

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the 2019 (88<sup>th</sup> Annual) Convention**  
June 5-6, 2019  
Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California  
Host: Southern California Garden Club  
**President: Krystal K. Migliore**

**Business Meeting #1**

President Krystal Migliore called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.  
The Recording secretary was present.

Writer-at-Large Nancy Compton gave the Inspiration.

Santa Clara Valley District Director Roseann Costabile led the NGC Conservation Pledge.

President Krystal Migliore introduced the 2017-2019 Executive Committee and recognized those former CGCI President in attendance: Mary Lou Goodwin, 1991-1993, Bob Gordon, 2003-2005, Elisabeth Tufo, 2005-2007, Robin Pokorski, 2007-2009, Julie A. West, 2011-2013, Rita Desilets, 2013-2015, and Sue Bennett, 2015-2017.

President Krystal Migliore welcomed Members of the Circle of Poppies: Joan Craig, Myrtle Findley, Judy Unrine, and Carolyn Villi, and introduced honored guest, National Garden Clubs 2017-2019 President Nancy Hargroves.

President Krystal Migliore acknowledged those serving on the NGC 2017-2019 Board of Directors, NGC Officers Robin Pokorski (Corresponding Secretary) and Shane Looper (Historian), 2017-2019 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors serving with Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin and those serving on the 2019-2021 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors with Pacific Region Director Robin Pokorski.

President Krystal Migliore acknowledged the CGCI members who served as delegates to the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019 Convention in Van Nuys and those who served as delegates to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019 Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Convention Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the initial credentials report with a voting strength of 99 and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

The Chair declared a quorum.

Convention Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the initial registration report with a total registration of 168.

President Krystal Migliore introduced the pages for this meeting: Sherry Molinari and Harriet Vallens and Julie A. West as the page for NGC President Nancy Hargroves.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski presented the Convention Rules of Order found on pages 11 & 12 of the 2019 Convention Program and moved for their adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Convention Chairman Rita Desilets reported on the 2019 Convention Program and moved for its adoption as corrected. **Motion Passed.**

President Krystal Migliore thanked Southern California Garden Club for hosting the 2019 CGCI Convention.

Without objection, the Chair appointed the committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, Judy Bates, and Carol Vallens.

President Krystal Migliore announced the 2018 Convention minutes were approved at the 2018 Fall Board Meeting in Auburn, California.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer George Perko presented the financial report as of April 30.

Net worth:

Total cash in checking/savings accounts	\$143,325
Total other assets	\$400,588

TOTAL ASSETS	\$543,913
of which restricted funds are	\$353,581
Cash Balance Available	<u>\$190,332</u>

### Officers' Reports

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Communications Director Jane McKee reported.

Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline for reports to be emailed is Tuesday June 11, 2019.

Corresponding Secretary Marlene Kinney reported. See Attachment A.

Interim 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Carol Vallens reported.

#### Current Membership

#### Number paid as of May 29, 2019

Clubs – 246 (14,096 members)  
 APS – 61 (5,050 members)  
 Affiliate 1 (pending ratification)  
 Total – 308 (19,146 members)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Lynne Batchelor reported.

President-Elect Shane Loper reported.

President Krystal Migliore 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 91 of the *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

President Krystal Migliore announced the Election Board appointments made at the 2019 Winter Board Meeting as required by Article VI Sec. 1(c) Elections 3. on page 91 of the 2017-2019 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

Chairman – Robin Pokorski

Teller #1 – Rita Desilets

Teller #2 – Alexis Slafer

Clerk – George Perko

Judge – Greg Pokorski

Because Rita Desilets and George Perko are candidates for office, the following replacement appointments were ratified at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting: Judy Bates as Teller #1 and Marlene Kinney as Clerk.

Nominating Committee Chairman Sue Bennett reported (see Attachment B) and read the slate of the proposed officers for the 2019-2021 term of office.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Lynne Batchelor

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Carol Vallens

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Adele Kelly

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary – Milly Benson

Financial Secretary – Rita M. Desilets

Treasurer – George Perko

Communications Director – Kathy Taylor De Murillo

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

The election proceeded in accordance with Article VI, Section 1(c) 4, and **the following nominees were elected:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lynne Batchelor

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Carol Vallens

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Adele Kelly

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary – Milly Benson  
Financial Secretary – Rita M. Desilets  
Treasurer – George Perko  
Communications Director – Kathy Taylor De Murillo

These officers will serve with Charlene (Shane) Looper who now serves as President-elect and who will serve as President in the 2019-2021 term of office.

### **Election of Nominating Committee**

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the Bylaws (Article VI, Section 2 (a) through (c)) regarding election of the Nominating Committee for the 2019-2021 term.

President Krystal Migliore announced that members from these districts are ineligible to serve on the 2019-2021 Nominating Committee: Bay Bridges, Cascade, Diablo Foothills, Montana de Oro, Palomar, Sacramento River Valley and Sequoia Foothills.

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

The following were nominated:

Ward Habriel – Buttes District  
Charlotte Tucker – Valley Lode District  
Jeanne Johnson – Humboldt District  
Linda Malone – Channel Islands District  
Mary Brooks – Yosemite Gateway District  
Nina Blonski – Golden Foothills District  
Martha Smyser – San Fernando Valley District

Registrar Robin Pokorski moved to close the nominations. **Motion Passed.**

There being only seven members nominated, the election was held by voice vote (voting card). **The above nominees were elected.**

### **Committee Reports**

Advisory Council Chairman Sue Bennett reported. See Attachment B.

Pacific Region Convention Chairman Sue Bennett reported. See Attachment B.

California Consultants Council Awards Chairman Sue Bennett reported.

Board of Trustees Chairman Julie A. West reported.

Awards Chairman Lynne Batchelor reported.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Launa Gould reported.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Shane Looper deferred her report to the next business meeting.

2017-2019 President's Project Co-Chairman Carolyn Hoyum reported.

Scholarship Chairman Martha Smyser reported.

### **Pacific Region Report**

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Director Robin Pokorski reported and provided information about projects for the 2019-2021 term.

### **Report of the Board of Directors**

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the Executive Committee Recommendations approved by the Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Meeting to the convention body. See the minutes of the Pre-Convention Board Meeting.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that we cannot have the voting membership approve the place and date of the next convention because hotel contract negotiations are still in process. Convention will be in San Mateo County in late May of 2020.

### **Memorial Service**

Financial Secretary Launa Gould read two poems in memory of garden club members who passed this year.

The meeting recessed at 11:31 a.m.

### **Business Meeting #2**

The meeting reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

2017-2019 NGC President Nancy Hargroves addressed the convention body.

President Krystal Migliore reported.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Shane Looper reported, introduced the members of the Bylaws and Policy Committee and on behalf of the committee and as recommended by the board of directors at the 2019 Winter Board Meeting, moved to adopt the following proposed amendments to bylaws:

#### **#1. (page 92) Article VI – Nominations and Elections Section 2. Nominating Committee, (b) Eligibility:**

Currently reads:

2. No member shall serve more than two terms and the terms shall not be consecutive.

Proposal: Delete 2 above and renumber (current 3 becomes 2).

Rationale: We should have as few restrictions as possible and need members with experience who know the organization, bylaws, what the elected officers are supposed to do and those board members who might be eligible and suitable to take elected positions including those who will honor their commitment to attend every state meeting to participate in the work of the Nominating Committee.

There is still a check and balance that no district may be represented consecutively – so it is unlikely that an individual would serve consecutively. In a case where an individual belongs to clubs from different districts, if that individual served two consecutive terms, they would really be serving the needs/interests of two different districts.

#### **Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

#### **#2 (page 92) Article VII – Board of Directors**

**Sec. 2** Currently reads: The board of directors shall be the governing body of this corporation and shall: (a) transact routine business; (b) adopt standing rules; (c) ratify all classes of membership.

Proposed change: insert and (d) adopt amendments to endowment charters.

Rationale: Conforms with proposed changes to endowment charters being presented at convention.

#### **Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

**Sec. 4** Currently reads: (a) Regular meetings shall be organizational, fall, winter and pre-convention meetings. Permission for non-attendance at any regular meeting must be obtained from the president. Forty-five days' notice of fall and winter board meetings shall be given. Notification of the pre-convention meeting, the post-convention meeting in odd-numbered, election years, and the organizational meeting shall be included in the call for convention. A registration fee approved by the board of directors may be used for expenses of board meetings.

Proposed change: NOTE Additions in red. Deletions highlighted in strikeout.

Sec. 4. (a) Regular meetings shall be **the** organizational (**at the beginning of each term**), fall, winter and pre-convention meetings. Permission for non-attendance at any regular meeting must be obtained from the president. Forty-five days' notice of fall and winter board meetings shall be given. Notification of the ~~preconvention meeting~~ **and** the post-convention **and organizational** meetings in odd-numbered, election years, ~~and the organizational meeting~~ shall be included in the call for convention. A registration fee approved by the board of directors may be used for expenses of board meetings. (b) Pre-convention meetings shall be held immediately preceding the opening of convention. At the pre-convention meeting in even-numbered, non-election years, new

members to the board of trustees shall be ratified and assume their duties after close of convention.

Rationale: Follows NGC and Pacific Region having Organizational Meeting only in beginning of each new administration term in odd-years and eliminates even-year Organizational Meeting by adding budget approval process to pre-convention board meeting – see Article XII Finances Sec. 5 proposal.

**Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

**#3. (page 95) Article XII Finances - Sec. 5**

Currently reads: The budget and finance committee shall: (a) include the financial secretary, who shall serve as the chairman, first vice-president/president elect, treasurer, chairman of the board of trustees, Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman and up to three (3) members who shall be appointed by the president; (b) submit the annual corporation budget for adoption at the organizational board meeting; and (c) recommend on proposed transfers or increases to budget accounts or expenditures of money in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) outside of budget before any action by the board of directors.

Proposed Change: Strike and replace “organizational” with “pre-convention”

To read:

Sec. 5. The budget and finance committee shall: (a) include the financial secretary, who shall serve as the chairman, first vice-president/president elect, treasurer, chairman of the board of trustees, Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman and up to three (3) members who shall be appointed by the president; (b) submit the annual corporation budget for adoption at the pre-convention board meeting; and (c) recommend on proposed transfers or increases to budget accounts or expenditures of money in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) outside of budget before any action by the board of directors.

Rationale: Follows NGC and Pacific Region having Organizational Meeting only in beginning of each new administration term in odd-years and eliminates even-year Organizational Meeting by adding budget approval process to pre-convention board meeting.

**Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

**#4 (page 95) Article XII Finances – Sec. 6 (c)**

Currently reads: (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$2,000 for verified expenses incurred in attending the Pacific Region and NGC Conventions; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval

Proposed change: Strike \$2,000 and insert \$3,500

To read: (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$3,500 for verified expenses incurred in attending the Pacific Region and NGC Conventions; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval

Rationale: Expenses have increased for hotel stays and flights for meetings that President-elect is required to attend.

**Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

**#5 (page 95) Article XII – Finances - Sec. 9**

Currently reads:

A crime policy that includes employee dishonesty coverage will be furnished by CGCI and paid from the general fund.

Proposed change: Strike “employee dishonesty” and insert “**Computer and Funds Transfer Fraud, Employee Theft and Forgery or Alteration**” coverage will be furnished by CGCI and paid from the general fund. Insert (line code 401)

To read: A crime policy that includes Computer and Funds Transfer Fraud, Employee Theft and Forgery or Alteration coverage will be furnished by CGCI and paid from the general fund (L/C 401).

Rationale: This is just clarification and housekeeping so it is clear what should be included in CGCI’s crime policy.

**Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

**#6 (page 96) Article XIV Board of Trustees Sec. 8:**

Currently reads: The board of trustees shall constitute the endowment committee which shall oversee the endowment fund and scholarship endowment fund as directed in the charters of the two funds. The endowment promotion chairman shall be a non-voting member of the endowment committee.

Proposed change: add another sentence to Section 8 of Article XIV

To read: The board of trustees shall constitute the endowment committee which shall oversee the endowment fund and scholarship endowment fund as directed in the charters of the two funds. The endowment promotion chairman shall be a non-voting member of the endowment committee. **Signers on all CGCI endowment accounts shall be the President, Treasurer and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.**

Rationale: Ratifying names and positions every two years by the board of directors is not necessary for endowment funds. Organization Resolutions for each endowment currently with Vanguard that are prepared by the Chairman of the BOT with new officer information do not require minutes, only signatures and dates. Similar motion was approved by BOD at 2015 Fall Board Meeting: *That signers on all CGCI Endowment accounts shall be the President, Treasurer and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.*

**Motion Passed (two thirds vote).**

Timekeeper Jeanne Desilets was introduced.

District Director Coordinator Shane Looper introduced those directors who reported. See Attachment C.

The meeting recessed at 4:13 p.m.

**Business Meeting #3**

The meeting reconvened on June 6 at 9:04 a.m.

Chairmen Coordinator Lynne Batchelor introduced the chairmen who reported. See Attachment D.

The meeting recessed at 10:37 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

President Krystal Migliore presented a PowerPoint presentation about Plant America Grant winners and presented a gift to Plant America to 2017-2019 NGC President Nancy Hargroves.

Convention Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the final credentials report with a voting strength of 101 and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Convention Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the final registration report of 168.

The meeting recessed at 11:14 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. Sine die.

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

**Attachment A**  
**88<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**Officers' Reports**

**Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski**

Usual duties of this office continue to include minutes review after meetings and agenda review prior to meetings. Convention Rules are reviewed annually. Active participation in the Bylaws & Policy Committee takes place. Issues and inquiries are responded to. Bylaws reviews have been conducted for various clubs and this officer is available to respond to your parliamentary inquiries. A parliamentary workshop was presented yesterday. Rules of Order for board meetings were drafted for the new administration.

This officer served as Convention Credentials Chairman again this year. In reviewing Registration and Credentials Forms it is always concerning that some board members do not seem to recognize that they are board members. Remember CGCI's board of directors is defined on page 92 of our *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. Article VII, Section 1: officers, district directors, members of the nominating committee, members of the board of trustees, members of the advisory council, members of the bylaws committee, members of the Circle of Poppies (ex officio) and all committee chairmen.

If you are a board member you have a vote at convention. So if you are also a club president you can send someone else to convention to represent you and your club – because you do not get an additional vote for being club president.

Club members cannot designate themselves as convention delegates. They need to be elected or appointed by the club and the president needs to advise who they are by submission of a Credentials Form as explained in the Call to Convention. All do not seem to read or follow The Call.

It is disturbing that only 22 clubs from 15 districts are represented here (other than by board members). Our challenge that I repeat from recent years is more urgent this year – to generate more interest, enthusiasm and attendance.

Parliamentary procedure is a continuous learning process and its administration is improved with planning, practice and repetition by all who utilize this helpful tool.

You have probably noticed that this Parliamentarian has voted and made motions. In the interest of impartiality, *Robert's* provides that Parliamentarians should refrain from these actions. However California law provides that Parliamentarians who are members of the organizations they serve are entitled to all rights and privileges provided to any member.

It has been a pleasure to serve this administration and I will have the same role in the next administration.

**Corresponding Secretary, Marlene Kinney**

Sympathy Cards Sent To:

Ann McCormick, Current Deep South Region Director – Loss of Husband

Deen Day Sanders, NGC – Loss of Daughter

Nell Denman Family, NGC Board Member

Thank You Cards Received:

Julia Clevett, NGC

Robin Pokorski, Pacific Region Director

Kristie Livreri, Former Pacific Region Director

**Attachment B**  
**88<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**Committee Reports**

**Advisory Council Chairman, Sue Bennett**

The Advisory Council did not meet at this Convention. A reminder the Advisory Council consists of all previous CGCI Presidents.

- 1) The council took on the challenge to **review policy for outdated practices & procedures** in the CGCI Yearbook, Manual and Roster that starts on page 103. Duplication between the Policy Section and beginning of Yearbook was cleaned up. (example: GTEP)
- 2) A huge thank you goes to out Elisabeth Tufo and Julie West for their efforts on championing the task outside of the meeting. Their input was forwarded onto the Bylaws and Policy Committee;
- 3) The council discussed how to get more members to meetings to help with defraying rising cost of hosting board meetings and conventions which seem harder to finance.
- 4) Discussion around inviting the vice-presidents, either one at a time or as a group, to meet with the Advisory Council occurred.
- 5) Discussed responsibilities of President and Vice-Presidents. There is a Procedure Book for President and President-elect but not for third, second and first Vice President. The Procedure Book changes along with new procedure books for the various Vice Presidents will be forward onto the new chairman who will be assigned in Shane's term.
- 6) The Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project Resolution was reviewed, approved and forwarded to the EC.

**2019 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc Convention Chairman, Sue Bennett**

The Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., Convention held in Van Nuys, this very hotel. Will all those on the Committee please stand. Thank you for your hard work. It was because of all of you it was a huge success. Thank you to CGCI for the financial donation to the PRGC fund raiser dinner at Hank and Gail Vanderhorst's lovely home and for the donation for the installation toast. Attendees loved the food, eating outside and the warm reception they received from the CGCI members.

In case you haven't heard: Robin Pokorski was installed as PRGC District Director, along with Sue Bennett as Alternate Director, Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst and Corresponding Secretary Alexis Slafer. Thank you to CGCI for the donation for the installation toast.

**Nominating Committee Chairman, Sue Bennett**

Will the members of the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee please rise and be acknowledged for a job well done!

Milly Benson, Montana de Oro District  
Carolyn Hoyum, Cascade District  
Marlene Kinney, Diablo Foothills District  
Brenda Leal, Sequoia Foothills District  
Kathy Taylor de Murillo, Palomar District  
Bonnie Smith, Bay Bridges District  
Myself as Chair  
Thank you, please sit.

Our approach:

1. Rather than a check list of questions, we encouraged a dialogue to better understand the candidate's skills and commitment.
2. Committee members appreciated taking turns leading the interview which turned out to be a great learning experience and overall it helped the committee work better as a team.
3. We also interviewed the current Executive Committee, including president-elect, to get their insight on what skills are necessary for the positions.
4. The committee was energetic, worked well together and is excited "The Race is Over"

The Committee is proud to present the following slate of officers 2019-2021 term.

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Lynne Batchelor

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Carol Vallens

3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Adele Kelly

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary – Milly Benson

Financial Secretary – Rita Desilets

Treasurer – George Perko

Communications Director – Kathy Taylor de Murillo



**Attachment C**  
**88<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**District Director Reports**

**Bay Bridges District, Bonnie Smith**

Bouquets to Art, Fundraising, Membership events, Garden Tours, Guest Speakers, Floral designs. Membership has increased for several clubs. Millennials are joining the Boomers, and Traditionalists. Held our Spring District Meeting. Eight clubs attended, 36 members. Hillside Gardeners of Montclair, fundraiser \$2,300 plus dollars! Alameda Garden Club...first time, attended the District Meeting. A round of applause was given! Berkeley Garden Club has made the transition from their formal teas to more casual gatherings that include hands-on workshops, book exchanges, plant propagation. Eden Garden Club, Penny Pines contributions have helped plant 25 plantations. Just Say Yes! Thank you!

**Buttes District, Ilene Herrerger**

When visiting Cascade District last year the program was presented by an excellent speaker regarding the growing and caring of Bonsai. What was different with this presentation was a demonstration on how to choose plants that will be future Bonsai. Nursery stock was removed from containers and soil removed to show structure and roots of the plant and what could be done in the future. They were then planted with a special mix. In our District we have a Bonsai grower that's very passionate about Bonsai. He was invited to be a speaker at our Buttes District meeting. I explained the bonsai demonstration at Cascade District and asked that it be included in his presentation. Those in attendance were very pleased with the program because they received so much more information other than growing and caring for Bonsai.

Most recently at our Fall District meeting we had a mother/daughter team as speakers on Gourds. They not only included how to grow gourds but also the method of cleaning and preparing gourds for artwork. The cleaning is simplified by using a common coiled wire scrubbing pad used for cleaning cooking pots. Different shapes and sizes of gourds were displayed. Tools for making designs and artwork were demonstrated. Paints and how to create certain affects were discussed. It was a very interesting and educational program and covered all aspects of creating a piece of art.

3. Lake Oroville Area Garden Club has a Green Thumb panel to answer questions submitted by club members. Questions are submitted a month before panel scheduled in order to do research if necessary. This is a favorite program and there have been requests that it be twice a year.

4. Lake Oroville Area Garden Club has a survey near end of year. Questions are favorite program, what programs would be of interest in the future etc.

5. Several years ago the District had a list of speakers. It has not been available and needs to be reconstructed.

**Channel Islands District, Linda Malone**

This District held the annual Channel Islands District Luncheon in March, 2019. It was hosted by the Organic Garden Club of Ventura County. The attendees were treated to an organic luncheon; even the wine (for purchase) was organic! During the program, it was this District Director's pleasure to present NGC certificates to 4 clubs celebrating special CGCI anniversaries: 50 years to Conejo Valley Garden Club, 50 years to Westlake Village Garden Club, 30 years to Pleasant Valley Garden Club, and 10 years to Malibu Garden Club.

The June 20th Channel Islands District meeting will be hosted by the Malibu Garden Club. All clubs will report on favorite programs, this District Director will hand out CGCI awards, and all present will enjoy the ocean/mountain view from Malibu.

Westlake Village Garden Club initiated "The Workshop". It was an experiment to increase fellowship by offering hands-on garden crafts after a morning of coffee and refreshments. The members enjoyed the workshops and it is a positive thumbs-up.

\*Pleasant Valley Garden Club toured the lovely and peaceful "Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine" in Pacific Palisades.

\*Conejo Valley Garden Club hosted an afternoon Spring Tea including scones, sandwiches, sweets and tea.

\*Ojai Valley Garden Club provides flowers every week at the Post Office as their ongoing community beautification project.

**Golden Foothills District, Ann Wallace**

Eight clubs of the Golden Foothills District are busy with end of year activities: Colfax Garden Club has a beautiful video presentation of the year's activities, Thank you luncheons are a part of most groups as well as installing officers for the clubs with changes. The Chicago Park Garden Club went on a concentrated hunt for new members and were rewarded with five new enthusiastic workers. Auburn Garden Club has a chairman who enjoys finding and previewing potential tours for their group. Lake of the Sky Garden Club is disbanding, and concentrating on disbursing their monies for local scholarship needs.

### **Humboldt District, Jeanne Johnson**

The Fortuna Garden Club has its 44<sup>th</sup> annual daffodil show. They sold 300 pots of daffodils in a few hours. These are planted by the club earlier, so they are blooming at show time.

Southern Humboldt Garden Club had its 68<sup>th</sup> annual flower show. This show has many community members submit entries who know nothing about a flower show.

Each club greatly appreciates the judges who come to judge their shows.

Eureka Sequoia puts on a flower show as a meeting which is then used as a learning experience on how to prepare flowers for a judged show.

One club has participated in Smokey Bear for over 20 years; have never won a ribbon but keep on trying.

The Heather Society had a taste of heather honey.

We have eight clubs, 272 members, and 3 youth clubs. All our clubs are Blue Ribbon Clubs.

### **Palomar District, Adele Kelly**

The membership of Palomar District is doing well and growing. Currently, there are 2,348 members and it welcomes the Paradise Garden Club as a new member. They have 37 members. Within the District, five flower shows and many garden tours, teas, and plant sales occurred this spring. Poway Valley Garden Club won a \$1000 NGC Plant America Grant. The funds will be used to restore and beautify two gardens within Old Poway Park. The Chula Vista Garden Club is hosting an Environmental School, Courses 3 and 4 on July 15-18, 2019 at The Living Coast Discovery Center. This District Director found her two year term to be an abundant and fulfilling experience.

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

2019 has been a very busy year for San Fernando Valley District, especially Southern California Garden Club. In the past, 2008 and 2014, it was the District offering to host the CGCI Convention, however this time our decision was to have one club be the host. This actually made my life as District Director simpler since there was no need to schedule extra meetings of district clubs. Our club meets twice a month so communication was not a problem. We had a core group of 4 people who were responsible for most of the planning.

Only two people made contact with the hotel and negotiated, negotiated and negotiated some more to get the best room rate and concessions. When meeting with the hotel for the first time it is important to bring a copy of the president's tentative meeting schedule and projected room nights to be booked. Most hotels are happy to offer a free room for the president which saves a big expense. Hosting a board meeting or convention is a rewarding experience.

### **Sequoia Foothills District, Linda Tucker**

Greetings from the Sequoia Foothills District, President Krystal. As you asked District Directors to provide highlights of their terms, perhaps a turning point or "Aha" moment, this Director experienced an overarching personal awareness of the wonderful experiences this term has provided.

In the 2017-2019 term this Director has witnessed community building within the District. Our clubs have offered support to each other, our executive board, and individuals. Clubs said "Yes" when asked to participate and each club was represented at four of the five yearly District meetings. The exception occurred as one club experienced the death of their treasurer and the funeral was held on meeting day.

Our District meetings adhere to a time schedule, providing time for socializing, conducting business, receiving an educational program, and sharing lunch in the space of three hours. Clubs continue outreach into their communities through hands on projects, teas, garden tours, and scholarship programs.

As this term came to a close, two incidents affirming the District community occurred. The first was our "Hosting Sign Up" for the coming two years. It has not always been easy to obtain hosts for the five meetings. This year, with the vote to reduce the meeting number from five to four, all eight meetings for the 2019-21 term were claimed by clubs in less than 15 minutes of circulating the form. The second relates to the Pacific Regional Convention in April. This Director asked for travel expense funds for the current and incoming Directors to attend the convention. Not only did the clubs vote yes, some asked if the requested amount would be enough. Such generosity of spirit was much appreciated but thoughtfully the higher amount was declined.

This Director wished to thank all members of the Sequoia Foothills District for participating in the 2017-2019 term and making it a wonderful experience. The support, guidance, and friendship of fellow CGCI members and officers has enhanced this term and made it a truly memorable two years.

Thank you all. It's been a GREAT ride!

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

Items of importance:

3 clubs with approximately 128 members

Merced, LeGrand and Atwater garden clubs all received Blue Ribbons Certificates of Achievement

All Clubs have dedicated Blue and Gold Star Markers

Approximately \$12,000.00 in scholarships awarded to students in our District by the Clubs.

Existing projects include civic beautification, garden tours, flower shows and plant sales.

District received the award for the most new CGCI memberships at the 2019 annual convention.

**Attachment D**  
**88<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**Chairmen Reports**

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Nancy Lee Loesch**

The winter of 2018-19 brought plenty of rainfall to the desert, giving rise to a spring bloom almost equal to the “Super Bloom” of 2017, and lots of new growth in Visitor Center plants.

In 2018, they ordered and purchased fifteen new stone Plant Identification plaques, at a cost of \$1,034. Some were purchased to identify new plants that had been added to the garden, and others replaced plaques that were made obsolete by changes to the scientific names of existing specimen plants. A volunteer from the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society completed the installation of the new signs this spring.

Two volunteers have continued working on maintaining the garden, clearing sand from walkways, removing dead plants, and pruning cacti and tree branches that encroach on walkways. They both received “Golden Shovel” awards at the volunteer recognition dinner.

A school group visited and they were put to work removing London Rocket, a nonnative mustard, from the garden, as part of their service-based learning project for the park. A small purchase of gardening gloves helped support their efforts.

They have not yet decided on a final design for new lighting in the Visitor Center garden, but hope to accomplish the purchase and installation of dark-sky friendly lights during 2019. Replacing the current 26 non-shielded light fixtures with a total of 55 fixtures will provide ideal walkway lighting in the garden, and—depending on the choice of fixture—is likely to cost a minimum of approximately \$10,000, with some options approaching \$20,000 plus installation.

New fixtures must be fully shielded, so that light is directed only downward, not up or out to the side. Brightness should be only what is needed to light the walkway, and preferably amber.

One option is to use the existing walkway light posts and simply install new fixtures onto them. This would be simplest, fastest, and least expensive.

A Canadian company\* has an Amber LED fixture that is full-cut-off for \$269 plus \$35 tax and shipping, for a total of \$334 each (Canadian, so about \$261 US Dollars). They could buy one for each of the existing 26 posts for approximately \$5746 US, and then have park maintenance staff install them, for the least expensive option.

Contracting out the installation would increase costs.

A second option is to buy and install new posts and fixtures, as the existing posts date to 1979. In addition to materials costs, this would involve higher labor costs, for installation, and for rewiring, which might involve digging trenches as well. Inmate crews could be utilized to perform the trench-digging type of labor, to keep costs down. The “best guess” at labor costs would range from a few thousand dollars to several thousand dollars. They have not found a source of posts that are just like their existing ones, but have found some options that will work.

They are also working with a San-Diego-based lighting distributor to try to find some options that would enhance the Visitor Center garden at a reasonable cost. The challenge is finding light fixtures that will cast enough light on the walkway without over-lighting, and preferably using lamps with a “color temperature” of less than 3,000K (they would look yellow or soft white, rather than the bright blue-white of typical LED lights). Amber is the recommended color to minimize the effects of artificial light on wildlife.

They are confident that they will find a solution that is compliant with Dark-Sky guidelines, affordable, and that will enhance the beauty of the Visitor Center garden, both in daylight and at night.

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is very appreciative of our donations which help them continue the projects that are needed to update the Visitor Center facility.

**Arbor Day, Mary Lou Goodwin**

It's not too early to start your planning for Arbor Week, March 7-14, 2020. The link below will take you to many sites that will help you organize and promote your event. The resources range from promotional ideas for maximum publicity in your local media to bringing the benefits of tree planting into our school systems with lesson plans and poster contests. <https://arborweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Arbor-Week-Planning-Kit.pdf> For more information on Arbor Day, contact Mary Lou Goodwin, CGCI and Pacific Region Arbor Day Chairman. [mlgoodwin@outlook.com](mailto:mlgoodwin@outlook.com) or 707-442-1387.

Arbor Day was created by J. Sterling Morton and celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872 by planting an estimated one million trees on the treeless prairie. Since its inception Arbor Day has been created around the nation as a day to plant and care for trees. California Arbor Week now starts on March 7, Luther Burbank's Birthday, and continues until March 14. Clubs and Districts are encouraged to dedicate a tree any time of the year.

**Bees, Terry Sampson**

I have done many presentations this year on bees and how important they are for pollination. When you get excited about your projects so does everyone else. Please post on your club's Facebook page, post on your own Facebook page and you will be surprised on how many people want to help you achieve the goals you have set for your committee over the next two years. Tell your friends, your family, your fellow gardening club members. Plant the flowers the bees and butterflies love to visit. Have a water source readily available for them. We want to encourage

all pollinators to feel comfortable in our yards so they will keep coming back year after year. AND always remember BEE kind to each other.

### **Blue Star & gold Star Families, George Unrine**

The following markers were installed during the 2017-2019 term: Blue Star Highway - Cayucos GC; Blue Star Memorial - Oasis GC of Indian Wells Valley; Blue Star Byways - LeGrand GC, Linden GC, Four Seasons GC and Organic GC of Sacramento County; Gold Star Memorial – “A” Garden Club; and Gold Star Byway, Merced GC. Procedures in the NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorials guidebook now indicate that Gold Star Families Memorial markers must be ordered through state Blue Star Chairmen and be sponsored by a NGC garden club.

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

The Feb 1-3, 2019 Flower Show School Symposium was held in San Diego in conjunction with the CGCI Winter Board. Fifty-three people attended and seventeen tested as judges from six states. Mary Huntoon was the NGC Design Instructor for Judging Ethics, and Low Profile and Grouped Mass Designs. Marva Lee Peterschick was the NGC Horticulture Instructor for Hanging Gardens, Combination Plantings and Ferns. All persons testing passed and the Symposium was accredited. Shane Looper was the Registrar and Lili Aram-Bost and Mary Arakelian were the Co-Chairs.

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

No Gardening Schools (GS) took place this term, but three Tri-Refreshers, all sponsored by clubs, took place. Chula Vista GC will sponsor our next GS – Courses 1 & 2 in January, 3 & 4 in July, 2020. Additional schools are under consideration in Palomar and Valley Lode Districts. Consultants whose Good Standing would expire at the end of this year can request extensions and refresh at one of the courses next year. Congratulations to 14 Gardening Consultants who refreshed at the Colfax GC Tri-Refresher in March. Bring incorrect Gardening Consultant contact information in the CGCI yearbook to this Chairman’s attention as soon as possible. Southern California GC has just authorized an NGC Schools Scholarship to reimburse members for registration fees to attend any NGC school in the next year – an idea for other clubs and districts?

### **Home Grown, Myrtle Findley**

This chairman gives Awards Number 22 and 23, one for your Vegetable/Fruit garden and the other for a Green Recipe. And do please call or e-mail this chairman before completing your entry. Read the EVALUATION FORM! Maybe the topic should read Only Home Grown.

### **Judges Council Liaison, Myrtle Findley**

We have given you a Standard Flower Show, was it educational? Will all Judges of the CGCI Council, and all who exhibited and helped, please stand, and be recognized. It takes a big crew to put on a Show! Special thanks goes to Kathy Bramhall who wrote the schedule and chaired this show for our Convention 2018. If invited in two years we will do it again, as we promised to offer in even number years.

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

Attending a Landscape Design School is a perfect way to gain the knowledge to identify and describe a landscape for a CGCI or NGC award. This Chair is eager to assist with sponsoring a new Landscape Design School. It is not difficult, you learn a lot, and it is a lot of fun! Take advantage of the Tri-refresher being held next February at the Winter Board Meeting in Long Beach. Our Landscape Design Consultants are a great resource as speakers or helping with a special project.

### **Reforestation & Restoration, Judy Unrine**

Since the 2019 Winter Board meeting, no donations have been accepted to the Reforestation and Restoration Restricted Fund.

At convention, due to difficulty working with the National Forest Service in California, the Board voted to close the R&R Fund permanently.

Two projects, the green house and water supply, in Sequoia National Forest are ongoing and will continue.

Funds remaining in the account will either be returned to the donors or transferred to other CGCI projects. The treasurer will send a letter asking their preference. Thank you for your donations and support.

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

The Chairman reported on curbside wastepaper recycling which is collected and processed locally before entering the National and International fiber markets. Unfortunately, the “single-stream” system (a single container) creates “mixed paper” which lowers the value due to the presence of non-paper items (such as glass shards). China, the world’s largest purchaser of recycled paper, has been reducing its purchases recently, forcing:

1. Finding ways to increase domestic consumption of mixed fiber;
2. Finding export markets in other parts of the world; and

3. Pressuring local municipalities to improve materials recovery facilities, This may affect the recycling concept, including rates and costs.

**Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area, Mary Lou Goodwin**

I am sending many thanks to Michelle Forys, California State Parks Environmental Scientist and Katrina Henderson, Parks, intern, for their work in planning and advertising the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Work Parties on February 23, March 23 and April 4<sup>th</sup>. 70 volunteers donated 210 hours and special interns provided an additional 80 hours, for a total of 290 hours to clean up the azaleas from competing vegetation.

The propagation project will continue with a workday to take cuttings for the next batch of 500 new plants. Dan Burgess from the Redwood National Park will be growing them on at the Mill Creek Nursery south of Crescent City. Total funds raised since May 2016 are \$7,035.27. The expenses have been \$3,018.66 with a remaining balance of \$4,016.61. Contact Mary Lou Goodwin at [mlgoodwin@outlook](mailto:mlgoodwin@outlook) for details.