

California Garden Clubs, Inc
Minutes of the 2023 Winter Board Meeting
January 30 – February 1, 2023
Harrah’s Resort Southern California
Valley Center, California
Host: Palomar District’s Floral Design Forum
President: Lynne Batchelor

Business Meeting #1

President Lynne Batchelor called the meeting to order at 3:23 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. The Recording Secretary was present.

CGCI member Phil Stanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Climate Awareness Chairman Ward Habriel gave the Inspiration.

President Lynne Batchelor introduced the Executive Committee.

President Lynne Batchelor introduced former CGCI Presidents in attendance and the Circle of Poppies members in attendance.

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

Excused: Kathy Bramhall, Beverly Brune, Rosalie Hooper, Gudrun Kimmel, Monica Lewis, Darcey Lober, Shane Looper, Linda Malone, Nancy McDougal, Jane McKee, Krystal Migliore, Rosa Radicchi, Frankie Raymond, Emily Troxell, Charlotte Tucker, Elisabeth Tufo, Carolyn Villi, David West, Julie A. West, Carlotta Wixon-Welker and Pat York.

Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a registration total of 72 (including 44 board members).

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported the Rules of Order for the 2021-2023 term were adopted at the May 29, 2021 Organizational Meeting and can be found on page 8 of the program, and pointed out regarding rule #5 that three minutes are being allowed for oral reports at this meeting.

Winter Board Meeting Chairman George Speer welcomed members to the 2023 Winter Board Meeting in Valley Center.

President Lynne Batchelor thanked Meeting Chairman George Speer and Palomar District’s Floral Design Forum for hosting the 2023 Winter Board Meeting and introduced Palomar District Director Sharon Tooley.

Winter Board Meeting Chairman George Speer moved to adopt the meeting program as corrected.
Motion Passed.

Without objection, the Chair appointed the following committee to review the minutes for this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, and Writers-at-Large Cheryl Habriel, and Ann Wallace.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported regarding the minutes of the October 17-18, 2022 Fall Board Meeting in Sacramento which were distributed and posted to the

website on December 7, 2022, and clarified the function of the software described in Executive Committee Recommendation #16 and moved to adopt them as corrected.

Motion Passed.

3rd Vice President Marlene Kinney read Sacramento River Valley District Director Ron Byrd’s report on the 2022 Fall Board Meeting. See Attachment C.

President Lynne Batchelor introduced those members serving on the NGC Board.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following as delegates to the 2023 NGC Convention, May 2-5, in White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia: Joan Craig and Adele Kelly.

Motion Passed.

President Lynne Batchelor introduced those members serving on the PRGC Board.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following as delegates to the 2023 PRGC Convention April 17-20 in Lynwood, Washington: Cheryl Habriel, Ward Habriel, Bette Langford, and George Unrine.

Motion Passed.

Financial Report

Treasurer George Perko reported.

Net worth:

Total cash in checking/savings accounts	\$124,178	
Total other assets	\$497,095	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$621,273
of which liabilities and restricted funds are		\$399,365
Cash Balance Available		<u>\$221,908</u>

Treasurer George Perko read and moved to accept the Independent Accountant’s Review Report prepared by Carolyn Mayes, CPA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 and signed December 12, 2022.

Motion Passed as amended. See Attachment A.

Officers’ Reports

President Lynne Batchelor reported. See Attachment B.

President-elect Carol Vallens read the 1st reading of her President’s Project Resolution. See Attachment E.

2nd Vice-President Adele Kelly deferred her reports. See Attachment D.

3rd Vice-President/Membership Chairman Marlene Kinney reported and moved to ratify the following three clubs and one Associate Plant Society:

Petrolia Garden Club - Humboldt District, David Grant, President, 35 members

Westside Cymbidium Society – Greater Los Angeles District, Lucia Brandt, President, 20 members

Floral Artists of the Bay Area – Bay Ocean District, Brenda Bennett, President, 6 members

Associate Plant Society: Long Beach Parent Chapter of the American Begonia Society – Christine Hogan, President, 30 members

Motion Passed. See Attachment B.

Membership Chairman Marlene Kinney announced two clubs in Palms to Pines District have disbanded: Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild and Inland Empire Master Gardeners

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the deadline for emailed reports is Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in Word document format.

Corresponding Secretary Milly Benson reported.

Interim Financial Secretary Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment B.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment B.

Communications Director Kathy Taylor de Murillo had no report.

Executive Committee Recommendations

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst moved to adopt or ratify the following recommendations:

1. To accept, with regret, the resignation of Shane Looper as Liability Insurance Chairman.

Motion Passed.

2. To ratify the appointment of Launa Gould as Liability Insurance Chairman.

Motion Passed.

3. To ratify the appointment of the following Election Board (per Article VI. Sec. 1 c) 3.: Chairman – Greg Pokorski; Tellers – Adele Kelly and Kathy Taylor de Murillo; Clerk – Sandra Graff; Judge – George Speer.

Motion Passed.

4. To purchase a subscription for Adobe Acrobat Pro at \$266.29 to ensure pdf files posted to the website are ADA/WCAG compliant. New line code 902B.

Motion Passed as Amended.

5. To close the Anza Borrego Desert State Park Project, line code 31516, on 6/30/2023 since the \$15,000 objective in the June 7, 2012 resolution has been reached. Donations no longer accepted after June 15, 2023.

Motion Passed.

6. To approve adding Second Vice President Adele M. Kelly as a signer on the Bank of America accounts and the US Bank accounts.

Motion Passed.

7. To approve an increase in the 2023 CGCI Convention registration fee from \$45.00 to \$65.00 and an increase in the late registration fee from \$75.00 to \$100.00.

Motion Passed as Amended.

8. To approve a change of venue for the 2023 CGCI Convention from the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys to the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks.

Motion Passed.

Without objection, the Chair appointed Sandra Graff as Timekeeper for the Winter Board Meeting in the absence of Timekeeper Linda Malone.

Committee Reports

Awards Chairman Pat Clayes reported. See Attachment D.

Awards Chairman Pat Clayes read a report from Board of Trustees Chairman Julie A. West. See Attachment D.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Rita Desilets advised her report will be filed. See Attachment D.

The meeting recessed at 5:39 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 9:07 a.m.

Vermiculture/Vermicomposting Chair Paul Vander Werf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Adele Kelly reported. See Attachment B. She moved on behalf of the Bylaws and Policy Committee that the following proposed amendments to the bylaws be recommended to the voting membership at the 2023 convention:

Proposal #1

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Sec. 3

The vice-presidents, ~~in their order~~, shall:

- (a) in their order, perform the duties of the president in the absence of or at the request of the president; and
- (b) accept ~~a~~ chairmanships as assigned by the president.
- (c) The first vice-president shall become president-elect at the close of the convention or on July 1 (whichever comes first) preceding the election year.

Rationale: Vice presidents can have more than one chairmanship assigned to them.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Sec. 3

The vice-presidents shall:

- (a) in their order, perform the duties of the president in the absence of or at the request of the president; and
- (b) accept chairmanships as assigned by the president.
- (c) The first vice-president shall become president-elect at the close of the convention or on July 1 (whichever comes first) preceding the election year.

Motion Passed.

Proposal #2

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Sec. 5.

The corresponding secretary shall:

- (a) conduct correspondence of the corporation under the direction of the president;
- (b) ~~mail (electronic or postal)~~ distribute notices of meetings; meeting minutes, and other notices as required;
- (c) ~~mail (electronic or postal), provide following the organizational meeting, the official roster of names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of officers, district directors and chairmen CGCI rosters, notices of roster changes and other reports to the PRGC alternate director and to NGC headquarters, as requested; and subsequent changes as they occur;~~

- (d) mail (electronic or postal), following notification from the membership and life membership chairmen, the names and addresses of president, *Golden Gardens eNews* editor, club and associate plant society presidents, and current list of NGC life members to NGC headquarters, ATTN: Circulation. field all calls from CGCI's toll-free number;
- (e) supervise the mailing (electronic or postal) and count of any emergency ballot directed by the executive committee.

Rationale: The responsibilities of the corresponding secretary will change starting in the 2023-2025 term. Old subparagraph (d) is no longer required/no longer done.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Sec. 5.

The corresponding secretary shall:

- (a) conduct correspondence of the corporation under the direction of the president;
- (b) distribute notices of meetings, meeting minutes, and other notices as required;
- (c) provide CGCI rosters, notices of roster changes and other reports to PRGC and NGC as requested;
- (d) field all calls from CGCI's toll-free number;
- (e) supervise the mailing (electronic or postal) and count of any emergency ballot directed by the executive committee.

Motion Passed.

Proposal #3

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Sec. 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. When elected and term of office:

- 1. A nominating committee of seven (and one alternate) shall be elected following the election of officers at the convention in odd-numbered years. In the event of an emergency and cancellation of convention, the executive committee shall conduct the election of the nominating committee by the board of directors by an electronic meeting, ~~or by mail (electronic or postal).~~
- 2. Term of office of all nominated committee member(s) shall be two years, ~~or until their successors are elected or appointed.~~

B. Eligibility:

- 1. Each member shall have served on the board of directors and shall be present when nominated.
- 2. ~~No district shall be represented on the committee two consecutive terms. The name of a proposed chairman shall be nominated by the executive committee.~~
- 3. The state of California shall be divided into three regions. Based on the Map of CGCI Districts online and in published documents, there shall be two members from Districts 1 to 12, two members from Districts 13 to 19, and two members from Districts 20 to 28.

C. Election:

- 1. Following the election of officers, the chair shall present the name of the executive committee's nominee for chairman for election and shall call for nominations from the floor: for two representatives from each region and for an alternate (who may be from any of the three regions).
- 2. Vote shall be by ballot unless there are only seven ~~(7)~~ members nominated, when election shall be held by voice vote.
- 3. A plurality vote shall elect.

D. Duties:

- 1. The committee shall assume office at the end of convention in the election year.

2. ~~The committee shall elect a chairman. Five~~ Four members shall constitute a quorum.
 3. The alternate may attend all meetings and shall serve as a voting member if required to fill a vacancy.
 3. 4. At the fall board meeting, in odd-numbered years, the committee shall notify all board members of offices to be filled, such notice to be published in *Golden Gardens e-News*.
 4. 5. The chairman of the committee shall file with the president and president-elect, two weeks before the winter board meeting of odd-numbered years a slate of at least one candidate for each office.
 5. 6. The slate shall be included in the chairman's preliminary report at the winter board meeting in odd-numbered years and shall be ~~appended~~ included to in the call to convention in the odd-numbered year.
- E. Vacancies: In event of a vacancy, the ~~president shall appoint a replacement from the same district as the vacating~~ elected alternate member shall serve as a voting member.

Rationale: Provide for committee leadership by someone who has significant knowledge of the organization. Simplify the nominating committee election process by providing for all areas of the state to be represented each term without having a specific district rotation where any one district is not eligible to be represented in consecutive terms.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Sec. 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. When elected and term of office:

1. A nominating committee of seven (and one alternate) shall be elected following the election of officers at the convention in odd-numbered years. In the event of an emergency and cancellation of convention, the executive committee shall conduct the election of the nominating committee by the board of directors by an electronic meeting.

2. Term of office of all nominated committee member(s) shall be two years.

B. Eligibility:

1. Each member shall have served on the board of directors and shall be present when nominated.

2. The name of a proposed chairman shall be nominated by the executive committee.

3. The state of California shall be divided into three regions. Based on the Map of CGCI Districts online and in published documents, there shall be two members from Districts 1 to 12, two members from Districts 13 to 19, and two members from Districts 20 to 28.

C. Election:

1. Following the election of officers, the chair shall present the name of the executive committee's nominee for chairman for election and shall call for nominations from the floor for two representatives from each region and for an alternate (who may be from any of the three regions).

2. Vote shall be by ballot unless there are only seven members nominated, when election shall be held by voice vote.

3. A plurality vote shall elect.

D. Duties:

1. The committee shall assume office at the end of convention in the election year.

2. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

3. The alternate may attend all meetings and shall serve as a voting member if required to fill a vacancy.

4. At the fall board meeting, in odd-numbered years, the committee shall notify all board members of offices to be filled, such notice to be published in *Golden Gardens e-News*.

5. The chairman of the committee shall file with the president and president-elect, two weeks before the winter board meeting of odd-numbered years a slate of at least one candidate for each office.

6. The slate shall be included in the chairman's preliminary report at the winter board meeting in odd-numbered years and shall be included in the call to convention in the odd-numbered year.

E. Vacancies: In event of a vacancy, the elected alternate member shall serve as a voting member.

Motion Passed as Amended.

Proposal #4

ARTICLE IX – DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Sec. 7

~~The district director shall file with the membership chairman by June 1 a legible list of all clubs, affiliates and youth gardeners in the district with names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of the club presidents and treasurers, affiliate presidents and treasurers and youth gardener leaders. The list should follow the format of the CGCI roster. ensure that clubs in their districts complete CGCI's Annual Contact Information Form on CGCI's website by the published deadline and whenever contact information changes.~~

Rationale: This process has been replaced by use of the Annual Contact Information form. Clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates are responsible for completing this form annually.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE IX – DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Sec. 7

The district director shall ensure that clubs in their districts complete CGCI's Annual Contact Information Form on CGCI's website by the published deadline and whenever contact information changes.

Motion Passed as Amended.

Proposal #5

ARTICLE XI – ANNUAL MEETINGS

~~**Sec. 1.** An annual meeting (a convention) shall be held before the end of the fiscal year, ~~place city and date to be recommended~~ approved by the board of directors and ~~approved by the voting membership~~. In the event of a local, state or national emergency, disaster or crisis the executive committee may cancel a convention or may change the place and date. All corporate business (with the exception of the election of officers and nominating committee and amending of the bylaws) may be conducted by the executive committee.~~

Rationale: Conventions recently have not been set early enough to actually comply with this bylaw. This amendment would allow for more flexibility if the board of directors is the approving body. Bylaws ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Sec. 5 addresses repetitive wording deleted in this bylaw.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE XI – ANNUAL MEETINGS

Sec. 1. An annual meeting (a convention) shall be held before the end of the fiscal year, city and date to be approved by the board of directors.

Motion Passed.

Proposal #6

ARTICLE XII – FINANCES, Sec. 4.

~~Half 30%~~ of the net proceeds from conventions shall be placed in the general fund and the remaining 70% shall be retained by the host.

Rationale: CGCI receives 30% and host receives 70% in order to encourage more offers from districts and clubs to host conventions.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE XII – FINANCES, Sec. 4.

30% of the net proceeds from conventions shall be placed in the general fund and the remaining 70% shall be retained by the host.

Motion Passed.

Proposal #7

ARTICLE XII – FINANCES, Sec. 10.

(a) Accounts of the financial secretary and treasurer shall be reviewed annually at close of the fiscal year by a certified public accountant approved by the board of directors.

(b) This review report shall be presented for action ~~at the fall~~ no later than the winter board meeting following the close of the fiscal year. (c) The accountant’s annual review letter shall be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented and published in Golden Garden eNews following that meeting. (d) 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: Aligns the time to reflect more closely with what is actually happening. Often the accountant’s annual review letter is not received in time to be incorporated in the fall board meeting minutes or published in Golden Garden eNews following that meeting.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE XII – FINANCES, Sec. 10.

(a) Accounts of the financial secretary and treasurer shall be reviewed annually at close of the fiscal year by a certified public accountant approved by the board of directors.

(b) This review report shall be presented for action no later than the winter board meeting following the close of the fiscal year.

(c) The accountant’s annual review letter shall be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented and published in *Golden Garden eNews* following that meeting.

(d) 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.

Motion Passed.

Proposal #8

ARTICLE XVI - CIRCLE OF POPPIES

Membership in the Circle of Poppies was established in 2005 to honor those board members 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.

Rationale: Historical reference not required in a bylaw. Defines who is eligible for membership and eliminates undefined/vague length of service requirement.

Would Read After Amendment

ARTICLE XVI - CIRCLE OF POPPIES

Membership in the Circle of Poppies honors those board members who have given extraordinary 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.

Motion Passed.

Bylaws & Policy Committee Chairman Adele Kelly moved on behalf of the Bylaws & Policy Committee to adopt the following amendments to Standing Rules (these require approval only by the board and become effective immediately upon approval):

Proposal #9

STANDING RULE 31 - Anyone whether commercial or otherwise wishing to sell products for their own benefit at a CGCI function, must first be approved by the function host and CGCI president. ~~The vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement. Revenues shall be divided equally between the general fund and the function host.~~

- a) A commercial vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement.
- (b) A host club or district may sponsor sales tables/boutiques or related fundraisers at a CGCI board meeting or convention and retain all revenue from such sales.
- (c) Individual chairmen/committees may raise funds to support their specific chairmanship.

Rationale: Provides clarification between commercial vendors and CGCI members.

Would Read After Amendment

STANDING RULE 31 – Anyone whether commercial or otherwise wishing to sell products for their own benefit at a CGCI function, must first be approved by the function host and CGCI president.

- (a) A commercial vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement.
- (b) A host club or district may sponsor sales tables/boutiques or related fundraisers at a CGCI board meeting or convention and retain all revenue from such sales.
- (c) Individual chairmen/committees may raise funds to support their specific chairmanship.

Motion Passed as Amended.

Proposal #10

STANDING RULE 60 -

- 1. The website shall be ~~chaired~~ administered by the webmaster ~~communications director~~ and include:

- (a) items of interest to members as well as non-members, e.g., calendar of events, educational schools, membership and forms;
 - (b) convention and board meeting information (call and minutes), ~~annual financial statements,~~ articles of incorporation, amended sets of bylaws and standing rules;
 - (c) advertising approved by the executive committee ~~or a designated chairman;~~ and
 - (d) endorsements approved by the ~~board of directors~~ executive committee.
2. Links:
- (a) districts, affiliates, associate plant societies and clubs that are members in good standing, ~~Pacific Region~~ PRGC and NGC;
 - (b) non-member horticulture, design and environmental organizations or affiliates upon approval of the executive committee;
 - (c) commercial links approved by the executive committee ~~or a designated chairman.~~
3. ~~Money~~ Funding for technical assistance shall be in the budget.

Rationale: Elimination of the communications director's position. To be consistent, changing advertising, endorsements and commercial links to all be approved by the executive committee. Changes money to funding.

Would Read After Amendment

STANDING RULE 60 -

- 1. The website shall be administered by the webmaster and include:
 - (a) items of interest to members as well as non-members, e.g., calendar of events, educational schools, membership and forms;
 - (b) convention and board meeting information (call and minutes), articles of incorporation, amended sets of bylaws and standing rules;
 - (c) advertising approved by the executive committee; and
 - (d) endorsements approved by the executive committee.
- 2. Links:
 - (a) districts, affiliates, associate plant societies and clubs that are members in good standing, PRGC and NGC;
 - (b) non-member horticulture, design and environmental organizations or affiliates upon approval of the executive committee;
 - (c) commercial links approved by the executive committee.
- 3. Funding for technical assistance shall be in the budget.

Motion Passed as Amended.

Nominating Committee Chairman Pat Clayes reported, announcing the slate of officers for the 2023-2025 term. See Attachment D.

Convention Procedures Chairman Robin Pokorski reported. See Attachment D.

The meeting recessed at 10:24 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

President Lynne Batchelor presented Presidential Citations.

Flower Show Schools Chairman Sandra Graff reported. See Attachment D.

Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman Sue Bennett reported and moved to ratify the San Gorgonio Garden Club to join the CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program.

Motion Passed.

GTEP Chairman Sue Bennett moved to ratify the removal of Las Floralias from the Group Tax Exemption Program.

Motion Passed.

GTEP Chairman Sue Bennett announced that Palms to Pines District is no longer part of the GTEP program.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported for Life Membership Chairman Carlotta Wixon-Welker (See Attachment D) and moved to ratify these new Life Members:

Bob Taylor - Valley Lode District

Lenore Karp - Bay Ocean District

Motion Passed.

Liability Insurance Chairman Launa Gould reported. See Attachment D.

Procedures Committee Chairman Carol Vallens reported.

Strategic Planning Committee Chairman George Speer reported.

President-elect Carol Vallens reported for Technology Committee Chairman Jane McKee. See Attachment D.

Youth Chairman Lisa Cosand reported. See Attachment D.

The meeting recessed at 11:42 a.m.

Business Meeting #3

The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

District Director Coordinator Carol Vallens introduced those District Directors who reported. See Attachment C.

Chairmen Coordinator Adele Kelly introduced those Chairmen who reported. See Attachment D.

On behalf of 2023 Convention Chairman Rita Desilets, Robin Pokorski invited members to the 2023 CGCI Convention, June 5-9 at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks.

Writer-at-Large Cheryl Habriel presented a "CGCI Board Meeting Ditty."

Joan Craig presented the Courtesy Resolution and moved its adoption and that it be included in the minutes.

Motion Passed. See Attachment F.

President Lynne Batchelor made announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary

Attachment A
Independent Accountant’s Review Report

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Graton, California

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2022, and the related statement of activities, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of organization management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

My responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require me to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether I am aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Carolyn A Mayes, CPA

Santa Rosa, California
December 12, 2022

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Attachment B Officer Reports

President, Lynne Batchelor

Greetings CGCI Members and Friends. Thank you so much for coming to Winter Board. I know it requires a big commitment time wise, arranging for care of relatives, looking after pets, house sitters, plant watering, financial investment, the physical stamina, the aggravation factor in travel (not easy to fly anymore and expensive to drive, not to mention the crazy driving to encounter, and the habit of isolation still left over from Covid). I appreciate you one and all! I want to give a big shout out to George Speer, Winter Board Meetings Chair and Design Forum Chair and to Sharon Tooley, Palomar District Director, for agreeing to sponsor this meeting. I am particularly appreciative of the district's agreeing to give the profits to their Design Forum Committee. This committee meets monthly Nov-May and brings designers to provide demonstrations and education to members who are judges, novice garden club members both experienced designers and those just learning about design as well as guests. This committee has been operating for 31 years and has had the same super designer for one program each year—our own Bob Gordon—who says he is retiring but we think he should continue at least until his 100th birthday. This is a self-sustaining program as we charge \$13 for attendance at each meeting but during Covid we met via Zoom which was free to attend but our expenses for flowers and designers continued. Because we are supporting the Design Forum, I choose to have flower show judges, student judges, and emeritus judges sitting at the honor tables for each meal.

As usual I want to begin by distributing Presidential Citation Certificates with their tin boxes containing gladiolus bulbs because we are so glad you are involved, carrot seeds so you can see yourself continuing and see the future for CGCI, a sleep mask because CGCI wears you out, some candy to keep up your energy and because you are so sweet and a grow pot because it is because of your efforts that we have continued to grow. George Speer, Dee Dee Speer, Sue Bennett, Jana Dudley, Charlotte Tucker, Jane McKee. I am also awarding certificates to individuals, clubs and districts.

As you noticed during our discussions at fall board and through numerous email requests usually sent to Greg about how to write bylaws to control bullying at meetings, this is an increasing problem for CGCI. Thank you Adele for her presentation on conflict resolution today and to everyone who contributed ideas. The one thing not addressed is your responsibility in the spur of the moment as a presiding officer at a general or committee meeting. You must intervene and say something like “this is out of order at this time. Please see me after the meeting to discuss your concerns” and then put those 10 techniques into action. If the remarks are made in a hostile manner, simply set out your expectations “I know you are passionate about this subject and I’m sure you didn’t realize how your remarks sounded. Our agreed upon norm is that we always treat everyone with courtesy and respect “.

As you know our immediate past President, Shane Looper is in poor health. I have a number of cards which will be at the registration table if you wish to sign them and Sue Bennett will deliver them. If you wish to have an update on Shane’s condition, please see Sue privately.

I am so sorry, if you did not have an opportunity to go to the Museum and basket making workshop. It was a very educational and entertaining experience. The amazing thing was that we all started with the same materials and each “masterpiece” was completely different. I want to commend George on his brilliant idea to have a center piece making workshop and then to use

them for our meetings. In addition, he was able to get 90% of the materials donated, so it increased the profit margin and saved a lot of last-minute adjustments and certainly is an idea that other board meeting chairs might want to consider.

We had a very successful Flower Show Symposium in San Diego this summer and all but one of our local judges refreshed. We had a request to provide the same opportunity in Northern California. Our Symposium is scheduled for March 27 and 28 at the Embassy Suites in South San Francisco. Although the form says register for the hotel by March 4, we need to know sooner. So far we only have 8 registrations. There is a \$2,800 cancellation fee so we hope to avoid that. However, the cancellation penalty goes up after February 27, so we need to get those registrations in. We need to do what is fiscally responsible, so if holding it with fewer numbers than anticipated is less than the cancellation fee, we will do that. Please encourage everyone in your club and district to go. It is not only for judges but is a learning experience about floral arrangements and horticulture for all interested.

I was so happy to be invited to the holiday party at the Southern California Garden Club. What a fun experience—we played holiday wheel of fortune, I literally filled my Nissan 370z with treasures from their store, had to wear my Santa slippers and use my walker, met lots of people and learned about the wonderful things happening in their area. I also had a wonderful time at the Chicago Park Victorian Tea. This is the 2nd time I have attended—last year the program was on the Women’s Suffrage Movement in California and this year was a fashion show with authentic 1920’s fashions and a commentary on how fashion is a commentary on history. I feel somewhat like I was cheated on my two years as President as the first year I didn’t get to travel much because of the pandemic. Please invite me to visit your club or district. I know many districts have meetings following winter board, so if I haven’t been to see you yet, I would love to come. I do have a travel budget, so you don’t need to make a financial commitment.

I want to inform you about our progress towards making the CGCI website ADA compliant. It was brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee that our website was only about 60% compliant with ADA guidelines. These ADA issues apply primarily to equal access for the visually impaired. An example of what we are talking about is that every picture must have a caption describing what is in the scene so that if you run the voice reader over it, the text is read. We couldn’t for instance have a collage of photos titled scenes from the winter board meeting but would need to say photo one picture of Adele Kelly 2nd vice president presiding over bylaws discussion, photo 2 picture of President Lynne Batchelor convening meeting. This compliance issue is legally a gray area for a number of reasons among them: both states and the federal government have differing rules; it is unclear if the regulations as written apply to websites; it is unknown if they apply to non-profits especially to those which do not sell products; there are a number of companies which check your compliance and they get different percentages. Just as an aside—our website scored about the same as the NGC website from whom I solicited advice. Their response was we didn’t realize this could be an issue, thanks for letting us know, you’re on your own. The Executive Committee has been working on this issue and although Jane McKee has done a great deal of work, we have hired a company to set up the behind-the-scenes internet work. Once we are clearer on the process, we will share our ideas with you. Here is Jane’s progress report to the executive committee.

I want to begin and end this report on a happy note, so let me thank you for all your contributions to my President’s Project, the River Center at Grant Park. As I mentioned at Fall Board, we have exceeded my original monetary goal but alas the calculations of money needed was vastly underestimated due to the astronomical rise in prices for plants post Covid. I think to

realize the garden as envisioned in 2019, I need approximately \$40,000. I will be so grateful for any contribution you can make either individually or as a club or district and I assure you the funds will be used to help make our dreams come true about providing an enjoyable and educational experience for students and adults and providing first rate publicity for CGCI.

2nd Vice-President, Adele Kelly

The Bylaws & Policy Committee members are Jeanne Johnson, Greg Pokorski, George Speer, George Unrine, Carol Vallens, David West and this chairman. The committee had three Zoom meetings since the fall board meeting. In the meetings, the committee members reviewed suggestions for bylaws, standing rules and policy amendments.

During Business Meeting #2 on February 1, 2023 this chairman on behalf of the Bylaws & Policy Committee read the attached CGCI Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Bylaws and Standing Rules. The proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments were emailed to board members on January 19, 2023 through CGCI's email distribution system and a revision to Proposal #2 was distributed at Business Meeting #2 on February 1, 2023. All ten proposed amendments were moved/passed for recommendation to the voting membership at the 2023 convention.

3rd Vice-President Marlene Kinney/Membership Chairman

Current Membership

Number Paid as of 1/28/2023

Clubs	236	(12,975)
APS's	41	(3,150)
Affiliates	1	
Total	278	(16,125)

Total Membership Dollars Paid as of 1/28/2023 in SF: \$44,345.78

- CGCI has two new clubs to be ratified
- CGCI has one club to be re ratified
- CGCI has one new APS to be ratified
- CGCI has one Announcement: - 2 clubs have disbanded

Interim Financial Secretary, Rita Desilets

Chairmen collecting money need to send a copy of the Cash Receipts Report to me as well as a copy with the checks you send to George or the P.O. Box. Cash receipt forms are available here today for those choosing not to use the website form.

Your Request for Payment forms will be processed quickly, but be sure you use the correct line code, stay within the budget and include your receipts. Please use the Word Document found on the website and send it as a Word Document, not a PDF. Your receipts can be scanned and sent in a separate PDF or you can snail mail them. Help is a phone call or email away, so please ask for assistance.

All requests for payment must be received by June 15.

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

Since Fall Board Meeting this officer has reviewed minutes from that meeting, reviewed agendas for this meeting, attended monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and the Bylaws & Policy

Committee, reviewed bylaws for several clubs and responded to inquiries received by email and through CGCI's toll-free number.

As a Parliamentarian, I have attended parliamentary workshops, now frequently offered on Zoom, and monthly meetings of the parliamentary unit that I belong to. Parliamentary procedure is a continuous learning experience.

I am again disappointed that only 45 of our 87 board members registered for this meeting. The work and success of our organization depends on the participation of its members. Many districts are not officially represented. Encourage your Director or an alternate to be here.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to report orally at these meetings and to submit written reports that will be attached to the minutes. This is one significant way to share your activities and accomplishments and to solicit involvement in your projects. I heard way too many of you at this morning's Chairmen's Meeting say that you were not reporting.

Our next meeting is convention. All member clubs and associate plant societies are entitled to representation by the president or the official alternate of the president, and by delegates, based on the number of club members. District Directors, please encourage your clubs to attend and participate and learn about their organization. Ideally, every member club should be represented at every convention. Watch for instructions in the Call about the credentialing process. Individuals cannot merely designate themselves as club delegates – they must be elected or appointed by their clubs. Those who serve as delegates have a vote and should be attending the convention business meetings, not just attending workshops or meal programs.

By coming together and learning together we can all do more to benefit our garden clubs.

It is a pleasure to serve CGCI and our President in this office.

Attachment C District Director Reports

Bay Ocean District, Nancy McDougal

This District and many member clubs continue affected by our local demographic, as well as the past lock-down, with those clubs depending on active participation by all members being most affected. Groups whose paid membership merely supports a core of active members have been least affected, managing member & public outreach throughout. Of those member clubs that disbanded, one has enthusiastically reorganized. We are anxious to continue building District support at our 3x year meetings through mutual assistance and shared programing. We are also able to utilize the recently revitalized local Garden Center to coordinate individual & District public outreach.

Buttes District, Carol Jauregui

The Buttes District is slowly recovering from COVID. Paradise GC is regaining members who are re-establishing their homes/gardens on the Ridge. Sutter Buttes GC has had difficulties attracting new members and keeping a president. The Gridley Green Thumb GC with many long time members, owes their growth to their public presence at Community events. In an effort to bolster Oroville's membership, they posted on Craigslist, under Community/groups. They gained a new

member from Sacramento. This director will provide a report for all of you at convention, about how to restore a lost password for a Facebook page.

Cascade District, Carolyn Hoyum

Cascade District has 7 active clubs. Having come in at the "half" as District Director I am learning lots. Never give up is one. Be persistent! Is another. Don't assume people know. Therefore we need workshops, and reminders, and inspiration, and atta boys! Our district appears to be in the dark ages. Probably only half of the district uses E mails yet even with snail mail things do not happen. I am considering having a chairperson just to keep up reminders. Most clubs really need guidance in the direction of fulfilling the job of finances. Having been sent what I thought was important from last board meeting has never been mentioned to me. Clubs are strong in their own domains because they care. I do know when it is time for a district meeting we are strong together! We all love to get together and celebrate our common bond of gardening.

Costa Verde District, Former Director Judy Unrine

Due to the illness of the present district director, I am reporting on the status of the Costa Verde District.

Because there has been no activity in our district since before the epidemic, the District Director Coordinator was contacted. She was asked for assistance on what needed to be done to reactivate the district.

A past president of Riviera Garden Club has agreed to consider being the next district director. She has reviewed the Costa Verde District bylaws. She has contacted the current district director and met with the club presidents in our district individually. She has secured the location for a meeting to be held on February 23, 2023. The topic of the meeting will be making plans to hold an election of officers for the 2023-2024 year. Our CGCI president, Lynne Batchelor, has been invited to attend.

Desert Empire District, Renee Rivera

Attached are the most current newsletters from the Desert Empire District Clubs. This is what our clubs are doing right now. There is nothing outstanding, we are just moving along and working on ways to get membership which has slipped in the last couple of years. We have one district meeting a year and that is coming up on February 13th. I am overwhelmed with all the jobs I have with the garden clubs and district, this is the best I can do for a report.

Golden Foothills District, Nina Blonski

Networking among the 10 clubs in the GFD has helped the board members in each club. Our 3 district board meetings are workshops where many procedures that must be done are explained, and reminders of due dates are covered. They even share tours, speakers, and workshop information. Our 2 general meetings are potlucks with a speaker and clubs' accomplishments are celebrated by all members. Our Garden Party is a fun event with a hat parade, potluck and speaker. Numbers are increasing as folks are feeling like meeting together once again. We have several clubs over ninety years established and 3 clubs that are new in the last 4 years. We all have something to share and learn from each other.

Greater Los Angeles District, Joyce Parrott

The Greater Los Angeles District held its first meeting in several years, a Board meeting, last October. Twelve were in attendance, with five of our six clubs represented. Officers were elected, including a new Treasurer. The need for district dues was discussed, as well as possible projects.

The District was represented at the Fall Board meeting in Sacramento by our District Secretary, and at the Winter Board meeting in San Diego by the District Director. We are targeting our next meeting, a general meeting to which all members are invited, in March. We have been graciously invited by the San Fernando Valley District to attend a multi-district meeting, to include the Arboretum District, along with President Lynne; on Feb. 13. Most individual clubs are in “status quo” mode, getting back to pre-pandemic activities. District “milestones” include the Culver City Garden Club celebrating the 70th anniversary of its annual garden show, and also receiving a grant from Culver City to help with this celebration; as well as the Los Angeles Garden Club celebrating its 90th anniversary. As of the Winter Board meeting, we have gained a seventh club, the Westside Cymbidium Society.

Mendo-Lake District, Rhea Pitchard

Our five clubs in Mendo-Lake District are now all holding in-person meetings. I just attended Potter Valley's 75 anniversary celebration. It was so nice to interact with members, face to face. We will be discussing a "code of conduct" at our next District meeting. Several clubs have had issues, and having a procedure in place will benefit all. I would like to suggest this as a topic at the next District Director's forum. I could provide our example(s).

Palomar District, Sharon Tooley

Recently I was able to join Descanso Garden Club at one of their meetings. Descanso is a small community in the southeast corner of San Diego County with about 1,500 people. They have a small, but thriving Garden Club. During the meeting one member mentioned that they would be giving out a \$300 scholarship. That comment made me think - could the Palomar District help clubs with established scholarships? I plan to earmark \$5,000 during my next two years to help clubs increase their scholarship donations. I will create a form they can fill out and will have two other people from the district help make the donation decisions.

Sacramento River Valley District, Ron Byrd

We had a good experience with the Fall Board Meeting. There were about 65 registrations. We made a profit of \$520.74. We had a lot of raffle baskets and sold a lot of raffle tickets. Otherwise we would not have made a profit. We appreciated the \$500 we got from CGCI for the speaker's fees. Meals at the hotel were expensive and I think that discouraged members in the district from attending.

We had plenty of volunteers within the district to help with all the duties. I question having a Fall Board and a Winter Board just a few months apart. A lot of the meetings were reports from committee chairmen and state officers. It has become very expensive for delegates to attend such three day events.

Santa Clara Valley District, Roseann Costabile

In person meetings and outings have resumed with all clubs. A few clubs continue to Zoom some meetings and have Facebook pages.

Clubs are planning spring plant sales, providing grants to schools and participating in community outreach to promote horticulture.

Cupertino and Willow Glen focus on organic gardening holding Zoom workshops and hands on gardening in raised beds.

Gilroy Bee Keepers have monthly Adopt-A-Hive workshops at an apiary, workers share in the sweet harvest in June.

San Jose Garden Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary at a luncheon in October. Current club president plans to attend the CGCI Convention in June.

Yosemite Gateway District Director, Mary Brooks

The three clubs in the Yosemite Gateway District total 143 members.

Atwater Garden Club

LeGrand Garden Club

Merced Garden Club

They continue with their ongoing projects of annual garden tours that support their scholarships to local high schools and Merced College students.

At the last District meeting this Fall the members voted to provide landscaping to the signage area of the Merced County Courthouse Museum. This historically was a project of the Merced Garden Club.

Attachment D Chairmen and Committee Reports

Awards Committee, Pat Clayes

Members of the Awards Committee are Judy Bates, Certificates; Emily Troxell, Flower Show Awards; Monica Lewis, Awards Finance; Lisa Cosand, Youth Awards; Charlotte Tucker, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

First place CGCI awards eligible to apply for National Garden Clubs awards were sent electronically and/or mailed in January. First place CGCI winners eligible to apply for Pacific Region Garden Clubs awards will be sent before the March 1 deadline.

This spring, we will be working to make the CGCI award evaluation forms (for those awards which are eligible to go on to NGC) more in line with NGC's judging/evaluation forms. This will enable our CGCI clubs to receive more awards at the national level.

District Directors: Please send your list of blue ribbon clubs to me by March 1 (for Award #10 Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement Award).

Awards Finances: Monica Lewis and I are working on collecting money from a few award sponsors for the 2022 awards year (money is supposed to be on deposit with CGCI by August 31). Emails were sent in January to five districts, three club, and two individual sponsors who still owe. Also, in January, warrants were created by the CGCI Financial Secretary to collect award monies to fund awards that come from special CGCI funds.

A new sponsor is needed for Award #40-4 Photography, 1st place \$50. For a photo of a flowering tree or shrub, in bloom, grown by applicant. Please contact me if you, your club, or your district is interested in sponsoring this award for the 2023 awards year. Thank you, Valley Lode District, for your past sponsorship of this award.

New sponsor for 2023 Awards Year: Carol Vallens will now sponsor Award #70 – Educational Schools Award. \$100 to a district having the greatest number of members newly accredited as Consultants or Flower Show judges. Thank you to Shirley Kirby for your past sponsorship of this award.

Flower Show Awards: Emily Troxell reports that only one flower show book of evidence was judged for the 2022 awards year.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest: Charlotte Tucker reports that she has received posters from several clubs around the state, and the posters will be judged on February 8 at the Cal Fire Office in Sonora. Winning posters will then be forwarded to Pacific Region Garden Clubs for further judging.

Certificates: Judy Bates will be creating all award certificates for the 2022 awards year (including Award #10, the Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement award). These awards will be given at Convention 2023.

Youth Awards: Lisa Cosand

- Award #61 -- Sculpture Contest -- no entries
- Award #62 - Poetry -- one entry
- Award #63 -- Youth Pollinator Poster Contest -- two entries
- Award #64 -- Junior Essay Contest -- no entries
- Award #65 -- School Garden Award -- no entries

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers Co-Chairman, Shirley Lipa

This Northern California Co-Chair has no new Blue Star Memorials to report. A *Golden Gardens e-news* article was submitted for the December 2022 issue detailing how the San Clemente GC restored its marker and what products were used. This Co-Chair has submitted her resignation so that she can devote her full attention to her new 2023 State position of Corresponding Secretary.

Blue Star & Gold Families Memorial Markers Co-Chairman, George Unrine

A Blue Star Memorial Marker purchased by Antelope Valley Blue Star Mothers, CA Ch. 14 and sponsored by Desert Empire District was dedicated Dec. 17th, 2022, in the Lancaster Cemetery. They did experience the recent, long delivery time. While the CGCI sponsored marker restoration project had to be canceled, Fallbrook GC restored their Byway Marker using a local sign company for \$495. The marker was the older two plaque version, wall mounted so not easily replaced. Four clubs submitted CGCI Award #2 – Blue Star Memorial Site Beautification Award Applications.

Board and Convention Meetings Procedures, Robin Pokorski

The Board and Convention Meeting Procedures Committee was appointed at the Fall Board Meeting in Sacramento. Launa Gould, Alexis Slafer and this chairman began the task of writing procedures for Convention. We found many obsolete and ignored suggestions in the multiple outdated versions. A final version has been reviewed by the immediate past convention chairman, the vice-presidents, and parliamentarian. The manual will be made available online to future convention chairmen and includes interactive forms. After this meeting, the committee will begin work on the Board Meeting Procedures and our target is to present you with those completed procedures at convention in June.

Board of Trustees Chairman, Julie A. West

The BOT met virtually via Zoom January 25, 2023 with a quorum present.

CGCI's Scholarship Committee with Martha Smyser awarded the following \$2,000 scholarships:

Robert L. Gordon: Jillian Eymann

Shane Looper: Sara Groban

Alberta Thiry Memorial: Chloe Raines

Following the Scholarship Committee, the BOT met with CGCI's Financial Advisor/Treasurer, George Perko. The CPA's Financial Statements for 2021-2022 fiscal year were reviewed in addition to the 12/31/2022 year-to-date financial reports. George will send \$300 (CGCI) and \$1,000 (Scholarship) waiting to transfer to endowments with Vanguard from 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Giving Tuesday held November 29, 2022 generated \$350 for CGCI and \$600 for Scholarship Endowments = \$950 total.

Budget & Finance Committee Chairman, Rita Desilets

The members of the Budget & Finance Committee, George Perko, Sue Bennett, Julie West, Carol Vallens. Shane Looper was excused and guest Lynne Batchelor attended.

We reviewed the financial records, Revenue and Expense spreadsheets from June to December 2022 as well as the status of two US Bank CDs. The agenda also included: new line code 902B for Adobe Acrobat Pro; GTEP and discussion of possible changes to the 2023-2024 Budget. The independent accountant's review report was accepted. The closing of Anza-Borrogo Desert State Park Project in June 2023 was confirmed.

Bylaws & Policy Committee Chairman, Adele Kelly

The Bylaws & Policy Committee members are Jeanne Johnson, Greg Pokorski, George Speer, George Unrine, Carol Vallens, David West and this chairman. The committee had three Zoom meetings since the fall board meeting. In the meetings, the committee members reviewed suggestions for bylaws, standing rules and policy amendments.

During Business Meeting #2 on February 1, 2023 this chairman on behalf of the Bylaws & Policy Committee read the attached (see body of minutes) CGCI Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Bylaws and Standing Rules. All ten proposed amendments were moved/passed for recommendation to the voting membership at the 2023 convention.

Chairmen Coordinator, Adele Kelly

CGCI Chairmen met on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 for a brief Chairman's Meeting. This chairman is pleased to report that thirty-eight chairmen were present. Chairmen were reminded of their reporting responsibilities. Following the chairmen's meeting was a combined district directors meeting and chairmen meeting. President Lynne Bachelor addressed the attendees, followed by President Elect, Carol Vallens. At this joint meeting, this chairman presented a talk about 10 Effective Conflict Resolution Techniques. Multi-member committee chairmen and other chairmen were asked to report at the request of the CGCI President during Business Meeting #1 on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

The following chairmen presented oral reports at Business Meeting #2:

Kathy Taylor de Murillo – Amenities and Protocol
George Unrine – Blue Star Memorial Markers, S. CA
Sue Bennett – California Consultants Council
Adele Kelly – Chairmen Coordinator
Ward Habriel – Climate Awareness
Greg Pokorski – Environmental Schools
Greg Pokorski – Gardening Schools
Roy Wilburn – Garden Therapy
Jeanne Johnson – Honor Book (for Bette Langford)
Alexis Slafer – Landscape Design Schools
Nina Blonski – Penny Pines
Terry Sampson – Pollinators
Robin Pokorski – Post Office Box/Donation Coordinator, President's Project
Martha Smyser – Scholarships
Judy Unrine – Sempervirens/Big Basin Recovery Funds
Pat Claves – Smokey Bear (reporting for Charlotte Tucker)
Pat Claves – Social Media
Terry Sampson – Stamps

Enews Editor, Launa Gould

Thanks for sending newsletters. Seems people are enjoying the Newsletter Notes in the eNews.

In your communications with others/even us CGCI people, always **include the name of your club and District.**

Deadline for articles **20th of month.**

Suggestions for improvement/articles always welcome.

Flower Show Schools Committee, Sandra Graff

- The Valley Judges Council sponsoring Flower Show School Courses I-IV, Modesto CA.

Co-Chairs Judi Picinini and Jennifer Waite.

- Eleven students on the FSS Student Roster

- Course I - April 8-10, 2022 & Course II September 24-26, 2022 - Successfully completed Course III - April 14-16, 2023

Instructors - Shirley Tetreault-Flower Show Procedure and Design. Cathy Felton - Horticulture Course IV - September 24-26, 2023

Instructors - Sue Kirkman-Flower Show Procedure and Horticulture. Judy Binns – Design

- Potential Future Flower Show School/s:

Marcia Bode, President- Vista Garden Club-Palomar District asked to Chair the next FSS.

Charlotte Rodriquez- Red Bluff Garden Club-Cascade District. Information forth coming.

HANDBOOK EXAM:

October 27, 2022-One student judge passed the HB Exam. Proctor Emily Troxell CGCI Symposium Chair. Accreditation of Jennifer Kennedy- Palomar District.

January 28, 2023 sent a 2page synopsis of HB pages 114-116 to 2 student judges, who completed the schedule writing, per Frankie Raymond FSS Judges Credential Chair.

Note: The NGC Flower Show School Resources under Flower Show School Information /Manual provides a 15-page step by step guide as to all that is involved in this chairmanship.

Gardening Schools, Greg Pokorski

This chairman continues to seek districts/clubs to sponsor Gardening Schools. I am happy to provide information/walk you through the process. CGCI now has a total of 87 Gardening Consultants, Master Consultants, Provisional Consultants and Emeritus Consultants. Thirteen will lapse this coming December 31 if they do not refresh or request extensions by that date. They have already been sent notices regarding this. Consultants can refresh by taking one course in the school for which they need credit. A number of Zoom courses are available and more will become available during the year. Schools Chairmen tend to receive the same questions repeatedly. Some of these are addressed in *The National Gardener*, which Consultants and students are required to read.

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

The completion of the Landscape Design School hosted by Valley Lode District saw an addition of 25 new Consultants -- for a total of 57 Landscape Design Consultants

If your credentials will lapse this year, take advantage of the many opportunities that are available to attend schools or refresh credentials. Check the NGC website for upcoming events.

Encourage your club or district to sponsor a landscape design school.

Liability Insurance, Launa Gould

Due to the hospitalization and illness of the current Liability Insurance chairman, I picked up the huge task and have been processing the insurance for CGCI clubs. Over 200 applications have been processed in the last 10 days and another package of renewals is on their way to my home.

It is important to share with your clubs that **attention to detail is crucial** when filling out the renewal form. Doing it **online** is easy and much more readable.

Use **current online forms**. Last year \$1.50-this year \$1.25.

Do the math – twice.

For **Additional Insured** Certificates, read the fine print. You need a **contract** indicating the venue needs to be **Named as an Additional Insured**.

If you are not sure how to fill out the forms, **ask** this chairman. I will find the answers.

Life Membership, Carlotta Wixon-Welker

This chairman has only acquired two new members, and we are happy to have them! Life Membership Applications may be obtained and filled out on the CGCI website, found under the “Forms” section. Please print it off and mail it to this chairman, along with a check for \$100.00.

The \$100.00 is put into the Scholarship fund, not into the General Fund. Each year \$2,000.00 is made available to students studying various subjects in the field of horticulture.

The following names shall be ratified:

Bob Taylor - Valley Lode District

Lenore Karp - Bay Ocean District

Nominating Committee, Pat Clayes

Members of the Nominating Committee are Chairman Pat Clayes (Palms to Pines District), Secretary Carolyn Hoyum (Cascade District), Roseann Costabile (Santa Clara Valley District), Nancy McDougal (Bay Ocean District), Terry Sampson (Roadrunner District), Sharon Tooley (Palomar District) and Carolyn Villi (Sequoia Foothills District).

In accordance with Article VI, Sec. 2, D, 5 of the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is very pleased to announce our Slate of Officers for the 2023-2025 term.

- Treasurer: George Perko
- Financial Secretary: Rita Desilets
- Corresponding Secretary: Shirley Lipa
- Recording Secretary: Gail Vanderhorst
- Third Vice President: Nina Blonski
- Second Vice President: Marlene Kinney
- First Vice President: Adele Kelly

Also, in accordance with the bylaws, the Slate will be appended to the Call to Convention.

Penny Pines, Nina Blonski

Please keep your donations coming and make sure you use the CGCI website to fill out the forms. All forms must be filled out online. Check in *Golden Gardens eNews* one (1) to two (2) months after you submitted your donation to find your clubs listing. Sequoia National Forest has a new address which has been updated on the website. Think about giving a donation as a gift for their special occasion like birthday or graduation through your club so your club is also acknowledged. The extreme wildland fires that California has experienced these past years make your donations important.

Pollinators, Terry Sampson

This chair would like to spread the word on exactly how important pollinators are. Without our pollinators this world would be a different place. You are encouraged to plant flowers, etc. that all pollinators are attracted to. This chair is taking this responsibility very seriously as I am learning how to become a beekeeper. I find this to be very fascinating and will keep all of you posted on my progress. A club member in my district is my mentor and my teacher.

President's Project, Robin Pokorski

Donating to The River Center at Grant Park **CELEBRATES** our support of civic beautification projects. Supporting The River Center at Grant Park **CULIVATES** valuable partnerships and increased public visibility. Becoming a partner at the inception of The River Center at Grant Park project **COMMEMORATES** and demonstrates CGCI's commitment to our communities, our state and our country. This chairman is amazed that so many clubs and individuals showed their support for this project. We set a goal of \$25,000 and we met that last year, then we increased the goal to \$30,000 and you met that. With 149 individuals, clubs and districts making donations we have raised a current total of \$33,392.66. Can we reach \$35,000?

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

The package plan includes everything except tours and raffle tickets. Generally the registration checks will be made payable to the host club or district but check the bottom of your registration form – it will always indicate to whom the check should be made payable.

There are increased costs associated to putting on a CGCI meeting. Because of the pandemic and because CGCI no longer attracts enough members to these meetings, hotels are charging meeting room rental. These fees can range from \$2,500 to \$6,000 per meeting. These costs will be recouped in the registration fees.

Scholarships, Martha Smyser

The CGCI Scholarship Committee voted to award three \$2,000 scholarships for the upcoming 2023-24 academic year.

The winner of the Robert L. Gordon Scholarship is Jillian Eymann, a junior at Cal Poly Humboldt in the Forestry, Fire and Rangeland Management Department.

The winner of the Charlene (Shane) Looper Scholarship is Sara Groban, also a junior at Cal Poly Humboldt in the Forestry Department.

The winner of the Alberta Thiry Memorial Scholarship is Chloe Raines, a senior at Cal Poly Humboldt also in the Forestry Department.

Sempervirens/Big Basin Recovery Fund, Judy Unrine and Kathy Taylor de Murillo

Arbor Day will be here soon. If you don't dedicate a tree locally, dedicate a Sempervirens Redwood tree for Arbor Day. You can indicate you are honoring Arbor Day on the donation form on the CGCI Website.

Thanks to you all. You have done a wonderful job in getting the word out and donating to the Sempervirens Fund and Big Basin Redwoods Rescue fund. The park is open on a limited basis. However, the Sempervirens Fund has only \$1,159. Big Basin Recovery Fund has only \$1,500. We need to continue to protect the Redwoods and their habitat.

Social Media, Pat Claves

Facebook is catching on in the garden club world! As of January 28, 1,330 people have "liked" our page and 1,650 people follow our page -- that's 50 more followers than last June. In the last 28

days, our posts have reached almost 4,000 people; 1,000 people have reacted to, commented or clicked on our posts; 17 new followers were added; and 6 new people have liked our page. The top post in January was "Rose Care" By Kathy Bramhall of Red Bluff Garden Club. Our audience is made up of 1,740 men and 8,260 women.

Stamps, Terry Sampson

This chair would like to thank all of the clubs and individuals who sent stamps to me so I could forward them unto to the Postal Museum in Tucson, AZ. This museum sends out stamps to educators all across the US as an aid in teaching their students about certain subjects that are portrayed on the stamps.

Smokey Bear Poster Contest, Charlotte Tucker

I will not be able to attend the CGCI Board meeting because I have been very sick with nausea and vomiting (stomach) problems since last March. I am doing much better now, but I'm still not able to travel, and I'm on a **VERY** limited diet now too. I have received posters from several clubs around the state and will be doing the judging on February 8th at the Cal Fire Office in Sonora. Would you please suggest to the District Directors that it might be a good idea for them to appoint a Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman for their district? I've been the Poster Chairman for Valley Lode District for 10 years and we always have winners at the CGCI level because I encourage our clubs to participate during my report at each VLD Meeting. And . . . I offer to help them by answering questions if they need assistance. It's always a good idea to get the next generation interested in Garden Club programs. Remember they are the ones who will be replacing us when we can no longer do as much as we grow older. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Website & Technology Committee Chairman, Jane McKee

The webform builder has been upgraded and those chairmen receiving the email version of a submission will notice a slightly different version. The submissions continue to be stored in the website archive and a spreadsheet of data submitted can be provided as needed. Contact the Webmaster.

You may start to notice some additions to the website pages. Hyperlinks (those links to documents or other pages) are underlined, font sizes may be slightly larger, etc. This is the beginning of the process to update the website to provide greater accessibility for those with physical challenges, especially visual. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

A few reminders:

NEW YEAR - NEW PASSWORDS. It's that time again and if you haven't already done so, it's a good idea to change passwords, especially for online financial accounts.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA): Many websites now require MFA for added security. MFA is an electronic authentication method in which a user is granted access to a website or application only after successfully presenting two or more pieces of evidence to sign in. In addition to a password, it requires a verification code sent to your phone (text or call) or email. If you haven't updated various logins to MFA now is a good time to start the process. The MFA option is usually found in the settings where you change passwords and usernames.

SCAMMERS, SPOOFERS & PHISHERS: Yep, they are still out there. Pay attention to the "sender's" address to weed out the fraudsters. And remember that CGCI and/or its officers will never ask you to purchase anything on behalf of the organization.

Youth Coordinator, Lisa Cosand

It is with great disappointment to report that there were only 3 entries in the 4 contests that I collect the entries for. My focus has been on the individual entries via garden club grandparents. While I was thinking see one, do one, teach one which is the standard in the dental world, the members wrote the poems and collected their prizes but never carried the information to a youth. I will be working on new strategies for the upcoming year.

Attachment E
2023-2025 President’s Project Resolution
Plant America: Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow, Today
(Building our Scholarship Fund)

Whereas, California Garden Clubs, Inc., hereafter referred to as CGCI, is a 501c3 charitable, educational nonprofit organization, and;

Whereas, “The Diamond Years: Seventy-Five Years and Growing” published in 2007 for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, reports the first two scholarship recipients received \$500 each, with the announcement appearing in “Golden Gardens” in May 1965, and;

Whereas, \$500 awarded in 1965 when allowing for inflation would in 2023 equate to nearly \$5,000 and;

Whereas, in recent years we have awarded two \$2,000 scholarships annually to recipients with funds coming from the existing Scholarship Donations/Life Membership Fund, and;

Whereas, “The cost of attending a four-year college full time, including tuition, fees, and room and board has increased 180% annually since 1978”, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (statistics for costs by 2019-2020) and;

Whereas, we have more scholarship applications from well-qualified and worthy students than funding available for the scholarship program, and; therefore, be it

Resolved, now is the perfect time for the largest state organization in National Garden Clubs, Inc. to add to the Scholarship Donations/Life Membership fund (Line Code 31513), as we begin to correct this imbalance between the growing need and CGCI’s ability to meet the need, and;

Resolved, that California Garden Clubs, Inc. adopt “**Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow, Today (Building our Scholarship Fund)**” as the 2023-2025 President’s Project. The purpose of this project is to raise funds to increase the scholarship dollar amount awarded per recipient and/or to increase the number of scholarships awarded beginning in 2024, and

Resolved, that donations made by members, clubs, districts, individuals from the general public and companies be made payable to “CGCI” with “President’s Project 2023-25” added in the memo line and be sent to the President’s Project chairman, who will keep records of the transactions and forward the donations to the CGCI Treasurer for deposit into the Temporarily Restricted Fund 2023-2025 President’s Project (Line Code 31511G), and;

Resolved, on, or around June 15, (in 2024 and in 2025) the balance will be transferred to the CGCI’s Temporarily Restricted Scholarship Donations/Life Membership Fund (Line Code 31513). Should

the amount transferred exceed \$5000 per year to the aforementioned fund, the funds received in excess of \$5000 per year may be awarded after the 2026 scholarship year. Funds from this 2023-25 President's Project shall be used to meet the highest scholarship need, as determined by the Scholarship Committee, and;

Resolved, that any funds remaining in the Temporarily Restricted Fund 2023-25 President's Project as of June 30, 2025 (line code 31511G) shall be transferred to CGCI's Temporarily Restricted Scholarship Donations/Life Membership Fund (Line Code 31513) for the purposes detailed in previous paragraphs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Vallens
President-Elect 2022-2023

Attachment F Courtesy Resolution

WHERE AS,

The members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. attending the 2023 Winter Board Meeting "California Roots" in Valley Center (Funner, CA), January 30 - February 1, 2023 have benefited from information learned at this convention and will disseminate this information to their districts, clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates; and

WHERE AS,

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

RESOLVED,

That CGCI President, Lynne Batchelor, through her gracious presiding; Palomar District Director, Sharon Tooley; the Palomar District's Design Forum doing a unique and appreciated 2-day program; and the "well known man around town" Chairman of the Winter Board Meeting, George Speer all be commended for their hard work, and,

RESOLVED,

That appreciation be extended to the California Consultants Council for sponsoring one of our speakers, and,

RESOLVED,

That members of the 30 clubs in the Palomar District, through their dedication to our organization, be thanked, especially after hosting the previous convention in June, 2022, and,

RESOLVED,

That appreciation be extended to the Palomar District's Floral Design Forum for their support, flexibility and hard work under the supervision of the CGCI District Director, Sharon Tooley and Winter Board Chairman, George Speer.

RESOLVED,

That special appreciation be given to our speakers, workshop leaders, as listed in our program, and the tour guide for the Wasxayam Pomki Museum and their basket-making class receive our warmest “thank yous”, and,

RESOLVED,

That thanks be given to the entire staff of the Harrah's Rincon Resort for their many courtesies, and,

RESOLVED,

That this resolution be incorporated into the minutes and that copies be sent to our CGCI President, Lynne Batchelor; the CGCI Recording Secretary, Gail Vanderhorst; the District Director, Sharon Tooley; the Winter Board Meeting Chairman, George Speer; and the staff of the Harrah's Rincon Resort.

Joan Craig, Courtesy Resolution Chairman

(adopted February 1, 2023)