

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the 2017 Convention
Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo, California
Wednesday, May 31 – Friday June 2, 2017
Host: Montana De Oro District
President Susan C. Bennett

Business Meeting #1

President Sue Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31.

The Recording Secretary was present.

Honor Book Chairman Deedee Speer led the NGC Conservation Pledge.

President Sue Bennett introduced the 2015-2017 Executive Committee and welcomed the former CGCI presidents in attendance: Mary Lou Goodwin (1991-1993), Robert Gordon (2003-2005), Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009) and Rita Desilets (2013-2015).

President Sue Bennett honored the Circle of Poppies members in attendance: Myrtle Findley, Joan Craig and Janet Eyre.

President Sue Bennett acknowledged those members serving on the 2015-2017 National Garden Clubs Board of Directors and Robin Pokorski, serving as an NGC Officer (Corresponding Secretary). President Sue Bennett announced that CGCI has two members serving as Officers on the 2017-2019 NGC Board of Directors: Corresponding Secretary Robin Pokorski and Historian Shane Looper.

Those members serving on the 2015-2017 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors were acknowledged.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the initial credentials report with a total voting strength of 108 and moved its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

The Chair declared a quorum.

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the initial registration report with total registration of 190.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski read the Convention Rules of Order and moved their adoption. **Motion Passed.**

2017 Convention Chairman Bob Gordon moved to adopt the Convention Program as updated and corrected. **Motion Passed.**

President Sue Bennett thanked the Montana De Oro District for hosting the 2017 Convention.

Without objection, President Sue Bennett appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, Lynne Batchelor and Martha Smyser.

President Sue Bennett announced that the 2016 Convention Minutes were approved at the 2016 Fall Board Meeting.

Financial Report

Interim Treasurer George Perko reported total assets of \$479,542.82, with a cash balance available of \$166,442.96.

Officers' Reports

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Communications Director Jane McKee reported. See Attachment A.

Interim Treasurer George Perko reported on change in accounting method and newly adopted revised Restricted Fund Guidelines.

Interim Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported.

Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Hoyum read a thank you from Sempervirens Fund for a donation of \$1000.00 and two additional notes.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline for reports to be emailed is Monday, June 5, 2017.

3rd Vice President Lynne Batchelor reported on awards. See Attachment A.

Membership Administrative Assistant Rita Desilets deferred her report for 2nd Vice President Rilla Crane to the next business meeting.

President-Elect Krystal Migliore deferred her report to the next business meeting.

President Sue Bennett deferred her report to the next business meeting.

Election of Officers

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the Bylaws (Article VI, Section 1. (c) 1-5) Nominations and Elections on page 86 of the *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

Nominating Committee Chairman Rita Desilets read the slate of proposed officers for the 2017-2019 term of office.

1st Vice President – Charlene Looper

2nd Vice President – Lynne Batchelor

3rd Vice President – Martha Smyser

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary – Marlene Kinney

Financial Secretary – Launa Gould

Treasurer – George Perko

Communications Director – Jane McKee

President Sue Bennett announced the Election Board appointments from the 2017 Winter Board Meeting as required by Article VI Sec. 1 (c) Elections 3. on page 86 of the 2016-2017 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

Chairman – Robin Pokorski

Teller #1 – Rita Desilets

Teller #2 – Alexis Slafer

Clerk – George Perko

Judge – Greg Pokorski

President Sue Bennett asked for nominations from the floor for the above offices and there being none for any office, declared nominations closed for each office.

President Sue Bennett reported the Bylaws Article VI, Section 1 (c) 4. states that if there is only candidate for each office, the election shall be held by voice vote. The vote was cast by voting cards.

Palomar District Director George Speer moved to elect the entire slate by one vote. **Motion Passed.**

President Sue Bennett presented the entire slate for election. **Motion Passed.**

The following nominees were elected:

1st Vice President – Charlene Looper

2nd Vice President – Lynne Batchelor

3rd Vice President – Martha Smyser

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary – Marlene Kinney

Financial Secretary – Launa Gould

Treasurer – George Perko

Communications Director – Jane McGee

These officers will serve with Krystal Migliore who now serves as President-Elect and will serve as President for the 2017-2019 term of office.

Election of Nominating Committee

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the Bylaws (Article VI, Section 2) regarding election of the Nominating Committee for the 2017-2019 term.

President Sue Bennett announced that members from these districts are ineligible to serve on the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee: Buttes, Channel Islands, Desert Empire, Golden Foothills, Orange County, Santa Clara Valley and Valley Lode.

The following were nominated:

Sue Bennett, Sacramento River Valley District

Milly Benson, Montana De Oro District

Carolyn Hoyum, Cascade District

Marlene Kinney, Diablo Foothills District

Brenda Leal, Sequoia Foothills District

Bonnie Smith, Bay Bridges District

Kathy Taylor de Murillo, Palomar District

President-Elect Krystal Migliore moved to close nominations. **Motion Passed.**

Registrar Robin Pokorski moved to elect the above nominees to the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee. **Motion Passed.**

Memorial Service

Member Award of Distinction Chairman Mike Gould and Interim Financial Secretary Launa Gould conducted a Memorial Service.

The meeting was recessed at 5:20 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting was reconvened at 9:46 a.m. Thursday, June 1, 2017.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the interim credentials report with a voting strength of 111 and moved for its adoption. **Motion passed.**

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the interim registration report with total registration of 190.

Price Sheppy, from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy updated the members on Project Mission Blue Phase 2.

Officers' Reports (continued)

Membership Administrative Assistant Rita Desilets reported for 2nd Vice President Rilla Crane.

Membership:

Number paid as of Thursday, May 18, 2017

Clubs 271 paid – 16,643 members

APS: 60 paid (2 pending ratification) – 3.968 members

Affiliates: 11 paid

Total: 342 organizations; 20,611 members

President-Elect Krystal Migliore reported on Board Meetings and Conventions.

President Sue Bennett reported. See Attachment A.

CGCI and NGC Leadership Chairman Robin Pokorski presented a PowerPoint invitation to the 2018 NGC Convention in Philadelphia.

Timekeeper Jeanne Desilets was introduced and gave the time allotted (five minutes) for giving reports.

Committee Reports

Awards Co-Chairman Lynne Batchelor reported on the distribution of Awards.

Awards Co-Chairman Robert Gordon reported on the work of and dissolution of the Awards Task Force Committee.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Krystal Migliore reported and moved on behalf of the Bylaws & Policy Committee to adopt the following bylaws amendments as recommended by the Board of Directors at the Winter Board Meeting and as recommended by the Executive Committee.

1) ARTICLE V (page 85)

Now Reads:

Sec. 6. The financial secretary shall: (a) issue authorization, using the warrant system, to the treasurer for all budgeted expenses, transfers of funds, and for payment of all bills authorized by the board of directors; **Amend by** moving “using the warrant system” up to after “(a)” and before “issue authorization”, delete comma after “issue authorization”, deleting the word “budgeted”, and after “transfer of funds,” insert “payment of awards,” No change to remaining sections.

To read:

Sec. 6. The financial secretary shall: (a) using the warrant system, issue authorization to the treasurer for all expenses, transfers of funds, payment of awards, and for payment of all bills authorized by the board of directors;

Rationale:

Only the financial secretary authorizes issuing checks via the warrant system. The awards chairman needs to go through the financial secretary to follow procedures established between the financial secretary and treasurer as part of CGCI's checks and balances. No individual has authorization to go directly to the treasurer requesting checks be issued without first requesting payment through the financial secretary to issue a warrant to the treasurer authorizing the transaction.

Motion Passed.

2) ARTICLE V (page 85)

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; (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.

Amend by inserting text from e) “upon receipt of authorization from the financial secretary, issue checks for payment of bills” to beginning of existing “(d)” and before “sign all checks;” thus deleting “e”, and before “sign all

checks;” insert “and to award winners; transfer funds;” and delete “f)” upon receipt of authorization from the awards chairman issue checks to award winners;”. Then renumber (g) and (h).

To read:

ARTICLE V

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) upon receipt of authorization from the financial secretary, issue checks for payment of bills and to award winners; transfer funds; and sign all checks; (e) prepare financial statements for the board of directors’ meetings; and (f) monitor bank accounts to ensure they do not exceed the limit insured by the FDIC.

Rationale:

To conform with changes recommended for #1.

Motion Passed.

3) New Article XVI – CIRCLE OF POPPIES

To read:

The Circle of Poppies was established in 2005 to honor those who have given extraordinary length of service to CGCI. Membership requires recommendation by the Executive Committee and approval by the Board of Directors which may occur at any meeting.

Membership confers a permanent ex officio position on the Board of Directors which includes all privileges, voting, making motions and holding positions but without the obligation of attendance. A member of the Circle of Poppies is not counted in determining the number required for a quorum or whether a quorum is present at a meeting, unless they also hold another position on the Board of Directors.

Current articles XVI, XVII, XVIII, and XIX to be renumbered. (pages 91 and 92)

Rationale: To define Circle of Poppies in the bylaws and eliminate negative impact on quorum when Circle members do not attend meetings.

Motion Passed.

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

Contingent upon approval of New Article XVI – CIRCLE OF POPPIES.

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. 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.

Amend by inserting “(ex officio)” after “(g) members of the Circle of Poppies” delete “(h) editor and members of the Golden Gardens eNews committee;” and renumber (i) to (h).

To read:

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 (ex officio); and (h) 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: Same as #3. and Golden Gardens eNews does not have a committee.

Motion Passed.

5) Article XII (pages 90-91)

Now Reads:

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.

Amend by replacing “A special review may” with “An internal audit or external review shall” in the last sentence. Replace the “.” With a “,”“in a financial office.” then add “that report to be presented for action at the next meeting of the board of directors”.

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. An internal audit or external review shall be ordered by the executive committee in the event of a vacancy in a financial office, that report to be presented for action at the next meeting of the board of directors.

Rationale: Should a vacancy occur in the office of financial secretary or treasurer, the records shall be reviewed versus may (or may not). The executive committee shall choose to order either an internal auditor an external review. In making the decision the executive committee may consider the situation and the costs involved. This assures the new financial officer and the board of directors that the new officer may start at any point in the term, and be confident of the balances to that point.

Motion Passed.

6) ARTICLE IV (page84-85)

Now Reads:

Sec. 3. All dues are payable on July 1 and delinquent on October1. Dues shall be payable to CGCI and mailed to the membership chairman who shall transfer the funds promptly to the treasurer.

(a) Garden clubs and associate plant societies shall pay annual dues of two dollars seventy-five cents (\$2.75) per capita, which shall include dues to NGC.

(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 July1 to the membership chairman (c) Affiliates shall pay annual dues of fifty dollars (\$50.00) regardless of size.

(d) New clubs associate plant societies and affiliates joining CGCI between January 1 and June 30 shall pay one half of the annual dues for the period up to June 30. They shall be ratified at the winter board meeting or the pre-convention meeting and shall be entitled to representation at the convention.

Amend by moving the first sentence “The per capita dues of any new club or associate plant society shall accompany application for membership. “from beginning of (b) and inserting at the beginning of (d) and before “New Clubs, associate plant societies”. No changes to remaining sections.

To Read:

Sec. 3. All dues are payable on July 1 and delinquent on October1. Dues shall be payable to CGCI and mailed to the membership chairman who shall transfer the funds promptly to the treasurer.

(a) Garden clubs and associate plant societies shall pay annual dues of two dollars seventy-five cents (\$2.75) per capita, which shall include dues to NGC.

(b) Clubs or associate plant societies shall forward dues periodically for additional members joining after July1 to the membership chairman.

(c) Affiliates shall pay annual dues of fifty dollars (\$50.00) regardless of size.

(d) The per capita dues of any new club or associate plant society shall accompany application for membership. New clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates joining CGCI between January 1 and June 30 shall pay one half of the annual dues for the period up to June 30.They shall be ratified at the winter board meeting or the pre-convention meeting and shall be entitled to representation at the convention.

Rationale: Since the first sentence pertains to new clubs or associate plant societies, when referring to clubs and associate plant societies in the second sentence it may be assumed that this also pertains to only new clubs or associate plant societies. This may be why the number of clubs and associate plant societies paying for additional member dues has declined when we went to periodic dues.

Motion Passed.

Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman Krystal Migliore reported.

Exploratory Organization Study Committee Chairman Shane Looper reported that they are working on procedures for committee members.

Scholarships Chairman Martha Smyser reported and announced 2017 CGCI and NGC scholarship winners:
Benjamin Reed Brown – NGC Ellamae Fehrer Scholarship
Jennifer D. Yuzon – CGCI Robert L. Gordon Scholarship
Gage Willey – CGCI Rita M. Desilets Scholarship

Yearbook, Manual & Roster Chairman Elisabeth Tufo reported and moved to publish a trial two-year *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* for the upcoming term, 2017-2019. **Motion Passed.**

Executive Committee Recommendations approved by the Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting were read to the convention body.

The meeting was recessed Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 11:52 a.m.

Business Meeting #3

The meeting was reconvened Friday, June 2, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the interim credentials report with a voting strength of 116 and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the interim registration report with total registration of 190.

2017 Convention Chairman Robert Gordon reported for Life Memberships Chairman Carlotta Wixon-Welker and moved for the ratification of the new Life Memberships:

California Garden Clubs Inc. – 17

Pacific Region Garden Clubs – 1

National Garden Clubs Inc. – 3

Motion Passed. See Attachment B.

Special Projects

NGC President's Project – Leap into Leadership Chairman Robin Pokorski reported.

President Sue Bennett reported on her project – Growing Minds, Planting Seeds.

Chairmen Coordinator Robert Gordon introduced those chairmen who reported. See Attachment B.

Yearbook, Manual & Roster Chairman Elisabeth Tufo moved to take some funding (around \$1000.00) from the Honor Book Fund to move to the Reforestation and Restoration line code (to fund the pending Reforestation and Restoration Project). **Motion Passed.**

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

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that we are aware that we cannot comply with Bylaws Article XI, Section 1 (page 89) – place and date of the next convention to be approved by the voting membership because the hotel contract is still in negotiation. Convention will be in Valley Lode District at about this same time next year.

The meeting was recessed at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the final credentials report of 117 voting members and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the final registration report with total registration of 190.

President Sue Bennett thanked the staff at the Embassy Suites Hotel for their service.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Sine Die.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
CGCI Recording Secretary

Attachment A, 86th Convention Minutes Officers' Reports

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

Since Winter Board Meeting, this officer has reviewed the minutes of that meeting, worked with the president and president-elect on agendas for this convention, reviewed and updated convention and board meeting 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.

This officer also served as convention credentials chairman and thanks those club presidents who responded to the request sent to 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 better than last year when 29 forms were submitted. This year 36 forms were submitted, most without prodding, and several 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 in order for these club representatives to have voting privileges.

It is troubling that only 36 clubs from 18 districts are represented. Our challenge is to generate more interest, enthusiasm and participation.

Parliamentary procedure is a continual learning process. This officer will lead a parliamentary workshop tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. Your questions were solicited with the call. Only two were received, but bring them tomorrow and we'll try to de-mystify parliamentary procedure.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve CGCI and President Sue this term and I will have the same role in the new administration.

Communications Director, Jane McKee

The CGCI PayPal account was established and became effective in mid-March. To date we have received four (4) donations via this account for a total of \$1350. One club used the opportunity to donate to five (5) projects!

Membership information and dues: The reminder to submit an Annual Contact Information Form and dues for the coming year has been sent to all club and APS presidents. The forms are starting to arrive and this officer will work with the new Membership Chairman, providing training in Salesforce and all related topics.

Forms:

A new Board of Directors Contact Information Form was created at the request of the President-elect. The form will be used to confirm or update the data for all board members. It is found under Forms and under About CGCI/Board of Directors

A new Penny Pines webform has been created to replace the paper notification form mailed to the CGCI Chairman. Effective July 1 clubs will be asked to use the new form. The form can be printed to be mailed with check to the Forest Service. The notification to the CGCI Chairman will be submitted electronically and will go directly to that chairman eliminating the need for mailing. The webform will also generate a spreadsheet that should simplify creating the monthly report.

Recent email "spoofs": It appears that everyone on the board received the fake email asking for funds to be transferred to an unnamed vendor. A reminder that any message referencing transfer of money is bogus. CGCI never pays bills via "wire" or "bank" transfer. If anyone receives such a message, ignore and delete it. It isn't necessary to alert CGCI officers upon receipt of this type of email.

3rd Vice President, Lynne Batchelor

A huge thank you to the following who ensured the success of the awards program: Bob Gordon, awards committee (Sue Bennett, Jane McKee, Pat Clayes, Charlotte Tucker, Art Loesch, Nancy Lee Loesch), Elisabeth Tufo (finances), Robin Pokorski (certificates), awards task force (Jane McKee, Bob Gordon, Charlotte Tucker, Carolyn Hoyum), Judges, donors, and members who participated/applied for awards.

Our goal was to revamp the awards program to: eliminate/combine awards which had no/few submissions, increase the money awarded, simplify the application process, revise/standardize evaluations. These improvements appear in the new awards manual.

Visit the awards room for program ideas and examples of how to write winning submissions.

President, Sue Bennett

Pacific Region update:

Pacific Region is now called Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. With donations from members it has filed for Group Tax Exemption and obtained its own EIN.

Pacific Region 2018 Convention will be April 6 – 9, Alaska

Peggy Olin Director, Theme: “Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening”

National Garden Clubs, Inc update:

I attended the NGC Convention in Virginia.

We now have a new President, Nancy Hargroves, with a Theme: “Plant America.”

Wonderful Speakers

NABA Update; I read the first paragraph from the letter Julie West sent; stating, due to illness it will come to an end May 31, 2017.

President's Project: Thank you for your donations to the CGCI President's Project. With a goal of \$14,000 and distribution of 14,000 Kits (what women doesn't like 14K), I am happy to say donations are \$16,000+ as of May 23. And press coverage that brought attention to CGCI not only throughout the state but nationwide. The article was featured in the Sacramento Bee, the fifth largest newspaper in CA; along with other newspapers throughout the state. The article also ran in the Boston Tribune and a local paper in Erie, PA to mention a few. Helped raise over \$2,000 and brought in 4,000 kits. Thus, making total kits distributed just shy of 12,000. Thank YOU!

Attachment B, 86th Convention Minutes Chairmen Reports

Administrative Assistant, Rita Desilets

271 clubs with 16,643 members

60 Associate Plant Societies with 3,968 members

11 Affiliates

For a total of 20,611 members.

The following Associate Plant Societies were ratified:

Napa Valley Orchid Society, 94 members, President: Karen Olson

Santa Clara County Camellia Society, 15 members, President: John Mendoza

Flower Show Awards, Patricia Clayes

During the 2016 Awards Year, 8 NGC standard flower shows; 2 NGC small standard flower shows; 1 CGCI all horticulture show; and 1 CGCI table setting competition were registered. Other flower shows which were not registered with this Chairman took place: NGC/CGCI shows; non-NGC/CGCI shows; shows in which CGCI clubs held in conjunction with plant societies, etc. As of this date, 7 NGC standard flower shows; 2 NGC small standard flower shows; and 1 CGCI table setting competition have been registered for the 2017 Awards Year.

Gardening Study Schools, Greg Pokorski

The name of this school was changed at the recent NGC convention from Gardening Study to Gardening School. The only opportunity to refresh this year is the Long Beach Tri-Refresher, October 27-28. We need a Gardening School – a great opportunity for a club/district project to provide education to members and the public. This year NGC has designated National Consultants Day to be observed on any day of National Garden Week – a day to recognize and thank NGC Consultants for completing schools and sharing the knowledge gained. See information in *The Council Thymes*, *Golden Gardens eNews*, *Keeping in Touch*, *The National Gardener* and *WACONIAH*.

Home Grown, Myrtle Findley

Processed or Unprocessed.....This chairman is here to help garden club members, and gardeners to understand the importance of FOOD AS GROWN. More and more information is being published regarding processed food and what the contents of a lot of produce on sale in markets contain.

Then, there is the plant itself. Who grew it? What was added to soil....the seed....the feed....what was the plant fed while it grew?

In our own garden we can control the soil, the water, the feeding.

Let us be growing food in our gardens: fruits, nuts, vegetables, and berries. Every year add something new to eat from your very own garden! You are what you eat.

Honor Book, Deedee Speer

Since the last Convention in 2016 this chairman has not received any donations for the Honor Book. Last year we made a Board and set it up telling about the Honor Book plus this chairman printed up handouts for the Directors, Chairmen and Board members and put them in their mailboxes. This chairman intended on ordering acknowledgement cards and thank you cards for donations but didn't. Thank you for letting me serve as Honor Book Chairman.

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

This Chair is pleased to report that a Tri-refresher – “Reimagining The Existing Garden” -- sponsored by the Long Beach Garden Club, Costa Verde District will be held on October 27-28, 2017. Please check with this Chair regarding questions concerning 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.

Life Memberships, Carlotta Wixon-Welker

The following new life members were ratified at this meeting:

CGCI

Goldberg, Bonnie	Long Beach GC	Costa Verde District
Moore, Chey	Petaluma GC	Luther Burbank District
Allyn, Robyn	Toluca Lake GC	San Fernando Valley District
Howard, Leslie	Atherton GC	Bay Ocean District
Welsh, Madeline	Santa Rosa GC	Luther Burbank District
Aldrich, Mary	Santa Rosa GC	Luther Burbank District
Verdugo, Mavany Calac	Dos Valles GC	Palomar District
Compton, Nancy	River Valley GC	Sacramento River Valley District
Ecker, Rosemary	Southern California GC	San Fernando Valley District
Vallens, Harriet	Southern California GC	San Fernando Valley District
Proett, Jim	San Clemente GC	Orange County District
Weej Baggaley	San Clemente GC	Orange County District
Lana Doyle	San Clemente GC	Orange County District
Darling, Barbara	Petaluma GC	Luther Burbank District
Masseling, Elise	Huntington Harbour GC	Orange County District
Migliore, Krystal	Lake Oroville Area GC	Buttes District
Blair, Beth	Organic GC of Sac. Cty.	Golden Foothills District
Doane, Judy	Westlake Village GC	Channel Islands District

Pacific Region

Hoskins, Dee	Conejo Valley GC	Channel Islands District
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Wagner, Janice	Oasis GC of IWV	Desert Empire District
Aguilar, Karen	Southern California GC	San Fernando Valley District
Crail, Jean	West Valley GC	San Fernando Valley District

Nominating Committee, Rita Desilets

The current members of the 2015-2017 Nominating Committee are as follows:

Janet Eyre	Desert Empire District
Myrtle Findley.....	Golden Foothills District
Carol Jauregui.....	Buttes District
Rosa Raddichi.....	Santa Clara Valley District
Bob Taylor.....	Valley Lode District
Annie Hall Bosché.....	Orange County District

The Committee is proud to present the following slate of officers for the 2017-2019 term.

- Communications Director-Jane McKee
- Treasurer-George Perko
- Financial Secretary-Launa Gould
- Corresponding Secretary-Marlene Kinney
- Recording Secretary-Gail Vanderhorst
- 3rd Vice President-Martha Smyser
- 2nd Vice President-Lynne Batchelor
- 1st Vice President-Shane Looper

Reforestation & Restoration, Judy Unrine

Two projects were approved by the Board of Directors in the Sequoia National Forest at the Kern River Ranger Station:

1. The expenditure of three thousand dollars was approved to restore the nursery.
2. The expenditure of three thousand five hundred dollars was approved for the project to restore natural spring waterline to nursery.

Funding for a third project to develop a demonstration and educational garden using native plants and cultural plants of the Mi-Wauk Indians was approved in the Stanislaus National Forest. Executive Committee requests further information from Stanislaus Forest Management before project can be implemented.

Sempervirens Fund, Rosa Radicchi

We did it! Sempervirens spearheaded the successful campaign for Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument, signed in by President Obama! On May 21, 2017 they held a 117 Yr Anniversary Picnic & CGCI participated by sponsoring the 1st place Raffle prize, a Dedicated Tree, for a \$1,000 donation. CGCI received PR on their website, in ads, a table & our banner at the picnic! The CGCI Conservation Education Grove sign has been repaired and we are planning a dedication hopefully before the 2017 Fall Board Meeting in early October. Thank you for your continued support.

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve, Mary Lou Goodwin

Donations have been received to promote the work in the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve located north of Trinidad in Humboldt County. In addition to the propagation project, the signs have been repainted and California State Parks arranged to have extensive removal of the invasive plants such as alder trees, ferns, non-native grasses and berry vines. The American Rhododendron Society brought 150 tourists to the reserve and private tours were provided by California Garden Clubs, Inc. members. Newspaper articles and new pamphlets have increased the public awareness of this native western azalea (Rhododendron Occidentale). Those donating include: Eureka Sequoia Garden Club, Bernice Hendrix, Carolyn Hoyum, Maryanne Lucas, Shane Looper, Humboldt District CGCI, Tom and Maria Krenek, Tim and June Walsh, Myrtle Findley, Richard Cavendre, Nelda Palmer, Southern California Garden Club, Shirley Lipa, Sandra Bates, William and Sue Bennett, Southern Humboldt Garden Club, Mark Freitas, Jacqueline Mc Shane, Eureka Florist, Bonne Perozzi, Karen Isa, Fred Whitney Family, Mike Mc Cullough, E. White Smith and Fortuna Garden Club. \$ 5,000.00 has been raised this year.

Attachment C, 86th Convention Minutes District Director Reports

Arboretum District, Emily Wisneski

After the February District meeting members were given an escorted tour of the LA Arboretum's Garden for All Seasons. This is an organic vegetable garden which has veggies growing all year round. Next to the garden is an organic orchard. The orchard has approximately 50 varieties of fruit trees.

The Monrovia Garden Club had a hands on program in which the members learned how to propagate Pelargonium. The club provided the soil and pots. The speaker provided the cuttings and the knowledge. Doing A Good Deed: The Year Round Garden Club had a "Handbag for the Homeless" project. The members donated handbags and items needed by homeless women---shampoo, lotion, soap etc. The handbags were then filled with the items and donated to a women's homeless shelter.

Bay Bridges District, Bonnie Smith

The Bay Bridges District has had a great past two years! We enjoyed two CGCI, NGC representatives' visits! First up was Sue Bennett, CGCI President, who attended our Spring Board Meeting, April 2016, where she was the key speaker and shared her President's Project, "Growing Minds, Planting Seeds". Sue was enthusiastically received and all the members thoroughly enjoyed her and her project. Our second visitor was CGCI, NGC, District Directors Coordinator, Robin Pokorski, who attended our Spring Board Meeting, April 2017, where she was the key speaker and our installation officer for our newly elected Board Members. Robin was super entertaining as well as totally informative with her "Leaping into Leadership" presentation.

Bay Ocean District, Nancy McDougal

Our district clubs continue to focus their garden related activities in areas that most interest their own membership, some specific to their focused specialty and others ranging over a wide variety from design to soil science. Community outreach also varies from monthly public programs to community street plantings. There have not been many major changes in club composition or focus, though several have grown stronger with a slightly greater degree of participation and of attendance in District, especially at our very enjoyable spring meeting when members of OFAD provided a design program showing techniques new to many of us.

Buttes District, Carol Jauregui

This Director attended state meetings to bring information back to the clubs. This year's three accomplishments were:

Number one was to promote communications between clubs by providing contact lists for the clubs so they could let each other know about their fundraisers and events. Second, clubs annually fundraise for scholarship awards. One recipient was a very grateful guest speaker at the annual district meeting. Third, the district voted to hold the fall board meeting in Oroville. This is a first for district. My suggestion to CGCI: help district and club editors create better newsletters by creating an online, photo tutorial.

Cascade District, Kathy Bramhall

Three Things Our District Accomplished:

Scholarship Program - This year Cascade District Clubs contributed more than \$7000 for local scholarships.

Leadership Training – Robin Pokorski's Leadership Workshop was attended by several Cascade District members.

Serving CGCI – Cascade District hosted CGCI's 2017 Winter Board Meeting. Many members made table designs for the "Flower Show", many made center pieces for the dining tables, and many participated in the Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse Fashion Show. Thank you, President Sue, for allowing us to grow together as a District in serving CGCI.

Channel Islands District, Lisa Cosand

The Channel Islands District has several accomplishments to be proud about. We donated to 3 botanic gardens and each one hosted us for a meeting. We visited the Ventura Botanic Garden, the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and had our meeting at the YMCA which will have the new Veterans Garden in our area.

We enjoyed our district lunches by Westlake and Ojai Garden Clubs which included a boat ride and olive oil tasting.

The district has come together with agreeing to host the Winter Board 2018 for CGCI. We have our work cut out but are excited about the event.

Diablo Foothills District, Marlene Kinney

Four things the Diablo Foothills District accomplished which I am very proud of is:

1. Organized and implemented a Group Tax Exemption Workshop
2. Created a District Website
3. Supported President Sue Bennett's president's project by purchasing 750 kits - CVGC
4. Building a Monarch Butterfly Waystation – DBGC Report

CGCI Improvement: Work on keeping meeting cost down to increase participation and having a resource committee for all district/clubs to work directly with.

Humboldt District, Chuck Goodwin

1. The Humboldt District Director reported on two activities:

a. Smaller clubs were helped to become more integrated into District activities by working with larger clubs to co-host the once every four month District meetings. This gave all clubs an opportunity to become more involved.

b. Assisting all District Clubs to become Blue Ribbon Clubs gave each an opportunity to do a self-evaluation and take more advantages of the resources of CGCI and NGC.

2. The incoming District Director, the new Blue Star Co-Chairman and the Stagecoach Hill Chairman were introduced.

Luther Burbank District, David West

Sue asked for three accomplishments of our District. First is completion of Series 26 Landscape Design School. Reducing District meeting to 3 General and 1 summer board meeting. Starting to plan Environmental School and possibly hosting Fall Board Meeting September 2019.

To help District, CGCI could leave the YMR intact so we would have information readily available at meeting when internet is not available to access CGCI website.

Mendo-Lake District, Gary Bodensteiner

Three accomplishments: Yearbook, Meeting Program by Wil Gonzalez, Nonprofit workshops and revision standing rules

New officers: District Director, Kitty Loberg, Ukiah; Assistant Director, Rhea Pitchard, Ukiah; Secretary, Fran Gardner, Willits; Treasurer, Gary Bodensteiner, Willits; Parliamentarian, Diane Cerutti, Fort Bragg

Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis, President Dana D Benjamin, gave \$1000 scholarship.

Fort Bragg Garden Club, Kathy Holmes, developed silver gate state parks native plant display.

Potter Valley Garden Club, Co-Presidents: Marilyn Ogle, Karen Riordan, gave scholarship.

Ukiah Garden Club, Co-Presidents: Karen House, Deborah Leland, garden tour, scholarship award.

Willits Garden Club: Scott Bryant \$1000 scholarship award, memorial for Bonnie Cook.

Montana De Oro District, Milly Benson

The last year has gone by so fast. President Sue Bennett graciously attended our post-convention meeting last June. We toured the Embassy Suites for the 2017 Convention. In September Robin Pokorski came to our DD meeting and gave a great motivational talk. With theirs and many other State members support and tireless help Montana de Oro District was able to put on a successful convention. One to be proud of.

We now have a new District Director, Cathy van Orman, past president of Multiflora group and I was not able to mentor her until the last couple months, since she just decided to take the job, I will help her learn her new job.

Four of the clubs in this district stay active with community projects, fundraisers, scholarship programs and many other activities.

Cathy and I will work together to keep our district Planting America..California's way!

Thanks for all your help the last two years.

San Fernando Valley District, Rita Desilets

Although the San Fernando Valley District has a membership under 500, we are proud to have 12, soon to be 13 members on the CGCI Board of Directors. Four have dual membership in nearby Districts. Three serve on the Executive Committee. Two are former CGCI Presidents.

My project, a Speakers' Directory, containing 40 program entries will be sent to neighboring districts requesting it.

Three of our 10 clubs are represented at this Convention. First to speak is the president of Sherman Oaks Garden Club, Martha Smyser. Next is the president of Southern California Garden Club, Harriet Vallens. Our final speaker is Madelyn Jameson of West Valley Garden Club.

Santa Clara Valley District, Roseann Costabile

Qualities we are most proud of in the Santa Clara Valley District are technological ability, diversity, and generosity.

Nine clubs have web pages which aide communication, promote gardening and outreach.

The SCVD is a diverse group including floral designers, Ikebana enthusiasts, horticultural clubs, tree planters, beekeepers, orchid societies and a youth group.

Generosity is an inherent quality of gardeners. Santa Clara Valley clubs participate by maintaining street planters, community gardens and roses. Scholarships were awarded to high school and college students and informational booths provided education to the public. Contributions were made to CGCI and local projects.

Sequoia Foothills District, Brenda Leal

Our Theme for the Past 2 years has been "Education, Fellowship and Working Together"

I'm very proud to say this has been our accomplishments for Sequoia Foothills District!

Hanford Garden Club, Sequoia Garden Club, and Valley Oak Garden Club held very prosperous 2017 Garden Tours that will provide funds to give several graduating High School Seniors Scholarships. Students who are planning to attend a college, to promote horticulture, crops or environmental studies.

Annual Plant Sales, Camellia Shows, Christmas Luncheon & Auctions, Garden Tea Parties and participating in local Country Fairs are prominent examples these Clubs hosted to pay for Club Activities and Community Projects. Red Bud GC, Hanford GC, Camellia Society, Four Seasons GC, La Casa GC, Bakersfield GC, Porterville GC and Caruthers GC are experts in providing very well-attended events.

All of our Clubs are successful with their use of wonderful resources in speakers, program providers, hands-on projects, trips and continuing EDUCATION!! A very high standard is set with all our Clubs on the ability of planning and executing events.

Communication and SUPPORT within Sequoia Foothills District is the most (as the Outgoing District Director) that I am most PROUD OF!

I am very proud to introduce Sequoia Foothills Newly elected District Director: Linda Tucker

Yosemite Gateway District, Mary Brooks

The Yosemite Gateway is still functioning and very active with the three clubs that remain: Atwater, LeGrand and Merced.

All clubs awarded a significant amount of scholarships to high school student, community college and the new one to UC Merced.

Fundraisers included our annual gardens tours and flower shows.

**Attachment D, 86th Convention Meeting
Courtesy Resolution
California Garden Clubs, Inc. 2017 Convention
Embassy Suites by Hilton San Luis Obispo**

WHERE AS,

The members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. attending the 86th Annual Convention "Encouraging Future Gardeners: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" at Embassy Suites by Hilton San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, California, May 30-June 3, 2017 and 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, with her theme "Growing Minds and Planting Seeds," the officers, chairmen and members have served this organization with distinction, now therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That CGCI President Sue Bennett, through her gracious and fun-loving presiding, and the members, chairmen and officers, through their dedicated concern in the deliberations of this meeting, be commended for their spirit of fun-loving cooperation; and

RESOLVED,

That appreciation be extended to The Rev. Dr. Dennis Falasco, First Presbyterian Church SLO, the Santa Maria Color Guard and Ermina Karim, Executive VP, SLO Chamber of Commerce for opening this meeting with dignity; and

RESOLVED,

That sincere thanks be given to the Montana De Oro District Director Milly Benson and Chairman of the Convention (and Endowment Chairman, Tour Chairman, Forum Chairman and Awards Co-Chairman), Robert Gordon, as well as all of the other committee chairmen---especially those involved with the lovely table designs, gift bags, and those involved in the tour to the Blue Star Marker dedication at the Veterans Memorial Building and the tour of the historic Jack House and Gardens featuring floral designs displayed throughout the house, and those helping with the fundraiser endowment dinner, including auctioneer Gil Stork, and

RESOLVED,

That thanks be given to all the District Clubs who planned and participated in the success of the meeting and assured its success by their many courtesies extended; as well as the many state chairmen who step up to the plate year after year to chair many of the workshops, and

RESOLVED,

That special appreciation be given to our speakers and workshop presenters: Price Sheppy, flutter-bys, flutter-bys flutter-bys; Tessie Titwhistle, with the sounds of the forest; Jenny McNiece, from the American Institute of Floral Design; Ken Byrne, on the 6 species of Clivia; Dominique Bredeson, explaining communication between generations in a fun way; Joe Sabol on dahlias, Steve Watson, on water conservation, and

RESOLVED,

That appreciation also be extended to Balalaika providing music during the installation dinner; and the entire staff of the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Luis Obispo 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, District Director Milly Benson, Convention Chairman, Robert Gordon; Secretary Gail Vanderhorst and the staff of the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Luis Obispo.

Joan Craig

Courtesy Resolutions Chairman

(adopted June 2, 2017)