



CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Winter Board Meeting

Ayres Hotel & Suites, Costa Mesa, CA

February 3-5, 2011

President: Maryanne Lucas

Host: Orange County District

EXCUSED: Archibald; Broadus; Bueermann; Dale; Davies; Davis; Dean; Dedini; Dodge; Doerfling; Durgerian; Gould, J.; Harms; Hart; Hewett; Hooper; Mayo; Mellen; Nansen; Nielsen; Paul; Picinini; Radicchi; Reid; Reiley; Roton; Strachan; Tebo; Thorne; Tufo; Unger; Villi; Walter

President Lucas called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. on February 4, 2011.

The Recording Secretary, Greg Pokorski, was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was led by Carole Lung, 2011 Winter Board Meeting and Water Conservation in Home & Garden Chairman.

The Inspiration was given by Robin Pokorski, Advisory Council Chairman.

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of current and former board members who passed away since the last meeting.

President Lucas introduced CGCI Officers, former CGCI Presidents Mary Lou Goodwin, Beverly Brune, Robert Gordon and Robin Pokorski, and Circle of Poppies Members Helen Gates and Angela Michaels.

President Lucas thanked the Orange County District for hosting the meeting.

President Lucas appointed, without objection, Robin Pokorski as Timekeeper.

President Lucas introduced the pages, including Deedee Speer, the President's Page.

Recording Secretary Greg Pokorski called the roll and a quorum was established.

President Lucas announced that the Rules of Order for Board Meetings were adopted at the Organizational Meeting in June, 2009 for this entire term.

The Winter Board Meeting Program was adopted without objection as corrected.

Winter Board Meeting Registrar Launa Gould gave the registration report for information only.

Without objection, the minutes of the September 15-16, 2010 Fall Board Meeting in Palm Springs were approved as distributed.

President Lucas appointed, without objection, the committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Rita Desilets, Third Vice President and Membership Chairman, as Chairman, and members George Speer, Zip Code Club Finder Services Chairman, and Joelle Holford, Financial Secretary.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer Ed Dempsey reported (See Attachment A):

Net Worth

Total Cash including CD's:	\$ 312,710.87
Other Assets including GG & Chase:	\$ 94,486.96
Prepaid Deposits:	\$ 1,000.00
Total Assets:	\$ 408,197.83
of which Restricted Funds are	\$ 295,282.84
Cash Balance Available	\$ 112,914.99

CORRESPONDENCE: Copies of a December 31, 2010 letter to board members from Maryanne Lucas regarding attendance at board meetings was distributed to board members.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Golden Gardens Editor – Lynne Hansen reported. (See Attachment A)

Financial Secretary – Joelle Holford reported.

Recording Secretary – Greg Pokorski reported. (See Attachment A)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Recording Secretary Greg Pokorski presented the following recommendations:

RATIFICATIONS:

Chairmen Ratifications

1. Ratify the appointment of Geri May Thirloway as Honor Book Chairman. **PASSED**
2. Ratify the appointment of Robin Pokorski as Awards Co-Chairman. **PASSED**
3. Ratify the appointment of J. David West as 2011 Convention Co-Chairman. **PASSED**
4. Ratify the appointment of J. David West as 2013 Pacific Region Convention Chairman. **PASSED**

Official Calendar Ratifications

5. May 15-16 Tri Refresher. Convention, Rohnert Park
Co-Chairmen Nancy Bailey and Jane Graham
6. September 10-11 Landscape Design School Series 25, Course 1
Colfax Garden Club, Colfax, Chairman: Myrtle Findley
7. September 15-18 CGCI Fall Board, Valley Lode District,
Stockton, Chairman: Chelsea Wilson
8. October 8-9 Landscape Design School, Series 25 Course 2
Colfax Garden Club, Colfax, Chairman: Myrtle Findley
9. October 15-16 Landscape Design School, Series 25, Course 3
Colfax Garden Club, Colfax, Chairman: Myrtle Findley
10. October 22-23 Landscape Design School, Series 25, Course 4
Colfax Garden Club, Chairman: Myrtle Findley
11. November 7-8 Environmental Studies School, Bay Ocean, San Mateo,
Series 4, Course 4, Chairman: Shane Looper

ALL PASSED

12. 501(c)3 Ratifications

- Desert Empire District—authorized 11/29/2010
- Fort Bragg Garden Club—authorized 11/29/2010
- Furyu Floral Designers—authorized 11/29/2010
- Orange County Geranium Society—authorized 11/29/2010
- Point Loma Garden Club—authorized 11/29/2010
- Porterville Garden Club—authorized 11/29/2010
- South Valley Fleurs Garden Club—authorized 11/29/2010
- Trinity Garden Club—authorized 11/29/2010
- Bonita Garden Club—authorized 12/30/2010
- Ikebana International Los Angeles Chapter #4—authorized 01/21/2011
- Westlake Village Garden Club—authorized 01/31/2011

PASSED

RECOMMENDATIONS:

13. Invite NGC President Renee Blaschke to the 2011 CGCI Convention. **PASSED**
14. That Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden be notified that unless they become a club and join their district their participation in the nonprofit group exemption program will be rescinded immediately. **PASSED**
15. Accept a \$40 full registration fee and a \$60 late full registration fee, and \$10 one-day registration fee and a \$15 late one-day registration fee for the 2011 Convention. **PASSED**

16. To spend up to \$100, money to come from the Honor Book Fund, to print Honor Book thank you cards. **PASSED**
17. That CGCI donate \$500 from the CGCI Wildflower Fund to Buttes District for Wildflower Weekend. **PASSED**
18. That \$30,000 be taken out of the cash maximizer account and put into a CD and \$30,000 be taken out of the cash maximizer account and put into the Planned Giving Endowment Fund. **PASSED**

Buttes District Co-Director Donna Beronda reported on the Wildflower Weekend. (See Attachment E)

OFFICERS' REPORTS – continued

3rd Vice President – Rita Desilets reported. (See Attachment A)

Rita Desilets moved to ratify the following four new clubs:

4 Clubs:

1. Ohara School of Ikebana, LA Chapter, Greater LA District
121 members, President: Minako Hayashida
2. LA Geranium Society, Greater LA District
32 members, President: Manuel Rivera
3. Five Cities Orchid Society, Montana de Oro District
58 members, President: Chris Ehrler
4. Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, Montana de Oro District
100 members, President: Gene Schroeder

PASSED

2nd Vice President – Pat Clayes reported. (See Attachment A)

President-Elect – Julie West reported. Julie West read the first reading of the President's Project Resolution. (See Attachment A)

Recess at 2:45 p.m.
Reconvene at 3:13 p.m.

OFFICERS' REPORTS – continued

President – Maryanne Lucas reported.

STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance –Joelle Holford reported.

Convention 2011 – Dave West and GinaBelle Smith reported.

Three-Year Calendars – Shane Looper reported. (See Attachment B)

CHAIRMEN and TEAM REPORTS (See Attachment C)

Recess at 4:29 p.m.
Reconvene at 8:35 a.m., Saturday, February 5, 2011 (Session 2)

Nominating Committee – Dolores Moffat presented the slate of officers for 2011-2013:

President	Julie West	Corresponding Secretary	Joelle Holford
1st Vice President	Rita Desilets	Financial Secretary	Shane Looper
2nd Vice President		Treasurer	Joan Patten
3rd Vice President	Sue Bennett	Parliamentarian	Greg Pokorski
Recording Secretary	Geri May Thirloway		

Endowment Committee – Robert Gordon reported. (See Attachment B)

NGC Convention Delegates

Greg Pokorski moved to elect Dave West and Victoria Lucido as CGCI delegates to the NGC Convention (May 27 – 30 in Washington, D.C.). **PASSED**

Pacific Region Convention Delegate

Greg Pokorski moved to elect Jane Troutman as CGCI delegate to the Pacific Region Convention (April 14 – 16 in Scottsdale, Arizona). **PASSED**

Board of Trustees/Scholarship – Joan Craig reported. (See Attachment B)

Bylaws & Policy

On behalf of the committee, Julie West, Chairman, moved to submit the following bylaws amendments to the voting membership at convention:

(1) Article V – Officers and their Duties Page 130

Sec. 8. The parliamentarian shall: (a) advise on points of parliamentary law and procedure when requested, (b) maintain a record of all resolutions and motions adopted during each term of office which affect procedure or policy and provide a copy for the policy chairman and the permanent files, (c) serve as advisor to the bylaws committee, (d) give instruction to the nominating committee following the organizational board meeting and, (e) may vote only by ballot.

Strike and replace (e) with the following:

serve as a member of the board of directors and the executive committee with all membership rights including voting privileges.

Rationale: Need to bring CGCI into compliance with California AB1233 that took effect January 1, 2010.

PASSED

(2) Article XI – Annual meetings Page 133

Sec. 4. The voting membership at all conventions shall consist of members of the board of directors, club associate plant society, and affiliate presidents, or their alternates, and delegates or alternates of member clubs and associate plant societies. Members of the board of directors are entitled to one vote each, and their vote shall not be counted in the voting quota of their respective clubs. There shall be no proxy vote.

Rationale: Housekeeping item missed last year when affiliates were changed to nonvoting memberships in Article IV Membership and Dues, Sec. 1 approved at 2010 Convention.

PASSED

(3) Article XII – Finances page 134

Sec. 5. ~~Net proceeds from conventions shall be placed in the General Fund.~~

Strike Replace with the following:

Half of the net proceeds from conventions shall be placed in the General Fund and the remaining half shall be retained by the Host.

Rationale: Simplify financial procedures for convention and share proceeds with host to encourage district(s) or club(s) to offer to host convention.

PASSED

(4) Article XIII – Golden Gardens page 135

Sec. 6. ~~The finance chairman shall deposit all monies collected in the name of Golden Gardens, pay all bills, send all invoices, prepare all financial statements to be presented to the board of directors, and submit the annual Golden~~

~~Gardens budget for adoption at the organizational meeting.~~

Strike and replace with the following: **The CGCI Financial Secretary shall submit the annual Golden Gardens budget for adoption at the organizational meeting.**

Rationale: The duties deleted are currently handled by CGCI Treasurer and Financial Secretary within Article V – Officers and Their Duties. Only the Golden Gardens budget needs to be addressed in this section that is not addressed elsewhere.

PASSED

(5) Article XIV – Board of Trustees page 136

Add Sec. 6: The Board of Trustees is established as the Endowment Funds Committee.

Rationale: Add the Endowment Funds Committee to Board of Trustees as approved at 2010 Convention in Endowment Charters.

PASSED

(6) ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS page 130

Section 1. Officers (b) Eligibility 4. The President and first vice –president

Now reads:

The president and first vice-president shall have served at least three years on the board of directors and one or more years on the executive committee and (a) as president of a member garden club; or (b) district director.

Amend by striking "~~and (a) as president of a member garden club; or (b) district director~~".

and replacing with "**and in one of the following capacities: (a) president of a member garden club, associate plant society or equivalent nonprofit organization; or (b) district director.**

To read:

The president and first vice-president shall have served at least three years on the board of directors and one or more years on the executive **committee and in one of the following capacities: (a) as president of a member garden club, associate plant society or equivalent nonprofit organization;** or (b) district director.

Rationale: Requirements for first vice-president/president vs. second and third vice- presidents need to be in compliance with each other.

PASSED

(7) Section 1. Officers (b) Eligibility 5. The second and third vice-presidents page 130

Now reads:

Sec. 1. **(b) 5.** The second and third vice-presidents each shall have served at least two years on the board of directors and shall have served in one of the following capacities: (a) president of a member garden club; or (b) district director; or (c) member of the executive committee.

Amend by changing two to one year and adding "**associate plant society or equivalent nonprofit organization**" and leaving in "or (c) member of the executive committee".

To read:

Sec. 1. (b) 5. The second and third vice-presidents each shall have served at least one year on the board of directors and shall have served in one of the following capacities: (a) president of a member garden club, associate plant society or equivalent nonprofit organization; or (b) district director; or (c) member of the executive committee.

Rationale:

CGCI needs to broaden its search for qualified potential vice-president candidates with leadership skills to include presidents of associate plant societies in addition to garden clubs who are not always members of CGCI as well as equivalent nonprofit organizations who have served at least one year on the board of directors.

PASSED

(8) Article VI – Nominations and Elections Sec. 2 (d) 4. Page 131

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

Amend by inserting "and president-elect" after the word president.

To read:

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.

Rationale: The president-elect should be included in the notification process so he/she can compile the board of directors with chairmen needed by knowing who has been nominated to serve on the Executive Committee during their term as president.

PASSED

(9) Article XIX – Amendments Sec. 2 Page 137

Now Reads: Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted to the bylaws committee chairman.

Amend by adding "by November 1" at end of sentence.

To read:

Sec. 2 Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted to the bylaws committee chairman by November 1.

Rationale: A deadline needs to be imposed so proposed changes to the bylaws can be thoroughly researched and reviewed before presenting to the Board of Directors for recommendation to approve.

PASSED

Standing Rules

On behalf of the committee, Julie West moved that the following new standing rule be adopted by the board of directors.

(1) Districts and Clubs page 139

22. (New) Notification of changes in roster information for club, associate plant society and affiliate presidents and treasurers should be sent (electronic or postal) to the CGCI Membership Chairman for distribution.

Rationale: The CGCI Membership Chairman is responsible for notifying the appropriate officers and chairmen of these changes. Avoids

confusion and duplication of efforts.

PASSED

Julie West moved that the following standing rule be amended by the board of directors.

(2) FINANCE pages 139-140

30. Copies of financial reports of state functions shall be sent by the event chairman within ninety (90) days of the close of function as follows: (a) board meetings to president, financial secretary and board and convention chairman, (b) symposia, refreshers, forums, and conferences to president, treasurer and appropriate state chairman, (c) each course in educational schools to president, financial secretary, appropriate state chairman and educational schools finance chairman.

Rationale: Refreshers for gardening, landscape and environmental consultants need to remit financial reports upon completion of the event to be consistent with requirements for symposia, forums, and conferences.

PASSED

Julie West moved that the following standing rule be amended by the board of directors.

(3 & 4) Membership page 142

70. Membership chairman shall send, by July 1, a list of all clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates with names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of the presidents, treasurers and youth gardener leaders to the CGCI President, Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Yearbook Chairman, Golden Gardens Circulation Chairman, Liability Insurance Chairman, IRS Nonprofit Group Exemption Chairman, Website Chairman, Zip Code Club Finder Services Chairman, eNewsletter Chairman and Youth Activities Chairman. The list should follow the format of the state roster.

Rationale: The IRS Nonprofit Group Exemption Chairman, eNewsletter Chairman and Zip Code Services Chairman need to be able to refer to the rosters to determine if a club is eligible to be included in the IRS Nonprofit Group Exemption program or Zip Code Locator service and update the eNewsletter distribution database.

PASSED AS CORRECTED

Julie West moved that the following standing rule be amended by the board of directors.

77. A club may be designated a club-at-large by the Board of Directors because it is geographically located in an inactive district. It shall pay per capita dues and be eligible to apply for liability insurance, awards program and 501(c)(3) IRS Group Exemption. It shall be informed about CGCI activities and functions of special interest by a designated chairman.

Rationale: Need to include eligibility for Nonprofit Group Exemption program.

PASSED

Immediate Policy Changes Needed – incorporate into New Policy being reviewed by this Committee from what was deleted in 2006 from the 1999 Policy Book.

On behalf of the committee, Julie West moved that the following policy be amended by the board of directors.

(1) Grants and Loans page 144

A one-time grant of \$250 may be awarded, upon request, to a new CGCI ratified flower show school, landscape design study program, gardening study school or environmental studies school to help defray costs. Repayment of the grant is not required if the school or study program is completed. If not completed, the sponsoring group shall repay CGCI the \$250 or any portion of the grant remaining

unspent.

A grant of \$200 may be given to each course 2, 3 and 4; \$100 to come from the General Fund and \$100 from the related school fund. For flower show schools, the \$100 shall come from the Christy Fitz Fund until the original donation of \$1500 from the Christy Fitz Estate is depleted as intended by the donor. Thereafter, the \$100 shall come from the Flower Show Schools Fund.

Strike and replace with:

A grant of \$250 may be awarded, upon approval of proposed budget by CGCI Educational Schools Finance Chairman, to a new CGCI ratified, flower show school*, landscape design study program*, gardening study school*, environmental studies school, conference or refresher to help defray costs from the Educational Schools Fund. It is strongly recommended that, if the school, conference or refresher is profitable, the grant money be returned to the fund.

*Flower show school would exclude Course 1 – see Helen Minor Fund (until depleted); gardening study school and landscape design school would exclude Course 1 – see Eleanor Miller Fund (until depleted). Grants of up to \$250 may be available if needed for courses 2, 3 or 4 of any NGC School (upon approval of proposed budget). It is strongly recommended that, if the school is profitable, the grant money be returned to the fund for future schools.

Rationale: Amend in accordance with updated Restricted Funds Guidelines approved June 2010. There are no longer any related school funds as they were all combined into one Educational Schools Fund.

PASSED

Julie West moved that the following new policy be adopted by the board of directors.

(2) Proposed new policy:

Every ten (10) years, having begun at the annual meeting in 1970, a redwood tree shall be purchased that is selected by The Sempervirens Fund and planted at Big Basin Redwoods State Park to honor those CGCI Presidents in office during that decade. Money to come from the Honor Book Fund.

Rationale: Saves hours of searching through minutes every 10 years to find original motion made.

PASSED AS AMENDED

Julie West moved that the following new policy be adopted by the board of directors.

(3) Proposed new policy:

CGCI Board Designated Honor Book Fund shall pay meal expenses for CGCI guests and speakers invited by the Executive Committee.

Rationale: Motion made and passed Sept. 2009 Fall Board.

PASSED

Recess at 9:56 a.m.
Reconvene at 4:00 p.m., (Session 3)

CHAIRMEN and TEAM REPORTS continued.

Gardening Study Schools Chairman Greg Pokorski moved to ratify Sue Bennett as Chairman of Course IV of Gardening Study School Series 21, Golden Foothills District, Loomis. **PASSED** (See Attachment C)

Landscape Design Council Chairman Mary Lou Goodwin moved that her report be included in its entirety in the minutes. **PASSED without objection** (See Attachment D)

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS (See Attachment E)

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

CGCI

Durgerian, Ann	Sierra Madre GC	Arboretum District
Doremus, Dorothy	Las Jardineras GC	Santa Clara Valley District
Campbell, Cecile	Desert Rose GC of CA City	Desert Empire District
Switzer, Beverly	Conejo Valley GC	Channel Islands District
Davis, Grace	Burbank-Valley GC	San Fernando Valley District
Chun, Amy	Shibui Arrangers Guild	Sacramento River Valley District
King, Mercia	Cactus Wren GC	Roadrunner District
Ng, Elizabeth	Redding Wonderland GC	Cascade District

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Giocomazzi, Lilia	La Casa GC	Sequoia Foothills District
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Pacific Region of NGC

Gorman, Robert	Conejo Valley GC	Channel Islands District
Trevesan, Lillian	Conejo Valley GC	Channel Islands District
Cosand, Lisa	Conejo Valley GC	Channel Islands District

There being no further business and no objection, the 2011 Winter Board Meeting of California Garden Clubs, Inc. was adjourned by President Lucas at 5:51 p.m.

Submitted

Greg Pokorski, Recording Secretary

Date

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer, Ed Dempsey:

Since the convention this board member has been busy working with all of you getting your money in the bank, 113 deposits and writing 64 checks to you for all the great work you all do.

Read the net worth to show where all our money is kept.

The request for repayment goes to our Financial Secretary and she sends the warrant to me and I make out the check and mail it to the proper person. When you have money for me to deposit fill out a cash receipt report and send the white copy with the money to me and the yellow copy to Joelle.

Golden Gardens Editor, Lynne Hansen

I am hearing that people are enjoying the color versions of *Golden Gardens*. Our subscriptions have increased from 3,593 in the fall to 3,641 for this report. This is an increase of 48.

I have had several inquiries about advertising also. One is scheduled for the spring issue.

I have visited several district and club meetings and have spread the word about *Golden Gardens*.

A special thanks to those who have given me the great articles that have included good resolution pictures. I attribute the increase in subscriptions to just this. Keep on sending those articles. My goal is to have the readers to want to go dig in the garden after they read *Golden Gardens*.

Thanks also to Pat Clayes for doing such a great job in proofing for me. I call her "Eagle Eyes."

Recording Secretary, Greg Pokorski

The minutes of the Fall Board Meeting, were distributed on October 28. They are sent to most board members by email. They were hand-delivered to two board members and had to be mailed to only seven board members at a cost of \$6.20.

Minutes are posted on the CGCI website very soon after distribution.

Whether or not you attended the previous meeting, you are encouraged to read and review minutes in order to be aware of what is going on in your organization. The reports that are attached to the minutes provide resource information and can educate as to how various chairmanships further the objectives of CGCI.

Whether you report orally or not, you are invited to submit written reports, and you are especially encouraged to submit written reports to restate what you have reported orally, and it is necessary to have a written report if you include ratifications in your report.

Reports to the Recording Secretary (other than from officers and the standing committees listed on pages 16-18 of the Yearbook) are to be in a condensed 100-word maximum format for distribution with the minutes.

You may send me your reports, preferably by email, until February 16.

Third Vice President/Membership Chairman, Rita Desilets

As of February 2, 2011, there were 282 clubs with 16,815 members; 53 associate plant societies with 3,808 members, resulting in a total membership of 20,623. This is a total of 1118 more members than reported at the 2010 Winter Board Meeting.

CGCI banners are a popular way to publicize club and district events! Banner Order forms are available at the Membership table. For a limited time a free banner bag will be given to clubs or districts ordering both the stand and banner. Several stands have been brought for orders taken at this meeting.

CGCI promotional materials such as the rack cards, bookmarks, posters and brochures have been counted, bundled and are ready for pick up at the Membership table. Be sure to remind those who take these materials to put their club information in the space provide before using.

In fall of 2009, your Membership Chairman did an internet search for Plant Societies or garden clubs not belonging to CGCI. At that time over 260 packets containing a cover letter, membership application and list of benefits of membership were mailed.

This Chairman intends to repeat the process within the next month or two. Copies of the "Invitation to Membership Packets" are available at the Membership Table. If you come across a potential candidate and don't have a packet to give them, please send me their contact information and a copy of the new "Invitation to Membership" packet will be sent to them.

The Membership theme for the 2009-2011 is "One by One". An article on membership was included in each issue of *Golden Gardens*. Look for an article in the Winter issue containing more club promotion suggestions and ideas for making visitors feel so welcome they will want to join your club. Membership Matters! Share your love of gardening and garden clubbing!

It is my pleasure to introduce four new additions to CGCI:
4 Clubs (See minutes, page 3, for new club ratifications.)

Second Vice President, Communications Coordinator, Pat Clayes

- **Yearbook, Manual & Roster** – This chairman is keeping the CGCI Yearbook up-to-date with information as it changes in the main sections. Note that the majority of the information is updated over the summer by the whole CGCI Yearbook Team.
- **Toll-Free Number** – This chairman receives telephone calls from the toll-free number and forwards these calls to the appropriate chairmen to handle; usually these calls relate to membership or 501(c)(3) questions.
- **CGCI email** – This chairman receives emails which are sent to CGCI. Like above, the emails are forwarded to the appropriate chairmen to answer.
- **Educational Brochures** – In the fall, this chairman worked with George Unrine and Judy Laird on the new Blue Star Memorial brochure and Pat York on the new Penny Pines brochure. If any chairman wants to create an educational brochure for his/her chairmanship, please contact this chairman, who will be happy and eager to work with you. It's so much fun! This spring, it is this chairman's hope to work on a beginning floral design brochure with the help of Shane Looper. Wouldn't it be grand if the members of the Horticulture/Conservation Team could create draft educational brochures?
- **eNewsletter** – As of this report, CGCI has 992 subscribers to the eNewsletter. As club presidents change, this chairman adds the new presidents' email addresses to the subscriber list. Question: "How can CGCI obtain more members and the public to subscribe to the eNewsletter?" Right now, only 5% of the CGCI membership subscribes to the eNewsletter.
 - It's quite a lot of work to put the eNewsletter together every month. Sometimes it is difficult to find interesting items to post. Sometimes, this chairman finds items in club/district newsletters (which are sent to me – and only a few clubs/districts send their newsletters to me). Sometimes this chairman asks specific chairmen to send blurbs for the eNewsletter. Sometimes this chairman makes up questions for the Parliamentarian to answer. This chairman does whatever it takes to create an informative and easy-to-read eNewsletter which, she hopes, our members enjoy and helps them stay informed.
 - CGCI chairmen, district directors, presidents and members should send newsworthy items to this chairman to share with the over 20,000 members of CGCI and the public.

President-Elect, Julie West

I want to thank those who completed and returned the questionnaire sent last Fall with their interests for the 2011-2013 administration. If you wish to continue serving CGCI, it's not too late. I hope to find a moment to speak to each of you at Winter Board so please let's chat before you leave.

I will now present the 2011-2013 President's Project Resolution:

2011-2013 President's Project Resolution

Whereas, A four-acre site was an open field bordered by Copeland Creek in 1966 when Sonoma State University campus moved to its present location: 1801 E. Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA., and

Whereas, The Native Plant Garden was started in the winter of 1973-1974 and designed to demonstrate the concept of twelve (12) distinct plant communities native to California: Riparian, Wetland/Vernal Pool, Oak Savannah, Chaparral, Grassland, Oak Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest, Douglas Fir Forest, Mixed Evergreen, Redwood Forest, North Coast Coniferous Forest, and Closed Pine Forest, and

Whereas, The garden is a sanctuary for abundant California flora and fauna in a park-like setting as well as an outdoor educational classroom for the community, and

Whereas, The objectives of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) are as stated in the Articles of Incorporation and also as stated in Article II Section 5 of the corporation's Bylaws: "to cooperate with other agencies in furthering interests in educational areas," and

Whereas, The garden is in need of permanent educational interpretive signage for the twelve (12) native plant communities represented within the Native Plant Garden, and therefore, be it

Resolved, That California Garden Clubs, Inc. for the 2011-2013 administrative term, adopt this fundraising state president's project of designing, manufacturing and installing permanent educational interpretive signage for Sonoma State University's Native Plant Garden, and;

Resolved, That a new Temporarily Restricted Fund be established within CGCI designated to receive donations and pay signage expenses specifically for the 2011-2013 President's Project, and;

Resolved, That checks made payable to CGCI be sent to the CGCI State Chairman for the project, who will keep records of the transactions for CGCI and forward the donations to the CGCI treasurer for deposit into the new Temporarily Restricted Fund established for the 2011-2013 President's Project to design, manufacture and install permanent educational interpretive signage at Sonoma State University's Native Plant Garden and;

Resolved, That any remaining balance as of June 30, 2014 in the new Temporarily Restricted Fund established for the 2011-2013 President's Project be transferred to the CGCI Board Designated Honor Book Fund, thereby closing the fund.

CGCI 2011 Winter Board Meeting, Costa Mesa – Attachment B

STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Trustees, Joan Craig

2011 scholarship winners are:

The Robert L. Gordon Scholarship goes to Margaret Maratsos from Fallbrook who is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

The Robin Pokorski scholarship goes to Ann Sherman of Canoga Park who is attending Dominican University in San Rafael.

Endowment Committee, Robert Gordon

The Scholarship Endowment was funded in November 2010. Financial reports are here for anyone who wants to review them.

Endowment Fund Charter Membership will be extended until Convention 2012. The reason for this is some new information was presented and the decision was made to take more time to evolve a final plan for Endowments and for an appropriate "thank you" event for the charter members.

The Planned Giving Endowment will be funded in spring of 2011.

Three-Year Calendars, Shane Looper:

We still have calendars! Love to see the calendars sold out. We have sold about 1000 calendars. The cost of the calendars has been repaid in full. Now, any sells profit will benefit the Presidents Project 'Kids Growing Strong'. Let's sell these calendars. Remember, CGCI has been very generous to have these calendars printed up for us to sell. They are very inexpensive at \$ 5.00 each. At convention, a check will be presented to the President for her project.

CGCI 2011 Winter Board Meeting, Costa Mesa – Attachment C

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND TEAM REPORTS

Arbor Day, Lorraine Ornelas: There are many ways to celebrate Arbor Day. Planting trees to honor individuals in your community for their dedication or planting in honor of a loved one who passed away. Individuals can plant trees in their own back yard to honor this occasion or make a donation to organizations that have ecology as their goal. It is getting more difficult to obtain permission to plant in public places with public ceremonies. Be CREATIVE and PLEASE let me know what you are doing so that your efforts may be displayed at CGCI Convention. This year grants of \$125 were offered as an incentive. Anderson Valley GC and Ramona GC have received grants. This chairman has received additional requests from Willits GC and Tuolumne GC and it is hoped that these may be funded also. To celebrate National Arbor Day April 29, 2011 why not set up a display about Arbor Day at an Earth Day Celebration in your community. During this Global Warming campaign let's each one of us do our part.

Associate Plant Societies, Dorothy Dempsey: We lost two societies this year. One of our societies Conejo Valley Organic Garden and Herb Society became a California Garden Club. Mediterranean Garden Society S C Branch has not responded to emails or phone calls. I spoke to President and Treasurer George Brumder with no response with a loss of 125 members. We now have 3775 paid members in 53 Associate Plant Societies.

Awards Finance, Winifred Archibald: Payment received from all sponsors with balances due 6-30-2010 and thank you postcards sent to them. The text included the following: California Garden Clubs, Inc. (Federal Tax I.D. 94-6083114) is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Your donation is fully tax deductible. For your benefit and as required by law, we state that California Garden Clubs, Inc. did not provide any goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, in connection with this contribution. Total payment received sponsors totals \$3635.00. The balance for Awards Restricted Fund is \$7937.64, including a carryover balance of \$4,377.64.

Awards Manual, Jane McKee: The CGCI Awards Manual was updated and published in the 2010-11 Yearbook and on the CGCI

website. All evaluation forms were also updated and made available online.

Business Commendation Chairman & Discount Coordinator, LaVerne Harms:

Sponsor Letters Issued Since September 2010

Recommendation	Company	Date Issued
Desert Planters of Ridgecrest, Ridgecrest	Treehouse Landscape Design	11-12-2010
Chicago Park Garden Club, Grass Valley	B & C Home Center & Nursery	11-11-2010
Clayton Valley Garden Club, Clayton	Navlet's Garden Center	11-11-2010
Windsor Garden Club, Windsor	Atrellis Flowers & Gifts	11-11-2010
Clayton Valley Garden Club, Clayton	R & M Pool, Patio & Gardens	11-11-2010
Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District	Western Garden Nursery	02-12-2011
Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District	Alden Lane Nursery	02-12-2011

Butterflies, Jane Troutman: On October 30, 2010 the Southern California Garden Club had a very special opening of our Butterfly Garden. I negotiated for a location with the Parks Department that is convenient to the clubhouse with sun and shade at the perfect times of day. Over 100 guests attended the greeting ceremony accompanied by Flute and Harp music, speakers and a blessing for the event. The room was decorated with butterfly photos taken by CGCI members as entries in the Region Photo Contest. The Chumash Indians had an Exhibit of artifacts from their new museum in Thousand Oaks. Cider and cookies made by the members were served. The sun came out and we proceeded to the garden to hear a Chumash Indian blessing accompanied by an Indian flute. For me it was a dream come true. The monarchs are enjoying all the native plants that I selected and were lovingly planted and cared for by our devoted membership. Since then we have had a garden design bench and more plants donated. Need help designing your butterfly garden? Irisjane@roadrunner.com

California Native & Invasive Plants, Donna Thomas: Californians will be celebrating our first California Native Plant Week April 17-23, 2011. Join the celebration by planning activities to help raise awareness about the value of California's native plants. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is creating an online calendar for the Week so people can locate events. Send details to CNPS directly to register an event. Gardens and landscapes with natives are perfectly suited to our climate and soils and therefore require less water, fertilizers and pesticides. Yards with natives provide habitat refuges for urban-adapted wildlife such as some birds, bats, butterflies, beneficial insects and more. Let's inspire a greater appreciation and understanding of our incredible natural heritage.

Climate Change, Dwight Holford: The year 2010 was interesting when you consider the big picture of global warming/climate change. Is what is happening to our world global warming or climate change? For the record 2010 was the hottest year on record world wide (noting that we have not had records all that long) and the most precipitation occurred during the same time period. Is climate change influenced by an increase in temperature? I believe we need to endorse the resolution to further study this problem. It is called "CGCI Supports Strategies To Slow Climate Change".

Educational Schools Finances, Mary-Jo Noth: Since FB 2010, Environmental Studies, Flower Show, Gardening Study, and Landscape Design Schools have all been held in California. Gardening Study School, series 21, Loomis, continues to be self-supporting as was Environmental Studies School course III. The Flower Show School course 1, Sacramento, received a CGCI grant of \$500 from the Helen Minor restricted fund. The Landscape Design School series 24, course 1 received \$500 from the Eleanor Miller restricted fund. Both schools were sufficiently profitable so that they do not need CGCI assistance for course 2.

Environmental Studies Schools, Shane Looper: A very successful environmental studies school took place in San Mateo. 17 attended the school on Nov. 9-10 including our CGCI President. The last course (4) in San Mateo will take place on Nov. 7-8, 2011 in San Mateo. Course 1 and 2 will take place in Redlands on May 3-6, 2011.

Fall Board Meeting 2010, Pat Clayes: The Palms to Pines District had numerous money-making opportunities (2 silent auctions, 1 quilt auction, 20 raffle baskets and club/district sales), with the rest of the items (goodie bags, meal favors, etc.) donated, which made the district a considerable profit – with all but one item donated by district members. The district also received 5% back from the hotel on food and beverage sales (\$590). The hotel provided a complimentary reception (worth approximately \$700). Almost \$2500 was saved by borrowing AV equipment and purchasing a \$99 screen on the Internet for PowerPoint presentations. Palomar and Roadrunner District Members (George Speer, Jane McKee, Clara Petrosky & Linda Riddle) helped immensely. District Co-Directors Ron & Linda Lang were troubleshooters extraordinaire! Statistics: 87 board members voting; 6 club presidents; 13 spouses; 7 guests; 7 host district members; 12 other club members; 1 affiliate president (total non-voting 128); hotel rooms booked (not including approximately 10 who had to stay at another hotel); 374 meals served (2 lunches/2 dinners); 64 attending tour; 6 attending spouses tour.

Flower Show Symposia, Gloria Aminian: The 2011 Symposium is being held April 28 – 30th at the Bakersfield DoubleTree Hotel. Our original designer had to cancel due to health issues so Jo Krallman is starting the Symposium Thursday, April 28 with the Allied Subjects of *Tool Box 101 Mechanics* and *Setting Our Gems – Staging of Designs*. Her design topic will be *Stop-Look-Listen What to Look For When Judging* on Friday, April 29. David Robson, the Horticulture Instructor will teach us all about Daffodils & Coral Bells. I have the brochure and registration with me if anyone would like one.

Garden Arts & Crafts, Janet Eyre: Potpourri Recipe used by Eleanour Sinclair Rohde – To a large basin of dried sweet scented rose petals allow a handful of dried lavender flowers, rosemary, thyme, balm, sweet marjoram, sweet briar leaves, wild thyme, garden thyme, hyssop, philadelphusleaves, verbena, a few bruised cloves, the dried and powdered rind of lemon or orange, a teaspoon full of allspice, half an ounce of cinnamon and a good pinch of sandalwood. Gather and dry the flowers and leaves all through the season, adding any other according to one's fancy but keeping the proportion of a basin of rose petals to a large handful of all the other ingredients put together. Store in a jar with a lid but the jar need not be air tight. First published by Routledge in 1939 under the title *Rose Recipes*.

Gardening Study Schools (GSS), Greg Pokorski: Course III of Series 21, sponsored by Golden Foothills District, in Loomis took place 9/21 & 9/22 with 17 students and 15 testing. We have two new Gardening Consultants on the completion of that course: Dorothy and Ed Dempsey (Consultant certificate cards were presented to them at this time – with our congratulations). Local Chairman Patsy Jeffery has had to resign due to health issues. Sue Bennett has been named as the new Local Chairman to complete Course IV. I move the ratification of Sue Bennett as Local Chairman for Course IV, GSS Series 21, sponsored by Golden Foothills District, in Loomis. Course IV is scheduled to take place April 12 & 13, but may need to be postponed. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Home Grown, Myrtle Findley: Received seven entries for "The Best Green Recipe" Contest. A cook-off was held in mid-January. Five volunteer cooks arrived at 9:30 a.m. The dishes were prepared by noon when we had ten members and spouse of our Colfax GC arrive to do some tasting. The winning recipes will be made available in the next newsletter, and hopefully some will make it to *Golden Gardens*. Food can be prepared, presented, and really enjoyed using locally grown products and produce. Award HT-3 had some entries in the home Vegetable Garden and Fruit Garden Award. We have a member of our CGCI growing pineapple in her vegetable garden. My son in the Placer Foothills of northern California had a tree full of avocados for the first time this year. One never knows what will grow in their yard until they try. Let's experiment. Most gardening is a gamble anyway. Have some fun...experiment with vegetables, nuts, fruits, chicken even. Make it all home grown!

Horticulture, Jim Bathgate: Three plants with attractive winter blooms are: 1. The Magnolia soulangeana hybrid, an especially nice color. Blooms come before the leaves but only last a few days. There are many different shades. 2. The white flowers are tazetta in the Narcissus genus. They are bulb plants which are like some you may have in your garden or ordered from Sunshine Flower Bulbs. 3. The third is Correa, commonly called Australian Fuchsia. It grows in a mound two to three feet tall and 8 feet wide. We grow it in our succulent garden. It comes in white, pink, orange and red. Because of color variations you may want to see the blooms before you buy a plant.

IRS Nonprofit Group Exemption, Chuck Goodwin: The Chairman reviewed the report presented by the CGCI Financial Advisor. On the Federal level the gross receipts threshold for filing the IRS Form 990-N has been raised to \$50,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2010. The State of California has imposed new regulations for CGCI nonprofits. The Franchise Tax Board and Attorney General each have new but different reporting requirements. CGCI will be helping clubs comply with these regulations.

Landscape Design Study Program, Alexis Slafer: Costa Verde District is sponsoring the current Landscape Design Study Program – Series 24 – at the South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. Course 3 is scheduled for March 17 & 18, 2011; with Course 4 on September 22nd & 23rd. Just ratified LD School, Series 25, sponsored by Colfax Garden Club, begins September 10th, with the next 3 courses being held weekly beginning October 8th. Both schools will be completed within the year. Landscape Design School handouts are in your mailbox & on the CGCI website.

Legislation/Government, Chuck Goodwin: This Chairman reported on the results of the California State Parks Initiative that was on the November General election ballot. The measure was defeated by the voters. However the California State Parks Foundation issued a statement that continued their support for a program to adequately fund parks development and maintenance and the Chairman shared this statement with the CGCI directors. This Chairman also reported that there will be no statewide election ballot this year, unless the Governor and Legislature call for a special election regarding tax measures. There are three local elections to fill vacancies in Senate and Assembly districts.

Liability Insurance, Gloria Aminian: 258 clubs 35 and plant societies covering 16,857 members have sent in for coverage for the new insurance year. The rate really is 75¢ per member. The minimum fee for a club/society is \$20. CGCI does **not** require an Additional Insured Certificate. The owner/manager of the facility where an event is to take place may require one. Please completely fill out all the blank spaces on the forms. The insurance company wants to have all the information. You can expect a call from me if all the info is not included.

Life Memberships, Carlotta Wixon: Since last reporting at the 2010 Convention, "business" has been somewhat slow. This chairman was hoping to get a flurry of applications as Christmas gifts, but that didn't happen. Apparently, the articles in *Golden Gardens* and the display at board meetings and conventions has not sparked the interest I was hoping for, but this chairman will keep trying! In spite of this gloomy report, this chairman is very happy to report that eight people have become new Life Members. Also added were three to the Pacific Region and one to National. I am pleased to ratify the following names to the Life Membership roster. (See minutes, page 9, for new life member ratifications.)

Member Award of Distinction Program, Mary-Jo Noth: To date there have been 5 CGCI members honored by their clubs and 1 by her district. Information has appeared in "Golden Gardens", the eNewsletter, the CGCI website, and in the Yearbook on p. 33. Lynne Hansen and Pat Clayes have facilitated this publicity. A club or district may honor any member; there are no CGCI requirements other than the application and \$50 fee which benefits the CGCI Educational Publications Fund. The award is suitable for presentation and is accompanied by the award pin which the honoree may wear with pride.

National Garden Week, Victoria Lucido: Your chairman has been spreading the word on the first week in June is our time to let the members and community know what we are doing and what our mission statement means. Our National President's theme for National Garden Week (June 5-11, 2011) is: "THE WORLD AROUND US-LOVE IT-BEAUTIFY IT-PROTECT IT." I am sure every person in this room has made some contributions to their clubs. This chairman is happy to report that one grant has been issued to the Valley Lode District. I was very hopeful that the club would submit a book of evidence but with all their activities they did not. The board has given us grants for helping you support a great National Garden Week. Each District Director has a copy in her box. Please someone do take the time to utilize this grant. This chairman did not receive any books of evidence. Several clubs have so many activities they are working on but too busy to take the time to complete a simple book of evidence. So I know most of you will be doing some activity in your respective clubs. Keep up the good work and plan some books of evidence next year.

NGC Schools Team, Greg Pokorski:

The Schools Team met and reviewed nine applications for Easy Grants, and hopes to finalize funding decisions shortly. If your club or district is interested in sponsoring/conducting an NGC school series please contact the Schools Chairmen who will answer your questions and help you with the process: Shane Looper for Environmental Studies Schools, Greg Pokorski for Gardening Study Schools and Alexis Slafer for Landscape Design Schools.

Permanent Files, Rita Desilets: The CGCI Permanent Files are being kept safely in a designated closet in my home. Additions to the files are welcomed and may be made at any time.

Propagation "Free Plants", Lee Bathgate: Propagating Cacti and other Succulents by Cuttings – The best time to take cuttings is when the plant starts active growth after the dormant period. For most species, this is in the spring although many will grow from cuttings all year long in warm climates. Soils: Commercial cactus soils are available but adding sand or more perlite to regular potting soil makes a suitable mix. A layer of grit or small pebbles on the surface looks great and prevents moisture from evaporating rapidly. Tools: A fungicide for dipping cut surfaces and a sharp knife or pruners for making cuttings. Cuttings: Stem cuttings are similar to other plants but they need to dry or callus for at least a day. Members of the crassula, echeveria, and some others can be propagated from leaf cuttings. Some succulents form a clump of rosettes which can be severed and used as cuttings. Take cuttings of most cacti in spring. Flat stem cuttings are usually taken after flowering in early summer.

Public Relations Team, Julie West: Julie West reported that the following Easy Grants are now closed as the funds allotted have been depleted: Arbor Day, Blue Star Dedication, Past CGCI Projects, National Garden Week and Reforestation/Restoration Program Promotion.

Reforestation, Judy Unrine: This Chairman is often asked, "What is the difference between Reforestation & Restoration and Penny Pines? Are they both about planting trees?" A quick answer is, "No." Money for Penny Pines is sent by clubs directly to the National Forest Service and is most often used to replant burned out wooded areas. In contrast, Reforestation & Restoration donations are sent to this Chairman, who works with the National Forest Service, to select a project that is approved by CGCI. Your most recent project restored the native chaparral landscape in a section of Cottonwood Creek, located in Cleveland National Forest near San Diego. Tamarisk trees, an evasive species that sends down deep roots, were destroying the natural environment of the wash. They were using up the available water allowing other non-native species to flourish. The Tamarisk was removed the end of 2009. Six months later the natural habitat was rapidly returning. Water was again flowing in the creek bed during the dry season and the welcome sound of birds, missing before, had returned.

Webmaster, Lynne Hansen:

1 Week Top Page Hit Status: In the past week there have been 2671 hits on the home page, 2154 RSS Feed, 468 Next Meeting, & 302 Calendar. A huge number of page not found are happening. The fix is for everyone to delete "My Favorites" that applied to the old website. It is no longer there. Then go to Californiagardenclubs.com and save this to your favorites.

Club and District Websites: We now have 20 clubs that have a website on our server and 5 districts. If any club or district would like to have a website on our server, just click on Club/District Website Hosting Information on the right-hand-side of the home page of the website. Pamela, the CGCI I.T. person will set you up with the type of site you choose and then it is all yours to put your information up on.

Blogs: Chairmen, please let me know if you would like to blog about your particular chairmanship. I will be happy to set you up. If you can email, you can blog!

Please be sure to let me know of anything that needs to be fixed. More than once a link has broken and needs to be fixed. Also, if membership information is no longer valid, please let Rita Desilets, our CGCI Membership Chairman know, and she will then notify me of any changes to make.

Youth Team, Beverly Switzer: In addition to the Poems and Essays entries, other youth categories can be found in the 2010-11 Yearbook. Entries have been received in some of these categories and have been judged by individuals with expertise in those specific fields. Entries have been sent on to National Garden Clubs, where appropriate, and Pacific Region will accept entries according to their time schedule. A new youth category "Sculpture" had been established by NGC. Although the particulars for this category were distributed late by National, two entries were received and sent on to National for judging. The Easy Grants established at the Fall Board Meeting have generated 5 entries to date and evaluation will be

expedited by the Youth Team at this meeting. Now all that is needed from the "powers that be" is for these entries to be brought back to California from National and Pacific Region.

CGCI 2011 Winter Board Meeting, Costa Mesa – Attachment D

LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL REPORT, MARY LOU GOODWIN:

- January 31 Wilson Creek Winery, 35960 Rancho California Rd., Temecula, CA at the Palomar District Meeting held on the property. Recommended by Jane McKee, District Director
- February 4 Jerry Hill, 20 year employee of the City of Mission Viejo, 200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA during the Winter Board Meeting in Costa Mesa, CA Recommended by Harriet Behrens, Nancy Lee Loesch, LD Consultants
- February 4 Larry Ryan, ASLA, RJM Design Group, Inc. 31591 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA for design work for the City of Mission Viejo. Presented at the Winter Board meeting in Costa Mesa, CA Recommended by Harriet Behrens, and Nancy Lee Loesch, LD Consultants
- February 4 W. Keith Rattay, ASLA, Director of Public Works, City of Mission Viejo, 200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA during the Winter Board meeting in Costa Mesa, CA Recommended by Harriet Behrens and Nancy Lee Loesch, LD Consultants
- February 4 Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente, CA , Executive Director, Jenifer Finley. The presentation was during the Bus Tour of the Winter Board Meeting in Costa Mesa, CA Recommended by Launa Gould, LD Consultant
- February 4 Launa Gould, Head Gardener at Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens at 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente, CA during the Bus Tour. Recommended by Harriet Behrens, and Nancy Lee Loesch, Landscape Design
- February 22 Bob Schiebeiht and Jim Efird, owners of Tolosa Winery, 4910 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA during the Montana De Oro District Meeting on the property. Recommended by Doris San Filippo, and Mary Lou Goodwin, LD Consultant
- February 22 Christy Edstrom O'Hara, Landscape Designer of the Tolosa Winery at 4910 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA during the Montana De Oro District Meeting. Recommended by Doris San Filippo and Mary Lou Goodwin LD Consultant

CGCI 2011 Winter Board Meeting, Costa Mesa – Attachment E

DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Bay Ocean, Nancy McDougal: The 16 Bay Ocean District clubs are active in their communities financially & personally, focusing on beautification and quality of life issues, as club projects & through local organizations. Community outreach and member education are primary concerns. Each club is working well at activities that most interest their own members. The District has focused on providing a forum for clubs to learn and to work together on our common interests. We participated as a District in the local County Fair for the first time, earning prize money and spotlighting CGCI affiliated clubs in the area. District also sponsored Environmental School III.

Buttes District, Donna Beronda, Co-Director: The district has been hard at work on the Northern California Wildflower Weekend scheduled for April 1 – 3 at Feather Falls Casino and Lodge in Oroville. We have great speakers and a tour of the spectacular wildflower show on Table Mountain. Registration opens at 3 PM on Friday with the real entertainment commencing on Saturday and continuing through Sunday. Proceeds will be used for a project in the community of Concow which was devastated by wildfires in 2008. This will be the first big event in Buttes District since we reactivated in 2009. Please join us in our "rise from the ashes."

Cascade, Anne Capes: Cascade District is made up of nine clubs - each one with a different emphasis. Located in the North Valley of California, the setting is rural America. A club located in the Trinity Mountains has been landscaping the median of a highway that runs right the middle of the town. Another landscaping project is in a Western frontier town, not far from Redding. This project is also landscaping the median of the street that is the entry to the town. A local artist that works with iron and fabricates figures of cattle, horses and cowboys that are set in concrete in the street. The club members provide the landscaping. Garden therapy is the focus of another club, providing "hands-on" experience for the residents to make floral arrangements in a nursing home. Club members provide the "fixings" - containers, oasis, flowers and greens. Another club has "partnered" with a nursery grower to make little bouquets for "Meals on Wheels" to deliver with the food trays. This club makes 60 to 90 arrangements every month.

Costa Verde, Ruth Brooker: We are working on making district board meetings a place where presidents and chairmen can express their ideas and ask questions about procedure. They want to know more about what the District has to offer them and how they can get information from CGCI. They like the roundtable format to interact with each other.

Diablo Foothills, Sandy Rogers: Again this district director would like to thank Calif. Garden Club Inc. for serving on the board of directors. Diablo Foothill District Clubs and Affiliates have been actively planning and preparing for the CGCI Awards program, upcoming plant sales and election of new officers. Also in the making is a planned tour to the De Young Museum in San Francisco "Bouquets to Art," a fabulous flower festival of floral design and art. This tour has been received as very popular and allows DFD to meet our objective of promoting flower shows and encourages our clubs to participate at a district level, coming closer and supporting individuals. As DFD begins this last 6 months of this 2 year term, we are a grateful district encouraging one another in civic beauty, projects of conservation inviting wild life, winter water wise, and wreath making speakers and workshops. Our next General Membership Meeting Feb. 24, will focus on gathering home grown fruits and donation of leftover gardens to feed the hungry and voting on amendments to Standing Rules made at a Jan. meeting and will be voted on needing a 2/3 vote at our Feb. meeting.

Golden Foothills, Sue Bennett: The District has been very busy. Not only are the members' gardeners and/or arrangers but also good hearted people. Food, kids clothing and money were donated to local organizations. One club made swags to decorate the lamp post on Main Street another club signed Christmas cards, given to seniors who don't have families. When not the holidays, members work with seniors on floral design, gardening and craft related activities. They help tidy and maintain community treasures, they take small floral arrangements to a nursing home, to put on their meal trays. They work with youths in the gardens and the various venues where the "Kid's Growing Strong" project is. The Chicago Park GC celebrated their 50th Anniversary in conjunction with their Annual Victorian Tea and published a 50th Anniversary Cook Book. And yes, they have their monthly meetings with interesting speakers and tours. We look forward to another year of good programs, good gardening information, and good friendships.

Luther Burbank, Bev Davies: Clubs have been involved with community projects. Peacock Garden Club is in the process of planting drought resistant native plants at the entrance of Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Petaluma Garden Club helped with the preparation of a community garden adjacent to the library. Men's Garden Club of Santa Rosa earned \$10,000 for scholarships from plant sales at the county fair. Windsor Garden Club recently planted two thousand daffodil bulbs as part of a downtown beautification project. In its third season at the Sierra Youth Center, district members continue to mentor the residential teen girls on vegetable gardening. The program has expanded for the girls to sell subscription produce baskets, thus they are able to achieve certification in an educational program. Plans for co-hosting, with Mendo-Lake District, the 2011 Convention are under way and on schedule.

Mendo-Lake, GinaBelle Smith: This small district consisting of 6 clubs is busy preparing to co-host the 2011 convention with Luther Burbank District. Post-Convention Tour is scheduled to bring you to the Mendocino Coast for an overnight experience. Clubs continue to offer scholarship awards. Reliable fundraisers: Holiday Wreath Sales, Winter Craft workshops, Cookie Walks, Plant Sales, and (new this year) a Craft Faire. Club funds have been spent for garden related projects for kid's gardens, senior center gardens, women's shelter garden and historic landmark building gardens and Center for the Arts landscaping project. There has been an increase in Flower arranging workshops, tours and focused study on floral design. Clubs continue interest and participation at local fairs. No programs are given at District meetings. Time spent for clubs to network with each other, receive info about CGCI programs and have questions answered. It is a time to inspire.

Montana De Oro, Nancy Johnson: This has been a busy and exciting year for the Montana de Oro District. We got off to a wonderful start in August when the Morro Bay club held their biggest and best Dahlia Daze celebration honoring the official City flower. This year's event was a two-day affair with lots of flowers on display as well as a multitude of speakers and other activities. One of our largest clubs, Multiflora has had a very busy year with speakers on topics from "How to Care for your Tools" to bats and how to build a bee house. In their spare time they volunteer in two school gardens, continue their wonderful Garden Therapy program, clean up Colonial House, prune at least 50 rose bushes, have a yard sale and plant sale along with a variety of other activities. Cayucos GC has enjoyed a variety of activities ranging from Linn's Farm in Cambria to a Bonsai Nursery in Nipomo. They provided a Christmas meal and clothes for a local needy family and continue their maintenance of the flowerbeds at the local Vet's Hall. Los Osos Valley GC has struggled to maintain their membership, yet keep busy with interesting programs and getting ready for their annual plant sale. Floral Design Study Club has gained several new members all anxious to learn about floral design. The club is also spearheading the District Flower Show to be held at Jack House in San Luis Obispo on June 7, 2011. As a District we honored the Sculpterra Winery in Paso Robles with a State Landscape Award in the fall and February 22 we will present a State Landscape Award to Tolosa Winery in San Luis Obispo. In December, our District was able to host the judging of Club yearbooks. This has been a banner year for our District in that we added the Five Cities Orchid Society to our group and will at this meeting ratify the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society to our list of clubs.

Orange County, Annie Hall Bosché: Well, needless to say, our primary goal in the last few months has been organizing the CGCI 2011 Winter Board Meeting! We have had a great time with all the planning and organizing and have learned a great deal. The Orange County District has grown quite a bit in the last few years and we have a lot of participation at our district meetings. It is great to see our clubs networking with each other, learning, and sharing from each other. We have also been busy with our nominating committee coordinating the board for next term and I am pleased that we have found a strong team to lead our group. I have had a great experience running the district during my term as District Director!

Palomar, Jane McKee: Palomar District eliminated one of its four official meetings and two of the remaining three were changed to "board" meetings only to mirror CGCI's model, reviewed and revised the bylaws, again to mirror CGCI and to conform to recent CGCI

changes and new IRS requirements, held a successful leadership workshop during the first year and a second, led by past CGCI President, Robin Pokorski is scheduled for March, hosted the 2010 CGCI Winter Board and held our own winter meeting concurrently, invited and encouraged clubs to "host" one of the two board meetings...a potential fundraiser for the club, found new and different venues for its meetings - a college campus, a winery, a local library, awarded two Landscape Design Commendations. District clubs also introduced new programs, projects and ideas: Two clubs have one joint meeting each year to share a speaker. One club sponsors an annual "Meet the Master" program bringing in an internationally known garden or design expert. One club has added each member's office or chairmanship to their name tags so that everyone can see who is who and who is doing what. Clubs are partnering with other non-profits and civic organizations to effect change in the community. One club organized a tour of a garden center to coincide with the monthly meeting of the garden club in that community. One club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial. On January 31, the District held its annual meeting at Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula. There were 123 attendees representing 20 of the 22 clubs and both Affiliates. CGCI President Maryanne Lucas was the special guest and installed the officers for the 2011-13 term. The District looks forward to hosting the CGCI Convention in 2013.

Palms to Pines, Ron & Linda Lang, Co-Directors: Our district was very proud to have been able to host the CGCI Fall Board Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. Our District has 16 active member clubs and Societies. In October, the Desert Horticultural Society of Coachella Valley held a Desert Community Garden Day which was very well received in the Palm Desert community. We have five Garden Clubs and Plant Societies who are planning flower shows this Spring.

Roadrunner, Clara Petrosky: Workshops for the public and youth groups were held to promote an interest in our fall flower show - held at a historical site in Victorville. The High Desert Fine Arts Theatre was once a USO and home for the 1970's flower shows. A Chinese auction rendered \$127.00. The garden clubs provided an outdoor plant sale as a fundraiser. 1/3 of our district membership attends the 3 District Meetings. Our programs are entertaining and educational. Our most recent was "Edible Flowers" with samples! Membership has increased by 11. District members participated and volunteered in the Fall Board in Palm Springs. The District sponsored 3 floral field trips; Orchid Festival, Weed Show, and Rogers Gardens. A Patriot Day Memorial Tree Planting, Penny Pines, socks for veterans, toys for children, food for the shelters, Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies, and CGCI projects our 3 small clubs take pride in remembering those less fortunate not only during the holiday season but throughout the year. May the world of gardening bring CGCI family good health and happiness in 2011!

San Fernando Valley, Mary Waddington-Merritt: Mid garden club year finds our District and clubs in high gear with their programs and projects. Maryanne Lucas graced our District with her Official Visit inspiring participation in her *Kids Growing Strong* Project. Southern California GC and Butterfly Chairman Jane Troutman dedicated a Butterfly Garden at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino. West Valley GC learned "The Botanical Highlights of the L.A. Zoo Gardens" followed by a visit to the Zoo. The vegetation includes gifts from around the world, producing not only beauty but also food for the zoo inhabitants. Toluca Lake GC held a Tabletops Fundraiser Tour. Burbank-Valley GC programs were "L.A. River - Past, Present and Future" and "Backyard Life - How to Provide a Sanctuary for Wildlife." **Excitement continues to grow in our District!**

Santa Clara Valley, Sara White: Received four responses to participate in an educational grant program. \$1,750 was distributed in October from the estate of Arleen Chasson, former member of Furyu Floral Designers to four clubs: Carmel Valley Garden Associates received \$350, Las Jardineras \$300, South Valley Fleurs \$400 & Sunnyvale Garden Club \$700 for its Bishop Buds Jr. Garden Club. Our district had a 10 x 20 table at the Art of Home Show at the Santa Clara Convention Center in January. Our district flower show chair, Sue Swackhamer, made a tri-fold, standup, cardboard flyer and arranged for 6 arrangements for the table and Sara White brought our banner, updated brochures, bookmarks and informational pamphlets. I was told that many people stopped to admire the arrangements who also took our information.

Sequoia Foothills, Carolyn Villi: After celebrating the holidays it's difficult for our member garden clubs to get ready for spring. Hanford & La Casa start with a joint Pot Luck meeting, Caruthers makes and sells fertilizer for spring roses, Redbud spruce up their public gardens, Four Seasons ready their Nature Trail at the Squaw Valley Library, for spring and public tours. Porterville Garden Club began this year celebrating their 60th anniversary at the historic Zalud House in which they help maintain the Zalud gardens. Visalia Garden Club has brought free plants to their community through Plant Swaps for 20 years.