

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the Virtual Winter Board Meeting
January 27 – 29, 2025
Host: CGCI Executive Committee
President: Carol Vallens

Business Meeting #1

President Carol Vallens called the meeting to order at 2:48 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. The Recording Secretary was present.

2nd Vice President Marlene Kinney gave the Inspiration.

President Carol Vallens presented the 2023-2025 Executive Committee and former presidents in attendance: Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Rita Desilets (2013-2015), Sue Bennett (2015-2017), and Lynne Batchelor (2021-2023).

President Carol Vallens recognized those members of the Circle of Poppies in attendance: Joan Craig, Chuck Goodwin, Jane McKee, Charlotte Tucker, Judy Unrine and Carolyn Villi.

President Carol Vallens recognized members Sue Bennett, Greg Pokorski and Robin Pokorski serving with her on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors and those serving with her on the Pacific Region Garden Clubs Board of Directors: Lynne Batchelor, Sue Bennett, Joan Craig, Chuck Goodwin, Greg Pokorski, Robin Pokorski, Alexis Slafer, Martha Smyser, Charlotte Tucker, Judy Unrine and Gail Vanderhorst,

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

Excused: Kathy Bramhall, Beverly Brune, Myrtle Findley, Bob Gordon, Cheryl Habriel, Rosalie Hooper, Sandy Jaeger, Gudrun Kimmel, Ellyn Meikle, Krystal Migliore, Sherry Molinari, Rosa Radicchi, Phil Stanley, Beverly Switzer, Linda Travis, Julie West, and Carlotta Wixon-Welker.

Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a total registration of 89, including 65 board members.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that the Rules of Order, adopted at the Organizational Meeting on June 9, 2023, are found on the last page of the 2023 Convention Minutes on the CGCI website and reviewed those rules especially applicable to virtual meetings.

President Carol Vallens welcomed attendees and thanked the CGCI Executive Committee for hosting the 2025 Winter Board Meeting and Robin Pokorski for serving as Registrar.

Without objection, the Chair appointed the committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, 3rd Vice President Nina Blonski and Governance Committee member Chuck Goodwin.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported the Minutes from the 2024 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch in Coalinga on September 10-11, 2024 were reviewed and distributed through the CGCI MailChimp system on October 20, 2024 and are posted on the CGCI website. Without objection, they were adopted as distributed.

2024 Fall Board Meeting Chairman Alexis Slafer reported \$3,299.70 was received by host Costa Verde District from the Fall Board Meeting and \$1,202 received from the raffle.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer George Perko reported:
As of December 31, 2024

Net worth:

Total cash in checking/savings accounts	\$113,443	
Total other assets	\$624,201	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$737,644
of which liabilities and restricted funds are		\$448,545
Cash Balance Available		<u>\$289,099</u>

Treasurer George Peko read the Independent Accountant’s Annual Review report (prepared and submitted by Carolyn Mayes, CPA) dated January 9, 2025 and moved to adopt the report as read.

Motion Passed. See Attachment A.

Officers’ Reports

Financial Secretary Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment B.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported the deadline for emailed reports is Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Corresponding Secretary Shirley Lipa reported. See Attachment B.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment B.

3rd Vice President Nina Blonski reported. See Attachment B.

Membership (as of 1/23/2025):

Clubs	232	14,179 members
APS’s	49	3,916 members
Affiliates	1	
Total	282	18,095 members

3rd Vice President Nina Blonski moved to ratify the following new clubs:

- California Horticultural Society, Bay Bridges District, President: Ellen Frank, 150 members
- Garden Club of Palo Alto, Bay Ocean District, President: Mindy Kirkpatrick, 205 members

Motion Passed.

CGCI has three clubs that will be dropped due to nonpayment of membership dues:

- High Desert Garden Club of Acton-Agua Dulce, San Fernando Valley District
- San Francisco Epiphyllum Society, Bay Ocean District
- Westside Cymbidium Society, Greater Los Angeles District

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

President-elect/District Director Coordinator Adele Kelly reported and read her 2025-2027 President’s Project Resolution. See Attachments B, C (Project Resolution) and D (District Director Coordinator).

President Carol Vallens deferred her report to Wednesday.

Executive Committee Recommendations

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

1. To ratify the payment to David Stoyka of \$600 for setting up the Club Locator on i4a. Line Code: 903. **Motion Passed.**
2. That the Treasurer's honorarium (L/C 102) be increased \$100 per month to \$400 a month, effective 1/1/25. **Motion Passed.**
3. That the CGCI restricted fund Blue Star Memorials (L/C 31001) grant program be discontinued and that the fund and any future donations be used to purchase CGCI-sponsored Blue Star Markers. **Motion Passed.**

Debate was continuing (on Recommendation #3) at the scheduled session end time (4:30 p.m.). Without objection, debate continued.

The meeting recessed at 4:47 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened at 9:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 29, 2025.
Executive Committee Recommendations continued.

4. To approve the registration fee of \$135 for the 2025 Convention, with a late fee of \$40 if postmarked after May 12, 2025. No registration accepted if postmarked after May 19, 2025. **Motion Passed.**
5. To correct the dates and venue for CGCI Gardening School Series 27, sponsored by Southern California Garden Club, Robin Pokorski, Local Chairman.
Course 1 — Thursday & Friday, July 10 & 11, 2025
Course 2 — Thursday & Friday, August 14 & 15, 2025
Course 3 — Thursday & Friday, September 25 & 26, 2025
Course 4 — Thursday & Friday, October 23 & 24, 2025
All courses at Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino. **Motion Passed.**
6. To approve the appointment of the following Election Board (per Article VI. Sec. 1 c) 3.: Chairman – Greg Pokorski; Tellers – Adele Kelly and Shirley Lipa; Clerk – Jeanne Johnson; Judge – Robin Pokorski. **Motion Passed.**
7. To correct the dates for the Flower Show School sponsored by Southwestern Judges Council in Poway. Course 2 - September 25, 26 and 27, 2025. **Motion Passed.**
8. To ratify the appointment of Marlene Kinney as Official Calendar Chairman. **Motion Passed.**

Election of Delegates to PRGC and NGC Conventions

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following members as delegates to the April 28-30, 2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs Convention in Tempe Arizona: Natalie Bloxham, Roseanne Costabile, Cynthia Jackson, Adele Kelly, Dyanna Madro, Terri Taylor and George Unrine. **Motion Passed.**

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following members as delegates to the May 18-22, 2025 National Garden Clubs Inc. Convention in North Charleston, South Carolina: Lynne Batchelor, Adele Kelly, Dyanna Madro, Terri Taylor and Elisabeth Tufo. **Motion Passed.**

Committee Reports

Awards Committee Chairman Pat Claves reported. See Attachment D

Board of Trustees Chairman Robin Pokorski deferred her report to Business Meeting #3. See Attachment D.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment D.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski deferred his report until after the presentation by the NGC President.

Nominating Committee Chairman Lynne Batchelor reported (See Attachment D) the following slate of officers for the 2025-2027 term:

President – Adele Kelly (not subject to election)

1st Vice President – Marlene Kinney

2nd Vice President – Nina Blonski

Recording Secretary – Gail Vanderhorst

Treasurer – George Perko

Financial Secretary – Launa Gould

Corresponding Secretary – Shelley Sparks

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) Chairman Cynthia Jackson reported.

Life Membership – reported for Chairman Linda Travis by 2nd Vice President Marlene Kinney. See Attachment D.

Marlene Kinney move to ratify the following new life members:

Diane Hill Hillside Gardeners of Montclair/Bay Bridges District

Pat Westfall Le Grand Community GC/Yosemite District

Carol Barnes Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District

Sherry McHenry Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District

Dottie Renstrom Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District

Judy Guibergia Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District

Motion Passed.

The meeting recessed at 9:53 a.m.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. President Brenda Moore presented the program *50 Shades of Green* at 10:02 a.m. followed by a recess at 10:46 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment D. He presented six Bylaws amendment proposals for recommendation by the Board of Directors to the membership at the 2025 Convention. He moved to recommend consideration of these proposed changes by the membership at the 2025 Convention.

All six proposals passed. See Attachment E.

The meeting recessed at 12:07 p.m.

Business Meeting #3

The meeting reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski presented Standing Rules proposals. See Attachment D. Two proposals were presented. He moved to adopt these changes. **Both passed by two-thirds vote (no opposition).** See Attachment F.

An additional Executive Committee Recommendation was presented:

To accept, with regret, the resignation of Sue Bennett as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Motion Passed.

President Carol Vallens presented her Officer Report.

President Carol Vallens explained the reporting times and tracking for this virtual board meeting.

Chairmen Reports

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

Scholarships Chairman Martha Smyser announced these scholarship recipients:

Robert Gordon -- Connor Essa

Lynne Batchelor -- Cherisse Hunt

Alberta Thiry Mem -- Candence DeCoite

CGCI President's Project --Casey Lewis

CGCI President's Project -- Rachel Radwich

District Director Reports

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

2025 CGCI Convention Chairman Launa Gould (with Bette Langford and Patricia Holloway) extended an invitation to the Convention hosted by San Clemente Garden Club, June 2 – 5, 2025

Announcements were made.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary

Attachment A
Independent Accountant's Review Report

Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA
Auditing and Consulting Services

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
San Fernando, California

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related statement of activities, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of organization management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Accountant's Responsibility

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

I am required to be independent of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to my review.

Accountant's Conclusion

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

Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA

Santa Rosa, California
January 9, 2025

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Attachment B 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 form has directions on ways to submit your request. Help is a phone call or email away, so please don't hesitate to ask for assistance. The cut-off date is for requesting payment is June 15.

Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Lipa

Since Fall Board meeting in October 2024 this secretary has sent:

Using Mail Chimp, the 2024 Fall Board Minutes and the Proposed Bylaws Amendments were sent to the Board members. No cards were mailed using the U.S. Postal Service

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

Welcome, not only to fellow board members, but also to all of our guests. We hope club representatives in attendance will learn more about what is done at the state level of garden club and that some of you might become interested in being a part of the board of directors in the future. Per our Standing Rule 58, members of CGCI garden clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates are always welcome to attend board of directors meetings, but without voice or vote. So, a reminder that this is a board meeting and when voting takes place only board members may vote.

For our guests it may be relevant to define the CGCI board of directors. According to our bylaws, the board of directors is the governing body of this organization and according to the standing rules, members of the board of directors shall attend regular and special meetings and conventions. The board is made up of:

Nine Officers = Executive Committee (not Executive Board)

District Directors

All officially appointed committee chairmen and members

Members of the Nominating Committee

Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Advisory Committee (former CGCI presidents – lifetime board members)

Members of the Circle of Poppies (lifetime board members)

Many board members have multiple jobs, but all have one vote per person.

Remember that all board members should be familiar with our bylaws and standing rules, which can be found on pages 53 to 84 of the *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* and on the website.

Congratulations and thanks to our board members who have turned out for this meeting in significant numbers. The work and success of our organization depends on the participation of its members.

This officer has continued to review meeting agendas and minutes, assists in preparation for these meetings, participates in monthly Executive Committee meetings and responds to inquiries from board members and from clubs and districts. That's the basics of this position. Additionally this officer serves as Chairman of the Governance Committee, which has monthly meetings. You'll hear more about that in the report from that committee, during which we will consider proposed amendments to bylaws and standing rules. As required by our bylaws the bylaws proposals were distributed through our mailchimp system to board members prior to this meeting – on January 17. These proposals are also

posted on our website with the Call to this meeting. Please have this document available when we consider these proposals later in this session or tomorrow.

Our next meeting is the annual convention in June in Laguna Hills. All member clubs and associate plant societies are entitled to representation by their president or the official alternate of the president, and by delegates, based on the number of club members. District Directors, please encourage your clubs to attend and participate and learn about their organization. Ideally, every member club should be represented at every convention. Watch for instructions in the Call to Convention about the credentialing process. Individuals cannot merely designate themselves as club delegates – they must be elected or appointed by their clubs and the clubs need to submit credentials for them. Those who serve as delegates have a vote and should be attending the convention business meetings, not just attending workshops or meal programs. By coming together at conventions and learning together and working together we can all do more to benefit all of our garden clubs.

Because parliamentary procedure is a continuous learning experience this officer attends parliamentary workshops, now frequently offered on Zoom, and monthly meetings of a Zoom parliamentary unit. If you have specific parliamentary questions or issues email them to me. There is a link to my email address on the website under Board of Directors and it is also in the yearbook.

Parliamentary procedure helps meetings and organizations run fairly and effectively and we all get better at it by using it repeatedly.

Madame President, thanks for the opportunity to serve CGCI and you in this position.

3rd Vice President, Membership Chairman, Nina Blonski

Current Membership

Number Paid as of January 23, 2025

Clubs 232 (14,179)

APs 49 (3,916)

Affiliates 1

Total membership 18,095

CGCI has two new Clubs. Madam President, I move to ratify:

California Horticultural Society, Bay Bridges District

President Ellen Frank, 150 members

Garden Club of Palo Alto, Bay Ocean District

President Mindy Kirkpatrick, 205 members. **Motion Passed.**

CGCI has three clubs that will be dropped due to nonpayment of membership dues:

High Desert Garden Club of Acton-Aqua Dulce, San Fernando Valley District

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society, Bay Ocean District

Westside Cymbidium Society, Greater Los Angeles District

2nd Vice President/Chairmen Coordinator, Marlene Kinney

This Chairmen is pleased to report that 40 chairmen were present at the Chairmen’s meeting. 11 chairmen confirmed they would be giving oral reports at Business Meeting #3 on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. A total of 15 chairmen reported. This Chairmen attended several of the preceding committee

meetings held, observed and learned. President Carol Vallens was introduced as well as both Technical Hosts, President-Elect and District Director Coordinator Adele Kelly and Events Chairman, Robin Pokorski. President Carol Vallens delivered her President's Message and took the group into Open Mic session for the remainder of the meeting. Everyone had the opportunity to share their concerns and make suggestions of solutions. One of several topics was the Penny Pines Program.

President-elect/District Director Coordinator Adele Kelly

This President-Elect has participated in numerous CGCI committee meetings since the CGCI Fall Board Meeting in September 2024, including the Executive, Governance, Budget & Finance, Strategic Planning, Liability Insurance, and Board of Trustees committees. She also attended the Palomar District Floral Design Forum in October, November, and December, along with the Palomar District Meeting in October. During CGCI's Business Meeting #1, this President-Elect read the first reading of the 2025-2027 President's Project Resolution, titled Expansion of the Abraxas High School Garden – Abraxas Orchard (attached).

This President-Elect also serves as the CGCI District Director Coordinator. The CGCI Winter Board Meeting District Directors' Forum occurred on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Eighteen district directors and two district director liaisons were present. President Carol Vallens began with a welcome message to all present. This District Director Coordinator is pleased to report that the Mendo-Lake District has a new District Director, Diane Cerutti. Welcome, Diane, and thank you for stepping into a leadership role. During the meeting, this chairman discussed various reminders for district directors to pass on to their clubs, such as upcoming NGC schools and ideas for new state projects. District directors were encouraged to look for candidates willing and eligible to serve on the CGCI Nominating Committee, which will be elected at the 2025 CGCI Convention in Laguna Hills. The meeting concluded with an open discussion on ideas for streamlining the CGCI Guidelines for District Directors and making them more user-friendly. After the board meeting, this district director coordinator will again provide a Meeting Information Summary for district directors to share with their club presidents and treasurers. This chairman also serves as the liaison for the Diablo Foothills and Luther Burbank Districts. The Diablo Foothills District has become inactive and has distributed its funds to other 501(c)(3) organizations. Luther Burbank continues to have no district director. This chairman communicates directly with the clubs in both districts.

Attachment C
President's Project Resolution

2025-2027 President's Project Resolution
Expansion of the Abraxas High School Garden – Abraxas Orchard

Whereas, Abraxas High School, located in Poway, California, is a continuation high school that serves at-risk high school students as well as transitional special needs students (ages 18-22) who have developmental disabilities and;

Whereas, In 2015, The school started a garden called Abraxas High School Garden, a non-profit 501(c)(3), by transforming a little used tennis court into a thriving outdoor classroom to teach students about growing healthy food and about giving back to the local community by donating produce to needy families within the community and their student body, as well as providing a recently installed outdoor kitchen to start a true farm to table culinary program, and;

Whereas, The Abraxas High School Garden is expanding to create an orchard on a portion of an unused ball field called the Abraxas Orchard. The Abraxas Orchard will provide the students with a tranquil outdoor sanctuary and a working garden and;

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

Whereas, The Abraxas Orchard needs hardscaping materials for pathways, a garden shed for tools and storage, raised bed materials, tables and chairs, 20 fruit and shade trees, and the relocation of a greenhouse, (\$30,000 estimated budget) and; therefore, be it

Resolved, That California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) for the 2025-2027 term, adopt this fundraising state president's project of expanding the Abraxas Orchard and be it;

Resolved, That donations made by members, clubs, districts, individuals from the general public, companies, or other non-profit organizations be made payable to "CGCI" with "President's Project 2025-2027" added in the memo line and be sent to the President's Project chairman, who will keep records of the transactions and forward the donation to the CGCI Treasurer for deposit into the Temporarily Restricted Fund established for the 2025-2027 President's Project (Line Code 31511H). These funds shall be transferred to the Abraxas High School Foundation, with Abraxas Orchard added in the memo line following the CGCI Fall and Winter Board Meetings and CGCI Conventions, and be it;

Resolved, That any remaining balance as of June 30, 2027, in the Temporarily Restricted Fund established for the 2025-2027 President's Project (Line Code 31511H) be transferred to the CGCI Endowment Fund (Line Code 31806), thereby closing the fund.

Attachment D Committee and Chairmen Reports

Awards Committee Chairman, Pat Clayes

Members of the Awards Committee are Judy Bates, Michelle Blomberg; Lisa Cosand; Charlotte Tucker, Elisabeth Tufo, Emily Troxell and Pat Clayes (Chairman)

The Committee chose the Special Awards recipients.

Awards to be dropped in 2025: #4 Horticulture Excellence in Gardening; #21 Conservation Projects; and #28 Environmental Events

A few award descriptions will be amended, and an updated Awards Manual will be posted on the website.

A new sponsor is needed. Elisabeth will contact a district that already sponsors a portion of the award. Lisa Cosand reported that youth contest entries have increased this year.

Emily Troxell reported that no flower shows were evaluated, except for the Poway Garden Club, which did not submit a book of evidence (thus, no entries were sent to NGC). Two flower show schedules were judged. 45 entries for Flower Arranger of the Year were submitted and judged.

Charlotte and Michelle reported that 76 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters will be judged on Feb. 5.

Judy will create and print the award certificates in May.

Pat reported that 21 entries were electronically submitted to NGC in mid-January. At least 38 entries will be forwarded to PRGC (electronically and physically) by March 1.

Board of Trustees Chairman, Robin Pokorski

The Board of Trustees consists of Lynne Batchelor, Pat Clayes, Roseann Costabile, Alexis Slafer and myself as chairman. We thank Sue Bennett for your years of service on this board. The Trustees met via Zoom January 22, 2025 with George Perko, CGCI Treasurer and Financial Advisor, President Carol Vallens and President-Elect Adele Kelly, and Martha Smyser, Scholarship Chairman as guests. Year-to-date financial records from as of September 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 September 30, 2024 of \$113,363.08 which is a quarterly increase of \$6,853.93. The CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund which is invested in 62.4% Stocks/37.6% Bonds showed a balance on September 30, 2024 of \$216,176.52 which is a quarterly increase of \$13,360.33.

The Trustees then met as the Scholarship Committee and selected the recipients of our CGCI Scholarships. The Scholarship Chairman will share her good news.

Thank you, Madame President, for the opportunity to serve CGCI and you in this capacity.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman, Rita Desilets

The members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Rita Desilets, George Perko, Adele Kelly, Launa Gould, Cynthia Jackson, Sue Bennett, Robin Pokorski and Julie West attended via Zoom on January 13 2025. President Carol Vallens also attended. We reviewed the financial records from July 2024 as well as the status of two US Bank CDs and the Bank of America CD. Insurance and GTEP were discussed at length. Changes to the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget were carefully considered.

District Director Coordinator, Adele Kelly

On Wednesday, January 29, 2025, during Business Meeting #3, the following district directors delivered oral reports:

Arboretum – Nancy Bird

Bay Ocean – Nancy McDougal

Costa Verde – Alexis Slafer
Golden Foothills – Annette Choate
Mendo-Lake – Diane Cerutti
Orange County – Launa Gould
Roadrunner – Terry Sampson
San Fernando Valley – Dana Boyd

Gardening Schools Chairman, Greg Pokorski

As always, this chairman is looking for clubs or districts to sponsor and conduct Gardening Schools. I am thrilled that Southern California Garden Club is sponsoring Series 27 in July, August, September and October this year. We are ratifying corrected dates at this meeting. Other leads for new schools have not developed. Los Osos Valley Garden Club had expressed serious interest and was given significant information, but there was no further response.

This is the most significant year for Gardening Consultants since I have had this chairmanship. Five Consultants lapsed at the end of 2024. Four are on extensions and need to refresh by December 31, 2025. Another 27 Consultants need to refresh this year, including all of those who became Gardening Consultants at the Valley Lode District School in 2020. That's a total of 31 Consultants who could possibly lapse this year. That is out of a total of 61 Consultants (34 regular Consultants, 13 Masters, 7 Provisionals and 7 Emeritus).

There is a Zoom refresher opportunity in February, and there will probably be more this year – and all may refresh at the Southern California Garden Club School. Schools and refreshers are needed in the north.

This chairman attended the Educational Schools team meeting on Monday and attended and reported at the California Consultants Council meeting Monday. I participated in the Schools workshop this afternoon. I will be a presenter at the NGC Membership Monday session next week regarding how to get new members from holding NGC Schools.

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.

Governance Committee Chairman, Greg Pokorski

The members of the Governance Committee (which reviews and proposes changes to bylaws, standing rules and policy), are Lynne Batchelor, Nina Blonski, Chuck Goodwin, Jeanne Johnson, Marlene Kinney, George Speer and this chairman. President Carol Vallens serves as ex-officio committee member and President-elect Adele Kelly also attends most meetings. Thank you for your service on this important committee.

The committee met by Zoom five times since Fall Board Meeting – for a total of fifteen meetings so far during this term. Additionally there have been many emails since our last meeting, last Monday, January 20 to finalize and update proposals for this Winter Board meeting.

Please use the Amendment Request webform implemented last year on our website to submit your suggestions. All members of CGCI may submit suggestions.

Since we cannot bring forward additional bylaws proposals for consideration this year after today, we will focus on Standing Rules and Policy between now and Convention.

Bylaws can only be amended once a year at convention and proposed changes must first be approved by the board of directors, so that is our exercise for today. It is required that proposed changes be sent to the board of directors at least one week prior to the Winter Board Meeting. That was done through CGCI's mailchimp system on January 17 and the proposals are also posted on the website. Please refer to that document now – also shared on the screen (and bylaws and standing rules are on pages 53-84 of your 2024-2025 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*). Per the vote of the Governance Committee there are

two updates to this document which will be pointed out as we go through the document. Those proposals that you vote in favor of do not become effective now. They are sent on to be considered by the membership attending the 2025 Convention. They only become effective if approved at Convention.

On behalf of the Governance Committee, I now move to recommend the following bylaws proposals for consideration by the membership at the 2025 CGCI Convention in June. **See Attachment E. All proposals (#1 to #6) were passed as presented and will be presented to the membership at the 2025 convention.**

Proposed Standing Rule changes require only the approval of the board of directors per Standing Rule 3 and will become effective today if you vote in favor of them. You were not given prior notice of these recommendations. Therefore, a two-thirds vote is required for passage. These proposals will now be shared on the screen.

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

See Attachment F. Both proposals (#1 and #2) were passed as presented by more than two-thirds vote.

Insect and Pollinator Chairman, Donna Payton

As CGCI Insect and Pollinator Chair, I'd like to report that I discussed the benefits of native plants to the ecosystem to the Poway Valley Garden Club as well as purchasing and selling native plants from Moosa Creek Native Plant Nursery to interested attendees.

I have also given talks to two garden clubs in the San Diego region emphasizing the importance of creating habitat where you live, work, go to school, worship and play, and by providing native plants for a nominal fee to attendees. Both of these efforts were fundraisers for PVGC.

We also led a group of PVGC members on a field trip to Lindo Lake in Lakeside, the only natural lake in San Diego County. There club members could enjoy the antics of the resident and migratory birds as well as seeing song birds feeding on the native plants including seeds from California Buckwheat.

I also submitted an article to the Garden News about the Pacific Region Director Carol Norquist's Project "Unleash the Wild- Bring Nature Home" with lots of good ideas on ways to make your garden more hospitable to wildlife which includes links to helpful references.

I am helping to coordinate a field trip to Moosa Creek Native Plant Nursery in Valley Center in February and club members will be touring the facility in February. There, the club members in attendance will be able to purchase native plants at prices below retail.

Landscape Design Schools Chairman, Alexis Slafer

The last Landscape Design School, Series 28, hosted by Southern California Garden Club was successfully completed last summer. There were 50 people who attended at least one of the courses offered. As a result 25 new Consultants were added to our cadre. Currently there are 73 Landscape Design Consultants with 8 Emeritus Consultants.

The objectives of this 4 course school are for self-enrichment... not as an entry to a professional career. So, the goals are to:

1. Develop a greater sense of appreciation about public and private gardens

2. Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings -- so they will be more beautiful, useful, ecologically sound & easily maintained
3. Stimulate interest in landscape design, including residential (designing your own home) & community planning
4. Develop a contingent of qualified LD Consultants to serve as leaders, educators (they can provide your programs), select and evaluate awards & promote scholarships

Several of the instructors in Series 28 expressed interest in teaching at other venues, either in person or virtually. Please contact this chairman for assistance and to get their contact information when you start planning your Landscape Design School.

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

Liability Insurance Chairman, Launa Gould

This chairman is responsible for processing all insurance requests for General Liability and Additional Insured certificates.

General Liability insures clubs for their normal activities such as field trips, working in community gardens, plant sales, flower shows and attending meetings.

263 Clubs obtained General Liability in 2024. 2025-252 clubs so far – deadline to renew without late fee was Jan 15. General Liability renewal deadline was two weeks ago. Renewals incur a late fee now.

Additional Insured certificates are available for venues that require them like churches, Grange, HOA’s and Cities ...

Remember, when you are planning an event, to look at the agreement/contract and see if they require insurance.

If you have questions, contact me.

If your meeting venue or the room where you have a flower show/sale requires them to be named on your policy, an Additional insurance certificate is required. Currently \$35, going to \$55 next year.

205 Additional Insured certificates were issued in 2024

This month, 40 requests have been processed.

The insurance year is Feb 15- Feb 15 so your meeting place will need an updated certificate.

We are in the process of breaking the responsibilities of this chairmanship into smaller pieces and appreciate the members that have stepped up to help. We start training in the next week or two.

Life Membership Chairman, Linda Travis

The CGCI website LM e-application process continues to be effective. Many thanks to our CGCI Webmistress extraordinaire for some additional fine tuning.

Since October 2024, we have had **six new CGCI LM's**.

New names to be ratified are:

Diane Hill	Hillside Gardeners of Montclair/Bay Bridges District
Pat Westfall	Le Grand Community GC/Yosemite District
Carol Barnes	Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District
Sherry McHenry	Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District
Dottie Renstrom	Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District
Judy Guibergia	Red Bluff GC/ Cascade District

This brings the 2024 total to 15 CGCI Life Memberships

This is a significant decrease from 26 in 2023, despite several articles published in the *Golden Garden newsletters*, discussing the LM program. Articles will continue to be submitted for the newsletter in 2025.

Although we do not “ratify” them, there were also 1 new PR LM and 4 new NGC LM’s, processed during this same time period).

I have submitted my report to Pat Claves (Awards Chair) on the results of **Award #75: Most New CGCI LM’s in a District**, to be reported at Convention.

The biggest issue continues to be the misnomer on what the “benefits” of Life Membership are. The name implies that the recipient is honored for their service with a life membership, which is interpreted as their dues are paid for life. This has not been the case. This honorarium is two-fold: it gives public recognition to a member AND a donation is made in the members’ name to support scholarships. I have discussed the possibility of a name change for this program that does not include “Life Membership”. I welcome anyone’s input on this, as I will be submitting options to our President and President-Elect in the next two months.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your CGCI LM Chair and for your continued support of the scholarship fund.

Nominating Committee, Lynne Batchelor

Madam President,

The Nominating Committee consists of 2 members from Northern California Charlotte Tucker (Valley Lode District) and Jeannie Johnson (Humboldt District), 2 members from Central California Jana Dudley (Sequoia Foothills District) and Milly Benson (Montana de Oro District), 2 members from Southern California Robin Pokorski (San Fernando Valley District) and Alexis Slafer (Costa Verde District), 1 alternate George Speer and me as the appointed chair. We appreciated the opportunity we were provided to interview candidates and to make phone calls, email contacts and in person conversations looking for the best candidates for CGCI. We are pleased to present the following slate of officers to serve CGCI 2025-2027,

President Adele Kelly (who has already been elected)

1st Vice President Marlene Kinney

2nd Vice President Nina Blonski

Financial Secretary Launa Gould

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst

Treasurer George Perko

Madame President, it has been a privilege to serve.

Penny Pines Chairman, Terry Sampson

Penny Pines Program has been in effect for many years in the state of California involving CGCI. However, due to many personnel problems the Forest Services that have been receiving the monies and submissions has been very frustrating to our members. The clubs have not had their checks cashed in a timely manner nor have they been receiving their certificates. CGCI is going to be doing their best to ratify this situation. To sum it up (at this time) Penny Pines will remain the same. For those of you that have emailed me with their concerns I do my best to contact the Forest Service that you have mentioned and then I must wait until I get a reply so I can reply to you. Have patience as I too, have to work on my patience in these situations.

On a more upbeat note, during the year of 2024, we had 304 submissions with a total of ...548 plantations bought bringing this to a total of \$37,264 dollars that CGCI has donated to the National Forests of California. So please stay tuned as there may be some changes in the Penny Pines Program and you all will be the first to know.

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

This registrar respectfully brings to your attention a couple of items:

1. NEVER make your checks payable to me. Check the bottom of the registration form and it will ALWAYS indicate to whom your check should be made payable.
2. Deadlines – The convention’s deadline for the late fee will be strictly enforced. I was so touched that so many of you cared enough to advise me of a postal holiday to explain why your registration was going to be late but that it wouldn’t include the late fee. How can we get you to register in a timely fashion?

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. Let’s see if ANYONE can get their registration in before Marlene Kinney, who has the record for being first to be registered for the last several meetings. Thank you, Marlene!

We continue to improve this registration process and welcome your input. Thank you, President Carol for the opportunity to serve CGCI in this capacity.

Roses, Natalie Bloxham

This is a very busy month for those of us who love roses.

Bare root planting, pruning, dormant spraying, fertilizing and mulching should all be done by mid-February before the weather starts to warm.

If you would like, I am happy to provide “Quick Tips for Monthly Rose Care” by Master Rosarian Kitty Belendez. This will guide you through the entire year for successful rose gardening.

I also have a list of rose societies covering all of California with their website addresses. For guest speakers, contact the rose society in your area.

For rose resources and suppliers, I have an extensive list including names, addresses, phone numbers and website addresses for ease of ordering over the internet.

Lastly, sourced from the Sunset Roses Magazine, a list of roses suggested for best performance in the Mountain States, Pacific Northwest, and California. The rose list for each region is divided by color, however, because my Sunset Roses Magazine is the 2003 edition, newer roses from 2004 and forward will not be listed, but it is a good start.

If you would like any of this information, my email address is gypsyroses@icloud.com.

Thank you, Madame President, for allowing me to serve as your rose chairman.

Sempervirens Fund, Judy Unrine

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the first State Park, continues to make progress following the devastating CVS Lightning wildfire which burned 100% of the park.

Assembly Bill 2103 would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase property without the long process of government. An independent would be able to work more efficiently. It is a Bill that will help rebuild our fire damaged parks and protect their recovering habitat. From The goal is to create a new entrance to the park. The old entrance was in the middle of the virgin forest. The land would be purchased at market value.

The Bill passed the Senate.

When the Bill reached the governor's desk, Governor Newsom wrote, "I am returning Assembly Bill 2103 without my signature."

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman, Charlotte Tucker

Club Presidents make sure your poster chairman reads and understands the rules of the contest before starting your club's poster contest. It's not fair to the students to be disqualified before judging at the CA State level, because the adult in charge gave them the wrong size paper to do their posters.

Clubs should review the posters to make sure there are no mistakes.

- 1) Correct Poster size (11" X 17")
- 2) NO!!! Spelling errors
- 3) Wrong mottos
- 4) Both Smokey and Woodsy on the same poster
- 5) The students name must be on the BACK of the poster not on the front

These things must be checked before you have a judging.

Then you can send the top four winners from each of the five grades

To the CGCI Poster Chairman for judging at the CA State level.

PLEASE - Make sure you complete the proper forms and include them when you forward your posters

on to be judged at the next level.

Only 10 clubs are participating this year out of a possible 232 clubs in the state

We will be judging the 80 posters submitted on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at the Forest Service Office in Sonora, CA

List of Garden Clubs Participating at the CA State level

District – Club – Total # Posters Received by Club, Total Sent to State, Total Judged at State Level

Diablo Foothills – Walnut Creek – 22 – 4 – 4
Golden Foothills – Colfax – 53 – 12 – 11
Humboldt – Southern Humboldt – 75 – 5 – 5
Palomar – Poway Valley – 12 – 4 – 4
Sacramento River Valley – Folsom – 38 – 10 – 9
San Fernando Valley – Southern California – 44 – 4 – 4
Valley Lode – Foothill – 151 – 12 – 12
Valley Lode – Manteca – 91 – 9 – 0 (Wrong Size)
Valley Lode – Patterson – 112 – 11 – 11
Valley Lode – Tuolumne County – 178 – 20 – 20
Totals – 764 – 87 – 80

Stamps Chairman, Terry Sampson

Thank you to all who have sent in stamps to me for the Postal Museum located in Tucson AZ. In the month of May I send in the box of stamps and they greatly appreciate it. Now how it works...Any teacher or educators that need stamps to help teach their students are gladly mailed stamps..... For example, if the students are learning about Presidents the museum will gather all of stamps that have Presidents on them and send them along. Having a visual aid in learning really helps the student.

Youth Chairman, Lisa Cosand

The Youth coordinator has two jobs: First is to encourage youth groups to be registered on the CGCI website. It is preferably of May, June and July but can be added to throughout the year. Why do we care? We like to see that we serve all people, not just the over 50 crowd.

Second job is to participate on the Awards committee handling the youth contests of poetry, essay, pollinator poster and recycled sculpture contest.

So how am I doing this year?

Not so well. As a member of the award committee, we read some wonderful applications about youth gardening, giving money to the schools, presentations on planting, pollination, and planting school gardens. I checked to see if they bothered to register their youth groups and the answer is no, not all of them are registered. So please, if you are writing about a wonderful youth project, please register your group.

Youth contests: Thank you garden grandmas and moms who provided the 13 entries, up from last year. All entries were winners will receive a nice check in April even though some were late and had a 5 point deduction. We had no school entries this year.

If you have grandchildren, especially 4th thru 9th grade, there is money to be made. Look up the awards in the manual and have them enter and win some money. The themes are changed at the beginning of summer, so make it a summer or fall project.

**Attachment E
Bylaws Proposals**

This document was distributed to board members through the CGCI mailchimp system on January 17, 2025 and posted on the CGCI website. Two revisions were pointed out during the meeting. All proposals passed and will be presented to the membership at the 2025 Convention. See pages 5, 12 and 13 of these minutes.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Bylaws to be considered by the board of directors at the 2025 Virtual Winter Board Meeting (during business meetings on January 28 and/or 29, 2025)

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

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 1. Elected officers and shall be president, first vice-president, second vice-president, third vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer. The appointed officer shall be the parliamentarian.</p> <p>UPDATED January 27, 2025 Sec. 2. The president shall: (c) appoint the parliamentarian, all chairmen of standing and special committees (except the nominating committee, board of trustees, advisory committee, and budget and finance), and fill vacancies on the board of trustees. All appointments shall be presented to the board of directors for ratification;</p> <p>ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS:</p>	<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 1. Elected officers and shall be president, first vice-president, second vice-president, third vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer. The appointed officers shall be the <u>corresponding secretary and</u> parliamentarian.</p> <p>Sec. 2. The president shall: (c) appoint the <u>corresponding secretary,</u> parliamentarian, all chairmen of standing and special committees (except the nominating committee, board of trustees, advisory committee, and budget and finance), and fill vacancies on the board of trustees. All appointments shall be presented to the board of directors for ratification;</p> <p>ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS:</p>	<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 1. Elected officers shall be president, first vice-president, second vice-president, recording secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer. The appointed officers shall be corresponding secretary and parliamentarian.</p> <p>Sec. 2. The president shall: (c) appoint the corresponding secretary, parliamentarian, all chairmen of standing and special committees (except the nominating committee, board of trustees, advisory committee, and budget and finance), and fill vacancies on the board of trustees. All appointments shall be presented to the board of directors for ratification;</p> <p>ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS:</p>

<p>b) Eligibility:</p> <p>5. The second and third vice-presidents each shall have served at least one year on the board of directors and shall have served in one of the following capacities:</p> <p>d) Vacancies:</p> <p>2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the president-elect or first vice-president shall succeed. If the president-elect or first vice president declines, the second and third vice-presidents shall succeed in order. If the second and third vice presidents decline, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors, voting upon the recommendation of the executive committee.</p> <p>ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Sec. 5. Post-convention meetings shall be held in odd-numbered, election years to ratify appointments of the parliamentarian, all appointed chairmen and any new members of the board of trustees. Those eligible to attend the post-convention meeting shall be the officers and district directors, or assistant directors, and, after ratification, the district director coordinator and the parliamentarian.</p>	<p>b) Eligibility:</p> <p>5. The second and third vice-presidents—each shall have served at least one year on the board of directors and shall have served in one of the following capacities:</p> <p>d) Vacancies:</p> <p>2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the president-elect or first vice-president shall succeed. If the president-elect or first vice president declines, the second and third vice-presidents shall succeed in order. If the second and third vice presidents declines, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors, voting upon the recommendation of the executive committee.</p> <p>ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Sec. 5. Post-convention meetings shall be held in odd-numbered, election years to ratify appointments of the <u>corresponding secretary and</u> parliamentarian, all appointed chairmen and any new members of the board of trustees. Those eligible to attend the post-convention meeting shall be the <u>elected</u> officers and district directors, or assistant directors, and, after ratification, the district director coordinator, <u>corresponding secretary</u> and the parliamentarian.</p>	<p>b) Eligibility:</p> <p>5. The second vice-president shall have served at least one year on the board of directors and shall have served in one of the following capacities:</p> <p>d) Vacancies:</p> <p>2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the president-elect or first vice-president shall succeed. If the president-elect or first vice president declines, the second vice-president shall succeed. If the second vice president declines, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors, voting upon the recommendation of the executive committee.</p> <p>ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Sec. 5. Post-convention meetings shall be held in odd-numbered, election years to ratify appointments of the corresponding secretary and parliamentarian, all appointed chairmen and any new members of the board of trustees. Those eligible to attend the post-convention meeting shall be the elected officers and district directors, or assistant directors, and, after ratification, the district director coordinator, corresponding secretary and parliamentarian.</p>
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Rationale: **Eliminate the position of third vice president.** It may be easier for nominating committees to find candidates willing to serve six years (2nd VP, 1st VP, President) than it is to currently find candidates willing to serve eight years through the presidency. Eliminate the term in all four places in which it appears in the bylaws.

Make the position of Corresponding Secretary an appointed position rather than an elected position. Corresponding Secretaries are appointed, rather than elected,

in many organizations, such as National Garden Clubs, Pacific Region Garden Clubs and some or many of our Districts. If appointed, that is one less office for which the Nominating Committee will need to find a candidate each term. Presidential appointments are still subject to ratification by elected officers and district directors.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #2 Article V, Sec. 1 (3 occurrences) Article V, Sec 3 (heading and c)) Article VI, Sec. 1 b) 4 Article VI, Sec. 1 b) 5 Article VI, Sec. 1 d) 2 (2 occurrences) Article VIII, Sec. 1 Article XII, Sec. 5 (a)	Proposal #2 Eliminate all hyphens in vice-president. 11 occurrences.	Proposal #2 vice president

Rationale: The term 'vice president' is not generally hyphenated. 'Vice' is not a prefix, but a word that means that the person is acting in place of someone else, which the vice president does if the president is unable to preside. Rule of thumb: in American English, use a space, but in other English variants, use the hyphen.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #3 ARTICLE XII – FINANCES Sec. 6. The following are budgeted from the General Fund: (b) president’s reimbursement of up to \$5,000.00 annually for verified expenses incurred in attending two meetings of NGC and one PRGC meeting; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval; (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$3,500.00 for verified expenses incurred in attending the PRGC and NGC Conventions; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval; and	Proposal #3 ARTICLE XII – FINANCES Sec. 6. The following are budgeted from the General Fund: (b) president’s reimbursement of up to \$5,000.00 annually for verified expenses incurred in attending two meetings of NGC and one PRGC meeting; expenses over and above may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval; (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$3,500.00 for verified expenses incurred in attending the one PRGC and <u>one</u> NGC Conventions <u>associated with the year that the president-elect holds this office;</u> expenses over and above may be	Proposal #3 ARTICLE XII – FINANCES Sec. 6. The following are budgeted from the General Fund: (b) president’s reimbursement of up to \$5,000.00 annually for verified expenses incurred in attending two meetings of NGC and one PRGC meeting; (c) president-elect’s reimbursement of up to \$3,500.00 for verified expenses incurred in attending one PRGC and one NGC Convention associated with the year that the president-elect holds this office; and

	presented to the Board of Directors for approval; and	
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Rationale: Clarify the previous custom that the president-elect may not be reimbursed for expenses pertaining to more than one meeting of each organization. Align with section (b) which specifies the number of annual meetings of these organizations for which the president may be reimbursed. Delete references to the board of directors possibly approving expenses over the budgeted amounts since that is already addressed in Sec. 5 (c) where it is stated that the budget and finance committee shall recommend on any increases to budget or expenditures before action by the board of directors.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #4 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 2. The president shall: New (f)	Proposal #4 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 2. The president shall: Insert new <u>(f) serve on the board of directors of NGC and serve on the executive committee and board of directors of PRGC.</u>	Proposal #4 ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 2. The president shall: (f) serve on the board of directors of NGC and serve on the executive committee and board of directors of PRGC.

Rationale: These are existing duties of the office, but are not enumerated anywhere.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #5 ARTICLE XVII – LIABILITY INSURANCE Sec. 1. Liability insurance shall be maintained for clubs and associate plant societies who choose to have this insurance, and are approved by the insurance carrier. The annual rate shall be recommended by the executive committee and approved by the board of directors at the pre-convention meeting.	Proposal #5 ARTICLE XVII – LIABILITY INSURANCE Sec. 1. Liability insurance shall be maintained for clubs and associate plant societies who choose to have this insurance, and are approved by the insurance carrier. The annual rate shall be recommended by the executive committee and approved by the board of directors at the pre-convention <u>fall board</u> meeting.	Proposal #5 ARTICLE XVII – LIABILITY INSURANCE Sec. 1. Liability insurance shall be maintained for clubs and associate plant societies who choose to have this insurance, and are approved by the insurance carrier. The annual rate shall be recommended by the executive committee and approved by the board of directors at the fall board meeting.

Rationale: We are not receiving rates from the insurance company prior to the pre-convention board meeting and need to have more time to set rates as was the case prior to 2012.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #6 ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP & DUES Sec. 3. All dues are payable on July 1 and delinquent on October 1. Dues shall be payable to CGCI and mailed to the membership chairman who shall transfer the funds promptly to the treasurer.</p> <p>e) If dues are not paid by October 1, clubs and associate plant societies become ineligible for liability insurance and participation in the awards program. In addition clubs also become ineligible for the Group Tax Exemption Program.</p>	<p>Proposal #6 ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP & DUES Sec. 3. All dues are payable on July 1 and delinquent on October 1 <u>July 15</u>. <u>A late fee of \$25 will be charged if postmarked after July 15.</u> Dues shall be payable to CGCI and mailed to the membership chairman who shall transfer the funds promptly to the treasurer.</p> <p>e) If dues are not paid by October <u>August</u> 1, clubs and associate plant societies become ineligible for <u>participation in the liability insurance program, the Group Tax Exemption Program,</u> and participation in the awards program, in addition clubs also become ineligible for the Group Tax Exemption Program and may not be listed in the Yearbook, Manual & Roster.</p> <p>UPDATED January 27, 2025 <i>PROVISO: This bylaw change will become effective as of July 1, 2026.</i></p>	<p>Proposal #6 ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP & DUES Sec. 3. All dues are payable on July 1 and delinquent on July 15. A late fee of \$25 will be charged if postmarked after July 15. Dues shall be payable to CGCI and mailed to the membership chairman who shall transfer the funds promptly to the treasurer.</p> <p>e) If dues are not paid by August 1, clubs and associate plant societies become ineligible for participation in the liability insurance program, the Group Tax Exemption Program, the awards program, and may not be listed in the <i>Yearbook, Manual & Roster.</i></p> <p><i>PROVISO: This bylaw change will become effective as of July 1, 2026.</i></p>

Rationale: Shortens the amount of time that the Membership Chairman has to spend collecting dues (2.5 months vs. 5 months), gives the YMR Chairman current information earlier, and provides more time between Membership Dues due date and Liability Insurance and GTEP due dates. Earlier delinquent date encourages handling by club treasurers prior to any change in officers. Late fee is intended to encourage timely payment.

**Attachment F
Standing Rule Proposals**

Both proposals passed by two-thirds vote (no opposition). See pages 5, 12 and 13.

**CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Standing Rules from the Governance
Committee for the Board of Directors**

at the Winter Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 28 or Wednesday, January 29, 2025

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

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #1 30. Copies of financial reports of CGCI functions shall be sent by the event chairman within ninety (90) days of the close of function as follows: (c) each course in educational schools to president, financial secretary, appropriate state chairman and educational schools finance chairman</p>	<p>Proposal #1 30. Copies of financial reports of CGCI functions shall be sent by the event chairman within ninety (90) days of the close of function as follows: (c) each course in educational schools to president, financial secretary, <u>and</u> appropriate state chairman, and educational schools finance chairman</p>	<p>Proposal #1 30. Copies of financial reports of CGCI functions shall be sent by the event chairman within ninety days of the close of function as follows: (c) each course in educational schools to president, financial secretary, and appropriate state chairman.</p>

Rationale: The parenthetical numeric reference to the number of days is redundant and considered archaic. We no longer have an educational schools chairman.

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #2 37. The budget and finance committee shall recommend and include as a separate item in the yearly budget the dollar amount from the scholarship fund to be offered for scholarships. The number of scholarships offered in one year from this fund shall not be more than four (4).</p>	<p>Proposal #2 37. The budget and finance committee shall recommend and include as a separate item in the yearly budget the dollar amount from the scholarship fund to be offered for scholarships. The number of scholarships offered in one year from this fund shall not be more than four (4).</p>	<p>Proposal #2 37. The budget and finance committee shall recommend and include as a separate item in the yearly budget the dollar amount from the scholarship fund to be offered for scholarships.</p>

Rationale: The budget and finance committee recommends the annual budget to the board and considers funds available for scholarships. Allow flexibility for additional scholarships from the current President's Project or other sources.

Attachment G District Director Reports

Bay Ocean District Director, Nancy McDougal

Fall has been an outreach season for many clubs in Bay Ocean District—connecting with members who have not been able to attend meetings and doing our best to spread the joy of gardening to others in our various neighborhoods. Sometimes it has resulted in new members, while other times an exchange of information or plants and always a mutual appreciation for the many and varied activities that occupy each of us in our limited discretionary time. Several groups have taken the pre-holiday season to use their talents in providing garden-centered holiday decorations for nursing homes and public spaces, as well as classes in wreath-making--- activates which are eagerly anticipated each year. Costs are kept low through donations from City parks arborist activity, Xmas tree lot trimmings and our own supply of personal garden evergreen prunings, cones & dried seed heads. This year some of us even made our own wreath forms from supple shrub limbs & heavy vines and used jute cord to secure the greens, rather than wires, so that the whole wreath (minus bow) could be recycled & chipped---a bit more challenging, but well worth the satisfaction of being more conservation-minded.

Cascade District Director, Judith Paul

Since the last report in early September, this director has continued working collaboratively within Cascade District. In September and November two workshops with our presidents about awards, newsletters, and membership were held with lively discussions and sharing.

Shasta Lake Garden Project hosted the Cascade District Fall Meeting October 25. The program was on citrus trees and disease control. Attendance was around 40 members.

Blue Ribbon check sheets have been completed and returned to Pat Claves. All six of our clubs earned the necessary 100 plus points.

A couple of clubs had fall plant and craft sales. Red Bluff Garden Club had its annual Wreath and Green Sale to raise money for scholarships for high school seniors. The net proceeds were \$6770.

Red Bluff Garden Club will be hosting the Cascade District Winter Meeting, February 27, 2025. The featured program speaker is Rose Lovall from Morningside Herb Farm.

Red Bluff Garden Club will be hosting an NGC Flower Show School, Course III, March 18-20. In addition to this course, on Friday, March 21, there will be a “re-do” day for Design only, Course II.

Cascade District and Red Bluff Garden Club have each purchased a brick for the NCG Path of Success. The District has also purchased a Blue Star Memorial for the VA Health Center in Redding. Installation is planned for late May or June.

From plant sales, to Spring Luncheons, to two flower shows planned for April and May, to our Blue Star Memorial installation, this District will be busy balancing our gardening endeavors in the next several months!

Costa Verde District Director, Alexis Slafer

"Meeting in the Middle" -- is it a noun or a verb?

That was the theme of the 2024 Fall Board Meeting.

Costa Verde District was thrilled to be the host of the CGCI 2024 Fall Board Meeting held at the Harris Ranch Resort in Coalinga. It really was a lot of fun... and this District Director & members of Costa Verde would do it again in a heartbeat!

The meeting was all business...and very successful in every way. The District came away with a nice profit...due in part to expense saving choices that were made and the nice selection of 20 raffle prizes

provided by the members of our 6 clubs and of course -- your generosity.

The District's plans for next year include a reciprocal visit to our sister district to the north, San Fernando Valley District. 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 San Fernando Valley District's Pollinator and Rose Gardens...as well as visit the rest of the community garden.

Our upcoming program topics will include Kelp Forests of the South Bay and How Climate Change is Affecting our Gardens. Please feel free to join us at any of our meetings. As I mentioned in my last report, we cannot hold raffles at our meeting venue...so, I look forward to stealing some of the fund-raising ideas in your reports.

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

Desert Empire District Director, Renee Rivera

Desert Empire District has two clubs: Oasis Garden Club of Indian Wells Valley and Desert Rose Garden Club of California City. The District has reduced our meetings to one event per Garden Club year, which gives us time to socialize, update each other with upcoming events, and share helpful information. Both clubs are very active in their communities.

Oasis Garden Club's big event is in October. Their Flower Show, titled "You Be the Judge" since 2020, is held there. They haven't been able to do a Standard Flower Show because of a lack of volunteers to arrange for judges, lunches, clerks, and recorders. You be the Judge has been very popular with the public, letting them vote on their favorite entries. The Club will celebrate its 67th Anniversary on February 13th. The club members continue to make flower arrangements for special events, have plant sales, and educational programs. This club has its own meeting room and nursery space due to organizing the flower show for the Desert Empire Fair.

Desert Rose Garden Club is participating in the Quarter Auctions as a fundraiser and exposure to the community. The Club is coordinating with a non-profit organization, REACH. REACH has gotten a grant for a project to plant 500 trees over the next three years. The Club is identifying areas for tree planting and helping plant the trees. The members have been caring for Inspiration Walk, a desert native garden in California City Central Park. The club will receive several trees for Inspiration Walk through the REACH organization. The Club hosts Release the Ladybugs with live ladybugs, face painting, painting rocks, and crafts.

Both Clubs are having membership issues. Desert Rose Garden Club has a loose Youth Group with a few students, but it is not getting traction regarding membership. After seeing the NGC and CGCI presentations, I will encourage the clubs to use these as resources for membership and education ideas.

Golden Foothills District Director, Annette Choate

We have 10 clubs in our district of many sizes and interests.

I was fortunate to attend the latest dedication of the Blue Star memorial in Grass Valley sponsored by the Chicago Park Garden Club. Largest one I have been to with about 200 hundred people on veterans' day at the VFW.

The annual fall tea and vintage fashion show CGC puts on paid for the memorial with some of the funds. The Auburn Arrangers Guild is busy planning their spring small standard flower show. Many clubs are having spring plant /fundraiser sales for various projects.

They are busy planting seeds, propagating plants and gathering garden art, used tools etc. Some have cards, cookbooks, and baked goods too.

I learned one club gets discounted rent on a storage unit for being non-profit.

Two clubs use the local Grange Hall for different purposes so by yard work, volunteering, and membership they get the Grange at discounted rent.

Through teas, sales, swap meets, opportunity tables our district has raised many dollars for grants and scholarships to women's shelters gardens, schools and various community gardens, Sierra reach Ministries, Placer Nature Center, and student scholarships.

We have had speakers on permaculture, ethics, and practices. This will help us better care for our gardens, the earth and each **other**.

Greater Los Angeles District Director, Joyce Parrott

This District was honored to have in attendance CGCI President Carol Vallens at its general meeting last October. She served as reference person during our "CGCI Quiz" (prizes given); and also spoke re: the current President's Project, the scholarship program. Each of the five member clubs were represented, and reported on their recent activities. A friendly rivalry became evident between the Los Angeles Garden Club and the Culver City Garden Club, who each had the same number of attendees at the meeting (prize given for the most club members in attendance). The keynote speaker, landscape architect and author of his eighth book, Douglas Kent, spoke on environmental sustainability, and was very well received.

Mendo-Lake District Director, Diane Cerutti

Last year as Treasurer I was the only elected officer on the district board so I became liaison to CGCI. We decided to remain active despite not having a full board. In September we had a District meeting at the ranger station of the Mendocino National Forest to learn about the topography, archaeology, flora, and fauna of this forest which has been the recipient of all our Penny Pines donations over the years.

Did you know that it is the only one of the 18 National Forests in California not crossed by a paved road or highway? That it is one of only two in the state that has a Tule Elk herd? That it ranges in elevation from 720 to 8,092 feet and is about 65 miles long and 35 miles wide? That it covers an area of over 913 thousand acres?

We also learned, sadly, that nearly 90% of the forest was burned in two major fires in 2018 and 2020. These remain the first and third largest area wildfires in California history. We have made a donation to the forest in gratitude for their wonderful presentations and toward the ongoing restoration efforts. At that meeting in September I became District Director as we also installed Treasurer Bill Monlux and Secretary Ginabelle Smith. We currently have 3 active clubs - Fort Bragg, Ukiah, and Clear Lake Trowel and Trellis. A fourth, Potter Valley, is inactive in the district, and a fifth, Willits, has disbanded. I will not be seeking a second term in June, but am hopeful that someone will step up to be District Director as our other elected officers have agreed to return. Thank you.

Montana de Oro District Director, Carolyn Fergoda

For this report, I have received responses from two clubs.

Los Osos Valley Garden Club has regular monthly meetings, garden tours monthly programs for members and the public and occasional special events. They partnered with the Morro Bay Bird Festival last weekend and are currently looking for more opportunities to partner with other nonprofits. They are also preparing for their April 5 Plant Sale, their main fundraiser. Their membership is strong with lots of volunteer participation.

Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society reports that they have been very busy. In January they chose new officers and had a program on herbs. Their Treasurer attended that CGCI Winter Board meeting and has applied for the GTEP program. They have a program planned at their Drought Tolerant demonstration Garden on February 8 and their next meeting is in March.

Although the club officers did not respond, as a member, I have observed that the Multiflora Garden Club is experiencing renewed energy and member engagement. Recently, Club members participated in a Seed Exchange day in a local church. In addition, they are recruiting officers for the next club year and planning a new member tea and plant sale in early spring.

Orange County District Director, Launa Gould

Orange County clubs are busy preparing for their spring fundraisers.

Since our District meeting last June, I recently learned about a huge side-benefit of attending District meetings. Obtaining speakers within the district club members. While networking at a District meeting, two different clubs learned about members of other clubs that were experts in their subject. One on Butterflies, the other sharing the success of a special ed school project. As a result, these small clubs filled speaker spots with local club members. The results were well received.

San Clemente Garden Club is busy preparing to host a fabulous Convention in June. More on that later.

Palomar District Director, Sharon Tooley

We are excited to have a Flower Show School available in our District this year! One of our Affiliate groups, Southwestern Judges Council is hosting this Flower Show School over the next two years. The first course begins this Feb. 27th and will feature Violas and flowering branches for Horticulture and Traditional Floral Designs.

Our Palomar District has a long history of having flower shows and we recognize the urgency of having Judges. No judges, no shows. Several of our clubs, including Poway Valley, Coronado, Dos Valles and Vista put on shows each year, and other clubs put shows on every other year.

As a District we are looking into hiring a member with accounting experience to help our treasurer with government required paperwork. That way our treasurer would have only local responsibilities such as dues and reimbursement checks. As with many clubs and districts we have had problems getting a treasurer because things just keep getting more complex.

Otherwise, all is well down in Southern California. We look forward to a busy spring season filled with tours, visits, shows and speakers.

Roadrunner District Director, Terry Sampson

This Director will be ending her two-year term looking forward to her next two-year term. As the Director of only 3 clubs...but we are mighty clubs this makes my job almost fun. We have done a jewelry sale which..so far.. has netted \$604.00 with another 3 club meetings to sell at in April. All jewelry was donated by the club members so there was no cost to the district. We are planning a very small 4 home garden tour with each club being the "host" at one of the 3 houses with the 4th home benefiting the district as well as the monies from the sale of the tickets. This is a win win situation for the district as well as all the clubs because at each house the individual club may sell anything they want...plants, home items etc. and they keep those funds. At the last house each club will donate a basket for 3 lucky winners.... I will report on this endeavor at the convention on how it goes.

Yosemite Gateway District Director, Mary Brooks

Yosemite Gateway welcomes our fourth club: Manzanita Garden Club of Oakhurst with eleven members.

Had a very successful district meeting hosted by the Atwater Garden Club in October.

As a District we completed last year's project of landscaping the signage of the Merced County Courthouse Museum.

This year our project is to showcase the historical rose gardens in Merced County.

Our District has 153 members.