

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the Fall Board Meeting
Harris Ranch Resort, Coalinga, California
September 10 – 11, 2024
Host: Costa Verde District
President: Carol Vallens

Business Meeting #1

President Carol Vallens called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

Official Photographer Hank Vanderhorst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flower Show Schools Judges Credentials Chairman Dyanna Madro gave the Inspiration.

President Carol Vallens introduced the 2023-2025 Executive Committee and former presidents in attendance: Bob Gordon (2003-2005), Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Rita Desilets (2013-2015), and Lynne Batchelor (2021-2023).

President Carol Vallens recognized those Circle of Poppies members in attendance: Chuck Goodwin, Bob Gordon, Beverly Switzer, Charlotte Tucker, Judy Unrine and Carolyn Villi.

President Carol Vallens recognized those members serving with her on the 2023-2025 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors and the 2023-2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst called the roll and the Chair declared a quorum (29) present.

Excused: Ellin Beltz, Sue Bennett, Michele Blomberg, Natalie Bloxham, Kathy Bramhall, Mary Brooks, Beverly Brune, Ron Byrd, Nancy Compton, Lisa Cosand, Joan Craig, Susan Delaney, Myrtle Findley, Mike Gould, Cher Habriel, Rosalie Hooper, Carolyn Hoyum, Cynthia Jackson, Gudrun Kimmel, Darcey Lober, Nancy McDougal, Jane McKee, Krystal Migliore, Sherry Molinari, Donna Payton, Rosa Radicchi, Renee Rivera, Phil Stanley, Bette Tang, Sharon Tooley, Linda Travis, Emily Troxell, Julie A. West and Carlotta Wixon-Welker.

Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a total registration of 57 (55 board members).

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that the Rules of Order are found on page 4 of the Fall Board Meeting program. Rules of Order for Board Meetings were adopted at the Organizational Meeting on June 9, 2023 for this entire term.

Fall Board Meeting Chairman Alexis Slafer moved to adopt the Fall Board Meeting program as distributed. **Motion Passed.**

President Carol Vallens thanked Alexis Slafer and Costa Verde District for hosting the Fall Board Meeting.

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

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported and moved to adopt the minutes of the Pre-Convention Board Meeting on May 21, 2024 in Sacramento as distributed through the CGCI mailchimp system for Gail Vanderhorst on July 3, 2024. **Motion Passed.**

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported and moved to adopt the minutes of the May 21-22, 2024 Convention in Sacramento as distributed through the CGCI mailchimp system for Gail Vanderhorst on July 3, 2024. **Motion Passed.**

Golden Foothills District Director Annette Choate reported for 2024 Convention Chairman Sue Bennett. See Attachment B.

Financial Reports

Treasurer George Perko reported:

As of June 30, 2024:

Net worth:

Total Cash in checking/savings accounts	\$77,769
Total Other Assets	\$613,523
TOTAL ASSETS	\$691,292
of which liabilities and restricted funds are	\$442,712
Cash Balance Available	\$248,580

Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment A.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported the deadline for emailed reports is Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary Shirley Lipa reported. See Attachment A.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

3rd Vice President/Membership Chairman Nina Blonski reported (See Attachment A) and moved to ratify the following new Associate Plant Societies:

San Diego Geranium Society, President Cynthia Pardo, 40 members

Malihini Orchid Society, President Bill Weaver, 25 members

Motion Passed.

Membership:

Clubs	172	
APS	38	
Affiliates	1	
Total	210 Clubs & APS	13,218 members

3rd Vice President Nina Blonski reported the disbanding of Pacific Camelia Society, President George Harrison, 10 members.

2nd Vice President/Chairmen Coordinator Marlene Kinney reported. See Attachment A.

President-Elect/District Director Coordinator Adele Kelly reported. See Attachment A.

President Carol Vallens reported.

Executive Committee Recommendations

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the following recommendations from the committee:

1. To accept, with regret, the resignations of the following District Directors:
Diane Hill, Bay Bridges District
Karen Hall, Humboldt District
Ron Lang, Palms to Pines District
Jeri Stark, Diablo Foothills District
Motion Passed.
2. To accept, with regret the resignation of Debbie James as Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose Chairman.
Motion Passed.
3. To accept, with regret, the resignation of Sue Bennett as GTEP Chairman.
Motion Passed.
4. To accept, with regret, the resignation of Frankie Raymond as Flower Show Schools Judges Credentials Chairman.
Motion Passed.
5. To ratify the appointment of Adele Kelly as Diablo Foothills District Liaison.
Motion Passed.
6. To ratify the appointment of Berni Hendrix as California Consultants Council Chairman.
Motion Passed.
7. To ratify the appointment of Cynthia Jackson as GTEP Chairman.
Motion Passed.
8. To ratify the appointment of Dyanna Madro as Flower Show Schools Judges Credentials Chairman and as President's Page Assistant.
Motion Passed.
9. To ratify the appointment of Patricia Holloway as Climate Awareness Chairman.
Motion Passed.
10. To ratify the appointment of Sue Bennett as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.
Motion Passed.
11. To ratify the appointment of Julie A. West as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.
Motion Passed.
12. To ratify the appointment of Sue Bennett as Webmaster Assistant.
Motion Passed.
13. To ratify the appointments of Natalie Bloxham and Cynthia Jackson as additional delegates to the Pacific Region Convention August 21-23, 2024 in Anchorage, Alaska.
Motion Passed.
14. To approve the registration fee of \$10.00 for the 2025 Virtual Winter Board Meeting, with a late registration fee of \$20.00 if postmarked between January 15, 2025 to January 22, 2025. No registrations accepted if postmarked after January 22, 2025.
Motion Passed.
15. To ratify 2025 Convention dates and place: The Hills Hotel, Laguna Hills, June 2-5, 2025, Launa Gould, Chairman and KK Ciruli, Treasurer.
Motion Passed.
16. To approve Launa Gould to serve concurrently as Orange County District Director, Liability Insurance Chairman, Yearbook Chairman, Budget & Finance Committee Member, Procedures Committee Member and 2025 Convention Chairman.
Motion Passed.

17. To approve the dates of September 8-10, 2025 for the 2025 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch Resort. Hosted by Valley Lode District with Paula Elias as Chairman.
Motion Passed.
18. To approve the dates of January 26-28, 2026 for the 2026 Virtual Winter Board Meeting.
Motion Passed.
19. To ratify the following Official Calendar dates for CGCI Gardening School Series 27, sponsored by Southern California Garden Club, Robin Pokorski, Local Chairman.
Course 1 — Friday & Saturday, July 11 & 12, 2025
Course 2 — Friday & Saturday, August 8 & 9, 2025
Course 3 — Friday & Saturday, September 26 & 27, 2025
Course 4 — Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25, 2025
Courses 1 & 2 at Valley Park Baptist Church, North Hills.
Courses 3 & 4 at Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino.
Motion Passed.
20. To correct the dates for the Flower Show School, sponsored by Southwestern Judges Council in Poway.
Course 3 - February 26, 27 and 28, 2026. **Motion Passed.**
21. To increase the 2024-2025 budget for Auditor fee LC 101 from \$5500.00 to \$6500.00.
Motion Passed.

The meeting recessed at 2:32 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

Committee Reports

Board of Trustees Chairman Robin Pokorski reported. See Attachment B.

Budget & Finance Chairman Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment B.

Flower Show Schools Chairman Jennifer Waite reported.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported and moved to adopt the Standing Rule changes distributed to registered board members in their registration packets. **The motion passed for both of the proposals (by two-thirds vote).** See Attachments B and C.

Nominating Committee Chairman Lynne Batchelor reported. See Attachment B.

Procedures Chairman Robin Pokorski reported. See Attachment B.

Strategic Planning Committee Chairman George Speer reported.

Open Forum

An open forum was conducted.

Announcements were made.

The meeting recessed at 4:17 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 8:58 a.m.

President Carol Vallens presented pins to those who attended the Pacific Region Garden Clubs convention in Alaska and presented Certificates of Recognition to Costa Verde District for hosting the 2024 Fall Board Meeting and to Alexis Slafer for chairing Landscape Design School Series 28 and to Robin Pokorski.

President Carol Vallens introduced the Timekeeper, Bette Langford and explained how the reporting members would know when their time of three minutes was up.

District Director Coordinator Adele Kelly introduced those directors who reported. See Attachment D.

The meeting recessed at 9:49 a.m.
The meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

Chairmen Coordinator Marlene Kinney introduced those chairmen who reported. See Attachment B.

President Carol Vallens invited members to the 2025 Winter Board Meeting via Zoom, January 27-29, 2025.

2025 Convention Chairman Launa Gould presented a report (with handouts) regarding the 2025 Convention, *There's Magic in the Garden*, June 2-5, 2025 in Laguna Hills.

2021-2023 President Lynne Batchelor presented a PowerPoint update on her President's Project.

Announcements were made including announcement of raffle winners.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary

Attachment A Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary, Rita Desilets

Your Request for Payment forms will be processed quickly, but please use the correct line code, stay within the budget and include receipts.

The recently revised form has directions on ways to submit your request. Help is a phone call or email away, so please ask for assistance.

Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Lipa

Since State Conference in late May this secretary has sent:

3 cards of Condolence for Ward Habriel, Dave West, and to Renee Rivera. Using Mail Chimp, the 2024 Pre-Convention and Convention Minutes were sent to the Board, the 2024 Convention Minutes were sent to all Club Presidents, and the Call to the 2024 Fall Board Meeting, and the above-mentioned card notifications to all CGCI Board members.

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

This officer reviews and offers assistance with meeting agendas and minutes, and I hope you all know that our minutes are posted on our website after they are distributed to you through CGCI's mailchimp account. Sadly, we know that some never open these official CGCI communications.

This board is the governing body for CGCI and it is important that we all take our positions seriously and be informed by knowing our bylaws, standing rules and policy and reading meeting minutes.

This officer addresses parliamentary inquiries from clubs, districts and members. I encourage all of you and especially those who serve in parliamentary and leadership roles in your clubs and districts to keep learning and practicing parliamentary procedure which really can make your meetings more fair and effective and time-efficient.

Thanks to President Carol for the opportunity to serve her and CGCI in this role.

3rd Vice President & Membership Chairman, Nina Blonski

Current Membership

Number Paid as of September 7, 2024

Clubs 172 (10,096)

APSs 38 (3,122)

Affiliates 1

Total 210 Clubs & APS Total Members 13,218 Total collected in SF \$36,370.25

CGCI has two new Associate Plant Societies which were ratified at Fall board meeting.

San Diego Geranium Society, President Cynthia Pardo, 40 members.

Malihini Orchid Society, President Bill Weaver, 25 members

CGCI has one APS that will be disbanding

Pacific Camellia Society, President George Harrison, 10 members

2nd Vice President & Chairmen Coordinator, Marlene Kinney

Chairmen's Forum Meeting September 10, 2024 Agenda:

Thank all chairmen in attendance.

Introduction: President Carol Vallens

Attendance: 29 Chairmen

Reporting: 23 Chairmen

Pat Clayes Address: *Golden Gardens* & the need for Articles – 5 minutes

Discussion and share ideas of future goals for their chairmanship.

Thank you for coming and let me know if you have any questions or need assistance.

President-Elect & District Director Coordinator, Adele Kelly

This President-Elect has had a busy summer attending the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Convention in Denver, CO, the Pacific Region Garden Clubs (PRGC) Convention in Anchorage, AK, and four Landscape Design Courses in North Hills, CA. She has secured her President's Project and is working on forming her board for her upcoming presidency.

This President-Elect also serves as the District Director Coordinator. The Fall Board Meeting District Directors' Forum was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. There were twelve district directors, two alternate district directors, and two district director liaisons. There are three new district directors: Bay Bridges District Director, Sandy Jaeger, Humboldt District Director, Ellin Beltz, and Palms to Pines District Director, Holley Harbin. There are two new District Liaisons, Buttes District, Carol Jauregui, and Diablo Foothills District, Adele Kelly. This chairman discussed various reminders for directors to pass onto their clubs such as upcoming schools and the return of NGC Membership Mondays. California Consultant Council's Chairman Berni Hendrix followed with a discussion about sponsoring NGC schools. She had an informative and fun exchange with the directors. She encouraged them to host schools and stated she could help them get instructors. President Carol Vallens followed with an open discussion regarding the future of districts and district directors.

This chairman also serves as the District Liaison for Diablo Foothills and Luther Burbank Districts. Diablo Foothills District has gone inactive, and they are in the process of disseminating their funds to other 501(c)(3) organizations. Luther Burbank continues to have no district director, and Mendo-Lake District is meeting soon to potentially elect a new director.

On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at Business Meeting #2 the following district directors or their alternates gave oral reports:

Arboretum – Nancy Bird

Bay Bridges – George Perko

Buttes and Top o' the State – Carol Jauregui

Cascade – Judy Paul

Costa Verde – Alexis Slafer

Golden Foothills – Annette Choate

Humboldt – Tom Krenek

Orange County – Launa Gould

Palomar – Dyanna Madro

Roadrunner – Terry Sampson

Sacramento River Valley – Ron Byrd

San Fernando Valley – Dana Boyd

Santa Clara Valley – Roseann Costabile

Valley Lode – Paula Elias

Attachment B Committee and Chairmen Reports

Blue Star Markers Co-Chairman, George Unrine

Since the 2024 Convention we have received an order for two Highway Markers from CALTRANS sponsored by Channel Islands district. They will be placed on US 1 between Santa Barbara and Ventura. Caruthers GC / Sequoia Foothills District submitted a grant request for the byway marker they ordered this year.

Board of Trustees, Robin Pokorski

Five of six members of the Board of Trustees met via Zoom August 29, 2024 with George Perko, CGCI Treasurer and Financial Advisor, President Carol Vallens and President-Elect Adele Kelly, as guests. Year-to-date financial records from as of June 30, 2024 were reviewed. The endowment funds with Vanguard were reviewed and are in balance in accordance with the parameters established by Standing Rule 45. The CGCI Endowment Fund which is invested in 60.3% Stocks and 39.7% Bonds showed a balance on June 30, 2024 of \$106,509.16. The CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund which is invested in 62.4% Stocks/37.6% Bonds showed a balance on June 30, 2024 of \$202,816.19.

A recommendation (later upgraded by Budget and Finance) to transfer \$7,100 from the President's Project to the Scholarship/Life Membership Fund was approved. CGCI's Important Papers/Documents is still a work in progress being updated from 2019.

Budget & Finance Committee, Rita Desilets

The members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Rita Desilets, George Perko, Adele Kelly, Launa Gould, Cynthia Jackson and Julie West attended via Zoom on Sept. 2, 2024. President Carol Vallens also attended. We reviewed the financial records from July 2023 to June 2024 as well as the status of two US Bank CDs and the Bank of America CD. A plan for moving the President's Project monies so they can support two scholarships was discussed.

Cactus and Succulents, Ellyn Meikle

The California Garden Clubs Inc.'s Cactus and Succulent Committee continues to collaborate on landscaping public and private gardens and educating with information and care of cactus and succulents.

An ongoing project, El Retiro Park's succulent garden in Torrance, is coordinated and maintained by this committee chairman and contributors. We continue to upkeep several properties throughout the South Bay of Los Angeles. We also support education and administration for a variety of clubs. All of us maintain an array of gardens at various local residences.

As a committee with contributors, we collaborate on educational articles that are published in many *Golden Gardens* newsletters and Facebook posts, in addition to Costa Verde District, local garden club and society newsletters.

Certificates, Judy Bates

During our president, Carol Vallens' term to date, this chairman has processed:

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES - 20 PLUS YEARS - WITH LETTER

120 Certificates and 120 Letters

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES - 19 YEARS OR LESS - NO LETTER

Created the templet and 19 Certificates

MEMBER AWARD OF DISTINCTION

4 Awards

BUSINESS COMMENDATIONS

4 Certificates

CUSTOM CERTIFICATES

Created 6 Award Templates and 23 Certificates

Moving forward, this chairman, to help promote CGCI's Long Service Certificates, Member Award of Distinction and Business Commendations Programs, will submit a write-up on each to the *Golden Gardens* Newsletter.

Club Locator Liaison, Robin Pokorski

Club Locator Liaison has been in operation about five months or so. National Garden Clubs, Inc. has a place on its website to indicate interest in finding a garden club in a person's area. These requests go to NGC headquarters and are forwarded to the appropriate state for follow-up.

This chairman has developed a template for response and answers the inquiries copying in the local district director and any club presidents that are around the inquirer. To date, I have responded to nearly 100 inquiries with 23 of our districts having had one or more requests for information. I am aware that several directors and club presidents are reaching out to these people. District Directors, please encourage your club presidents to reach out to these people. Explain why these club presidents are getting these emails and impress on them how crucial it is that they welcome these people who are looking for us.

Conejo Valley Botanical Garden, Shelley Sparks

This chairman has fallen short of the financial goals of the 2021-2026 Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Project Resolution of \$2000 annually. To date, in 2024, we have contributions of \$250. That is far short of the Resolution goal as well as the \$3500 needed to restore the walking trail through one of our beloved projects, the Trail of Trees. The Trail of Trees for those of you that don't know is a trail of trees from around the world that has been planted to demonstrate the diversity of flora that can exist outside of its native parameters. This chairman has written an article for *Golden Gardens* which I hope will soon be published to educate our membership about Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and solicit their contributions.

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, located in Thousand Oaks in Ventura County is a worthy cause and anyone looking for places to contribute funds or your Native Flora collections would do a service to our environment and the education of the visitors to support Conejo Valley Botanic Garden.

Environmental Schools, Cynthia Jackson

I submitted my ideas on a survey inquiring about the lack of schools held in the State to the other school chairs (Alexis & Greg) in May, but have yet to receive any feedback.

I am still working on my ideological concept of coordination with the other environmentally related CGCI committees e.g. Climate Awareness, Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose, Pollinators & Insects, Vermiculture, etc. to see if there are common goals, synergies or ways to promote environmental education.

Event Coordinator, Robin Pokorski

The Event Coordinator chairmanship was created to mentor those clubs and districts considering hosting a CGCI event. This chairman maintains and has already updated the Meeting Procedures manuals that may be found on the website.

Help is available in hotel negotiations as well as ideas for venues and the needs each event requires. Hosting an event is a wonderful bonding mechanism for your club or district as well as a potential fundraiser.

The offers have been flooding so please see me if your club or district might be interested in hosting one of the few remaining meetings that still need hosts. The joy of working together on a group project is invaluable.

Gardening Schools, Greg Pokorski

This chairman is thrilled to announce that after a long hiatus we have a Gardening School, ratified here yesterday. Southern California Garden Club is sponsoring Series 27 in 2025. An information flyer is included in your registration packets and more are available.

Sadly, two Gardening Consultants have died (Geneva Martin and Dave West). Six will lapse if they don't refresh by the end of the year. Reminders have been sent. There is a Zoom refresher opportunity the end of this month, and there may be more this year – or extensions can be requested so they may refresh at the Southern California Garden Club school next year.

This chairman attended and reported at the California Consultants Council meeting last night.

This chairman is happy to provide information about conducting a Gardening School. All of the NGC Schools are among the best benefits provided by National Garden Clubs.

The upcoming Gardening School will be the fifth school conducted by Southern California Garden Club. So you can see that it is easy enough and valuable enough that we keep doing more. The club's Landscape Design School finished this summer and brought us 10 new members and made money. Conservative budgeting, lots of promotion and miscellaneous sales contribute to the financial success.

Long-time former board member Edith Pucket used to remind us that Garden is our middle name (California Garden Clubs) – we should be learning and teaching about gardening!

Governance Committee, Greg Pokorski

The members of the Governance Committee are Lynne Batchelor, Nina Blonski, Chuck Goodwin, Jeanne Johnson, Marlene Kinney, George Speer and this chairman. Additionally, ex-officio member President Carol Vallens attends most meetings, as does President-elect Adele Kelly.

This committee offered a number of proposed changes at the convention in Sacramento in May. The Executive Committee adopted changes to Policy. The Board of Directors adopted changes to Standing Rules at the Pre-Convention meeting and the membership adopted changes to Bylaws during Convention meetings. These governing documents have been updated and the revisions are posted on our website and the revised bylaws and standing rules are also contained in pages 53 to 84 of your new *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* –the yellow and pink pages. Be sure to use current documents when addressing any bylaw or standing rule question and remember that bylaws have priority over *Robert's Rules*.

Our committee meets monthly by Zoom. Any member of CGCI may suggest bylaw or standing rule changes. Use the webform found on the website.

This year we are looking at the possibility of eliminating the position of 3rd Vice President, a significant change for the organization. If you have feedback pro or con, please advise this chairman.

The board of directors is authorized to adopt or amend the Standing Rules according to Standing Rule 3. A handout with the proposed changes was included in your registration packets and you were asked to bring them to the business meetings. Without previous notice, a two-thirds vote is required to adopt proposed changes, which become effective immediately upon approval.

Madam President, on behalf of the Governance Committee, I move to adopt the following Standing Rule changes.

See page 4 of these minutes (both proposals passed by two-thirds vote) and see Attachment C.

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Cynthia Jackson

I am still transitioning into this new position. I have received some, but not all of the materials, files, etc. I anticipate having the balance of these materials by the end of the month.

I have just recently received email access, revised the initial application form and composed an affiliation termination letter since none previously existed. I am currently in the process of reviewing and revising renewal forms.

Honor Book, Bette Langford

The Honor Book records memorials, contributions, and recognitions of outstanding service. The Honoree's name will be inscribed in the Honor Book. This year we received donations to honor Shane Looper and Rosemary Alexander,

The Honorees/Donors will be recognized in the *Golden Gardens*.

The funds reside in the Restricted Funds Guideline:

- Funds are used for any CGCI objective upon approval of the board of directors
- Smokey Bear Youth Poster Contest
- Redwood Tree per decade honoring former CGCI Presidents

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

Landscape Design School, Series 28, hosted by Southern California Garden Club has been successfully completed. There were 50 people who attended at least one of the 4 courses offered -- with enrollments in each course ranging from 36 to 42.

While not all of the students took the exams, this chairman is pleased to announce that every student who did take the exams -- passed. Our school graduated 23 new Landscape Design Consultants...adding to the 68 already part of the CGCI LD Consultant cadre. So, the total number of LD Consultants stands at 91. There were 7 students who completed 2 of the courses and are now Provisional Landscape Design Consultants. And 9 current Landscape Design Consultants and Master Consultants refreshed their credentials. Due to the reduced registration fee for members, 10 attendees joined SoCal GC.

Several of the instructors expressed interest in teaching at other venues, either in person or virtually. Please contact this chairman to get their contact information when you start planning your Landscape Design School.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the chairman of our Landscape Design Schools.

Liability Insurance, Launa Gould

The Liability Insurance Chairman is responsible for processing all insurance requests for General Liability and Additional Insured certificates. Since January we have processed 435. The task is to make sure all documents are in order before sending on to the Insurance agent who produces the certificates.

The insurance year is Feb 15 to Feb 15.

Insurance is not automatically renewed.

General Liability insurance is available for clubs to be insured for their normal activities, such as field trips, working in gardens, and plant sales.

This year about 265 clubs obtained General Liability Insurance.

Applications will be emailed to all club Presidents and Treasurers mid-November with a January 15 deadline.

Additional Insured Certificates are available for venues that require it (meeting rooms, plant sales) and for homeowners who host events and garden tours.

There have been about 170 Additional Insured requests processed this year. More venues are now requiring insurance.

It is important when you start to plan an event or meeting, to ask about the insurance requirements and start the insurance process early. The process can be complicated working with some venues.

We are in the process of discussing a way to break up the responsibilities of this chairmanship into smaller parts. If you are interested in being a part of the insurance committee, please contact me.

I am here to answer your questions and help with your insurance needs.

Nominating Committee, Lynne Batchelor

Since convention the nominating committee has met via zoom, has conducted interviews for positions on the Executive Committee, and has continued recruitment efforts. As stipulated in the bylaws, we will present the slate at the Winter Board meeting.

That being said, we are still accepting applications and inquiries regarding these positions. If anyone here has an interest in learning more about what a position on the Executive Committee entails or knows someone whom you would like to recommend as a potential leader, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Those members representing Region 1 are Jeanne Johnson from Humboldt District and Charlotte Tucker from Valley Lode District, representing Region 2 are Milly Benson from Montana de Oro District and Jana Dudley from Sequoia Foothills District, representing Region 3 are Robin Pokorski from San Fernando Valley District and Alexis Slafer from Costa Verde District, our Alternate is George Speer from Palomar District and I am the Chair Lynne Batchelor from Palomar District.

Although time is critical, we will be happy to conduct zoom interviews or information sessions from now until January 1 for anyone who may be interested in ensuring the continued success of CGCI, while learning new skills, making new friends, increasing their creativity and influence, and enjoying the fun of serving on the Executive Committee.

Pollinators & Insects, Donna Payton

We hosted a free volunteer booth at the Poway Farmers Market on Saturday, June 22nd. At the booth, we assisted interested attendees on how to propagate geraniums from cuttings, which were donated by a neighbor and a friend who is a Master Gardener. We had a variety of containers including tennis ball containers with holes drilled in the bottom. I chose geranium cuttings to increase the chances of successful propagation for those without a lot of experience. We provided good quality potting soil. I explained how to identify nodes and stressed the importance of putting two nodes below the surface of the potting soil and two nodes above.

We had a trifold display of how pollination occurs and the importance of native plants to the ecosystem.

In addition, we offered rock painting for children. They painted flowers on the rocks. We had a coloring page of the lifecycle of the Monarch Butterfly and a maze created by a volunteer at the booth to help the bee find the flower. At our booth, a Master Gardener and fellow garden club member was on hand to answer questions.

Additionally, in May, I purchased native plants at the wholesale price and sold them to garden club members at our garden club's monthly meeting with profits going to Poway Valley Garden Club. This concludes my report.

Procedures Committee, Robin Pokorski

You may remember I introduced the Three Ities to you at convention: Alexis Slafer - The Queen of Clarity whose favorite saying is "I'm not sure that's clear enough" and then we have Launa Gould - The Queen of Brevity, whose favorite saying is "can we eliminate a few words?" and of course, there's me - The Queen of Levity, whose favorite saying is, "well, it looks like we're almost done!" That's your Procedures Team.

We have divided all the chairmanships into three general groups. We have settled on a template for the procedure books and have written "units" that are applicable to multiple chairmanships and can be dropped into individual procedure books as appropriate. We meet via Zoom several times a month. We are working our way through each and every chairmanship. Once we think we have a near-final draft, we send the procedures to the current and/or prior chairmen to review for input. When we approach you to review our work, please give us your input in a timely fashion.

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

Please consider the CALL your invitation to an event with a specific RSVP date and show your courtesy to your hosts in responding sooner than later. A firm "final date to register" is on all registration forms. When you receive the CALL, register right away. The day after the deadline for registrations to be in my hand, the programs and name tags and everything else that needs copying are printed so when someone registers late, it causes several people additional work.

An item to bring to your attention is the increased costs associated to putting on a CGCI meeting – convention or board meeting. Partly because of the pandemic and partly because CGCI no longer brings in enough members to these meetings, hotels are charging meeting room rental. These fees can range from \$2500 to \$6,000 per meeting. These costs will need to be recouped in the registration fees so don't be surprised that our registration fees will increase.

This chairman applauds our President for her far-sighted vision to hold this meeting at this facility and make it work without meals. Meals would have been more than \$55 per lunch and upwards of \$80 per dinner for even the cheapest menu selections. Additionally, the price of this room would have nearly doubled as it would then require servers as well as set-up and clean-up. This was a smart, cost-efficient solution and it's up to all of us to make it a success!

Sempervirens Fund, Judy Unrine,

Today State Parks, and in particular Big Basin Redwoods State Park, need us more than ever.

As they rise from the ashes of the CZU Fire and prepare for the increased fire and climate changes, the bill AB2103, passed by the senate, is on the Governor's desk.

The bill is very important. It is a bill that will help to rebuild our fire damaged parks and protect their recovering habitat.

Please petition Governor Newsom to sign AB2103 into law.

Yearbook, Manual, & Roster, Launa Gould

This summer was spent gathering information from multiple sources for the new *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.

The print deadline was met early, and books printed on time.

500 yearbooks were printed at a printer that has supplied us with a great quality book at below average cost.

My team member, Robin Pokorski did the labor-intensive work of addressing, stamping, stuffing and mailing over 400 books. Thank you, Robin!

She put MY return address on them, so you know who gets all the returned books and follow -up trouble!

The information gathered for the book is only as good as the information received. Therefore, there are always corrections and additions that need to be made. Because updates come from several sources, there are loopholes in the process and an update in one place may not get to the Yearbook Chairman.

My goal this year is to work on procedures for closing those loopholes and creating solid information for our officers and committees.

I have started a list of Corrections and Additions that need to be made to this yearbook and will email the list to you on a 1/2 sheet so you can slip it/tape it into your book.

Please add your corrections to my list.

Your input with fresh ideas for the yearbook is appreciated.

2024 CGCI Convention, Sue Bennett

It has been a pleasure working with you on this convention, the members of the Golden Foothills District and the CGCI Events members.

A few quotes from the thank you notes, "I enjoyed the workshops and speakers", I enjoyed every bit – the hotel, the food, the people – and even the business meetings!"

A total of 135 sleeping rooms were used. It’s hard to predict how many of the 33 nights were used for Convention attendees versus Symposium for Wed night. Not including Wed, the Symposium brought in 27 additional nights.

A total of 235 dinners with 74 lunches were provided by the hotel, not including Symposium numbers.

15 members went on the garden tours, comments there included, "I love her gate," "all the yards are different," "I am so happy I was able to do this, got some ideas for my own yard."

Total Revenue: \$32,767.14
Less Expenses: \$33,911.13
Net Loss of \$1,144.00

With a Net Loss, that means CGCI pays 30% to the district which is a total of \$343.20 and the district would take the 70% loss of \$800.80.

The Convention Treasurer and Chairman decided CGCI did not have to cut a check for the \$343.20. (even though CGCI really, really wanted to, to show good faith). Remind you, the district did make monies from the quilt sale and their GFD sales tables.

Positive: Symposium attendees were able to leverage from Convention hotel and meeting rooms prices, Convention was able to leverage off Symposium food headcounts. Long week for the Symposium attendees

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you and this organization.

Attachment C
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Standing Rules from the Governance Committee for
the Board of Directors
at the Fall Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 10 or Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Bring
this to the meetings.

Key - underline means insert words. ~~Strikeouts~~ mean omit words.

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #1	Proposal #1	Proposal #1
1. The geographical boundaries of the districts and their delineation are as follows: [District boundaries are then listed.]	1. The geographical boundaries of the districts and their delineation are as follows, <u>however, some clubs will not fall into these boundaries in accordance with exceptions provided for in Bylaws Article IX:</u> [District boundaries are unchanged.]	1. The geographical boundaries of the districts and their delineation are as follows, however, some clubs will not fall into these boundaries in accordance with exceptions provided for in Bylaws Article IX: [District boundaries are unchanged.]

Rationale: Clarify that some clubs belong to districts outside the geographical boundaries of their location.

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #2	Proposal #2	Proposal #2
54. The registration fee, cost of each meal and activity for all board meetings and conventions shall be itemized in the call to these meetings.	54. The registration fee, cost <u>and the registrant's price of for</u> each meal and activity for all board meetings and conventions shall be itemized <u>published</u> in the call to these meetings. <u>There shall be no refunds after the stated deadline except those approved by the President and meeting chairman for extenuating circumstances.</u>	54. The registration fee and the registrant's price for each meal and activity for all board meetings and conventions shall be published in the call to these meetings. There shall be no refunds after the stated deadline except those approved by the President and meeting chairman for extenuating circumstances.

Rationale: The actual cost of meals has not been itemized in the call for years. It is the price being charged to the registrant that is listed. A standard rule is needed regarding refunds to back up the statements on registration forms regarding refunds.

Both of the above proposals passed with two-thirds vote. See page 4 of these minutes and the Governance Committee Report in Attachment B.

Attachment D District Directors' Reports

Bay Bridges District Director, Sandy Jaeger

In the Bay Bridges District, Hillside Gardeners of Montclair managed to pull off an amazing feat this past year. After being in the planning stages for two years, on April 21, 2024 they hosted a Garden Tour of 7 local private gardens. A major change that was made to this tour was that all ticket sales were done using an online ticket program thus eliminating printed tickets and the mailing costs to send them after purchase. The Club also was able to outsource the printing of the flyers and tour booklets to an online printing company and cut their printing costs significantly. Some of the "older" members were not happy with these changes, e.g., ordering tickets online and receiving them via email but some were pleased to learn a new computer skill!

With extensive marketing and as a result of these changes, large and small, 965 tickets were sold (!) and the net proceeds were slightly more than \$40,000. As this tour is staged every two years, \$15,000 of the proceeds was budgeted and distributed as grants to various individual people and groups and another \$5,000 was donated to several local conservation groups.

Hillside Gardeners definitely deserves recognition for the \$40,000 they were able to raise on a one day event!

Bay Ocean District Director, Nancy McDougal

Most of the general-format garden clubs in Bay Ocean District take the summer months to focus on personal travel, family fun and enjoying their own home gardens. June club newsletters spoke of the end-of-year parties with tea & always outrageous hats or plant swaps to enrich each other's garden before the summer warmth set in. With regular meetings beginning in September, there is always lots of experiences to share.

Two clubs did use the appeal of plants to earn funds while reaching out for new members and making their groups better known in their communities. Pacifica Garden Club held a large sale of member-grown plants in the parking lot of the Community building where they hold their monthly meetings and near the raised planter garden they maintain at the site. The one-day Sunday event was very well attended, making new friends in their community while having fun together and earning funds for their community projects. Civic Garden Club of San Carlos continued their every Saturday plant sale, begun during the Covid lock-down and successfully continued as a feature behind their downtown clubhouse ever since.

Buttes District Liaison, Carol Jauregui

This liaison has spoken to a few of the clubs over the summer. A new president asked great questions after reading all materials passed on by the outgoing president. I referred those questions to Robin Pokorski, for answers from the top. Another club's yearbook editor asked about their club joining in other club's field trips. As district director, club's had always been encouraged to network with each other and attend each other's meetings. Resuming the district newsletter would allow a platform for all clubs to share their monthly activities and tours. When sent to each club's President or communications person, they could announce it at the meetings, or distributed it via email to their members. Since there is approximately 65 miles between the two outlying clubs, and getting Presidents and members to attend board and general meetings has always been a challenge. Five of our clubs continue to run the flower shows at their local county fairs. This is an excellent vehicle to show off what the club does and to gain new members.

Cascade District Director, Judy Paul

Cascade District has 6 clubs, and one Arrangers Guild, with a total membership of 224. Club membership ranges from 15 to nearly 80, and with our new district website, we hope to grow our memberships more! The theme for the year is "1, 2, 3. Let's Grow!"

This director has three main goals for this year. One is to hold bi-monthly district meetings with club presidents to share, build enthusiasm, mentor, all to facilitate comfort and knowledge in being an officer.

Second, to work together to create a listing of local speakers and presenters for monthly meetings. We will be meeting September 19 to get started on this and more!

Third, our board has discussed purchasing a Blue Star Memorial at the new VA Clinic near Redding. This looks positive and this director has received tentative approval from the VA. It will be an agenda item at our District Fall Meeting, October 25 hosted by Shasta Lake Garden Project. Redding Wonderland Garden Club is also hoping to purchase a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker for the Veteran's Home located across from the VA Medical Clinic.

Red Bluff Garden Club will be holding its annual Fall Luncheon October 12 at Rolling Hills Casino. This is a big and well attended event, with attendance close to 200. There will be a speaker, vendors, silent auction, and more!

Also, October 12, Lake California Garden Club will participate in their gated community wide Plant and Bake Sale plus Yard Sale where they are very active.

Red Bluff recently completed NGC Flower Show School II August 28-30. There were 20 attendees, with 12 taking the test. We had wonderful instructors, David Robson and Gina Jogan. Table and Petite Designs, capitulum, and conifers were the topics. We certainly learned a great deal! Course III is scheduled for March 18-20, 2025.

Costa Verde District Director, Alexis Slafer

Costa Verde District is thrilled to be the host of this CGCI 2024 Fall Board Meeting being held at the Harris Ranch Resort in Coalinga. It really is a lot of fun. The response from the members was so positive...with so many raffle prizes being donated. (Hint: Tickets are still available.) Thank you to the artists who decorated the raffle ticket drop-off bags at the coloring table during our Fun and Games Night.

The District's plans for next year include a reciprocal visit to our sister district to the north, San Fernando Valley District. So, our spring bus trip will be to the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino...where we will enjoy a lovely visit, partake of a delicious lunch and tour the SFVD's Pollinator and Rose Gardens...as well as the rest of the community garden.

Our upcoming program topics will include trees, passion fruit, kelp forests and climate change. Please feel free to join us at any of our meetings. A major problem that Costa Verde is currently facing is that the venue where our meetings are held, the South Coast Botanic Garden, has eliminated any possibility of holding raffles. So, creativity for fundraising ideas is critical. Be assured that this District Director will be stealing ideas from your reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the Costa Verde District Director.

Golden Foothills District Director, Annette Choate

This district director as well as most of my district took the summer off.

I want to thank all who attended our convention. We ended the year with a district garden party at the Wakamatsu farm in Placerville.

It is an American Conservancy landmark. It was the site where the first Japanese Tea farmers settled on this original site. The first Japanese American baby was born here too. It was a lovely day. Great event grounds, and we learned about the work the American conservancy does in

preserving private historical lands in CA. 3 raised metal beds from Veggie gardens. Then Vego sent them 2 more for being a nonprofit.

We are looking forward to the annual Victorian tea and fashion show in Grass Valley as well as a Blue Star memorial dedication on Nov. 11th. With the Chicago Park Garden club.

I was lucky to go on a tour of the Master Gardeners new demonstration garden that was built this past year to the tune of \$20,000 in Loomis.

Several of the clubs in my district raised and contributed money towards it.

Looking forward to our district meeting in Oct. We hold 2 board meetings and 2 general and a garden party yearly.

Greater Los Angeles District Director, Joyce Parrott

Our District held a board meeting in May, attended by four of our six clubs. There will be a general meeting in October, where our clubs will be able to share plans for the upcoming year with one another. Most of the clubs have been inactive over the Summer, but the Culver City club has continued to hold meetings each month. It also held its annual Garden Show in June, with horticultural judging, demonstrations, speakers, and numerous vendors. It is organizing a Fall "Garden Hop", i.e. visits to local gardens. This is a unique time of year to tour gardens, but always well-worth the time.

Montana de Oro District Director, Carolyn Fergoda

Overview: Multiple days and locations led to increase sales for one club's "annual plant sale." Another club found that June was not the best time of the year for their garden tour. City anniversaries and celebrations can be good opportunities to reach out, get better known, and increase new members.

Since our last report earlier this year, several clubs have held their plant sales, some exceeded their goals in fundraising, membership and community participation. Others had a quieter sales period even though their volunteers' efforts and quality of plants had not changed. The reasons remain mysterious.

One club held a garden tour in June due to their busy spring calendar. However, members whose gardens were on the tour felt that their gardens were not at their best. How they work this out next year will be determined on the club's priorities.

Another club was invited to participate in the city's 60th anniversary celebration. The members created designs and bouquets for the reception at a local gallery. During the city's parade and celebration, the members handed out dahlias and club information.

One club established a technology group and a new website for the club. The same club had difficulty finding members who wanted to host garden tours or field trips. However their members created a very successful annual plant sale.

Several clubs used their June and July to celebrate their members and volunteers with picnics and barbecues.

Orange County District Director, Launa Gould

16 clubs with 1100 members – 7 clubs responded with reports

Challenges: Finding people to fill positions on the board.

Very busy in their communities with typical garden club activities.

- teaming with outside organizations
 - hardware stores for donations
 - Obtain workers in gardens from school environmental classes for credit, church youth groups

- Giving scholarships to Community college students who are already studying in the field and will have a great impact on the community.
- Using talents of members to save on speaker fees.
 - Member successful in growing African Violets will speak, another member good at research will present her research on African Violets.
 - Master Gardener who is a club member presenting on grafting and growing rare fruit.
- Bonanza Plant exchange (like a cookie exchange) in Fall and Spring
 - Presentation on growing seeds/distribute one type to each participant
 - Return next month with seedlings for exchange
 - Members go home with a variety of plants.
- Club coordinated a Back to School Cleanup of the schools front gardens enlisting current and former students and a PTA member.

San Clemente GC to Host 2025 Convention.

Palomar District Director, Sharon Tooley

As Palomar District Director I oversee 27 clubs and affiliates with over 2,500 members. Our clubs do many events throughout the year - meetings with speakers, flower shows, garden tours, trips etc. But what really makes a district successful? It's the people. I could not run a district this large without the help of several key people as well as my Executive Committee. I would like to tell you about 4 of them

First is Donna Payton our Corresponding Secretary who handles our Mail Chimp duties. No matter where in the country she is traveling, she always sends out information in a timely manner.

Second is Rosemary Anderson, our Newsletter Editor. Rosemary is busy with grandchildren, parents who live in Canada and traveling, but despite all that she makes time to edit our Pruner newsletter. She also makes suggestions and "gussies" up the edition to make it more appealing.

Third is our website editor Janice Schock. As well as being President of Poway Valley Garden Club, Janice took on the duties of our website. That position was open for several years before she volunteered.

Fourth is our Yearbook editor Debbie Pierce. This year Debbie decided she wanted more accurate information for our yearbook so she emailed every garden club president (some three times) and managed to get current information from 24 of the 27 clubs. She also emailed all the affiliates and got responses from everyone.

These four women have helped me immeasurably these last several years, as well as many others who have stepped up to host our tri-yearly district meetings. These volunteers make me HAPPY!

Roadrunner District Director, Terry Sampson

As a new director of the district I have to say each of the clubs have so much to offer. Each club is unique. We join forces at many events at local venues. We are planning on having a jewelry sale at all 3 clubs at the Christmas/December meetings. The sale will travel to each meeting. Also, a small home tour is planned for 2025. Gardening brings joy to so many people's lives and we hope to spread that joy all over the high desert.

San Fernando Valley District Director, Dana Boyd

This DD continues to be inspired by the clubs in the district for the communities they are building through their programs, fundraising activities, and especially their service commitments. By choosing to focus on building relationships, they have overcome interpersonal challenges within clubs, bringing factions together, blurring lines between groups, welcoming new members at an increasing speed, making it easy to develop new leaders.

A few examples of this momentum:

- One club had two factions come together and share the presidency as co-presidents.

- Another had a leader who had declining health, and rather than remove them, they shared the board position for the remainder of the term.
- One club leader felt they were not getting buy-in from the membership, so they switched board positions for the sake of the dynamic between club members.
- Lastly, one chairperson had been a position for a long time and truly loved it and did a wonderful job. The request to deliver more (tray favors) was made...this chair was at capacity so this creative club president developed another committee to accommodate the request, and built a second group of all **new members** to build a new cohort and a sense of belonging to the club.

By acknowledging the tension, having the hard conversations, and leadership stepping up to support them by responding with flexibility rather than “this is how we have always done it”, these leaders were able to preserve their dignity and are building a stronger community within garden clubs. Additionally, when members see the flexibility of leadership and cohesive groups, they feel safe to step into board positions.

This requires extra steps, first, people committed and encouraged to prioritize cohesive clubs, boards, and districts over egos. This also requires a senior leader to function as the ally who can be neutral and support the early conversations tactfully and with patience. By skipping the drama and gossip, senior leaders can provide an even keel encouraging creative and flexible solutions.

Santa Clara Valley District Director, Roseann Costabile

This Director received four referrals from the CGCI Zip Code finder for persons looking for garden clubs in the District. Replies and follow up was sent to all potential new members.

Three clubs were visited and given an overview of CGCI and promoted award opportunities. The president of Milpitas Garden Club attended CGCI Convention with me in Sacramento.

This Director will serve as a judge on the awards committee to review the entrees for National Garden Week. I am looking forward to seeing the applications.

Top o’ the State District Liaison, Carol Jauregui

There are two clubs in the Top of the State District: McCloud GC and Yreka GC. The distance between them is approximately 50 miles, but McCloud isn’t interested in getting together with Yreka for district meetings. Contacting them by email is “spotty” due to their internet connections in the mountains. As Liaison, I basically sent them reminders about the annual Contact Form, paying their state dues, and filing their GTEP. If they have problems or questions, I connect them with higher ups who can assist them.

Valley Lode District Director, Paula Elias

As a director completing the first year, I have found it fun and fulfilling to support 19 clubs within the district as they support their communities. I hold still to my motto close to me, when we all take a turn, it’s easier on all of us.

As Valley Lode District kicked off the new season at our first board meeting in August, we approved the VLD annual budget, distributed the new VLD Yearbook and established a nomination committee per VLD bylaws to fill our next term board. We also announced our first VLD scholarship honoree awarding \$1000. Projects for VLD continue to focus on our new VLD Scholarship, the VLD Lifetime Award and working to establish a website. Our public Google calendar is being used by many members for event and meeting dates. It is easy to access and is free to all.

Our district holds three general meetings in the year with clubs serving as host. This year, the VLD board will host the May general meeting in order to spread the work and the wealth.

Valley Lode District is also very happy to host the 2025 Fall CGCI Board Meeting at Harris Ranch which will be Adele Kelly's first meeting as the new CGCI President. VLD is busy making plans for a fun and interesting board meeting.

Clubs are busy within their communities, supporting such things as school and community gardens, scholarships programs, educational classes, floral arranging and all the while planning garden tours, plant sales, tablescape events and more.

We have a wonderful membership and we are looking forward to a new term of VLD board members in May 2025 as we all take our turn.