

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the Virtual Winter Board Meeting
January 26-28, 2026
Host: California Garden Clubs, Inc.
President: Adele Kelly

Business Meeting #1

President Adele Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The Recording Secretary was present.

Northern California Blue Star Markers Chairman Maria Krenek gave the Inspiration.

President Adele Kelly introduced the 2025-2027 Executive Committee and former presidents in attendance: Elisabeth Tufo (2005-2007), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Rita Desilets (2013-2015), Sue Bennett (2015-2017), Lynne Batchelor (2021-2023), and Carol Vallens (2023-2025).

President Adele Kelly recognized those Circle of Poppies members in attendance: Chuck Goodwin, Jane McKee, Robin Pokorski, Charlotte Tucker, Judy Unrine, and Carolyn Villi.

President Adele Kelly recognized those members serving with her on the 2025-2027 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors and the 2025-2027 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors.

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

Excused:

Nancy Bird, Kathy Bramhall, Beverly Brune, Robert Gordon, Rosalie Hooper, Gudrun Kimmel, Krystal Migliore, Rosa Radicchi, Beverly Switzer, Emily Troxell, Linda Tucker, Julie A. West, and Carlotta Wixon-Welker.

Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a total registration of 72 (including 65 board members).

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that the Rules of Order for Board Meetings (adopted at the Organizational Meeting on June 5, 2025 for this entire term) are posted on the website (About CGCI/Board of Directors/Meetings) and included on the last page (47) of the 2025 Convention Minutes document. Rules for CGCI Virtual Meetings (protocol set by the President) were displayed and read.

President Adele Kelly thanked those who made the 2026 Winter Board Meeting successful: Zoom Chairman Carol Vallens, and all other Technical Hosts, Registrar Robin Pokorski, and Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski.

Without objection the Chair appointed the following committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, Rita Desilets, and Alice Lewin.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported that the minutes of 2025 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch in Coalinga, California on September 8-10, 2025 were reviewed and posted on the CGCI website on October 20, 2025, and moved to approve them as posted. **Motion Passed.**

2025 Fall Board Meeting Chairman (and Valley Lode District Director) Paula Elias reported on the 2025 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch, Coalinga, California.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer George Perko read the Independent Accountant's Annual Review Report and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.** See Attachment A.

Financial Reports

Treasurer George Perko reported:

As of December 31, 2025:

Net worth:

Total Cash in checking/savings accounts	\$110,312	
Total Other Assets	\$697,512	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$807,824
of which liabilities and restricted funds are		\$467,115
Cash Balance Available		<u>\$340,709</u>

Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported. See Attachment B.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported the deadline for emailed reports is Tuesday, February 4, 2026 and the minutes of the 2023-2025 administration have been sent to the Permanent Files.

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks reported. See Attachment B.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment B.

2nd Vice President/Chairmen Coordinator Nina Blonski reported. See Attachment B.

1st Vice President/District Director Coordinator Marlene Kinney reported. See Attachment B.

President Adele Kelly reported. See Attachment B.

Executive Committee Recommendations

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst read the following recommendations from the committee (which were shared onscreen):

1. To approve the registration fee of \$125 for the 2026 Convention, with a late fee of \$40.00 if registration is not received by April 17, 2026. No registration accepted if received after April 27, 2026. **Motion Passed.**
2. To ratify a location change for the February 19-21, 2026 Course 3 of the Flower Show School sponsored by Southwestern Judges Council: Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregational Campus, 2324 Miller Ave., Escondido. **Motion Passed.**
3. To amend the budget to add \$400 to line code 4016 for speaker fees. **Motion Passed.**
4. To ratify the appointment of Ashley Smith as Awards Assistant. **Motion Passed.**

Election of Delegates to the 2026 National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) Convention

President Adele Kelly invited those interested in attending the 2026 NGC Convention (May 4-6, 2026 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark) as delegates to raise their virtual hand icon to be counted.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following as delegates to the 2026 NGC Convention, May 4-6, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri: Lynne Batchelor, Nina Blonski, Mary Brooks, Diana Drummey, Carolyn Fergoda, Dyanna Madro, Martha Smyser, Shelley Sparks, Diane Steinhauser, Barbara Todd, Elisabeth Tufo, and Carol Vallens. **Motion Passed.**

Committee Reports

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

Budget & Finance Committee Chairman Launa Gould reported. See Attachment C.

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) Chairman Cynthia Jackson reported and moved to remove Lompoc Valley Botanic & Horticultural Society, Organic Garden Club of Sacramento County, Redbud Garden Club, and Ceres Garden Club from the Group Tax Exemption Program. **Motion Passed.** See Attachment C.

The meeting recessed at 2:53 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported (See Attachment C) and moved that the board of directors recommend five bylaws proposals for consideration of the membership at the 2026 Convention in May. Proposal #1 **Passed as Amended.** Proposals #2 through #5 **Passed as Presented.** He then presented two Standing Rules proposals which both **Passed as Presented** (and are effective immediately). **See Attachment E.**

Life Membership Chairman Linda Travis reported. See Attachment C.

Membership Chairman Rita Desilets reported. See Attachment C.

She moved to ratify Sierra Foothill Rose Society's change from an APS to a club in the Golden Foothills District. **Motion Passed.**

She moved to ratify San Dieguito Garden Club returning as a club in Palomar District. **Motion Passed.**

She also moved to ratify the following clubs:

Mother Lode Rose Society, 37 members, Valley Lode District, President: Martin Hooper.

Peardale Farm Community Garden, 17 members, Golden Foothills District, President: Robert Chase.

Motion Passed.

Nominating Committee Chairman Carol Vallens reported.

The meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

President Adele Kelly introduced the Timekeeper, Bette Langford, who explained how the reporting members would know when their time of three minutes was up.

Chairmen Reports

Chairmen Coordinator Nina Blonski introduced those chairmen who reported. See Attachment C.

District Director Reports

District Director Coordinator Marlene Kinney introduced those directors who reported. See Attachment D.

Governance Committee member Chuck Goodwin moved to remain (after a ten-minute break) and finish all business (instead of having a Business Meeting #3). **Motion Passed.**

The meeting recessed at 12:31 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

District Director reports continued.

2026 CGCI Convention Chairman Diana Drummey extended an invitation to the Convention to be held in San Diego, May 11-14, 2026.

2026 Pacific Region Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski extended an invitation to the Convention in Thousand Oaks, October 12-14, 2026.

Announcements were made.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 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, 2025, 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 14, 2026

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Attachment B Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary, Launa Gould

The responsibility of this chairmanship is to issue warrants to the treasurer authorizing payments, to keep updated Expense and Revenue spreadsheets and balance them to the treasurer's General Ledger reports.

If you have a budget: District Directors \$100, Chairmen \$50. Send your receipts and reimbursement forms now. Deadline is June 15 but don't wait.

To get reimbursed for expenses:

1. Fill out the Request for Reimbursement form found on the website.
 - a. Know your Line Code or look online or email the Financial Secretary then make a note of your line code in your procedures because they do not change.
 - b. Scan and email or mail your receipts and the Request to the Financial Secretary.

If you receive cash or checks:

Fill out the Cash Receipt Report found on the website.

The next project for the Financial Secretary is to draft a new budget to be voted on at the May Convention. If you have input regarding the \$ amount for a budget item, email launa.gould@gmail.com.

This concludes my report.

Corresponding Secretary, Shelley Sparks

This corresponding Secretary has sent a thank you card to Valley Lode president for hosting the Fall Board meeting. NGC convention was posted on the CGCI calendar. A response to a request from a garden in England was sent. The Fall Board meeting minutes were sent out. The call to Winter Board meeting was sent out as was a reminder. Los Osos Gardening School was removed from the CGCI calendar. Information about a fire safety webinar sponsored by PRGC was sent. Proposed bylaw changes to be voted on at the Winter Board Meeting were sent out. A thank you note from Sempervirens for donation was received.

I am grateful to be of service.

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

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 engagement and participation of its members. It is great to see that most District Directors have registered for this meeting. Remember that our bylaws require that permission for non-attendance at board meetings and convention shall be obtained from the president. The assistant district director or authorized alternate shall attend in the absence of the director and have voting privileges. We need to know ahead of time who those representatives are.

This officer continues 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 CGCI mail system to board members prior to this meeting – on January 18. These proposals are also posted on our website with the Call to this meeting and other related documents. Please have the proposal document available when we consider amendments later in this session or tomorrow.

Our next meeting is the annual convention in May in San Diego. 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 and set an example with your attendance. Ideally, every member club should be represented at every convention. Sadly, recent conventions have fallen far short of that. Please watch for instructions in the Call to Convention about the credentialing process. The Call will be distributed via email before the end of March. It seems that many do not read the Call to Convention or information on the Registration Form as many Registration Forms have been received for recent conventions indicating that the registrant was a club president or delegate but no Credentials Form was submitted. In those cases follow-ups are required. 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 and working together we can all do more to benefit all of our garden clubs.

This officer has encountered some recent questions and comments about the tentative schedules associated with the Calls to these state meetings, indicating that some are looking for “final” schedules. Be aware that prior to the meetings the schedules will always be “tentative” and subject to change. It should be obvious that this is necessary when these schedules must be published 30 to 45 days and more in advance of the meetings.

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 with protections for all members and we all get better at it by using it repeatedly.

Madame President, it is a privilege and honor to serve CGCI and you in this position

2nd Vice President & Chairmen Coordinator, Nina Blonski

Chairmen were notified by email to send in their registration for the Winter Board meeting which will be on zoom, Jan 26-28, 2026. Several follow up reminders were also sent. They were reminded that all must attend, if unable they must notify the President and Nina, Chairmen Coordinator along with finding a replacement person to attend.

Every chairmen was expected to give a report on updating information about their specific topic, if nothing to report they were expected to give a tidbit, a quote or other information regarding their subject. A good turn out and reports were given by the CGCI Chairmen.

1st Vice President & District Director Coordinator, Marlene Kinney

As District Director Coordinator, I welcomed the District Directors attending via Zoom, Alternates, and Liaisons on Tuesday morning. Seventeen District Directors or their alternates confirmed they will be reporting, and 6 confirmed they will be submitting a written report only. The reporting time limit was explained, and they were instructed to send their written report to the Recording Secretary. They were advised to be prepared to present their report at Business Meeting #2 or #3.

Guest Speakers:

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst discussed the Pacific Region Convention and what she would like from each district. The Convention will be held from 10/12/2026 to 10/14/2026, and we, the CGCI Board members, are the hosts.

Web Advisor Jane McKee showed us how to log in to the Members Only section and the link on the Home Page at californiagardenclubs.com

President Adele Kelly explained how the Meeting Schedule would flow. She also confirmed that the CGCI Convention is scheduled to be held in San Diego from 5/11/2026 to 5/14/2026 at the Handlery Hotel.

Updates from District Directors: A lot of information was shared. Penny Pines Chairman, Terry Sampson, explained the difference between Penny Pines and Plant A Tree.

Marlene reported and introduced those district directors who reported. See Attachment D.

President, Adele Kelly

Since our Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch, your President has attended the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Virtual Fall Board of Directors Meeting on September 18, 2025. At this meeting, the usual business of the organization was conducted, such as minutes approval, officer reports, report of the 2024-2025 audit, recommendations from the Executive Committee, reports from chairmen, and announcements, to just name a few. From this meeting, I would like to share two takeaways:

- NGC's Plant America program has formed a joint initiative with Keep America Beautiful (KAB), another non-profit organization. And NGC is offering substantial grants to support projects that remove litter and plant flowers and greenery to beautify Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial markers nationwide, with an emphasis on planting red, white, and blue flowers in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026. You will hear more details from our CGCI Blue Star Markers Co-Chairman, George Unrine, during our committee reports.
- Secondly, the NGC Convention is being held May 4-6, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri. Registration, hotel, and convention information are available on the NGC website at gardenclub.org/events.

On October 14, 2025, I attended a virtual NGC "Care to Share" meeting, where the focus was on identifying abandoned Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers in our state that need refurbishment or replacement. I encourage all districts and clubs within our state to adopt orphaned markers and identify markers that need refurbishment or replacement. Please contact our CGCI Blue Star Co-Chairmen, George Unrine and Maria Krennek, for more information. These markers are a powerful testament to our nation's enduring respect and gratitude for the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women and their families.

On October 17, 2025, I attended a virtual meeting of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs (PRGC). At this meeting, the awards offered by PRGC were discussed, as were a series of "free" Firewise Webinars for all members and anyone else interested. Since fires are a concern within our state, I encourage

all officers, board members, districts, and club members to take advantage of these webinars. You must register; links to register are available on the CGCI home page under the Members section.

Finally, as members of NGC and PRGC, we should take advantage of every opportunity to expand our knowledge. Let's grow together.

Attachment C Committee and Chairmen Reports

Amenities & Protocol, Jeanne Johnson

Some things to remember

- Every district should invite the president to attend a district meeting or special event.
- Always contact the president and ask to be excused if you will be unable to attend a state meeting.
- You “introduce” someone new to the audience. You “present” someone known to the audience.
- When giving a report the only person that should be using “I” is the president. All others should use “this chairman” or “this officer.”
- Time your report by practicing prior to your presentation. It is disrespectful of others’ time to go over unless permission has been granted from the president.
- Address the chair and honored guests before proceeding with your report or your comments/questions.
- Thank you notes following state meetings should be sent to the presiding officer, to the host, and to others who you feel are deserving.

Awards, Pat Clayes

Members of the Awards Committee: Judy Bates (certificates), Emily Troxell (flower show awards), Ashley Smith (assistant), and Elisabeth Tufo (sponsor finances).

The committee met on Monday, January 26. The results from our meeting:

- We will purchase special certificates and certificate holders for the Special Award winners.
- For the 2026 awards year, two awards -- #20 Backyard Habitat and #26 Pollinator Education -- will be eliminated based on an analysis of entries from the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 awards years. Elisabeth Tufo will return the sponsors’ monies to them.
- We will be discussing the California Flower Show Awards (#30A and B) soon as no entries have been submitted for many years.
- Hard copies of the yearbooks (Awards #54 and #55) will now be required, as well as hard copies of publications (Award #51, Section 2, Classes A and B) – membership and non-membership.

Seventeen electronic entries from California were placed in NGC’s Dropbox for judging before its deadline of January 25.

Most of the twenty-eight PRGC award entries from California have been sent by mail to the many PRGC judging chairmen. However, we are still awaiting for one more CGCI award to be judged. Once that happens, the first-place winners will be sent to PRGC – probably two more entries to add to that total of twenty-eight. Last Sunday, hard copies of the first-place winning yearbooks were requested from six clubs and one district for forwarding to PRGC. The PRGC deadline is March 1.

This Chairman has been appointed the lead judging chairman from PRGC to judge NGC awards. The team has two judges from other PRGC states. We need additional judges, as we do not know how many entries NGC wants us to judge. If you can help, please let me know ASAP.

Blue Star Markers, Southern California, George Unrine

The website has long had a pdf with instructions on how to refinish an aging marker. These directions have been updated and include paint colors that are currently available for performing the task. Paint color palettes change over time which means marker colors identified in the past can cease to be available. An article in the last issue of *Golden Gardens* describes the process used to identify the new paint colors. Aging byway markers must always be refinished by clubs using club volunteers or local contractors. Large markers are a bit more challenging, but this chairman knows of clubs that have accomplished this task as well.

This chairman recently sent each District Director a list of markers in their district along with everything known about the markers. The intent was two-fold. This chairmanship wanted the Directors to know what markers were in their districts. Markers that were installed a long time ago can get forgotten. And this chairmanship wanted confirmation that the catalog was complete and without errors. The catalog was put together from a variety of sources and there was no guarantee that all markers had been included or that the status of a marker had not since changed.

Board of Trustees, Robin Pokorski

The Board of Trustees consists of Lynne Batchelor, Pat Clayes, Roseann Costabile, Alexis Slafer and myself as chairman. The Trustees met via Zoom January 15, 2026 with George Perko, CGCI Treasurer and Financial Advisor, President Adele Kelly and First Vice President Marlene Kinney as guests. Year-to-date financial records 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 63.6% Stocks and 36.4% Bonds showed a balance on December 31, 2025 of \$127,957.77 which is a quarterly increase of \$2,391.34. The CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund which is invested in 65.5% Stocks/34.5% Bonds showed a balance on December 31, 2025 of \$244,546.25 which is a quarterly increase of \$4,634.71.

The Trustees then met again on January 23, 2026 with Martha Smyser, Scholarship Chairman, as the Scholarship Committee and selected the recipients of our CGCI Scholarships. The Scholarship Chairman will share her good news.

Budget & Finance Committee, Launa Gould

Members of committee:

Launa Gould Financial Secretary

Cynthia Jackson GTEP

Marlene Kinney 1st VP

George Perko Treasurer

Robin Pokorski Board of Trustees

Carol Vallens Former President

Julie West Insurance Advisor

Courtesy invite to Adele Kelly, President

Virtual meeting held January 14, 2026

George Perko - Reviewed Dec 31, 2025 financials

Carolyn Mayes, CGCI Auditor, shared fiscal year-end financials and tax return drafts.

CD balances

US Bank – 1/12/26 #4022 - \$100,613.25 matures 2/28/26 @ 3.75%

US Bank – 1/12/26 #7664 - \$143,128.57 matures 7/8/26 @ 3.67%
B of A – 12/12/25 #7050 - \$74,265.99 matures 5/15/26 @3.75%

Discussions were held and decisions made regarding Line Codes, GTEP, Giving Fund Grants, Penny Pines donations sent to CGCI, Vanguard, and a budget recommendation was sent to the Executive Committee.

This concludes the Budget and Finance report.

Cactus and Succulents, Ellyn Meikle

I have nothing to report, but I would like to share something:

Heavy rains have caused tall cacti to break or topple over due to rapid water absorption, making them top-heavy and weakening their already saturated roots. You can cut the fallen cactus, allow it to fully callus, then replant it in well-drained soil. The original cactus will grow pups, and the cutting will become a new plant!

California Consultants Council (CCC), Nina Blonski

At the CCC meeting that took place on Monday Jan 26, we continued a new educational sharing moment that everyone enjoyed at our last meeting. If a chairman has nothing to report then they are to add “that they have something to share”. Many interesting topics and facts have been brought to our attention. By chairmen taking a few minutes to research and share a topic related to their chairmanship we have all come away from these meetings with greater knowledge, fresh information and a better sense of community among our members. You will probably be hearing about several of the topics in the future.

CCC offers 5 Awards that are different than the ones given out by CGCI. There are no deadlines. I would like to encourage members to apply, or if they know of any gardens or a landscape that would qualify, to please let them know of the award available. They are listed on page 52 of your yearbook and more details on the website.

CCC has decided to bring back the newsletter *Council Thymes*. Feeling it is an important link in keeping consultants informed. An enthusiastic group will be working on the details.

There has been much discussion on why many consultants are not refreshing. There are many NGC virtual classes held on line throughout the country that make it easier and less costly to attend. We also encourage districts and or clubs to host one of the 3 Schools: Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design. We have the experts that can help you along the way. Discussions on whether the CCC should host a Tri-Refresher are ongoing. It has been difficult to get responses from consultants if they are interested in a Tri-Refresher online.

Our webmaster is working on getting all the records of consultants available online so they can check when they need to refresh. A format is still being developed but is close to being ready to go.

It is a pleasure working with our consultants and coming up with goals to increase the level of education among all our CGCI members. It has been said, “You come for the knowledge but stay for the friendship.”

Donations Coordinator, Robin Pokorski

Being the Donations Coordinator is a wonderful job! This chairman gets to experience the unbelievable generosity of our districts, clubs and members. While we absolutely require a post office box for our legal needs as an organization, **this chairman requests that checks be sent to this chairman’s home address**, which may be found in the Directory.

Our districts, clubs and members are part of an incredible force for good. This chairman is so very proud to be a part of it!

Thank you, President Adele, for the opportunity to serve you and CGCI as your Donations Coordinator.

Flower Show Schools Judges Credentials, Dyanna Madro

This Credentials Chair is reporting that all flower show judge's files have been accessed and are up to date

There are a total of 44 judges in good standing

There have been 2 each, 6 month extensions issued to 10 judges, all of which need to take symposium this year to remain in good standing

The Symposium chairman is working on a new date for symposium this year, which will be sometime this summer.

There are 6 judges going emeritus and I will be sending the new Emeritus form to them next week. 1 judge in Feather River (disbanded) 2 in So Cal, and 3 in South Western

There are 27 students attending 4 different flower show schools

Gardening Schools, Greg Pokorski

There is bad news and good news.

Bad:

The Gardening School that was to take place in Los Osos in February and March has been cancelled. It may be re-scheduled. A record-breaking 18 Consultants lapsed on December 31. Five Consultants will lapse if they do not refresh by the end of this year. Two Consultants are on approved extensions.

There are currently three Zoom Gardening School refresher opportunities in February. Check the NGC website or check with this chairman for more information.

Good:

Southern California Garden Club (SCGC) successfully completed Series 27 with Courses 3 and 4 since FBM, with 53 students attending at least some portion of the school and benefitting from the instruction provided. That School gave us 23 new Consultants and 6 new Provisional Consultants, mostly from San Fernando Valley District. 13 Consultants attended for refresher credit to update their Good Standing dates. Congratulations to the new Consultants and to President Adele Kelly who is now a Provisional Gardening Consultant. Thank you to SCGC for offering this educational opportunity and congratulations to them on the completion of their sixth NGC School. Talk to members of that club to learn how conducting a school can be a beneficial club/district project and how it was a significant financial benefit to the club.

All of the NGC accreditation for that school has been completed. 16 of the new Consultants were recognized and celebrated with presentation of certificates and their official records at last week's SCGC meeting.

Our numbers are up from a year ago. We now have a total of 71 Gardening Consultants, including 34 Consultants, 15 Masters, 13 Provisionals and 9 Emeritus. Joan Craig and Julie West became Emeritus Consultants. Sadly, Master Consultant and long-time school supporter Myrtle Findley died in October.

Contact this chairman to learn how to sponsor and conduct a Gardening School. We are always looking for clubs or districts to offer these wonderful programs. And contact this chairman for information about your Gardening School student or consultant status.

Golden Gardens, Pat Clayes

Members of the *Golden Gardens* Committee are Judy Bates, Sue Bennett, Nancy Compton, Ellyn Meikle, Shelley Sparks, Phil Stanley, Brad Welles, and Julie West.

The committee met on Monday. We discussed:

- How to get more CGCI chairmen and members of the California Consultants Council to write articles.
- How to get more newsletters from the clubs and districts, as many contain great information and articles that we can use in *Golden Gardens* and on Facebook.
- How to get CGCI members who are on the PRGC and NGC Boards to write articles to keep CGCI members informed of news and other information from these two organizations.
- How to get more photos of members' gardens and horticulture photos for the cover of *Golden Gardens*. Everyone loves floral design photos, but CGCI is also known for horticulture, gardening, landscape design, etc.

There are presently 3,565 subscribers to *Golden Gardens*. However, only 30% of these subscribers have been opening emails containing the link to *Golden Gardens*. Very sad!

Governance Committee, Greg Pokorski

The members of the Governance Committee this term, who serve with this chairman, are Lynne Batchelor, Chuck Goodwin, Jeanne Johnson, Alice Lewin, George Speer and Carol Vallens. The President may attend meetings as an ex officio member and, in accordance with Standing Rule 5, the vice presidents may attend meetings and participate except for the right to make motions and the right to vote.

This term the committee began monthly Zoom meetings on August 18 and has met six times to review bylaws and standing rules and submitted recommendations. All CGCI members may propose changes to bylaws, standing rules and policy. Please use the Amendment Request webform found on the Governance section of the website. Hopefully all of you are aware that our bylaws, standing rules and policy are posted on the Governance section of the website, and bylaws and standing rules are contained on pages 53 to 82 of the 2025-2026 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. All board members should be familiar with these documents.

Per Bylaws Article XXI, Bylaws can be amended only once a year at convention, and proposed changes must first be submitted to and recommended by the board of directors to the membership (that is the convention body), 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 mail system on January 18. The proposals are also posted on the website. Please refer to that document now – also shared on the screen. A majority vote is required to move the proposal forward to the convention body.

Madam President, on behalf of the Governance Committee, I move to recommend the following bylaws proposals for consideration of the membership at the 2026 Convention in May. (**See Attachment E.** Proposal #1 passed as amended and Proposals #2 through #5 were passed as presented and all will be presented to the membership at the 2026 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. The board was given prior notice of these recommendations on January 18. Therefore, only a majority 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 E.** Both Proposals passed as presented and are effective immediately.)

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Cynthia Jackson

I am happy to report that a significant number of clubs have submitted their renewals in a timely and complete fashion. This is an improvement over last year and I'd like to express my appreciation to you for this.

Currently,
87 clubs have successfully renewed
9 clubs have not renewed
6 clubs have submitted incomplete renewals and
4 clubs are slated for removal from the program

Have not renewed

Anderson Valley Garden Club
Cupertino Green Club
Desert Empire District
Desert Rose Garden Club of California City
Furyu Floral Designers
Green Valle Garden Club, Est. 1965
Ikebana International, Los Angeles Chapter #4
Los Osos Valley Garden Club
Organization of Floral Art Designers

Incomplete submissions

Buttes District of CGCI - Renewal form missing signature
Crown Garden Club of Coronado - Missing proof of FTB return filing and IRS filing shows a May fiscal month end, not June
El Cerrito Garden Club - Renewal form missing signature and proof of IRS return filing
Fortuna Garden Club, Inc. - Missing proof of IRS and FTB return filings
Lake Oroville Area Garden Club - Renewal form missing signature
Year Around Garden Club - Missing proof of IRS return filing

Scheduled Removals / Reason

Lompoc Valley Botanic & Horticultural Society / Still a 501(c)(5)
Organic Garden Club of Sacramento County / Dissolved
Redbud Garden Club / No longer a CGCI member

Ceres Garden Club / No longer a CGCI member

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

This Chairman regrets to say that there is no Landscape Design School currently being planned or scheduled. However, while there are no Landscape Design Schools or Refreshers being offered in California, there are opportunities to attend that are available across the country -- either in person or virtually via Zoom...just check out the National Garden Clubs website for information and schedules. There is a Landscape Design School being held in Arizona. It is too late to register for Course 1. But Course 2 will be held on March 6 & 7.

The courses can be taken in any order.

It is best to hold Landscape Design Schools in California...but we need clubs and/or districts to host them. More than one club can join together to host a school or refresher. Please enthusiastically discuss these opportunities with the members at your next meeting. Not only is it an opportunity to help your members and others in your local community, learn about landscape design...with an emphasis on residential design...but your membership and revenue can increase.

The total number of CGCI Landscape Design Consultants stands at 88; with six Provisional (taken at least two courses), fifteen Master (refreshed at least four times), ten Emeritus (no longer need to refresh their credentials) and two lapsed.

Several of the instructors at the most recent school -- expressed interest in teaching at other venues, either in person or virtually. Please contact this chairman for their contact information when you start planning your school. And this chairman is eager to assist with planning your Landscape Design School.

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

Liability Insurance, Launa Gould

This chairman is responsible for processing all insurance requests for **Additional Insured certificates**. **General Liability certificates** for your clubs are now handled by Tammy Eacker. This has lightened the load of the Liability Insurance chairman by splitting the responsibilities into two chairmanships. **An additional Insured** certificate is for a venue that has requested to be 'named as insured.' Many venues like churches, Grange, HOA's and Cities that provide space for flower shows, plant sales, or meetings now require an Additional Insured Certificate.

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

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

The fee for an Additional Insured Certificate is \$45.

174 Additional Insured certificates were issued in 2025.

So far, this month, 50 requests have been processed for the next insurance year.

If you have questions, contact me.

Liability Insurance, Tammy Eacker

This chairman is responsible for processing all General Liability Insurance requests.

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

253 clubs have requested GL insurance to date. Deadline for renewal without late fee was Jan 15 (13 days ago).

Going forward the renewals will incur a late fee of \$30.00

Life Memberships, Linda Travis

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

Eleven of 28 Districts (39%) and sixteen of 288 Clubs (7%) participated in the program, during 2025.

Interesting Note: All of the LM’s requested were generated in the January to July 2025 time frame. All of these LM’s were previously ratified by CGCI.

The 2025 total was 24 CGCI Life Memberships (vs the 2024 calendar year of 26 LM’s).

(On a side note, this position does not report on PRGC or NGC LM’s, as they are handled by those respective LM Chairmen).

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

Please continue to look for updates on the CGCI LM process and awardees, in future *Golden Gardens* issues.

Membership, Rita Desilets

These are the membership numbers as of January 20, 2026.

1 Affiliate

228 clubs with **14,529** members

47 APS with **3,316** members for a total membership of **17,845**

Madam President, I move to ratify Sierra Foothill Rose Society’s change from APS to a club in Golden Foothills District.

Madam President, I move to ratify San Dieguito Garden Club returning as a club in Palomar District.

Madam President, I move to ratify the following clubs:

Mother Lode Rose Society, 37 members, Valley Lode District

President: Martin Hooper

Peardale Farm Community Garden, 17 members, Golden Foothills District, President: Robert Chase (See minutes, page 3.)

The following clubs have disbanded or were removed for non-payment of dues: Friends O’ Garden Club of El Monte, Rohnert Park GC, Huntington View GC, Redbud GC, and Salida GC.

These APSs have disbanded or were removed for non-payment of dues:

Southern California Camellia Council and Tropical Plant Society of Modesto.

Additional members for 2025-2026 should be reported before April 15, 2026.

PLEASE make your clubs aware that next year, the cut-off date for paying dues without incurring the \$25 late fee is July 15, 2026. The form to submit the 2026-2027 dues will be available on May 1, 2026.

President’s Project, Barbara Weiler

President Adele Kelly has selected the expansion of the Abraxas High School Garden in Poway California, San Diego County, which will include the creation of an orchard. A landscape designer has

volunteered to create a computer-generated plan which is now going through the second approval step. Once approved, a warrant for the release of funds to Abraxas Garden will be requested. Much of the project will be student led, as was the original garden.

Currently CGCI has raised \$16,725 of our \$30,000 goal, with donations from districts, clubs and individual donors. We have received \$6,000 of the \$10,000 matching grant from Youths Friends Association and have successfully raised the additional \$4,000 to fulfill the grant offer.

Abraxas Garden recently held an open house fundraiser where the students led tours and sold products from their garden. Many thanks to Pat Clayes for getting the announcement on Facebook and Palomar District Director Diana Drummey for getting the announcement out to all of Palomar District. The event was well attended, and two local clubs will be having Abraxas present a program to their members.

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

This chairman loves her job.....most of the time....but two items of concern have raised their ugly heads. One is the post office. Mail will be postmarked when it is received by a processing center, not by when you drop your envelope in the box. Therefore, from this meeting forward, registrations will indicate a date "to be received" by.

Which leads to the second item of concern: the number of you that have registered for this meeting, which is still operating under the "postmarked by" date, after the late fee date but did not pay the late fee is distressing. With the new "to be received by" deadline, be advised, it will be a firm deadline and if your registration is received after the late fee kicks in, you will receive an invoice for the late fee.

Now this does not mean you can call this chairman and tell me that you didn't realize that Christmas was on December 25 (though it has been for a couple of thousand years) and therefore you were surprised that your mail didn't go out, or that you calculated that your registration "should have been received," or that your dog ate your registration. The number of people registering late is causing internal problems for me and othersfor me, YOU ARE DRIVING ME CRAZY.... So I welcome this new postal department regulation. I will not be opening registration envelopes after the drop-dead date.

We continue to improve this registration process and welcome your input.

Scholarships, Martha Smyser

The Scholarship Committee met shortly before Winter Board and awarded six \$2,000 scholarships for the 2026-27 academic year.

The Robert Gordon Scholarship is awarded to MOLLIE BRESSLER, a senior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo who is majoring in Environmental Management and Protection.

The Carol Vallens Scholarship is awarded to CASEY LEWIS, a graduate student in Landscape Architecture at USC.

The Ann and Glenn Capes Scholarship is awarded to GISELL MUNOZ, a senior at CSU Chico who is studying Landscape Architecture.

The Alberta Thiry Memorial Scholarship is awarded to SAVANNAH SCHEUERMANN, a sophomore at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo who is studying Plant Science with a minor in Agricultural Education.

The first President's Project Scholarship is awarded to CASSANDRA FERNANDEZ, a senior at CSU Channel Islands who is majoring in Biology.

(Please note that after the Winter Board the student notified the chairman that she is unable to accept the scholarship because she was not admitted to a graduate program. The Scholarship Committee will select another student for this scholarship.)

The second President's Project Scholarship is awarded to CHERISE HUNT, a student at Mt. San Antonio College who is majoring in Horticulture and transferring to Cal Poly Pomona.

Sempervirens Fund, Judy Unrine

I hope that you got to listen to Amanda Krauss's overview about the Redwoods and Sempervirens. It was an eye-opening talk that gave an overview of what her organization is doing and the health of the redwoods in response to the CZU fire.

I hope some of you will get a chance to visit Big Basin Redwoods State Park and the other parks in the Santa Cruz region. Being in the midst of the trees is an experience you will never forget. I promise. No words can describe it. It is the greatest stress reliever I know of. Since we are all interested in nature, it would be a wonderful treat to see how quickly, and also how slowly, the forest is recovering from the CZU Fire and at the same time the effects of climate change. I was glad to hear Amanda speak of the successes they had with Native American peoples type of management of one of their forests. Recently I was at a meeting of the Southern California GC. One of their members gave a wonderful talk on the Native Americans use of fire as a means growing their food crops and controlling forests fires. It made so much sense to use this simple method to care for our forests.

If you would like to see the wonderful work of Sempervirens continue, you can donate by going to the CGCI website and choose Sempervirens. Sempervirens is celebrating its 125 years preserving the Redwoods. \$125 for 125 years is only a suggestion. Putting Sempervirens in your annual list of donations would be helpful. We appreciate any amount your garden club or district can afford. CGCI has recently been able to donate \$3000 to Sempervirens. It was matched by a second \$3000, so \$6000 is a wonderful way to show our appreciation.

I will send a certificate of appreciation to anyone who donates.

I can only say Thank you. Thank you to CGCI. And thank you to those of you who donated to Sempervirens over the years. The \$3000 is because of you.

Social Media/Facebook, Pat Clayes

During the last 28 days, CGCI's Facebook page had over 16,000 views and 600 interactions (comments, likes, and shares). I am excited to share that CGCI's Facebook page has grown to an amazing 2,220 followers!

The age distribution of our followers is as follows:

- 48% are 65 years old and above
- 18% are between 55 and 64 years old
- 14.7% are between 45 and 54 years old
- 13.7% are between 35 and 44 years old
- 4.8% are between 25 and 34 years old
- 7% are between 18 and 24 years old

The majority of our followers are based in the United States, with additional followers from Mexico, India, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and Argentina.

This chairman encourages CGCI board members to engage with CGCI's Facebook posts by liking them and sharing positive comments whenever possible. Your support can make a significant difference and help amplify CGCI's message.

I would like to emphasize the importance of clubs and districts sharing their newsletters with me so I can include important information and articles in *Golden Gardens* and on Facebook. I assure you that any financial information and club member names will remain confidential. Let's work together to keep our members informed and connected!

In conclusion, I want to emphasize the importance of establishing a CGCI Instagram account. I have reached out to the Strategic Planning Committee about this issue multiple times, as it appears Instagram has become the preferred platform for younger audiences, much as Facebook once was. Wouldn't it be beneficial for CGCI to have an Instagram account

Stamps, Terry Sampson

This chairman would like to thank everyone who has sent any stamps to me. I have forwarded a box of stamps to the postal museum which is located in Tucson AZ. The postal museum is very appreciative of all the stamps that CGCI sends them every year. After receiving the stamps, the postal museum goes through the stamps and sorts them into categories. After that task is done, they wait until teachers or any educator writes to them asking them to send stamps in a certain category. For example if a teacher is teaching their students about presidents they will ask the postal museum to send them the stamps they have that have presidents on them. Visual aids are effective tools that facilitate faster learning for students. In short, please continue sending stamps.

Web Advisor and Members Only Database, Jane McKee

- The Annual Renewal notices will be sent on May 1, 2026. Effective this year, dues are due July 1, 2026 and the deadline is July 15, 2026 **NOT October 1**. Dues submitted July 16 or after will incur a late fee of \$25. Forms submitted July 16 or after will automatically include the late fee. See Bylaw Article IV – Membership and Dues, Sec 3 (page 54 of the 2025-26 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*).
- **Reminder:** presidents and treasurers of each member organization have direct access to their personal profile and/or their Organization's information. **It is the ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO update ALL information and ensure that it is current.** This includes meeting place/day/time as well as contact info. Please do not submit a request to update the information to the Webmaster or Members Only database administrator. Once logged in YOU can pay dues and/or update contact information directly as needed.
- **Online Directories:** Contact information for all member organizations (listed by organization or by District) is available to the presidents, treasurers, and CGCI board members. In addition Board Members have access to a list of organizations that are members of GTEP and all organizations either paid or not paid. Records display the date thru which dues are paid and the number of members paid to date. As of this date all member organizations are paid thru July 1, 2026. District Directors can track the dues status of clubs in their district. NOTE: ALL of the Directories are "private". They can only be viewed by a member with password access. The specific CGCI Directories are available to CGCI Board members only.

- CGCI Board Members: If you move or change email address or phone number, please log into your CGCI record and update the information.
- There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document along with the Members Only Handbook under the Help menu for those logged in.

Webmaster, Sue Bennett

The chairman thanks Jane McKee for her expertise, patience, and a willingness to answer repeated questions.

Some Facts:

When a call comes in to the CGCI's toll-free number (1-888-702-2075), an automated system answers, transcribes the message, and sends it to the webmaster via email. A real person answers it or emails it to the appropriate Chairman.

A real person answers emailed questions or forwards them to the relevant Chairman, often copying the sender.

If you leave voice mail, it is not necessary to send a follow-up email. Quote, "I left a voice mail 10 minutes ago and I haven't heard anything back yet, can someone please respond."

This chairman does not work 24 by 7, 365 days of the year, so responses may take time. Yes, the website, calendar and members database is available 24 by 7, unless notified.

This chairman does not have psychic powers, please be specific when asking what you want.

Example: I can't log in? Response: What are you trying to do?

Reply: Log in! Response: Are you trying to log onto the CGCI website, the member database, the calendar, can you please be more specific? End of conversation. Which usually means they figured it out.

Please be considerate, as each call and email receives personal attention. Feel free to ask the chairman any questions by email, or through the CGCI number. Remember, be kind as a real person responds to the phone calls and emails.

Youth Activities, Lisa Cosand

There are two items to address: the youth club requirements and rules and youth club registration. The question has been asked about what are the youth club rules. National Garden Clubs has just released a Youth Gardener's Handbook on their website. It is in graphic design format with lots of color and bullet point pages. I found that page 21 has the basic club requirements and there is a reminder to place the safety of the children first. Other than a minimum of 5 members and 5 meetings in a year, clubs have flexibility and should promote the ideas in the California Garden Clubs Mission Statement. The handbook has lots of ideas for fund raising, the youth contests and website addresses for youth program content.

In May/June, garden clubs register their new leadership officers and update information. It is also time to update the club's youth groups. California does not charge youth groups a fee to register. CGCI likes to know if you have youth clubs that you sponsor either financially or hands on, what age group are the children and approximate number of children. Please register the youth clubs when you register your adult garden club.

Attachment D District Directors' Reports

Bay Ocean District Director, Nancy McDougal

Clubs In our District have chosen to continue the varied projects that have been successful for each of them during previous years. Emphasis is always on those activities that the members find most gratifying while adding to their knowledge or sharing with others. Small floral displays are supplied to beautify public spaces. Many maintain community display gardens. Garden Study continues a long tradition of crafting holiday greens displays for local nursing homes. Though there seem to be fewer available program presenters for meetings, the Arboretum Society has consistently secured 'new faces' for their monthly public programs, also available on Zoom.

Cascade District Director, Judy Paul

This director has continued working collaboratively within Cascade District. In September, November, and January, informal meetings with our presidents were held. Discussion and sharing of CGCI, PRGC, and NGC news and opportunities were shared, as well as what is working, or challenges, in their clubs.

One of our club presidents created a list of all programs planned at each club's meetings, as well as events for the remainder of this gardening year. The hope is to encourage and invite members to visit other clubs to learn and build friendships. There was a rose pruning program at one of the clubs recently where several "visitors" attended. This was a positive experience for all! Anderson Valley Garden Club hosted the Cascade District Fall Meeting October 23. The program was "Edibles in your Landscape." Attendance was around 50 members. Red Bluff Garden Club has completed its four courses of Flower Show School! Our club has 5 members, this director being one of them, who have passed all sections, and have just recently received their directives for writing a schedule. Opportunities are being planned to allow our student judges to earn some exhibiting and judging credits at upcoming flower shows on April 7, and our fair show, April 30-May 3.

We continue to keep our Blue Star Memorials in mind, shared the *Golden Gardens* article with tips for sprucing up our memorials for the 250th red, white, and blue celebration! Blue Ribbon check sheets have been completed by our six clubs and this list returned to Pat Clayes. Redding Wonderland Garden Club will be hosting the Cascade District Winter Meeting, February 26, 2026. The planned program will be on fire mitigation.

Costa Verde District Director, Cindy Kovacs

The Costa Verde District has met two times since our last report. In October we heard from Gisele Schoniger from Kellogg Garden Products that make and sell soil products for use in our gardens. She was a dynamic and fascinating speaker, and shared many details on their many products, including why some products are only sold at Home Improvement stores, while other premium products are available at specialty nurseries. In December we celebrated with a Holiday party. Our speaker was Liz Evans, the Nature Center Manager from the Madrona Marsh in Torrance. This unique location is a seasonal delta wetland with vernal pools that supports many native flora and fauna. Unfortunately previous neighbors have left it with an ongoing invasive duckweed problem.

The District has prioritized increasing the number of Life Members in the clubs, as well as the ongoing Blue Ribbon achievements of our clubs. The ongoing issue has been the lack of raffle certification from the state, and hopefully joining the GTEP program will help. This District Director will contact the CGCI Liaison and see if we can qualify for this.

Golden Foothills District Director, Erin Angulo

In October of 2025, I held our first Board and General meetings of the year. Both were well attended. We had a great discussion regarding speakers and field trips. Everyone was very excited to get new ideas.

The Orangevale Farm and Garden Club president shared she now has club stickers that they hand out and have proved to be very popular. Anyone who attends their plant sale and joins the club receives 50% off all plants. They have got 15 new members!

I reminded all of the Treasurers' Toolkit and other information that is on the CGCI website, as we have several new presidents and treasurers.

I wanted to get more clubs involved with awards that CGCI offers and listed several that would be easy to accomplish by clubs or members.

At our general meeting, the Auburn Arrangers Guild and the Colfax Garden Club hosted wonderful food and a presentation on Orchids.

Another highlight of the past 4 months is the Annual Victorian Tea put on by the Colfax Garden Club. President, Adele Kelly, 2nd VP Nina Blonski and Chair Sue Bennett were in attendance. Colfax Garden Club have been doing this fundraiser for over 20 years.

Greater Los Angeles District Director, Joyce Parrott

The Greater LA District had one of its best meetings early last November, with 37 in attendance and four of its five clubs represented/reporting. In keeping with Thanksgiving, the theme was a "Cornucopia of Opportunities with CGCI". Cornucopia baskets and filler materials were provided, and members who so desired came early to fill/decorate the baskets. The baskets were then used as table centerpieces, and a prize was given for the most beautiful arrangement. Later the decorated baskets became part of a silent auction. The District Director not only reported on the CGCI Fall Board meeting at Harris Ranch, but also focused her talk on some of the opportunities available to the district members from CGCI, e.g. "Golden Gardens" newsletter, the awards program, etc.. Each of the club representatives reported; and special speaker Nicholas Staddon (formerly of Monrovia Nurseries) spoke on "Horticultural Therapy", including therapeutic gardens for health and well-being. A magnificent luncheon was prepared and hosted by the Culver City Garden Club.

Humboldt District Director, Ellin Beltz

Congratulations to Southern Humboldt Garden Club who fundraised and replaced and rededicated a Blue Star Marker which had been vandalized. Then they hosted our next General Meeting, where the speaker was the director of Sanctuary Forest which conserves and restores landscape in the Lost Coast. All clubs meet at District Meetings for plant sales, business and socialization.

All five clubs participated in the Humboldt County Fair. Ferndale held their annual fundraiser the night before the fair opened, and won a Blue Ribbon for their Fair Display. Eureka-Sequoia ribboned at the fair with their Roots exhibit for which they made stickers to give away.

Petrolia has entered an agreement to do flowers and herbs around the Mattole Valley Community Center, and continues to keep their town sign and cemetery beautiful.

Fortuna held its annual tea and tour in December and planted hundreds of daffodils for their juried Daffodil show upcoming in March. All clubs are helping me with my district director's project which is not a fund-raiser. Instead our goal is to get rid of invasive and flammable Pampas Grass in Humboldt County. The project is named "Off with their Heads." All members were urged to contact landowners and managers to encourage removal of seed tops - or even the whole plant. It is off to a great start with help from Clean California [<https://cleanca.com/>] who inspired CalTrans District 1

workers to dig out whole plants on the 101 corridor in an effort to prevent them getting to the Redwoods next year. One local city of has eradicated Pampas within its borders and we hope to get help from the other cities, the county, utilities and timber companies.

Orange County District Director, Donna Hood

My theme as District Director is Let's Connect and I have been visiting Orange County clubs to promote the theme. It means connecting with each other, connecting with other clubs, connecting with our communities and connecting with our gardens. I have visited 8 clubs, and have 2 more scheduled. The clubs I have visited are active and growing. They all report growth in membership. The Del Norte club has welcomed 9 new members since September, this is good news because they are a smaller club. I was impressed with the creative ideas clubs are using to welcome new members to their meetings. At Laguna Beach everyone who wears their name badge gets a raffle ticket, this helps people to connect with each other. At Mission Viejo new members are given a rose to wear so everyone knows they are new and welcomes them. At Niguel Shores new members get to take home the table centerpieces. Every club had an interesting speaker and a well planned meeting, they all had club officers, and were supporting their communities.

I am pleased to announce that 11 clubs in OC have qualified for the Blue Ribbon Achievement Certificate for 2025, an increase of 4 over 2024.

I have visited all 4 Blue Star memorials in OC and sent pictures to George Unrine. All the memorials are in good condition. The Dr. Howe museum in Santa Ana told me they are very proud of the Blue Star and keep it shining. When I visit clubs I am mentioning the Blue Star memorials as a good way to promote their garden club and serve their community.

We will hold a district meeting on March 30, at Sherman Gardens in Corona Del Mar. Club presidents will report on how their clubs have connected with their communities this year.

I am very grateful for a supportive district board, and helpful club officers.

Roadrunner District Director, Terry Sampson

The Roadrunner district is located in the high desert of Southern California. We have 3 clubs. Each club is unique in their own way and my main objective was to have all three clubs work together as a team which is working quite well. As a district director I have joined all three clubs as a member and I am the membership chairman of the Hesperia Garden Club.

The Roadrunner district has decided to put on a very interesting garden tour this May. We will have a total of four gardens on the tour and three of the gardens will be hosted by each individual club in the district. At the 4th house we will be having cookies and refreshments with three gift baskets that each club will be donating and we will be selling opportunity tickets. Having all three clubs participating in this garden tour it will be an opportunity for them to, hopefully, gather new members for their club.

Each club alternates hosting the District meeting, which our next one is scheduled to take place in late April or early May. The Roadrunner District has two District meetings a year.

Valley Lode District Director, Paula Elias

Valley Lode District clubs have been busy kicking off the new garden club season. We have 18 clubs with 1100 members from Turlock to Newman to the foothills of Calaveras and Tuolumne County. This

past year we lost two small clubs and gained a new one. Members from those clubs were welcome to join other nearby garden clubs.

Clubs are busy supporting their communities with usual activities along with three of our clubs installing Blue Star Memorials. The district is looking to re-landscape around the existing Blue Star Memorial in Wesley, off of I-5, once the rest stop restoration is done.

The district is excited to explore expanding our scholarship from \$1000 to \$2000. This is the result of our hosting the last Fall CGCI Board Meeting. Club scholarship applications feed into our district scholarship.

As the director I stay engaged by attending club meetings and events when invited. My biggest goal is to support our assistant director so that she is comfortable to take over as director the next term. She's doing great!

VLD has three general meetings a year, hosted by a club or the district. At our next meeting in February, our CGCI President, Adele, will be attending and speaking about her president's project. The meeting is hosted by the Manteca Garden Club.

Yosemite Gateway District, Director Mary Brooks

The District continues to have four very active clubs with a total membership of 139.

In November our newest club, Manzanita Garden Club of Oakhurst hosted our District meeting.

All clubs continue to fund for their scholarships.

Two projects have been sponsored by the District:

- Relocation of historical roses salvaged from the fire of the original Merced High school circa 1920 and converted to the Merced County library that dates back to 1960.
- Development of rose garden in Los Banos at the entrance of the Merced County library.

Attachment E

Bylaws and Standing Rules Proposals

The following document was distributed to board members through the CGCI mail system on January 18, 2026 and posted on the CGCI website. Bylaws Proposal #1 passed as amended; Bylaws Proposals #2 through #5 passed as presented. All will be presented to the membership at the 2026 Convention. Standing Rules Proposals #6 and #7 passed as presented and became effective immediately. See pages 3, 14 and 15 (Governance Committee) of these minutes.

**CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Bylaws and Standing Rules
to be considered by the board of directors
at the 2026 Virtual Winter Board Meeting
(during business meetings on January 27 or 28, 2026)**

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

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE IX - DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS Sec. 7. The district director shall ensure that clubs in their districts complete CGCI's Annual Contact Information Form on CGCI's website by the published deadline and whenever contact information changes.</p>	<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE IX - DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS Sec. 7. The district director shall ensure that clubs in their districts complete CGCI's Annual Contact Information Form on CGCI's website by the published deadline and whenever contact information changes.</p>	<p>Proposal #1 ARTICLE IX - DISTRICTS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS Eliminate Section 7 and renumber current Sections 8, 9 and 10 to 7, 8 and 9.</p>

Rationale: Delete this section due to the elimination of the Contact Information Form, and this is addressed in Standing Rule 22. Renumber current Sections 8, 9 and 10.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #2 ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 5. The corresponding secretary shall: (d) field all calls from CGCI's toll-free number;</p>	<p>Proposal #2 ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 5. The corresponding secretary shall: (d) field all calls from CGCI's toll-free number;</p>	<p>Proposal #2 ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES Sec. 5. The corresponding secretary shall: Eliminate section (d) and renumber current (e) to (d).</p>

Rationale: Delete. This is not being done by the Corresponding Secretary.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>Proposal #3 ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES No Section 11</p>	<p>Proposal #3 ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p>	<p>Proposal #3 ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p>

	<u>Sec. 11. The board of trustees shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Restricted Fund Guidelines.</u>	Sec. 11. The board of trustees shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Restricted Fund Guidelines.
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Rationale: Add Section 11 to document additional existing duty of the board of trustees.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #4 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS: b) Eligibility: 3. Those serving as president and vice presidents shall not serve more than one two-year term in each position. No term limits apply to the other officer positions.	Proposal #4 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS: b) Eligibility: 3. Those serving as president and vice presidents shall not serve more than one two-year term in each position. No term limits apply to the other officer positions, <u>except those serving as vice presidents and president shall serve one two-year term in each position. However, the Nominating Committee may consider those who have previously served as vice president or president to serve in one of these positions, if necessary.</u>	Proposal #4 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 1. OFFICERS: b) Eligibility: 3. No term limits apply to officer positions, except those serving as vice presidents and president shall serve one two-year term in each position. However, the Nominating Committee may consider those who have previously served as vice president or president to serve in one of these positions, if necessary.

Rationale: To provide flexibility in filling officer positions, allowing the president and vice presidents to serve more than one term in the same position if necessary. Checks and balances remain because candidates for elected positions must still be nominated by the Nominating Committee and those candidates must be elected by the membership. Appointed officers must still be appointed by the president. Nobody automatically stays in office or repeats an office.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #5 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A. When elected and term of office: 2. Term of office of all nominated committee member(s) shall be two years.	Proposal #5 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A. When elected and term of office: 2. Term of office of all nominated <u>elected</u> committee member(s) shall be two years.	Proposal #5 ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Sec. 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A. When elected and term of office: 2. Term of office of all elected committee member(s) shall be two years.

Rationale: “Housekeeping” correction – term of office applies only to those who have been elected.

CGCI STANDING RULES Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #6 38. Bills for the current fiscal year shall be presented to the financial secretary for authorization of payment on or before June 15th.	Proposal #6 38. Bills for the current fiscal year shall be presented to the financial secretary for authorization of payment on or before June 15 th <u>unless incurred after June 15. No payment shall be made unless bills are postmarked by June 30.</u>	Proposal #6 38. Bills for the current fiscal year shall be presented to the financial secretary for authorization of payment on or before June 15 th unless incurred after June 15. No payment shall be made unless bills are postmarked by June 30.

Rationale: To clarify that since the fiscal year ends June 30 bills can be incurred and submitted up to the fiscal year-end.

CGCI STANDING RULES Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #7 108. The incoming president shall be honored with an NGC life membership. In the case that the incoming president is an NGC Life Member, a donation to an NGC, PRGC, or CGCI project or program of an amount equal to the cost of an NGC life membership shall be made. This is the responsibility of the second vice-president.	Proposal #7 108. The incoming president shall be honored with an NGC life membership. In the case that the incoming president is an NGC Life Member, a donation to an NGC, PRGC, or CGCI project or program of an amount equal to the cost of an NGC life membership shall be made. This is the responsibility of the second vice-president.	Proposal #7 108. The incoming president shall be honored with an NGC life membership. In the case that the incoming president is an NGC Life Member, a donation to an NGC, PRGC, or CGCI project or program of an amount equal to the cost of an NGC life membership shall be made. This is the responsibility of the second vice president.

Rationale: Eliminate hyphen in vice-president (in the last line above) to be consistent with June 2025 bylaws amendments.

From the 2025-2027 CGCI Governance Committee

Greg Pokorski, Lynne Batchelor, Chuck Goodwin, Jeanne Johnson, Alice Lewin, George Speer, Carol Vallens; Adele Kelly, ex-officio; per Standing Rule 5, Vice Presidents Marlene Kinney and Nina Blonski may attend meetings and participate.