

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Fall Board Meeting

September 5-7, 2013

Ayres Hotel, Costa Mesa, California

President: Rita Desilets

Host: Orange County District

EXCUSED: Kathy Bramhall; Bev Brune; Anne Capes; Diane Charbonneau; Ann Durgerian; Mary Lou Goodwin; LaVerne Harms; Joelle Holford; Rosalie Hooper; Madelyn Jameson; Linda Lang; Ron Lang; Niarja Marchand; Carol Mayo; Angela Michaels; Gertrude Paul; Judy Powers; Sandy Rogers; Dorothy Roton; Hoberley Schuler; Robert Schuler; Beverly Switzer; Bob Taylor; Carolyn Villi; Emily Wisneski

President Rita Desilets called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 6.

The Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Doris Nagy, newest inductee to the Circle of Poppies.

The inspiration was given by one of the original Circle of Poppies members, Helen Gates.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Martha Ann Walter, a member of the Circle of Poppies and other departed garden club friends.

President Rita Desilets presented the CGCI officers, former CGCI presidents, Pages, and two Circle of Poppies members.

Without objection, President Rita Desilets appointed Lorraine Ornelas as Timekeeper.

President Rita Desilets thanked Orange County District for their hospitality in hosting the Fall Board Meeting. Special presentation was given to Chairman Annie Hall Bosché.

President Rita Desilets installed the District Directors not installed at the 2013 Convention in San Diego (George Perko, Bay Bridges; Nancy McDougal, Bay Ocean; Rebecca Ferguson, Diablo Foothills; Rhea Pitchard, Mendo-Lake).

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

President Rita Desilets announced that the Rules of Order for this entire term were adopted at the Organizational Meeting in June, 2013, and are found on pages 26 – 27 of the CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster.

Annie Hall Bosché, Fall Board Meeting Chairman, moved to adopt the Fall Board Meeting Program as corrected. Motion **Adopted**.

Robin Pokorski moved to adopt the Fall Board Registration Report with a total registration of 106. Motion **Adopted**.

Lorraine Ornelas moved to adopt the Minutes of the June 4, 2013 Pre-Convention Board Meeting in San Diego as distributed by Margaret Strachan on July 16, 2013. Motion **Approved**.

First Vice-President Sue Bennett moved to adopt the Minutes of the June 7, 2013 Post-Convention Meeting as distributed by Gail Vanderhorst on July 18, 2013. Motion **Approved**.

Lorraine Ornelas moved to adopt the Minutes of the June 7, 2013 Organizational Meeting as distributed by Gail Vanderhorst. Motion **Approved**.

Without objection, President Rita Desilets appointed the committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Lorraine Ornelas, Chairman, Greg Pokorski, and Sue Bennett.

First Vice-President Sue Bennett moved to ratify the appointment of Robin Pokorski as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to the Budget and Finance Committee. Motion **Passed**.

Financial Reports

Treasurer Joan Patten, reported.

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

10100 · Cash in Checking Accounts	
10101 · BofA Business MMA 4096 .07%	42,641.90
10102 · BofA CGCI Checking 12962	38,081.20
10103 · G Gardens BofA Checking 06688	19,483.98
10105 · Symposium BofA Checking 17584	4,919.88
10106 · Events BofA Checking 75519	4,000.00
Total 10100 · Cash in Checking Accounts	109,126.96
10300 · Certificates of Deposit	
10302 · L Burbank CD899-2 5/31/14 .98%	62,107.37
10303 · L Burbank CD075-3 4/3/14 .93%	30,768.51
Total 10300 · Certificates of Deposit	92,875.88
Total Checking/Savings	202,002.84
Total Current Assets	202,002.84

Other Assets

18500 · US Bank CD7664 4/8/14 4.00%	93,892.20
19000 · CGCI Endowment	
19010 · Principal Endowment-CGCI	34,400.00
19050 · Allowance for Change in FMV	869.57
Total 19000 · CGCI Endowment	35,269.57
19500 · Scholarship Endowment	
19510 · Principal Endowment-Scholarship	67,830.00
19550 · Allowance for Change in FMV	3,278.29
Total 19500 · Scholarship Endowment	71,108.29
Total Other Assets	200,270.06
TOTAL ASSETS	402,272.90

LESS: Board Designated Net Assets	\$136,559.82
Temporary Restricted Net Assets	\$ 47,635.22
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$118,298.01
Cash Balance Available	\$ 99,779.85

Officer Reports

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A

Communications Director Jane McKee reported. See Attachment A

Financial Secretary Shane Looper reported.

Corresponding Secretary Rosa Radicchi reported. See Attachment A

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that the minutes of the CGCI Post-Convention Meeting and the CGCI Organizational Meeting were distributed. Submission deadline for Officers, District Directors and Chairmen reports is September 9, 2013.

Third Vice-President Josie Goodenow reported and moved to ratify one new garden club (South Coast Plumeria Society, Orange County District; 220 members,(Philip Concan, President) and one new Affiliate (Mendocino County Bee Club). Motion **Passed**. See Attachment A.

Second Vice-President Krystal Migliore reported. See Attachment A

First Vice-President Sue Bennett reported. See Attachment A

President Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment A

Standing and Special Committee Reports

Advisory Council Chairman Julie West report deferred. See Attachment B

Board of Trustees Chairman Robin Pokorski introduced the members of the Board of Trustees.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Shane Looper introduced the Budget and Finance Committee and read a letter from Carolyn Mayes, CPA. Shane moved to adopt the Independent Accountant's Review Report dated August 14, 2013. **Passed**.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman Sue Bennett introduced members of the Bylaws and Policy committee.

Endowment Chairman Pro-Tem Robert Gordon reported.

Life Membership Chairman Carlotta Wixon moved to ratify the new Life Members. Motion **Passed**. See Attachment B

Nominating Committee Chairman Shane Looper introduced the members of the committee.

CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman Bev Davies reported. See Attachment B

A Special Presentation was given by Dolores Moffat about the Organization of Floral Arts Designers (OFAD).

Meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The Meeting (Session #2) reconvened at 9:02 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2013.

Standing and Special Committee Reports (continued)

The 2013 Convention Chairman Jane McKee reported on the Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego. There were 166 voting members and \$7127.97 in receipts to be split with Palomar District and CGCI. See Attachment B.

The 2014 Winter Board Meeting Chairman Shirley Stewart gave an invitation to the Winter Board Meeting to be hosted by Arboretum District February 13-16, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale, California.

Youth Chairman Linda Riddle reported and moved to ratify two new youth clubs: Clayton Valley Charter High School (CVCHS), Clayton Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District, and Mt. Diablo Elementary Memorial Rose Gardeners, Clayton Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District. Motion **Passed**. See Attachment B.

On behalf of the Executive Committee Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst moved to ratify the following dates and resignations and approve the recommendations:

Ratifications:

Official Calendar Ratifications

- April 6-8, 2014 CGCI Wildflower Conference, La Quinta Inn & Suites, Tehachapi, Chairmen: Merrilee Ray and Wanda Hewett, Treasurer/Registrar: Janice Wagner
- August 3-5, 2014 Flower Show Symposium, Holiday Inn, Auburn, Chairman: Mary Arakelian. Treasurer/Registrar: Shane Looper
- June 8-12, 2015 CGCI 84th Annual Convention, Host: Golden Foothills District, Chairmen: Myrtle Findley and Joan Craig.
All Passed.

1. Accept with regret the resignation of Victoria Lucido, Tour Chairman.
2. Accept with regret the resignation of Jane Johnson, Flower Show Schools Chairman.
3. Accept with regret the resignation of Gudrun Kimmel as Flower Show Awards Chairman.
4. Accept with regret the resignation of Joan Craig as Pacific Region Special Projects Chairman.
5. Accept with regret the resignation of Gina Bush as Environment Studies Schools Chairman.
Items 1 through 5 **Passed**.
6. To ratify the appointment of a Special Policy Review Committee: Chairman, Elisabeth Tufo.
Passed

Recommendations:

1. That CGCI continue to participate with a free membership table at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in San Mateo, March 19-23, 2014. **Passed**.

2. 2014 Winter Board Meeting registration fee be \$45 and early registration fee before January 20, 2014 be \$35, one day fee \$10. **Passed.**
3. Endorse the nomination of Robin Pokorski for the position of NGC 3rd Vice-President. **Passed.**
4. That CGCI donate \$100 to the NGC project “SAGE & ROSES BLUE STAR MARKER FUND”. Monies to come from the General Fund. **Passed.**
5. That the CGCI Event checking account at Bank of America authorized signatures be changed to add the 2013-2015 Wildflower Conference Registrar/Treasurer, Janice Wagner. Joan Patten, CGCI Treasurer and Charlene Looper, CGCI Financial Secretary, will remain as authorized signers. **Passed.**
6. That the 2014 Wildflower Conference registration fee be \$90. **Passed.**

District Director Coordinator Julie West reported that District Directors will report at Winter Board Meeting.

The Meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m.

The Meeting reconvened at 9:49 a.m.

Chairman Coordinator Bob Gordon introduced the Chairmen who reported.
See Attachment C.

The Meeting recessed at 11:27 a.m.

The Meeting (Session #3) reconvened at 2:04 p.m. on Saturday 7, 2013.

Chairmen Reports continued.

District Directors were asked to introduce themselves and report if they were new or returning.

The Meeting recessed at 3:07 p.m.

The Meeting reconvened at 3:22 p.m.

Robin Pokorski presented a “Best of” Leadership Workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Gail Vanderhorst

Recording Secretary

2013 Fall Board Meeting, Costa Mesa - Attachment A Officer's Reports

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

Since Convention, this officer reviewed all six sets of convention minutes (for two administrations) and provided input, reviewed Fall Board Meeting agendas and provided input, and reviewed bylaws and participated in the Bylaws and Policy Committee meeting yesterday.

Since this is the beginning of a new term and we have club presidents here as well as District Directors, and since many/most clubs and districts have parliamentarians, I will touch on the role of the parliamentarian. The parliamentarian should have a good working knowledge of parliamentary procedure and be familiar with the objectives, bylaws, parliamentary authority and any other rules of the organization. The parliamentarian is a consultant who advises the president and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The parliamentarian's role during a meeting is a purely an advisory and consultative one – since parliamentary law gives the chair the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries. I sometimes get questions asking for my parliamentary ruling – parliamentarians do not rule.

Contact this officer with questions about parliamentary procedure or parliamentary resources. One helpful tool, with information about conducting meetings, is the recent pamphlet/booklet *Using Parliamentary Procedure* (shown to the audience), available from the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) website.

Communications Director, Jane McKee

WEBSITE:

- The home page and menus were updated and reorganized. All menus and links are now on left sidebar.
- All forms were reviewed and where possible converted to fillable pdf forms, changed to “webforms” or a new form created.
 - Forms page created – all forms (with links) will be listed there should you not be able to locate under a subject heading
 - New fillable forms were created for several donation programs (endowment, scholarship, Reforestation)
 - A “webform” is one filled out on the website (like event requests for the calendar). The information goes directly to the person or persons who need it. YOU don't need to hunt for the name or email or phone number.
- All pages reviewed and updated. New content was created for several (Anza Borrego, Endowments etc)
- Awards manual was converted to separate online version. It can be downloaded and saved or printed.
 - Evaluation forms except Flower Show and Youth are now posted (these will be posted by September 15.
 - Special note: the Blue Ribbon Score sheet is fillable and the total will automatically be calculated
- Some new webforms of note:**
 - Request for CGCI email account (@cagardenclubs.org). Forms page under Member services/website. We encourage all DDs, chairmen and club presidents to consider one of these “alias” addresses.
 - For board members – change of information form. Forms page under Board Members
 - New Youth application/annual reporting form. Youth Activities page and Forms page (under membership)

Website hosting procedures were revised

- There are now 3 levels to choose from:
 - Single page created by CGCI webmaster (club/district supplies info; updated annually)
 - Club/district requests access to create/maintain a site
 - Club/district requests link to outside website
- The User Guide was updated and converted to a separate manual that can be downloaded and saved or printed.

Coming up

- Review of all club/district web pages
 - Several have never been finished and/or updated
 - DDs – please alert your clubs...this chairman will send notice to those that have not accessed the pages in more than 1 year...the User ID of the contact has expired and they will have to submit new request if they wish to renew the site.
- The creation of a “site index” listing all pages/links

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- We will soon begin to use the email distribution system for direct contact with District Directors, Chairmen and club presidents for things like the Call, special announcements or information specific to one or more of these groups.
- The eNewsletters will be distributed

Corresponding Secretary, Rosa Radicchi

We have received five pieces of correspondence these past three months, which I will read:

1. ShoreTrip, Julie Karp: Sent CGCI a donation of \$360.00;
2. Marilyn Oberti, Thank you for CGCI Lifetime Service Award;
3. Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Kathryn Morelli: Thank CGCI for donation of \$2,000 in support of Project: Mission Blue;
- 4 & 5: Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Dottie Howatt: Thanking CGCI for generosity of donors toward Memorial Garden for "Families of the Fallen" at Dover Air Force Base & donations of \$11,075.00.

The Call for the 2013 Fall Board Meeting was sent electronically and via post in Mid-July. This was the first time we used iContact to send the Call electronically; "thanks" to Jane McKee and Pat Clayes. The Call was also promptly posted on the CGCI website and Facebook page. If you had any problems receiving the Call or other communications, please let me know.

Third Vice President, Josie Goodenow, Membership Chairman

This is the Membership Chairman's report covering the period of July 1st through September 1st 2013.

196 clubs have paid their dues out of a total of 275. 12,299 club members have paid so far. Compared to last year's final reported total of 17,774 club members, we are currently at 70%.

38 associate plant societies have paid out of a total of 50. The total number of APS members paid to date is 2,418.

7 statewide and 1 district affiliate have paid for a total of 8 out of 17. This equates to 47% of affiliates having paid.

We have two new groups to welcome:

The South Coast Plumeria Society, Orange County District with 220 members, Philip Concan, President; and a new state affiliate,(Mendocino County Bee Club).

Madam President, I move to ratify one new garden club and one new affiliate.

Second Vice President Report, Krystal Migliore

Photo Roster Project:

The first version of the Photo Roster is available for distribution. Currently, photos of 60 members are included. Additional photos will be taken this weekend and the Photo Roster will be updated.

Recruiting New CGCI Clubs/APS/Affiliates

Compiling data to determine the best plan for recruiting.
Identifying APS that may benefit from CGCI membership
Working on draft for creating New Clubs Brochure
Making contact with people in positions to assist
District Directors will receive a letter in their mailboxes.

Updating Award Evaluation Forms

The majority of the Award Evaluation Forms for 2013 have been updated and forwarded to Jane McKee so she may post them on our website. There were a few unanswered questions for a few of the Flower Show awards. Due to significant changes in the Youth Awards numbering system and age criteria, the Evaluation Forms have been sent to Linda Riddle for her approval. It is expected that all forms will be completed and will be sent to Jane before the Fall Board meeting ends.

First Vice President, Sue Bennett

One of the responsibilities of the 1st Vice President is to secure locations for 2015-2017 meetings and conventions. This chairman has made a few phone calls/sent out emails and attended the District Directors Forum to put the word out that we are looking for potential Districts to hold the upcoming meetings/convention. If your District can help, don't hesitate to call this chairman.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Chairman – Sue Bennett

Members of the Bylaws & Policy Committee are: Sue Bennett, Beverly Brune, Krystal Migliore, Lorraine Ornelas and Greg Pokorski.

This Committee has received numerous suggestions to the Bylaws and Standing Rules that will be presented at Winter Board. We welcome your input. Any proposed changes must be submitted to this Chairman by November 1, 2013.

Official Calendar Chairman – Sue Bennett

This chairman welcomes additions to the Official Calendar at anytime. Before choosing dates for your event, please check with the Official Calendar Chairman to avoid unnecessary scheduling conflicts. Visit the calendar webpage for a list of upcoming events.

Pacific Region Special Project Chairman – Sue Bennett

This chairman is eager to work with District Directors and Club Presidents to identify, collect and publicize new or ongoing projects that educate members and the public, in making responsible choices that protect and conserve our natural resources... Air, Water, Forest, Land, and Wildlife.

We will be keeping track of hours, cost to plan and execute, and the number of individuals as they relate to conservation and environmental activities. Projects include gardening study schools, landscape design schools, seminars, workshops, district/club programs and tours.

This information will be reported by November 1, 2014 to qualify for the Pacific Region Director's award.

In executing these conservation projects we will be supporting the overall goal of the NGC Conservation Pledge. (I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.)

In addition, State and local clubs projects can apply for the NGC Award of Excellence #24 which is due by March 31, 2015

President, Rita Desilets

Being CGCI President does have responsibilities and challenges, but more importantly it is an opportunity for personal growth and experiencing new adventures. Having the honor of representing the state with the best garden clubs in the country is a rare opportunity and should be appreciated.

June began with visits to Palms to Pines, Costa Verde and Channel Islands Districts. Attending Naples Islands Garden Club's 40th Anniversary Party was amazing. This was all between working with Elisabeth Tufo proofreading the new CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster.

Three exciting CGCI events were planned during the summer.

In July your president traveled to Tehachapi to meet with Merrilee Ray and Wanda Hewett make plans for what should be a fabulous Wildflower Conference scheduled for April 6-8, 2014.

CGCI Tour Chairman, Mona Dunlop worked with Chris Merkel to plan an exciting 10-day "Colors of Fall Cruise" from New York to Quebec from October 4-14, 2014. Information is available from Mona at the display in the Living Room.

The third event is the Flower Show Symposium. Symposium Chairman, Mary Arakelian, worked hard to obtain great instructors, making this worth the trip to the Holiday Inn in Auburn in August of 2014.

The President's Project – Habitat for Humanity Landscaping is progressing very well thanks to the dedication of Chairman Sara White. Donations to date are enough to provide three grants. Please check the house display for information about what's available in your area as well as forms to apply for a grant or make a donation.

If someone asked what the fundraising goal was – the answer would be - to be able to fund all of the approved grants. SeedsNow.com is donating 15% of their sales to the project, so take a flyer and check out their website for what you need to plant in your garden.

A special thank-you goes to Print-Scape in Sylmar for their generous printing of our new membership cards.

My travel schedule from September to July was given to the District Directors to aid in planning future visits. Official visits to seven Districts have already been scheduled.

Your President will be attending the NGC Fall Board in St. Louis, MO this month. Traveling there and back by train will add to the list of new adventures!

Being CGCI President is a great pleasure, possibly even better than being Membership Chairman. When the Nominating Committee calls you – think it through and then say "YES."

2013 Fall Board Meeting, Costa Mesa - Attachment B Standing and Special Committee Reports

Advisory Council Report Julie West

Former presidents in attendance: Chairman Julie West, Robin Pokorski, Elisabeth Tufo, Bob Gordon and Maryanne Lucas. The majority agreed to write "What I Learned as President of CGCI" for their term to assist people fairly new to CGCI who find themselves as a vice president on their way to becoming President of CGCI.

CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Bev Davies

Fall 2013: Since Convention 2013: transferred documents and files from former Chairman, Mary-Jo Noth; conferred with former Chairman and CGCI Financial Advisor, George Perko, on the instructional process for GTEP; and conferred with former Chairman and CGCI Communications Director, Jane McKee, on updating changes to the CGCI website for GTEP. Prepared and mailed Annual Letter to CA Franchise Tax Board for GTEP (due August 15). This Chairman responded to garden clubs' problems in complying with CA Registry of Charitable Trusts notices, filing IRS 990-N, and application to join GTEP information; and referred to CGCI Financial Advisor those clubs who were seeking to regain their IRS non-profit status.

Convention 2013, Jane McKee

The 82nd Annual CGCI Convention was held June 3-7, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego. In addition to the Awards and Installation Banquets there were three programs, six workshops, 23 exhibits and eight Palomar District garden club vendors.

Registration:

Board members	70
Club Presidents	35
Club President Alternates	10
Club Delegates	48
Club Delegate Alternates	3
Total voting strength:	166

Pacific Region Director	1
Spouses	23
Youth	15
Guests	46
Non-voting club members	85
Non-voting strength	170
Total registration	336*

(*of this number 99 were host district volunteers)

Revenue	\$33,697.22
Expense:	\$25,569.25
Net Gain	\$ 7,127.97

A check in the amount of \$3563.99, half of the net proceeds, was deposited to the CGCI General Fund on June 30, 2013.

Life Memberships, Carlotta Wixon

We will ratify four new Members, and one National Member.

When applying for Pacific Region or National memberships, send applications to this chairman, and they will be forwarded to the appropriate chairman. Please send in the newly revised forms. You may pick up a form from this chairman today

This chairman wants to thank all the club presidents and district directors that have forwarded to this chairman the address changes or names of deceased persons that are listed in the back of the CGCI yearbook. We want to keep this list accurate and updated.

CGCI

Bonnet, Maxine	Atherton GC	Bay Ocean District
Kathrine Guzman	Long Beach GC	Costa Verde District
McCright, Daniel	Livermore-Amador	Diablo Foothills District
Gamboni, Maxine	Pleasant Valley GC	Channel Islands District

NGC

Bagley, Sally #9992	Southern Calif. GC	San Fernando Valley District
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Youth Activities Committee, Linda Riddle

We have a new Facebook page for our CGCI Youth Clubs. Make sure to check it periodically for new ideas and information. Feel free to post pictures of youth club activities and Projects.

I am excited to announce that we have a Pinterest Page. You can find it at CGCI Youth Clubs. We are in the process of linking it to our Facebook page. It is filled with fun crafts, activities, garden ideas and healthy snacks for kids. This is an amazing resource for Youth Leaders. Word of warning... 'It Is Addictive!

Watch for the newly revised Handbook for Youth Activity Leaders on the CGCI Website. We are hoping to have it available on line in the next few weeks.

Make sure to check out the CGCI Youth Awards in the new yearbook, which also can be found on the website. Changed it up a bit with a few new additions, such as a Back Yard Habitat Award for all ages.

Real important new news! Thanks to Jane, we have a new Youth club membership renewal form on the CGCI website. It is very user friendly and simple to complete. One of the exciting opportunities about this new registration, it allows users to keep track of clubs on a spread sheet so everyone is accounted for and our communication can blossom. New Youth clubs can also register here. If you have mailed me a renewal this year. I have already completed the online form.

September 2013 Ratifications:

Clayton Valley Charter High School (CVCHS), Clayton Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District.
Mt. Diablo Elementary Memorial Rose Gardeners, Clayton Valley Garden Club, Diablo Foothills District

2013 Fall Board Meeting, Costa Mesa - Attachment C Chairmen Reports

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Janet Eyre

This report is to make all the new District Directors aware of the State Conservation Project. In 2011 CGCI adopted Anza-Borrego Desert State Park as a Conservation Project. Years of declining budgets and deferred maintenance have left the beautiful desert garden at the State Park Visitors Center in need of serious restoration. The irrigation system needs restoration. Some plants have died and need to be replaced. In the Directors mail box you will find more information on the project and how to make a donation.

California Consultants Council (CCC), Julie A. West

Almost twenty of the forty members (Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants) were present for the first business meeting of the newly organized council. A Landscape Design Commendation was issued to Wade Roberts, Garden Director of Sherman Library & Gardens. A Tri-Refresher will be sponsored by the CCC in conjunction with CGCI's 2014 convention. The convention tour to Forest Lawn is June 6 and provides 2.5 hours of education. The CCC hosts June 9 including morning lectures on Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design at the hotel followed by bus transportation, box lunch and tram tour of Descanso Gardens in the afternoon. Tentative schedule and budget approved.

California Natives, Margaret Strachan

California Native Plant Link Exchange is a resource for people interested in growing California native plants. The website will help the gardener select local native plants and find out who sells them; this applies to any location in the state.

For each plant that grows wild in California there is a plant information page that shows its availability, i.e. nurseries that sell the plant, and also gives information about growing the plant.

CNPLX provides a service to native plant nurseries to make the plants they sell known to the public. All of the tools and features of this website are described in detail on the NEWS-FEATURES page.

District Director Forum Julie A. West

Guest speakers were President Rita Desilets, Shane Looper, Sue Bennett and Pat Clayes. After introductions, distribution of materials and a review of the DD Mailboxes, the group of 20 district directors and one liaison was broken into three groups of seven with a mixture of experienced returning and newly installed district directors. Two topics were discussed for constructive problem-solving ideas within each group. Reporting at winter board was reviewed and reminded group of reserved seating for district directors at all business meetings. The topic chosen for February 2014 DD Forum is to share the different meeting structures within districts for potential ideas to try within one's own district.

Facebook Administrator, Pat Clayes

Being Facebook Administrator has been so much fun for me! Except for being district director, I think that this has been my most enjoyable chairmanship!

We now have 303 people who have "like" CGCI's Facebook page. And the average person is between 55-64 years of age who "like" our page.

Chairmen and District Directors: Please send any information to me that you want posted on the CGCI page. This is a great way to brag about your club or district – and it's free publicity!

Gardening Study Schools (GSS), Greg Pokorski

Series 22, Encino – accreditation paperwork completed. Series 23, sponsored by Humboldt District in Eureka, concluded with Course IV in July – accreditation paperwork completed – 9 new Consultants & one reinstated. Series 24, sponsored by Colfax Garden Club in Nevada City –four courses registered, Course I conducted in July, Course II conducted in August. Course III will be in September and Course IV in October (the last two opportunities for Gardening Consultants to refresh in California this year) – Registration forms on our website or see Local Chairman Myrtle Findley. Articles written for *Council Thymes*, *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*. Annual updating of Consultant information for the Yearbook took place and appears on pages 48-51 of the new 2013-2014 Yearbook. Website information has been updated.

Golden Gardens eNews, Pat Clayes

During the summer, several "lists" were created in the server's (iContact.com) database for sending The Calls to board meetings/conventions and special notices.

Golden Gardens eNews has 2,418 subscribers. With over 21,000 members, it would be nice if we had more than 2,418 subscribers to the *Golden Gardens eNews*. Please help spread the word about it. District Directors and Chairmen have been reminded that the success of the *Golden Gardens eNews* depends on them – to provide interesting and knowledgeable articles about club and district programs and activities and chairmen reports and news.

Home Grown, Myrtle B. Findley

Those watching the science experiments will know what is happening in genetics. More reasons for Home Grown. Know where your produce is coming from

Published in: *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, is an article on Monsanto's GM corn.

Scientific American has published articles on the safety of GM corn.

In Russia there is a live TV experiment, where webcams will allow the world to watch two groups of rats live out their lives. One group will feed on GM corn, and the other group will eat non-modified corn. To date the Web site for this program was yet to be announced. Watch for it. Also: in England, hamburger is now produced without the animal....it comes from the lab. Who knows if this has arrived in the USA? Watch the labels on all Produce, Meats, poultry, etc. Besides growing it yourself, The Farmers Market is the best bet. Local farmers can sell their locally grown animals, poultry, produce, etc...and you can ask who grew it, and where it was grown.

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

This Chair is pleased to report the next Landscape Design School will be sponsored by Luther Burbank District, beginning October 2014. Several credentials of Consultants will lapse this year and we are looking to hold a southern California school. This Chair is available and eager to assist clubs and districts plan a new school.

Consultants have expertise to help recognize good land use for awards or act as speakers at club & district meetings. Find them on pages 52-55 of the CGCI Yearbook.

NGC Liaison/NGC President's Project, Marilyn Oberti MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE – CHOICES MATTER

National President Linda Nelson's Special Project for the 2013-2015 administration, is Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter. It is my responsibility to keep CGCI members informed and updated regarding the growth and progress of NGC's two-year Special Project. Chairmen who serve on the project committee will help you in researching and providing information about our natural resources and scientific resources – **AIR – WATER – FOREST – LAND – WILDLIFE** – each with its specific chairman and committee to assist you and your garden club in becoming involved in planning, protecting, conserving, and developing projects related to local concerns of one or more natural resources. All garden clubs are encouraged to participate. NGC's General Special Project information may be obtained from NGC Special Projects Coordinator, Marion Hilliard, marionh@bellsouth.net.

President's Project, Habitat For Humanity Landscaping, Sara White

THIS PROJECT OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS, CLUBS AND DISTRICTS TO EITHER DONATE TO OR APPLY FOR A GRANT OF UP TO \$250 TO ASSIST HABITAT WITH THE LANDSCAPING OF NEW, RENOVATED OR REPAIRED HOMES.

THERE ARE 49 INDEPENDENTLY RUN HABITAT AFFILIATES THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA AND YOU CAN FIND ONE NEAR YOU BY USING THEIR ZIP CODE FINDER. THEY MUST BE CONTACTED IN ADVANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT THEIR CURRENT LANDSCAPING NEEDS ARE AND THOSE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE. BASED ON THAT INFORMATION, YOU WOULD FILL

OUT OUR APPLICATION FOR YOUR GRANT TO COVER OR AUGMENT YOUR OWN FUNDS FOR YOUR EXPENSES. GRANTS WILL BE AWARDED TO APPROVED APPLICANTS IN THE ORDER RECEIVED AND AS FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

SINCE JUNE 2013, WE HAVE RECEIVED \$850 FROM SEVEN DONORS. THEIR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED!

Project Mission Blue, Shane Looper

This chairman is excited to announce the very successful fundraising of \$12, 310.04 towards the Mission Blue Project.

- 91 of CGCI's Mission Blue Butterfly Pins given out
 1. 48 Individual donations
 2. 28 Individual Clubs
 3. 6 Districts
 4. 1 –North American Butterfly Assoc.
 5. 1- Senior Citizens Group (Gardening Group)
 6. 1- NGC Award
- Given to Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy \$9,000.00.

Scholarships, Albert Chang

All clubs and districts, which offer scholarships, need to update their scholarship information with the Scholarship Committee. Changes in numbers of scholarships, amounts paid, qualifications and the name and contact information of your scholarship chairperson(s) should be forwarded to the CGCI Scholarship Chairman. With *Golden Gardens* being published as an e-newsletter, please send photos of your scholarship winners. Please include the student's name, college and major. We will publicize how well our clubs and districts support scholarship, and this publicity will make it easier to obtain donations from outside sources by demonstrating what we give already.

Sempervirens Fund, Rosa Radicchi

Preserving Redwood Forests Since 1900: Protect & permanently preserves redwood forests, wildlife habitat, watersheds, & other important natural features of California's Santa Cruz Mountains, & encourages people to appreciate & enjoy this environment. Recent projects: 1) Sempervirens & CA State Parks signed agreement to keep Castle Rock State Park open through 2016; 2) Purchase of timber rights, protected 151 acres of redwood forest in the Upper Mill Creek watershed, 3) CEMEX Sempervirens joins forces with four conservation groups to protect 8,500 acres of redwood forest land in Santa Cruz Mountains. Thank you for your support! *Rosa Radicchi, Chair.*

Vermiculture/Vermicomposting, Paul Vander Werf

The newly created Vermiculture/Vermicomposting Committee has developed the following mission, theme and goals:

MISSION

To develop CGCI as the west coast's leader on vermiculture and vermicompost education and advocacy.

THEME

Elephants and Worms (EW – pronounced EwWWw)

SHORT-TERM GOALS

- (1) Support the Habitat for Humanity Project with raised beds made from papercrete.
- (2) Develop a best practice use of CGCI resources with an emphasis on digital resources.
- (3) Organize CGCI to support the vermiculture and vermicompost movement to include physically visiting 50 clubs this year.
- (4) Networking within the vermiculture and vermicompost community looking for opportunities for new members and new member clubs for CGCI.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- (1) Host an annual West Coast Vermiculture and Vermicompost conference beginning in 2016.
- (2) Develop a Plant/Worm Map for the state of California (similar to a TreeMap).

Yearbook, Manual, Roster, Elisabeth Tufo

750 copies of the yearbook were printed at a cost of \$3,412.50 + tax. Books were distributed at the Fall Board Meeting, 2013. Notify this chairman, in writing, of any corrections or changes.