

#### **Donation Coordinator, Julie West**

For the period of July 1, 2015 through May 15, 2016, twenty IRS acknowledgement letters have been issued for donations received at CGCI's post office box address totaling \$2,800 for the following CGCI projects and programs:

- Rare Plant Treasure Hunt - \$200
- Sempervirens Fund - \$1,025
- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park - \$750
- Reforestation & Restoration - \$475
- Blue Star Memorial Markers - \$100
- CGCI Scholarship - \$250
- Each individual chairman is responsible for acknowledging all donations in *Golden Garden eNews*.

#### **Flower Show Awards, Pat Clayes**

Since January 2016, two small standard, eight standard, one all horticulture and one non-standard flower shows were registered with this Chairman. And now there is interest in a Table Setting Competition in the fall.

Did you know that there is a specific form that is actually required to register flower shows? Although this chairman has been accepting all kinds of notifications, from now on, this form must be completed when registering a show. You can find it on our website under Awards/Awards General/ Misc. Information.

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

Series 25, sponsored by Colfax GC, continued with Course II in March and Course III in May. Course IV will be September 17-18. There are only two more opportunities for Gardening Consultants to refresh this year: at Colfax Course IV and at the H.E.R.E. Bi-Refresher in Eureka in August. Gardening Consultants can be resources for programs, workshops and information in your clubs. Know them and invite them to participate. A new school series 26 is needed. Holding any NGC school can be a great team project for a club or district. As Luther Burbank District mentioned, you can make money from sponsoring a school.

### **Garden Therapy, Martha Smyser**

Congratulations to the Del Norte Garden Club of North Orange County. The club was awarded First Prize in Garden Therapy at the just completed CGCI Convention. While many clubs do Garden Therapy programs throughout the year, only Del Norte applied for an award. This chairman hopes to encourage more clubs to undertake Garden Therapy activities and to take advantage of the CGCI awards program that recognizes outstanding work.

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

This Chair is pleased to report that the 26<sup>th</sup> series of the CGCI Landscape Design Schools sponsored by Luther Burbank District concluded in April and was a great success. Check with this Chair regarding questions about your credentials.

Our 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 districts with sponsoring a new Landscape Design School.

### **Liability Insurance Consultant, Julie West**

There have been many challenges faced with requirements by CGCI's insurance company, Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC). A copy of a written contract is now required for ALL Additional Insured endorsement requests including garden tours, facility use agreements, etc. As soon as any contract is signed, send it with the request form completed and payment. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE** - allow a **MINIMUM** of 30 days.

Those who participate in CGCI's liability program are required to contact CGCI's Liability Insurance Chairman, Shane Looper, not CGCI's insurance agent directly. Last but not least, **DO NOT** take out frustration on CGCI's Liability Insurance Chairman or shoot the messenger. The chairman is a volunteer, just like you.

### **Membership Administrative Assistant, Rita Desilets**

This chairmanship involves collecting dues from clubs, APS and Affiliates. CGCI dues will be \$2.75 for the 2016-2017 term. Dues are due July 1 and become delinquent October 1. Please submit dues prior to the CGCI Fall Board meeting so that membership cards can be given to District Directors for distribution rather than mailing them. This year five extra cards will be included for each club to save the cost of mailing just a few cards when additional members are reported.

### **NGC President's Project – Leap Into Leadership, Robin Pokorski**

The NGC Leap into Leadership team is busy collecting leadership materials from across the country on the Leadership pages of the NGC website. There is a wealth of information available on there – from handouts and program outlines to complete PowerPoint presentations – all of which clubs and districts are welcome to use. All of these resources are also on our CGCI website. The team's workshops are being held in Nevada, Arizona, Oklahoma, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arkansas, Michigan and Washington. The seminars include tips and techniques on parliamentary procedure, mentoring, difficult personnel, minutes, budgets, publicity and much more.

### **NGC President's Project - Monarch Watch, Julie West**

Pollinators need help in our gardens. Whether you garden in containers, your backyard or on a parcel of land, planting the right plants in your garden equals habitat success. *Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden* is an educational publication available on NGC's website for free downloading to help you succeed.

*Pollinator Power* is NGC's newest free electronic publication for youth education and adults can learn from it, too. It includes information on bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, etc. Take

advantage of these two free publications available at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). “Leap into Action” by helping our pollinators survive having the right plants in your garden and community.

### **Sempervirens Fund, Rosa Radicchi**

Sempervirens Fund held a 116 yr. Anniversary picnic on May 14, 2016 at Castle Rock, the Gateway for Silicon Valley. This chair volunteered and helped park cars! The sign at Big Basin for the CGCI Conservation Education Grove, dedicated in 1976-78 term, was damaged in 2015. Judy Unrine, Reforestation and Restoration Chair, is working to help us with funds to repair the sign. Once the sign is repaired, we'll plan a dedication event. Hope you will join us! Thank you for your continued donations & support!

### **Water, Rebecca Ferguson**

After 5 years of drought as noted in several of the District Director reports, including Brenda Leal and Mary Brooks, extraordinary measures are being required to retrieve this liquid gold. Aquifers are being depleted and drilling to 1,000 to 2,000 Ft. depth is required in some areas of the state. Land is subsiding due to lack of water in the soil. Water in these aquifers is considered a NON-RENEWABLE resource.

As representatives of CGCI we need to be in the forefront of our communities by:

Setting an example by conserving water and gardening wisely.

Identifying conservation resources (speakers, workshops, literature).

Becoming more knowledgeable about our options for our future. Teaching others on how to conserve and garden wisely.

Even if all reservoirs are full we will probably never again have the abundant water available to waste. California needs a STATE Water Policy taking into consideration the needs of our farmers, manufacturing and our towns and cities. Become involved.



**Attachment E, 85<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**Courtesy Resolutions**

**California Garden Clubs, Inc. 2016 Convention**  
**Hotel Irvine, Irvine, California**

**WHERE AS,**

The members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. attending the 85th Annual Convention "Planting Seeds for the Future" at Hotel Irvine, Irvine, California, May 18-22, 2016 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, Sue Bennett, the officers, chairmen and members have served this organization with distinction, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,**

That CGCI President Sue Bennett, 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 Dana Point VFW Post 9934 Color guard for opening this meeting with dignity; and

**RESOLVED,**

That sincere appreciation be extended to our special guest National Garden Clubs' President Sandra H. Robinson for gracing this convention with her presence and inspirational message; and

**RESOLVED,**

That sincere thanks be given to the Orange County District Director Elaine Davis and Chairman of the Convention, Annie Hall Bosche', as well as all of their committee chairmen--- especially those involved with the lovely table designs, gift bags, raffle baskets, special tour to Sherman Library and Gardens and shopping trip to Roger's garden---and all the District Clubs who planned and participated in the success of the meeting and assured its success by their many courtesies extended; and

**RESOLVED,**

That special appreciation be given to our speakers and workshop presenters: Baldo Villegas, Entomologist and master consulting rosarian; Price Sheppy, Marin Community Program Manager for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy; Susie Vanderlip, Monarch Butterfly Citizen Scientist; Kathe Hayden, Floral Design Instructor and Florist; Pat Wilson McDaniel, Specialty Broker for McDaniel Insurance Services LLC; Dalia Brunner, Garden Designer, YouTube presenter and speaker with Roger's Garden of Newport Beach; and workshop designers Jeanne Yale, Natalie Harlow-Alison, and Jorja Puma, and

**RESOLVED,**

That appreciation also be extended to the Judges Council for the lovely table arrangements at the Judges Council Banquet; and to the entire staff of the Hotel Irvine for their many courtesies extended; and

**RESOLVED,**

That this resolution be incorporated into the minutes and that copies be sent to our CGCI President Sue Bennett, the District Director Elaine Davis, Convention Chairman Annie Hall Bosche', Secretary Gail Vanderhorst and the staff of the Hotel Irvine.

(adopted May 22, 2016)

Joan Craig, Courtesy Resolutions Chairman