

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the Pre-Convention Board Meeting
Handlery Hotel, San Diego, California
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Host: Palomar District
President: Adele Kelly

President Adele Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:52 p.m. The Recording Secretary was present.

Costa Verde District Director Cindy Kovacs gave the Inspiration.

President Adele Kelly presented the 2025-2027 Executive Committee.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst called the roll and the chair declared a quorum present (forty board members were present).

Excused: Erin Angulo, Kathy Bramhall, Mary Brooks, Beverly Brune, Rita Desilets, Paula Elias, Carolyn Fergoda, Jan Goehring, Chuck Goodwin, Rosalie Hooper, Cynthia Jackson, Gudrun Kimmel, Bette Langford, Alice Lewin, Jane McKee, Krystal Migliore, Rosa Radicchi, Cornelia Reynolds, Beverly Switzer, Linda Travis, Charlotte Tucker, Linda Tucker, Elisabeth Tufo, Julie West, Lori Witt and Carlotta Wixon-Welker.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported the Rules of Order for Board Meetings were approved at the Organizational Meeting on June 5, 2025 for the entire 2025-2027 term and are posted on the website and on the last page of the 2025 Convention minutes document.

President Adele Kelly thanked all the members of Palomar District and Convention Chairman Diana Drummey for hosting this Convention.

Without objection the Chair appointed the following committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman; Shelley Sparks, Corresponding Secretary; and Barbara Weiler, President's Project Chairman.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski moved to approve the minutes of the 2026 Virtual Winter Board Meeting, January 26-28, 2026, as posted on the CGCI Website March 5, 2026 (with notice to board members on March 6, 2026). Without objection, the minutes were approved as posted.

Financial Report:

Treasurer George Perko gave the financial report as of March 31, 2026:

Net worth:

Total cash in checking/savings accounts	\$108,891	
Total other assets	\$699,941	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$808,832
of which restricted funds are		\$520,435
Cash Balance Available		<u>\$288,397</u>

Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary Launa Gould deferred her report to Convention.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported the deadline for reports to be emailed is May 21, 2026.

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks deferred her report to Convention.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek deferred her report to Convention.

Interim 1st Vice President Nina Blonski deferred her report to Convention.

President Adele Kelley deferred her report to Convention.

Executive Committee Recommendations

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst presented the following recommendations approved by the Executive Committee on April 28, 2026 and May 11, 2026:

1. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Marlene Kinney as 1st Vice President, District Director Coordinator, Desert Empire District Liaison, Diablo Foothills District Liaison, Luther Burbank District Liaison, Palms to Pines District Liaison, and member of the Budget and Finance and Strategic Planning Committees. **Motion Passed.**
2. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Nina Blonski as Chairmen Coordinator and California Consultants Council Chairman. **Motion Passed.**
3. Ratify the appointment of Nina Blonski as interim 1st Vice President, District Director Coordinator, Desert Empire District Liaison, Diablo Foothills District Liaison, Luther Burbank District Liaison, Palms to Pines District Liaison, and member of the Budget and Finance Committee. **Motion Passed.**
4. Ratify the appointment of Maria Krenek as interim 2nd Vice President, Chairmen Coordinator, and California Consultants Council Chairman. **Motion Passed.**
5. To accept the resignation of Ashley Smith as Awards Assistant. **Motion Passed.**
6. To approve the appointments of Lisa Cosand and Carol Vallens to the Board of Trustees for the 2026-2032 term. **Motion Passed.**
7. To approve Carol Vallens to serve concurrently as San Fernando Valley District Director, Advisory Committee Chairman, Nominating Committee Chairman, Zoom Chairman, and as a member of the Budget & Finance and Governance Committees and the Board of Trustees. **Motion Passed.**
8. To approve the appointment of Shirley Lipa as Blue Ribbon Certificates Chairman (on the Awards Committee). **Motion Passed.**
9. To approve the appointment of Maria Krenek as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. **Motion Passed.**
10. To approve \$109 over-budget payment to QuickBooks (Line Code 402, budget is \$1500. Invoice for May, 2026 is \$1609.) **Motion Passed.**

11. To approve the registration fee of \$125 for the 2026 Fall Board Meeting, with a late fee of \$50 if registration is not received by August 21, 2026. No registration accepted if received after August 26, 2026. **Motion Passed.**
12. To ratify the dates of October 27-28, 2026 for a Flower Show Schools Symposium hosted by CGCI in San Diego at the Handlery Hotel, Co-Chairmen Jennifer Waite and Jan Goehring. **Motion Passed.**
13. To accept the invitation from Cascade District to host the 2027 Convention at the Red Lion Hotel Redding, June 7-10, 2027, Chairman Judy Paul. **Motion Passed.**
14. To accept the invitation from Southern California Garden Club to host the 2031 Convention. Place and dates to be determined. **Motion Passed.**
15. To provide an allocation up to \$5,000 for each Symposium to defray expenses for instructors and instructional materials. Reference Symposium Reserve, L/C 31011-1. **Motion Passed.**
16. To elect Sue Bennett to serve as a member of the 2027-2029 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Nominating Committee. **Motion Passed.**
17. To elect Lynne Batchelor to serve as 2027-2029 Pacific Region Director. **Motion Passed.**
18. To elect Robin Pokorski to serve as 2027-2029 Pacific Region Alternate Director. **Motion Passed.**
19. To ratify a location change for the September 24-26, 2026 Flower Show School Course 4 sponsored by Southwestern Judges Council: San Diego County Library – Valley Center Branch, 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA 92082. **Motion Passed.**

Committee Reports (Requiring Action by the Board of Directors)

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported for **Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP)** Chairman Cynthia Jackson (See Attachment B) and moved on her behalf to ratify the removal of the following clubs from the Group Tax Exemption Program effective July 1, 2026:

Desert Empire District
Gardeners of the Grove
Green Valle Garden Club, Est.1965
Los Osos Valley Garden Club

Motion Passed.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst moved on behalf of Cynthia Jackson to ratify the addition of Costa Verde District to the Group Tax Exemption Program effective July 1, 2026.

Motion Passed.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported (See Attachment B) and moved on behalf of the Governance Committee to adopt the following new Standing Rule:

46. (a) Upon the death of a CGCI board member, a contribution from the General Fund in the amount of \$100 must be made to the current President's Project.

(b) Upon the death of a former CGCI president, a contribution from the General Fund in the amount of \$200 must be made to the President's Project.

Motion Passed (by two-thirds).

Interim 1st Vice President Nina Blonski reported (See Attachment B) for **Life Membership** Chairman Linda Travis and moved on her behalf to ratify the following new Life Memberships:

One life membership to be revealed after May 15, 2026

One life membership for Donna Hussey, Santa Rose Garden Club

One life membership for May Ann Williams, Petaluma Garden Club

Motion Passed.

Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek reported for **Membership** (See Attachment B) Chairman Rita Desilets and moved on her behalf to ratify two new clubs:

Coastal Bonsai Club, Inc. 20 members, Orange County District, President: Debra Mauzy-Melitz.

Somerset Garden Club, 16 members, Golden Foothills District, Co-Presidents: Michele Blomberg and Jane Taylor. **Motion Passed.**

Nominating Committee Chairman Carol Vallens reported.

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the **Report of the Virtual Winter Board Meeting**. See Attachment B.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Launa Gould presented the 2026-2027 budget (See Attachment C) and moved for its adoption. **Motion Passed.**

Fall Board Meeting Chairman Alexis Slafer and team gave an invitation to the Fall Board Meeting to be held at Harris Ranch, Coalinga August 31 - September 2, 2026.

Announcements were made.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary

Attachment A

Parliamentarian's Report

The agenda for this meeting is on page 7 of the Program Book.

All board members and official club representatives (presidents, presidents' alternates, and delegates) should have voting cards in their registration packets. Please see me after this meeting if you don't have one. Voting cards will be used in the convention business meetings on Wednesday and Thursday. Please have your voting card at that time. Apparently some voting cards say "Convention 2026" and some say "Convention 2025." It is all right if yours says "Convention 2025."

This meeting is a board meeting. All members of CGCI are welcome to attend this meeting, but remember that only board members have a vote at this meeting.

Bylaws amendments will be considered during one of the convention business meetings. The proposals were distributed with the Call to Convention and are posted on the website. You should have a copy available during the convention meetings.

Attachment B

Committee Reports

Group Tax Exemption Program, Cynthia Jackson

This chairman is happy to report that 99 entities have successfully renewed their GTEP membership for the 2026-2027 year, which includes Costa Verde District as a new member. You all did a better job submitting timely and complete renewals to me this year, for which I appreciate and want to thank you. See page 3 for two motions, both of which passed.

Governance, Greg Pokorski

I will defer most of the report of the Governance Committee to Convention rather than presenting it in full twice.

However, the committee has one Standing Rule proposal for your consideration. 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 it. You were not given prior notice of this recommendation. Therefore, a two-thirds vote is required for passage. You should have received a handout with the proposed change when you entered the meeting room. Only board members have a vote on this, so if you are a convention delegate or guest, you are welcome to be here, but please leave the handouts for board members and please refrain from voting. See page 3 for the motion, which passed.

Life Membership, Linda Travis

The Life Membership Chairman has received three life memberships since February. One club has asked that one life membership not be revealed until after May 15, 2026. The other two life memberships are for Donna Hussey, Santa Rosa Garden Club, and Mary Ann Williams, Petaluma Garden Club. See page 4 for the motion, which passed.

Membership, Rita Desilets

These are the membership numbers as of April 23, 2026.

1 Affiliate

46 APS: 3,316 members

230 Clubs: 14,988 members

Total Membership: 18,304

See page 4 for the motion, which passed.

2026 Winter Board Meeting – Virtual, Robin Pokorski, Registrar

The CGCI Winter Board Meeting was held virtually on January 26-28, 2026. President Adele Kelly included three special presenters who spoke on a variety of subjects. There were 72 registered with 8 officers, 19 district directors, 8 chairmen and 7 non-voting registered. Total income of \$775 was collected. Expenses for the three special speaker totaled \$400 leaving a profit of \$375.

Attachment C
2026-2027 Budget

Line Code	Description	Budget 2025/2026		Budget 2026/2027
	Revenue			
			* indicates change	
5001	Contributions/Donations	500		500
5101	Convention Profit	500		500
	<i>Dues</i>			
5201	Dues-Affiliates @ \$50 per group	50		50
5202	Dues-APS @ \$2.75 per member	10,769	*	10,000
5203	Dues-Clubs @ \$2.75 per member	40,450	*	40,550
5401	Group Tax Exemption Program Fees	1,500		1,500
5601	Interest	5,000	*	7,500
	<i>Membership</i>			
5701	Membership Banners	150	*	75
5702	Membership Cards	0		0
5703	Member Award of Distinction	150	*	100
	<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>			
5801	Bad check fees reimbursements	0		0
5807	CGCI Hosted Meetings	1,000		1,000
5808	CGCI Hosted NGC/PRGC Conventions	0		0
5901	President's Project	500		500
6001	Scholarship - transfer from Scholarship Fund	4,000		4,000
6101	State Pins & Miscellaneous Sales	1,000	*	500
6301	Yearbook Sales	50	*	100
	Total Revenue	65,619		66,875
	Expenses			
	<i>Administration</i>			
101	Auditor	6,500		6,500
102	External Treasurer	4,800		4,800
201	Directors & Officers Insurance	3,750	*	3,000
301	Dues-NGC \$1 per capita for APS & Clubs	18,625		18,625
302	Dues-NGC Youth	10		10
303	Dues-PRGC	360		360
401	Crime Insurance Package	1,800		1,800
402	QuickBooks	1,500	*	1,750
402A	QuickBooks support	0		0
403	Administration	0		0
501	Attorney General	50		50
502	Franchise Tax Board	25		25
503	CA Dept. of Tax & Fee Admin.	200		200
504	Secretary of State Form SI-100 even yrs	20		20
505	CA Trademark/logo fee Due 8/15/27	0		0
506	State Raffle Permit	35		35
701	Office Supplies	500		500
705	PO Box Annual Fee	250		250
801	RingCentral 888# \$37.66/month	500		500
802	CGCI Virtual Meetings	350		350
901	Website	4,200		4,200

902B	Tech Support - Adobe Acrobat Pro	300		300
902C	Tech Support - Plug-ins	300		300
1001	Yearbook Printing	3,500		3,500
	Total Administration	47,575		47,075
	Chairman Expenses			
1501	Amenities & Protocol	50		50
1502	Arbor Day - North	50		50
1502A	Arbor Day - South	50		50
1504	Associate Plant Societies	50		50
1505	Awards Finance	50		50
1506	Backyard Habitat	50		50
1507	Blue Star Memorials - Co-Chair 1	50		50
1508	Blue Star Memorials - Co-Chair 2	50		50
1509	Budget & Finance	50		50
1510	Business Commendations & Discounts	50		50
1511	Governance	50		50
1516	Environmental Schools	50		50
1519	Flower Show Awards	50		50
1520	Flower Show Judges Credentials	50		50
1521	Flower Show Schedules	50		50
1522	Flower Show Schools	50		50
1523	Flower Show Symposium	50		50
1525	Gardening Schools	50		50
1526	Garden Therapy	50		50
1529	Veggies/Herbs/Spices/Edible Flowers	50		50
1532	Horticulture (Cactus & Succulents)	50		50
1531	Honor Book	50		50
1533	New Cultivars	50		50
1534	Landscape Design Schools	50		50
1539	Penny Pines	50		50
1540	Roses	50		50
1544	Scholarships	50		50
1547	Sempervirens Fund	50		50
1549	Member Award of Distinction	50		50
1550	Strategic Planning	50		50
1552	Vermiculture/Vermicomposting	50		50
1553	Website	50		50
1557	Certificates (long-term service)	50		50
1558	Board of Trustees incl. Endowments	50		50
1559	Legislation/Government	50		50
1561	Golden Legacy Society	50		50
1562	PO Box Chairman	50		50
1565	Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose	50		50
1567	Donation Administrator	50		50
1569	Stamps	50		50
1577	Endowment Fund Promotions	50		50
1578	Climate Awareness	50		50
1581	Black Point Historic Garden Project	50		50
1582	Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Project	50		50
1583	Centennial Historian	50		50
1584	Pollinator Poster Contest	50		50
	Total Chairman Expenses	2,300		2,300

1802	Membership Cards (printing)	400	*	0
1803	Membership - Printing bookmarks, brochures	1,500		1,500
1804	Misc. Dues Refunds	0		0
1806	Membership Database (i4a - Internet for Assoc.)	4,100	*	3500
	Total Membership Expenses	6,150		5,150
	Officers Expenses			
1901	1st Vice President (year before Pres-Elect)	500		500
1901A	2nd Vice President	250		250
1902	Corresponding Secretary	100		100
1903	Financial Secretary	100		100
1904	Parliamentarian	50		50
1905	President, CA Travel & Office	10,000		10,000
1906	President, NGC & PRGC	5,000		5,000
1907	Recording Secretary	50		50
1908	Treasurer	400		400
	Total Officers Expenses	16,450		16,450
	Election Year Expenses			
1920	Incoming President's Honorarium	200		200
1921	President's Pin	550	*	600
1922	President Elect Expenses	500		500
1923	President Elect, NGC & Pacific Region	3,500		3,500
	Total Election Year Expenses			4,800
	Other Expenses			
2101	<i>Golden Gardens</i>	350		350
2201	Educational Pamphlets	100		100
2601	Gift for NGC/PRGC	100		100
2701	Member Award of Distinction	150		150
2801	President's Project - retail sales	500		500
2901	Program Speakers for Convention/Board Meetings	1,000		1,000
2902	AV Tech support for meetings	5000		5000
3001	Promotional Materials	250		250
3101	Scholarships 2 @ \$2000	4,000		4,000
	Total Other Expenses	11,450		11,450
4001	Misc. Expenses			
4002	NGC/PRGC related expenses incl visits	1,000		1,000
4002A	Bank charges	25		25
4003	PayPal Merchant Fees	50		50
4004	Memorial Donations	250		250
4006	#54 Yearbook Award	350		350
4012	Interest transfer to Scholarship	0		0
4014	Miscellaneous Board Authorized (A thru S)	0		0
4014O	Trees for Arbor Day (North & South)	300		300
4015	NGC Award sponsored CE-4 Roadside Plantings	100		100
4016	CGCI Hosted Meetings	400		400
4017	CGCI Hosted NGC/PRGC Conventions	0		0
4101	PRGC Director from CGCI	0		0
	Total Misc. Expenses	2,475		2,475

	Total Expenses	94,825		97,675
	Revenue Less Expenses	-29,206		-30,800

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
94th CGCI Convention
May 13-14, 2026
Handlery Hotel, San Diego, California
Host: Palomar District
President: Adele Kelly

Opening Ceremony

President Adele Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The Recording Secretary was present.

President Adele Kelly introduced the 2025-2027 Executive Committee.

The Colors were presented by the Ramona High School NROTC Color Guard.

Circle of Poppies member Hank Vanderhorst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cascade District Director Judy Paul gave the Inspiration.

Convention Chairman Diana Drummey welcomed members to the convention.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman Michele Blomberg led the reciting of the NGC Conservation Pledge.

The meeting recessed at 1:56 p.m.

Business Meeting #1

The meeting reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

President Adele Kelly welcomed former CGCI Presidents: Robert Gordon (2003-2005), Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Sue Bennett (2015-2017), Lynne Batchelor (2021-2023), and Carol Vallens (2023-2025).

President Adele Kelly recognized those members of the Circle of Poppies in attendance: Robert Gordon, Robin Pokorski, Judy Unrine and Hank Vanderhorst.

President Adele Kelly recognized those serving with her on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors: Sue Bennett, Greg Pokorski, Robin Pokorski, Alexis Slafer, and Ashley Smith; and those serving on the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors: Sue Bennett, Michele Blomberg, Launa Gould, Cindy Kovacs, Greg Pokorski, Robin Pokorski, Alexis Slafer, Martha Smyser, Judy Unrine, Gail Vanderhorst, and Hank Vanderhorst.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the preliminary credentials report with a voting strength of 66 (including 44 board members). Without objection, it was **adopted**.

President Adele Kelly declared a quorum present.

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the preliminary registration report of 110 registered. See Attachment C.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski read and moved the adoption of the Convention Rules of Order as printed on page 10 of the Convention Program. Without objection, they were **adopted as presented**.

Convention Chairman Diana Drummey presented and moved to adopt the Convention Program with corrections. **Adopted as corrected.**

President Adele Kelly thanked Palomar District Director Diana Drummey for chairing the convention and thanked and recognized all Palomar District members who were present.

Without objection the chair appointed the following members to review the minutes of this meeting: Greg Pokorski, Chairman, Lynne Batchelor, Former CGCI President, and Nina Blonski, Interim 1st Vice President.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer George Perko reported.

Financial Report: March 31, 2026

Net worth:

Total cash in checking/savings accounts	\$108,891	
Total other assets	\$699,941	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$808,832
of which restricted funds are		\$520,435
Cash Balance Available		<u>\$288,397</u>

Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst reported that reports are due to this chairman by May 21.

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks reported. See Attachment A.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek reported. See Attachment A.

Interim 1st Vice President Nina Blonski reported. See Attachment A.

President Adele Kelly reported. See Attachment A.

Election of Delegates to the Pacific Region Convention

President Adele Kelly announced that CGCI is entitled to be represented by 12 delegates at the annual convention (October 12-14, 2026 in Thousand Oaks, California) and can have 12 alternates. Those interested in serving as delegates were asked to raise their hands.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski moved to elect the following as delegates: Lynne Batchelor, Nina Blonski, Maria Krenek, Shelley Sparks, Dyanna Madro, Carol Vallens, George Unrine, Darcey Lober, Roseanne Costabile, Ashley Smith, Hank Vanderhorst and Lisa Cosand; and to elect the following as alternate delegates: Annette Choate, Sanjit Chadha, Sarah Mitchell, Diana Lovejoy, Tom Krenek, Sandy Stewart, Brad Welles, Leslie Korbee, Terri Taylor, Maisha Olson and Pat Sparreo.

Motion Passed.

Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst gave the report for the Organizational, Fall, Winter, and Pre-Convention Board Meetings. See Attachment B.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported (See Attachment C) and moved to adopt five bylaws amendment proposals as recommended by the board of directors on January 27, 2026. **All passed by two-thirds majority.** See Attachment D.

Committee Reports

Advisory Committee Chairman Carol Vallens reported.

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

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

Events Committee – Without objection, the report (an invitation to the 2027 CGCI Convention) will be presented at dinner tonight.

Flower Show Schools Committee Chairman Jennifer Waite reported. See Attachment C.

Liability Insurance Chairman Launa Gould reported. See Attachment C.

Nominating Committee Chairman Carol Vallens reported.

Youth Activities Committee Chairman Lisa Cosand reported. See Attachment C.

Meeting recessed at 3:38 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

Meeting reconvened on Thursday, May 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Without objection President Adele Kelly appointed Jeanne Johnson timekeeper for this meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee Chairman George Speer reported.

District Director Reports

Interim 1st Vice President and District Director Coordinator Nina Blonski introduced those District Directors who reported. See Attachment E.

Meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Without objection, Chairmen reports will be presented after lunch.

NGC Membership Inquiries Chairman Robin Pokorski presented a PowerPoint program on “How to Grow a Garden Club.”

Meeting recessed at 11:17 a.m.

Business Meeting #3

Meeting reconvened at 1:46 p.m.

Chairmen Reports

Interim 2nd Vice President and Chairmen Coordinator Maria Krenek introduced those Chairmen who reported. See Attachment C.

2026 Pacific Region Garden Clubs Convention Chairman Robin Pokorski invited members to the PRGC Convention October 12-14, 2026 in Thousand Oaks, California at The Palm Garden Hotel.

Credentials Chairman Greg Pokorski gave the final credentials report with a voting strength of 66 and moved for its adoption. **Motion passed.**

Registrar Robin Pokorski gave the final registration report with 110 registered.

Nominating Committee Chairman Carol Vallens announced a brief meeting immediately following this meeting.

President Adele Kelly announced that as of the close of convention, in accordance with our bylaws, Interim 1st Vice President Nina Blonski becomes President-elect.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m. Sine Die.

Gail Vanderhorst _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary

Attachment A Officers' Reports

Corresponding Secretary, Shelley Sparks

This corresponding secretary sent thank you notes to speakers at winter board meeting on January 28, 2026.

On February 16 notification of resignation of Marlene Kinney was sent to the board.

On March 6, Winter Board Minutes were sent out.

On March 21, the call to convention was sent out.

On April 9, a reminder to register for the convention was sent.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service in the capacity of CGCI Corresponding Secretary.

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

This officer reviews agendas prior to state meetings, assists in meeting preparation, researches various issues and reviews minutes following meetings. He participates in regular Zoom Executive Committee meetings and serves as chairman of the Governance Committee which holds monthly Zoom meetings, and you'll hear more about that in a separate report.

He responds to parliamentary inquiries from board members, clubs and districts.

Recent issues with a couple of clubs emphasize the need for organizations to follow their bylaws. Remember that bylaws take precedence over *Robert's Rules of Order* and should be reviewed periodically. If your bylaws don't match what you're doing or need to do, amend them, but amend them according to the amendment provisions in your bylaws.

Parliamentary procedure is intended to facilitate effective and efficient meetings and provides protections for the rights of all members. The more you use it, the more comfortable and knowledgeable you are using it. My club includes a very brief parliamentary tidbit in each monthly board meeting.

As much as I, and a few of us, truly enjoy the study and use of parliamentary procedure, it is intended to be the servant of the organization, not the master. I have encountered some clubs that hyper-focus on parliamentary issues. Most members are not interested in this. Garden clubs generally focus on gardening, horticulture, design, conservation and related issues – so don't hyper-focus on parliamentary procedure. A colleague who is a long-time paid professional parliamentarian often asks organizations if everyone knows what is going on and if anybody's rights are being violated, If everyone does know what's going on (transparency) and nobody's rights are being violated, then you don't necessarily need to dot all the I's and cross all the T's – depending on the level of parliamentary procedure that your organization is comfortable with.

This officer also serves as credentials chairman and reminds District Directors to remind your club presidents to read the annual Calls to Convention. About half of those clubs who needed to submit credentials forms did not submit them. Following my follow-ups all clubs did comply. Thank you.

Sadly, most member clubs are missing the opportunity to participate in the governance of this organization. Aside from board members, only 16 clubs from 8 districts are officially represented here. That's not a great record considering that we have 228 clubs and 49 APSs in 26 districts. Please encourage your clubs to attend the 2027 convention in Redding and future conventions

It is a pleasure to serve President Adele and CGCI in this position.

Interim 2nd Vice President, Maria Krenek

In the short time since I have taken on this responsibility, I have attended quite a number of meetings and discussions that helped in understanding and fulfilling my duties. As chair for The California Consultants Council, I presided over their general meeting on April 29, 2026 via ZOOM. The CCC has revived their newsletter, *Council Thymes*, and sponsored a program at this Convention we hoped you enjoyed.

I also presided over the Chairmen's Forum which met earlier during this Convention on May 12 with 19 Chairmen present. 22 chairmen gave oral reports during this Business Meeting. At the Chairmen's meeting, we had a lively discussion of goals, activities, concerns and ideas for outreaching to our greater CGCI community with the many things our committees have to offer.

I also attended the District Directors' Meeting conducted at this Convention.

Thank you, President Adele and members of the Board for your help and the opportunity to serve.

Interim 1st Vice President, Nina Blonski

This CGCI Interim 1st Vice President attended the CGCI Northern California Arbor Day celebration on April 24, at the Veterans housing site in Santa Rosa. CGCI and the Men's Garden Club of Santa Rosa, along with veterans housing organization Nation's Finest Veterans Services, all participated to make it happen. My husband, David, and I really enjoyed the event and were honored to be a part of this special ceremony.

This CGCI interim 1st Vice President attended the National Garden Clubs Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, from May 4 through May 6, a week before heading down to San Diego for the CGCI Convention. Visiting the NGC headquarters and the Missouri Botanical Gardens were highlights for me. Attending many of the Seminars, the Flower Show, and NGC Schools Forum kept me busy. Keynote Luncheon topics were the Missouri Prairie Foundation and Gateway Arch Park Foundation. I was honored by receiving my 4 Star Award, which I have worked many years to achieve. It was a special moment to have it presented at the NGC Convention. Madelyn Hucker was the guest designer at the Tuesday dinner, and the awards ceremony was held on Wednesday evening. This CGCI interim 1st Vice President enjoyed meeting Presidents and members of other Garden Clubs throughout the United States, and there were several members attending from South America due to their 25-year celebration belonging to NGC. Next year, the state of Wisconsin will be hosting it in Madison. I sat with several Wisconsin members and felt they would also have a wonderful NGC Convention next year.

President, Adele Kelly

As the first year of this term concludes, as your President, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride in our organization. This past year has been defined by the miles I have traveled and the many hands I have shaken across our state. From northern to southern California, I have had the distinct pleasure of visiting numerous districts and local garden clubs.

During these travels, I witnessed firsthand the incredible projects that you lead. Whether it is a community restoration project, your work with youth, or your sponsorship of an educational school or program, they are a shining example of fulfilling CGCI's mission. Seeing your passion in person has been the absolute highlight of my term.

A particularly moving part of my journey has been attending three **Blue Star Memorial Marker** dedications this year. These markers are far more than just bronze and stone; they are a solemn and beautiful testament to the men and women who have served, those who are currently in uniform, and those who will serve our country in the future. Standing with you at these ceremonies reminded me of the deep commitment of service that grounds our organization.

Last week, your president attended the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Convention in St. Louis, MO. I visited the National Headquarters facility and walked the Path of Success, and was proud to see several pavers

attributed to CGCI. Unfortunately, due to rainy weather, I was unable to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden, which is adjacent to the NGC Headquarters building.

Your president attended the board and business meetings, where there was extensive discussion about rolling out a school portal on the NGC website for use by consultants and Flower Show Judges. We expect that more information will be forthcoming from NGC.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I am eager to keep the momentum going. I look forward to attending even more CGCI events, workshops, and flower shows and continuing to learn from your expertise.

None of our success would be possible without your tireless dedication. I am profoundly grateful for the hard work each and every one of you does to support CGCI. You are the heart of this organization, and it is an honor to serve as your President.

Attachment B
Report of the Board of Directors - 2026 Convention

Since the 2025 Convention the Board of Directors has met five times:

1. At the Post Convention Meeting on June 5, 2025 in Laguna Hills – to ratify appointments of 2025-2027 appointed officers and chairmen.
2. At the Organizational Board Meeting on June 5, 2025 in Laguna Hills – to adopt rules of order for the term, approve the accountant, accept meeting invitations and approve the Fall Board Meeting Registration fee.
3. At the Fall Board Meeting September 9 & 10, 2025 at Harris Ranch in Coalinga – to approve a Winter Board Meeting registration fee, ratify various calendar dates, budget \$5,000 for AV/Tech support for CGCI meetings, increase the GTEP renewal late fee to \$50 and establish a renewal deadline of March 1, and approve annual insurance rates.
4. At the Virtual Winter Board Meeting on January 27 & 28, 2026 – to adopt the annual financial review report, elect delegates to the 2026 NGC Convention, recommend bylaws proposals to be considered at the 2026 convention and approve two standing rules amendments.
5. At the Pre-Convention Board Meeting on May 12 in San Diego – to adopt a new standing rule, approve the 2026-2027 budget, accept the resignation of 1st Vice President Marlene Kinney, ratify appointments of interim 1st Vice President Nina Blonski and Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek, ratify appointments to the Board of Trustees, approve the Fall Board Meeting registration fee, ratify dates for an October 2026 Flower Show Schools Symposium and the June, 2027 Convention, approve an allocation up \$5,000 from symposium reserves to defray symposia instructor and instructional material expenses, to elect Sue Bennett to serve on the NGC 2027-2029 Nominating Committee, to elect Lynne Batchelor as 2027-2029 Pacific Region Director and Robin Pokorski as 2027-2029 Pacific Region Alternate Director.

Board actions from the first four meetings are documented in the minutes of those meetings which are posted on our website. Actions from the May 12 board meeting will be documented in minutes which will be posted within six weeks.

Attachment C Committee and Chairmen Reports

Amenities & Protocol, Jeanne Johnson

This chairman is on a constant learning curve with this position because you never know what you will be asked to do.

One of the responsibilities is to inform members of certain protocol that CGCI follows. Some of these things are told to you or written down other things are just common courtesies.

Some protocols you should follow:

When you are introduced, if able, you should please stand, not wave.

When doing reports, the only person that should use "I" is the president. All others please use "this chairman" or "this officer."

Please be on time for all meetings and meals.

Don't forget to write your thank yous after a Board meeting or convention to our president, the convention chairman, host district director, and any other person you feel deserves one.

Remember to bring some kind of a wrap. You cannot control hotel temperature.

At mealtime, please wait for the presiding officer to pick up her/his fork before you begin eating.

This chairman enjoys her position responsibilities and hopes she has made this convention a little more enjoyable for each of you.

Blue Star Markers, Northern California, Maria Krenek

This Chairman wishes to say thank you to the clubs and districts that dedicated, replaced or refurbished new Blue Stars this past year. Since our last CGCI Convention in June 2025, it has been my honor to attend four Blue Star dedications. They were:

July 30, 2025 Cascade District, Redding VA

September 19, 2025 Modesto Garden Club/Commemorative Air Force Squadron 1-S

September 20, 2025 Southern Humboldt Garden Club, Jordan Creek/Pepperwood

January 30, 2026 Stockton Garden Club/University of the Pacific Military Student Military Center

We sincerely encourage more districts and clubs to consider dedicating new markers and refurbishing or replacing pre-existing Blue Star markers.

Board of Trustees, Robin Pokorski

The Board of Trustees is comprised of Lynne Batchelor, Lisa Cosand, Roseann Costabile, Alexis Slafer, Carol Vallens and Robin Pokorski as chairman. The Trustees met via Zoom on April 27, 2026 with George Perko, CGCI Treasurer and Financial Advisor, President Adele Kelly, 1st Vice President Nina Blonski and 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek as guests. Year-to-date financial records as of March 31, 2026 were reviewed. The endowment funds with Vanguard were reviewed and are in balance in accordance with the parameters established by Standing Rule 45. The internal monthly review continues with no issues noted.

The CGCI Endowment Fund which is invested in 63.6% Stocks and 36.4% Bonds showed a balance on March 31, 2026 of \$127,554.83 and showed a quarterly loss of \$402.94.

The CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund which is invested in 65.5% Stocks/34.5% Bonds showed a balance on March 31, 2026 of \$244,546.42 which demonstrated a quarterly loss of \$.03.

Discussion was initiated to digitize our "important papers" binder.

After discussion, a recommendation was sent to our Executive Committee for consideration.

Robin Pokorski was elected to serve as chairman and Lynne Batchelor was elected to serve as Secretary for 2026 – 2027.

Budget & Finance, Launa Gould

Members of committee:

Launa Gould	Financial Secretary
Cynthia Jackson	GTEP
Nina Blonski	Interim 1 st VP
Maria Krenek	Interim 2 nd 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 April 23, 2026

George Perko - Reviewed March 31, 2026 financials

CD balances

US Bank –#4022 - \$101,491.17 matures 7/28/26 @ 3.50%

US Bank – #7664 - \$144,404.67 matures 7/8/26 @ 3.67%

B of A – #7050- \$74,491.91 matures 5/15/26 @3.75%

The CGCI 2026-2027 budget was reviewed.

The responsibility of this chairmanship is to:

- update Expense and Revenue spreadsheets
- balance spreadsheets to the treasurer's General Ledger reports
- issue warrants to the treasurer, authorizing payments

If you have a budget, send in your receipts and reimbursement forms now. **Deadline is June 15.**

To **get reimbursed** for expenses:

1. Fill out the Request for Reimbursement form found on the website.

a. Know your **Line Code** or look it up 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 your chairmanship **receives cash or checks**:

Fill out the Cash Receipt Report found on the website. Make sure the Treasurer and Financial Secretary are aware of your deposit, or checks mailed.

Final call is now for reimbursements for this fiscal year.

Copies of forms are available at this convention.

California Consultants Council, Maria Krenek

Madam President, the CCC met via ZOOM on April 29, 2026. The Council discussed topics from the Schools to website presence and tools to everything in between. Our newsletter, *COUNCIL THYMES*, with Sue Bennett has returned. Our main message to all of you: Contact our school chairmen, Greg Pokorski, Alexis Slafer and Cynthia Jackson to schedule schools. The most recent schools done in San Fernando Valley and Modesto were very successfully and even made money for their clubs. For those of us that

need to refresh, make it local and make it convenient by asking your district and your clubs to sponsor. You'll have lots of help to get it done if you do.

For all you consultants out there, join the California Consultants Council. Dues are \$20 for two years.

Finally, I hope that you enjoyed the CCC sponsored program by speaker, Tom Krenek, Environmental Consultant and his presentation, *Environmental Triggers of Neurologic Disorders*.

District Director Coordinator, Nina Blonski

The District Directors Forum was held at 8:30 Tuesday morning. There were 18 District Directors, including alternates, along with several guest were in attendance.

Webmaster Sue Bennet shared information and answered questions regarding the CGCI website and members' database.

Gail Vanderhorst, representing the Pacific Region convention reminded the District Directors about the gift cards requested for the raffle baskets for the Pacific Region Garden Club Convention that CGCI will be hosting this October in Thousand Oaks. She also thanked the districts that have already given them to her so far.

This District Directors Coordinator had sent out a survey, and we went over the results, helping to open a dialogue about what each district does. Directors were encouraged to share with others, and future topics were suggested for our next meeting at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch.

Those who reported at the convention were:

Arboretum -Nancy Bird

Bay Bridges -George Perko read Sandy Jaeger's report

Bay Ocean -Nina Blonski read Nancy McDougall's report

Buttes -Carol Jauregui

Cascade -Judy Paul

Channel Islands – Darcey Lober

Costa Verde – Cindy Kovacs

Golden Foothills – Annette Choate read Erin Angulo's report

Greater LA -Joyce Parrott

Humboldt – Mary Enos-Lenardo read Ellin Beltz' report

Mendo-Lake – Bill Monlux read Cornelia Reynolds' report

Montana de Oro – Donna Hood

Palomar – Diana Drummey

Roadrunner – Terry Sampson

Sacramento River Valley – Susan Hernandez

San Fernando Valley – Carol Vallens

Santa Clara Valley – Nina Blonski read Roseann Costabiles' report

Sequoia Foothills – Jennifer Waite read Linda Tucker's report

Valley Lode – Michele Blomberg read Paula Elias' report

Donation 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. Remember to include a copy of Donations Form which may be found on the CGCI website. Without the Donations form and no indication to which fund the donation is to be applied, the process is delayed.

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.

Event Coordinator, Robin Pokorski

I have the pleasure of serving as your Event Coordinator. This chairmanship was created by President Carol to mentor those clubs and districts considering hosting a CGCI event. This chairman maintains and has already updated the Meeting Procedures manuals that may be found on the website.

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

We are particularly seeking northern venues for convention in 2028 as the hotel rooms will be booked solid in the greater Los Angeles area due to the Olympics. But our Southern cars will happily go north.

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

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

Flower Show Schools Credentials, Dyanna Madro

This Credentials Chair is reporting that all flower show judges files are up to date

There are a total of 46 judges currently in good standing

We have 2 judges transferring from out of state. One judge from Ohio and another judge from Tennessee. Thank-you and we are glad to have you!

There are currently 17 student judges and another 7 potential student judges finishing the 4 course curriculum.

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. Current date for symposium is Oct 26, 27, 28 in San Diego.

Flower Show Schools, Jennifer Waite

My goals and activities for my Chairmanship this year are to complete the Southwestern Judge's Council Flower Show School whose Course IV is scheduled for September of 2026.

The Flower Show School in Red Bluff completed all 4 courses and the students who have passed all courses have received their Schedule assignment and I hope to have all 6 students pass their assignment by the beginning of July, 2026.

The Valley Judges' Council Flower Show School has three students who are working through their schedules. They will then complete their judging and exhibiting credits and will join the ranks of our Accredited Judges.

We are currently working on scheduling a Symposium for our State Judges who are in need of attending a Symposium to remain a current judge. At this time, we have it tentatively scheduled for October of this year.

Our committee was also able to successfully host a Flower Show at the 2026 CGCI Convention.

“Thank you” does not even come close to appreciating all the “behind the scenes” work that it took to create the show stopper Flower Show that you are able to view. I would like to thank and acknowledge Diana Drummey, Dyanna Madro and Lynne Batchelor for their support and guidance, and all the participants who shared their amazing talent with us this year. And a special thank you to Madam President Adele Kelly who had the vision and spent innumerable hours making sure that the schedule was as perfect as it could be!

Thank you, Madam President and Board for the honor of serving as your CGCI Flower Show School Chairman!

Gardening Schools, Greg Pokorski

This chairman is looking for clubs or districts to conduct NGC Gardening Schools. The most recent school was conducted by Southern California Garden Club from July through October, 2025. This chairman is happy to tell you the benefits of conducting a Gardening School and how to do it.

We currently have 71 Gardening Consultants (made up of 35 active, 15 Master, 12 Provisional and 9 Emeritus Consultants). Clubs and Districts should know who the consultants are in their clubs/districts. Celebrate and recognize them for their accomplishment and utilize them for programs and workshops.

One Provisional Consultant from the 2025 school completed her final course via Zoom in February, becoming a certified Gardening Consultant.

Two Consultants are on extensions and five will lapse 12/31/2026 if they do not refresh by that date.

This chairman maintains the records for our California Gardening Consultants. Contact me with questions about your status.

This chairman attends and reports at the California Consultants Council meetings – most recently in April. This chairman wrote an article for the recently reinstated *Council Thymes* newsletter. This discussed how to budget for and conduct a Gardening School. This newsletter is available on the CGCI website.

At this time I would like to recognize some of those who completed the 2025 Gardening School. Gardening Consultant Certificate and official paperwork presented to Diana Drummey. Refresher letters and official paperwork presented to Sue Bennett, Launa Gould, Joyce Parrott, George Unrine and Judy Unrine.

Governance Committee, Greg Pokorski

The members of the Governance Committee (which reviews and proposes changes to bylaws, standing rules and policy,) are Lynne Batchelor, Chuck Goodwin, Jeanne Johnson, Alice Lewin, George Speer, Carol Vallens, and this chairman. President Adele Kelly serves as ex-officio committee member and Interim VPs Nina Blonski and Maria Krenek are also invited to attend meetings. Thanks to these dedicated board members for their service on this important committee.

The committee met by Zoom nine times this term, since our last convention.

All members of CGCI may submit suggestions regarding our governing documents, which are the Bylaws, Standing Rules and Policy. All of these are posted on the website and the Bylaws and Standing Rules are included in your *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. All board members and club representatives should be familiar with all of these documents. Please use the Amendment Request webform on our website to submit your suggestions.

Standing Rule proposals are voted on by the Board of Directors and can therefore be considered at Winter Board Meetings, Pre-Convention Board Meetings and Fall Board Meetings. One was approved at Tuesday's Pre-Convention Board Meeting.

Bylaws can only be amended once a year at convention and proposed changes must first be approved by the Board of Directors. Your suggestions for changes must be submitted to the Governance Committee by November 1 each year. Proposed changes then must 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 and the proposals being presented today were recommended to be forwarded to you by the Board of Directors at the Winter Board Meeting on January 27, 2026. It is then required that proposed bylaws changes be distributed with the Call to Convention. That was distributed to board members and all club and APS presidents on March 21, 2026 and has been posted on the website since that date. Hopefully you have brought a copy with you or can access it now by electronic device (and bylaws are on pages 53-72 of your 2025-2026 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*). Please refer to the proposal document now. If approved, these proposals become effective immediately. A two-thirds vote is required for approval. Madam President, on behalf of the Governance Committee and as recommended by the Board of Directors on January 27, 2026, I move to adopt the following bylaws proposals. See Attachment D. All passed as presented by two-thirds majority. The bylaws will be updated in the 2026-2027 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* and on the website.

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Cynthia Jackson

I am happy to report that 99 entities have successfully renewed their GTEP membership for the 2026-2027 year, which includes the Costa Verde District, as a new member.

You all did a better job of submitting timely and complete renewals to me this year, for which I appreciate and want to thank you.

Landscape Designs 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 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 the National Garden Clubs website for information and schedules. In fact, there is a Landscape Design School being held right now in Arizona. Look for Courses 3 & 4.

And, remember the courses can be taken in any order.

Of course, this Chairman feels it is best to hold Landscape Design Schools here, in California...but that doesn't happen on its own...we need clubs and/or districts to host them. In fact, more than one club can join together to host a school or refresher. Please take the time to enthusiastically discuss these opportunities with your 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 as a side benefit -- your membership can increase... while also increasing revenue. Currently, the total number of CGCI Landscape Design Consultants stands at 88. These include 6 Provisional (they have taken at least 2 courses), 15 Master (they have refreshed at least 4 times), and 10 Emeritus (they no longer need to refresh their credentials).

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 to get their contact information when you start planning your school. And, of course, this chairman is more than eager and willing to assist with planning your new Landscape Design School.

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

Liability Insurance, Launa Gould

Insurance is one of the benefits of membership in CGCI.

General Liability and Additional Insured certificates must be **renewed annually**.

The insurance year starts on Feb 15.

Thanks to **Tammy Eacker** for processing the General Liability insurance requests and **Paula Elias** for help in processing the Garden Tour certificates. This team has been a great benefit to the Insurance chairmanship.

General Liability insurance is coverage for club members participating in club activities.

Tammy Eacker has processed **260 clubs** that have taken advantage of the low-cost **General liability insurance**.

Additional Insured certificates are available for a **venue** that has requested to be 'named as insured' on the club's policy. 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. This process can be complicated, depending on the contract/agreement the venue provides. Allow plenty of time for the process.

Since January, we have **issued 150 Additional Insured Certificates**.

Remember, when you are planning an event, ask to look at the contract/agreement to see if the venue requires insurance.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Life Membership, Linda Travis

2026 has been a very slow YTD for Life Membership requests. During the Winter Board Meeting, several District Directors committed to promoting LM in their clubs. Hopefully, we will see increased activity over the next 6 months.

The following names were submitted to the President for ratification, during the 2026 CGCI Convention:

Santa Rosa GC/Luther Burbank District

Donna Hussey (Feb 2026)

Petaluma GC/Luther Burbank District

Mary Ann Williams (Feb 2026)

Pat Hansen (April 2026)

This Chairman continues to submit articles to The *Golden Gardens* Newsletter to discuss LM and to publicize recipients.

Penny Pines, Terry Sampson

Well, what an interesting job or should I say challenging. To set the record straight, after talking to Joe Sherlock (Forester for California NF) he has informed me that the Penny Pines Program is still in effect. I do realize that many of you have read or heard that Plant a Tree has taken Penny Pines place but it is not all the truth. It may go that way in the future but not at this time. CGCI will keep you updated. Just a

reminder for those who are sending in their Penny Pines to make sure you fill in your Club Name, District as well as if the submission is in HONOR OF or in MEMORY OF. All of this information is put into the *Golden Gardens* Newsletter. As of this writing we have had 86 submissions with some having one name and others as many as eight names on the submissions. We will keep you updated on the status of the program. Thanking you in advance for all of your thoughtful donations.

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

Preliminary (May 13) and Final (May 14) reports were the same: 8 Officers, 15 District Directors, 22 Chairmen, 14 Club Presidents or Alternates, 8 Delegates, 43 Non-voting Garden Club Members, 32 Workers, 11 Speakers, Guests & Spouses, and 18 First-timers, less duplications, for a total registration of 110.

Scholarship, Martha Smyser

This year CGCI awarded six California students each a \$2,000 scholarship. The Robert Gordon Scholarship was awarded to Mollie Bressler from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The Carol Vallens Scholarship was awarded to Casey Lewis from USC. The Ann and Glen Capes Scholarship was awarded to Gisell Muniz from CSU Chico. The Alberta Thiry Scholarship was awarded to Savannah Scheyermann from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The first President's Project Scholarship was awarded to Cole Ishimaru from UC Davis. The second President's Project Scholarship was awarded to Cherise Hunt from Mt. San Antonio College.

The Pacific Region Scholarship was awarded to Cherise Hunt.

Three California students each won a \$4,000 scholarship from National Garden Clubs. They are: Cherise Hunt, Cole Ishimaru and Sala Des Rosiers who is a student at Stanford.

The Chairman thanked the clubs for their work raising funds and awarding scholarships. In addition, she thanked Paradise Garden Club and the Sequoia Foothills District for their generous donations to the scholarship fund.

Stamps, Terry Sampson

This year I sent a box of stamps to the Postal Museum located in Tucson, AZ. When you send me your stamps I gather them up and mail them in June (usually after convention). They are so thankful for the stamps we send. Educators from all over the USA may ask the museum to send them stamps to help their students learn. For example, if the class is learning about Presidents they will send stamps with Presidents on them, etc. Collecting and sending the stamps over to Tucson may seem like a small task but it does make a difference in so many ways.

State Pins and Miscellaneous Sales, Shirley Lipa

This chairman has done nothing with sales this year until this convention. CGCI had 68 pins to sell, and we are now down to 42 pins. When these pins are gone, you will have to order them from the National Garden Clubs. We have Club President and Club Past President, District Director and Past District Director, and CGCI Member Pins. We have sold out of CGCI Life Member pins. They all cost \$20 each. National sells these pins for \$30 each and there is a \$16 shipping fee with your order. So, shop with me while our supply lasts, and thank you to those who have purchased pins this week.

Webmaster, Sue Bennett

Being the CGCI Webmaster is like a sunflower bouquet which symbolizes happiness, adoration, longevity and loyalty and as everyone knows sunflowers resembles the sun and follow it's movements they represent warmth and positivity, just like the CGCI Website brings joy and positive outlook about CGCI. (knowing President Adele likes sunflowers)

Numerous emails and phone calls are received by this Webmaster; this chairman will focus on two today
1) I can't find my club name anymore when I do a search on the CGCI website.

With the change to the new membership database, a few things have changed, and this is one of them.

Members and prospective members often look for club information on the CGCI website. To find it more easily, they should use the "FIND A CLUB" button on the right side of the site.

To make search results more helpful, this chairman attended the District Directors Forum and asked each director to add club and society names, along with website links, so users can connect directly with local organizations. If a club does not have a website, a Facebook page or Instagram account can be listed instead.

For example, as webmaster for the Golden Foothills District, this chairman created a table of club information. When someone searches for Roseville on the CGCI website, two or three clubs usually appear.

However, in the Find a Club membership database, entering only Roseville may not return any results. If you search for Roseville with a 20-mile radius, at least four clubs appear.

NOTE: The address is that of the club President not the address of where the club meetings occur. You should always put in the radius search. This chairman will work with Jane McKee to see if the radius search is required when you put in a City name.

2) Last week, we received an email stating that a CGCI member's personal information was taken from the CGCI website, as this person received a letter addressed to them. The person's information is in the Membership database.

To shed some light:

-as stated in the privacy policy CGCI does not provide any personal information to individuals or companies.

-The Company that provides the software for our membership database confirmed that no data breach has occurred.

Perhaps

- The person's address is associated with the IRS, as all addresses are listed on all IRS CA tax filing as a clubs official address or principal officer and is easily obtainable from the IRS website.

Change of subject

Susan Delaney Website Administrator will be leaving the website team effective June 30, 2026; thus Susan, Sue and Jane will be meeting, next week, to transfer the responsibilities to Sue Bennett. Unless there is a volunteer to step up. If interested, please let Adele know. The position entails, validating the form is filled out correctly, the club is part of CGCI and then submitting the information to the CGCI Calendar.

Finally, in the next few weeks, Rita Desilets, Membership Chairman and this chairman will be in training with Jane McKee, membership database chairman, to learn the behind the scenes of the Membership Database. With potential retirement of June 30, 2027, by Jane McKee, this will give both of us time to learn and test out the process. This chairman just sent Jane an email regarding use of credit cards to pay membership dues – her response was, "all they need to do is approve it and stop talking about it."

So, yes, this position is rewarding, educational and at times challenging. This chairman works with a variety of members throughout the state, both members and nonmembers.

As always, don't hesitate to contact this chairman via the CGCI 1.888# or email.

Youth Activities, Lisa Cosand

This is the first year that the Youth Contests have been split off of the Awards Committee. It is taking a little time for us to get organized without the leadership of Pat Clayes but we gave away a record amount of winning money, \$405 out of \$1250 available. Our big winner of three contests was Cora Thinnes of the Red Bluff Club. Remember that contests end on Dec. 1 or Jan 20 if it's Smokey the Bear.

So please pry the child away from their screen and encourage them to write a poem celebrating America's birthday in Red, White or Blue or draw a pollinator doing its job, or build out of the recycling bin. First check the Youth Awards Handbook on the website for the specific instructions.

During the year I get questions about youth groups such as how much money should the Youth club keep in reserve, who will be treasurer, how many meetings do they need to have.

National Garden Clubs has just published a Youth Handbook which I hoped would help answer these questions. This is not your Word document handbook that we all have learned to make. This is a graphic artist concept of the handbook in type big enough for a second grader or a seventy year old without their glasses to read. The handbook has the basic requirements for a NGC Affiliated Garden Youth Club: They are:

Be sponsored by an NGC-affiliated garden club,

Appoint a club member to help the youth club in whatever is needed

Promote gardening and environmental awareness

Open membership to any grade level, maintain 5 youth members and hold 5 meetings annually.

So questions about ratification, amount of money in the account, insurance, how long can the leader lead are not addressed in the national handbook or in the state bylaws either. So please use your best judgement when leading your youth clubs keeping the kids safe, sharing your love of the garden and environment, and helping share the magic of planting a seed.

In closing I want to thank the youth contest leaders, Ashley Smith for the pollinator contest and Michele Blomberg for Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest continued help with supporting these contests.

Attachment D
Governance Committee/Bylaws Amendment Proposals

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Proposed Bylaws Amendments for Consideration of the Membership
(Convention Body)
at Business Meeting #1 on Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Recommended by vote of the Board of Directors at the Winter Board Meeting,
January 27, 2026

Key - underline means insert words. ~~Strikeouts~~ means 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 <u>Sec. 11. The board of trustees shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Restricted Fund Guidelines.</u></p>	<p>Proposal #3 ARTICLE XIV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES Sec. 11. The board of trustees shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Restricted Fund Guidelines.</p>

Rationale: Add Section 11 to document additional existing duty of the Board of Trustees.

CGCI BYLAWS Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</u> <u>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></p>	<p>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.</p>

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
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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

All five proposals passed as presented by two-thirds (proposals 1, 2, 3 and 5 passed unanimously; proposal 4 had 3 “No” votes). See minutes, page 2. See minutes (page 3) and Attachment C.

Attachment E District Director Reports

Arboretum District Director, Nancy Bird

The Arboretum District has 8 clubs ranging from Glendale to Whittier. We meet 3 times a year at the L.A. Arboretum.

Since the majority of the clubs lie at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and were affected by the Eaton Fire, most of my report centered on the San Marino club's report to me. Below is part of that report--

After the devastating fires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena on January 7 2025, Sandy Dimkich, President and District Representative, was approached by the local South Pasadena/San Marino YMCA to help them with a project. January 25, 2026 was the YMCA's. "They wanted us to help transform a backyard space behind the "Y" house to make it more inviting for the fire victims who lost their homes. The house was stocked with essential grocery, pharmacy, and clothing items. Members of the San Marino Garden Club helped to refresh the flowerbeds with soil and bark, and planted beautiful pansies, alyssum, azaleas, primroses, and ferns. The YMCA was very happy with the result, and our garden club enjoyed being able to give back to the community in this way.

The Year Around Garden Club in Whittier took their 1st field trip since the Pandemic last month to Cal Poly Pomona for a tour of their greenhouses and growing grounds.

It's Garden Thyme in Whittier just celebrated their 20th year last September.

Bay Bridges District Director, Sandy Jaeger

Bay Bridges District continued its biannual meetings this year. At each meeting we hear updates of what our attending clubs have been doing. We have found out that our member club Dirt Daubers has been forced to close due to a lack of membership, leaving us with 10 clubs.

The different clubs have many varied activities, to name a few:

- Berkeley Garden Club holds an annual plant sale in conjunction with a local cooperative art gallery. They will resume having a garden tour in 2027.
- Hillside Gardeners of Montclair has a fall event called Crafters Alley where members can sell their wares with a percentage of sales donated to the club. Their main fund raiser is held every two years and is a garden tour with proceeds used to fund scholarships for horticultural students and local conservation groups.
- Pinole Garden Club works with several school gardens and decorates the Christmas tree for the city as well as maintaining several public gardens.
- El Cerrito Garden Club has a contest to award residential front yards prizes.
- Heirloom Flower Club maintains Shinn Gardens in Fremont, working there every other Tuesday.

We always get great new ideas for activities from these different clubs!

Bay Ocean District Director, Nancy McDougal

Clubs In this District seldom discover innovative, new ideas for promotion or fund-raising that appeal to our community, though a few innovations are tried each year. Instead, each club has relied on a

signature event on which to focus their outreach, including horticulture shows, library displays, holiday distributions, lecture series, garden tour, plant sales, and outreach events for which they are best known. The remainder of the effort at meetings and activities during the year is in sharing information and materials to make each member a more effective and satisfied gardener. We are fortunate to have a building which was built by our clubs and is now managed by an assortment of garden club members in which to meet and to offer an identified hub for the community, also staging a yearly spring celebration of plants and crafts (detailed previously) at which several clubs participate.

Buttes District Liaison, Carol Jauregui

The clubs in the Buttes District continue to thrive, some more so than others. This District Director will focus on the Paradise Garden Club (PGCI).

Eight years after the Camp Fire, PGCI continues to grow and attract new members from new residents repopulating the town. The club will be putting on their Annual Garden Tour on June 6 & 7.

Last year, they paid a design group to recreate their website. They have included everything you could want in that website.

PGCI has their membership application on their webpage, and those interested can submit it electronically and pay, using Square. Or, they can print it and mail it to the PO Box, along with a check. They could also take it in person, to the next meeting.

At our Chairmen's forum, a question was asked: How can we increase *Golden Gardens* subscriptions and readership? Well, PGCI lists "a subscription to CGCI's Publication, *Golden Gardens*" as one of the membership benefits, in addition to a "free Garden Tour ticket." Their dues continue to be \$30.00.

On another screen, you can donate to the scholarship fund or to Penny Pines, and purchase additional Garden Tour tickets. Under resources, they list the three links to CGCI, PRGC, NGC, and the Paradise Fire Safe Council, and Paradise Irrigation District.

PGCI has a green policy listed on their site. It reads: "You're kidding right? We're a garden club. We are crazy green. The members of this club make every effort to conserve, reduce, reuse, recycle, and up-cycle, both in our gardening practice and elsewhere. We hope that you will consider adopting this kind of thinking as well, and in addition: Please consider the environment before printing from the internet."

They are a welcome addition to our district.

Cascade District Director, Judy Paul

Things are very busy up here in Cascade District! Spring came early with plants sales of course, with dates adjusting for much needed rain. We had a great District wide meeting in February hosted by Redding Wonderland Garden Club, with about 70 attendees. This club also had a super successful "Spring Fling" luncheon with nearly 200 folks in March!

We hosted two NGC Flower Shows in April. Cascade Arrangers Guild & Cascade District's show, "Country Blooms & Barnyard Dreams" was awesome, with 41 exhibitors and over 270 entries. New exhibitors, about 15, received a special badge for participating.

Then two weeks later, Red Bluff Garden Club sponsored the Tehama District Fair Flower Show, "Race for the Roses." Many of the same committee people were involved, and the fair is a four-day show, with a total of 420 entries in all divisions, Adult and Junior. So, we were pretty busy and tired!!

Our biggest decision in recent months was to agree to host the 95th CGCI Convention in 2027! We were thinking of a bit farther down the road, but stepped up for this next one when asked by Adele and Robin! With their expert help, we are up and running, and are excited to do this big team project! We hope to make it a FUN and learning time for all when you come up to our North Country!

With the 250th red, white, and blue celebration, our Blue Star Memorials are getting spruced up. This director purchased the blue paint, and Cheryle Yednak from Shasta Lake Garden Project re-painted the

star on their marker in a beautiful Veteran's Memorial Garden. Red Bluff also added some new plants to their marker at the fairgrounds.

Channel Islands District Director, Darcey Lober

Las Floralias is growing, with 10 new members joining after last months' Santa Barbara Orchid Show. Former President, Hetty Shurtleff is busy preparing her presentation for OFAD this August.

Pleasant Valley Garden Club has a successful co-president model. Updating their website with the help of a younger new member has raised their visibility in the community, and the recent garage sale they held raised over \$1,000. \$300 was raised just in recycling cans and glass.

Conejo Valley Garden Club is trying a triumvirate model this year. Their club leads the way sponsoring 6 youth clubs with donations of \$100 to each. Their Martha Washington themed fundraising tea was a joy to attend.

Ventura County Garden Club is working with the Parks and Recs Department in Santa Paula, to shepherd their Harvest Home Community Garden into existence. They report that the garden boxes were built and put into place just last weekend.

Lastly, the Organic Garden Club of Ventura County has paired with Ventura Audubon to help create the Dr. Christopher Dean Smith Memorial Garden, (or the Healing Tree Garden for short), situated on this District Director's newly acquired 14,000 sq. ft. lot, at 1st and A Street, in Downtown Oxnard. With a 150 year old California Live Oak as the keystone species on the property, those of us involved are dedicating ourselves to preserving and cultivating critical wildlife habitat in this urban corridor. In the years to come we will attempt to grow medicinal and edible plants of significant historical and cultural value for the surrounding community, as well. Our front fence was completed Thursday afternoon, May 7, 2026, and our Channel Islands District CGCI Welcome sign was hung.

Costa Verde District Director, Cindy Kovacs

Since the last report, Costa Verde district has met one time. Notable activities include:

Our board meeting included a presidents' forum. I facilitated a discussion where club presidents could ask the Board for solutions to common issues like "what if there's no president next year?" And "is it OK to raise dues?" It was helpful for the new presidents, they heard from others that have experienced similar issues in the past.

We hosted the Catalina Island Conservancy to speak in the unique flora of Santa Catalina Island, and their efforts to propagate the many endemic species. Kevin Allison is the Native Plant Manager. His presentation is titled A Calendar of color: the art and science of Catalina Island Flora. It was captivating. We all hope to visit for a tour next spring.

We sponsored a bus trip to the UCLA Mathias Botanical Garden. The garden features specimens from all over the world that support the botany school's teaching and research.

The Hermosa Garden club had a raffle idea that I loved. As part of their plant sale raffle prizes, they contacted the mayor's office and negotiated a "mayor of the day" raffle prize. The winner would receive a tour of City Hall, the fire department and police department. In addition, they would lead the pledge of allegiance at a council meeting and over lunch, speak with the mayor on local issues. What a great idea for a no cost raffle prize and a community service event all in one.

Golden Foothills District Director, Erin Angulo

The Golden Foothills District clubs have been very productive for the last 8 months. At our district Fall meeting, the Colfax and Auburn Arrangers clubs hosted our meeting with wonderful treats and our speaker was Chris Bushman, who discussed orchids.

One of our most popular district events is put on by the Chicago Park Garden Club – A Victorian Tea Affaire, held in November. This event sells out in a few days! The club did an amazing job decorating, providing delicious food and showcased women’s clothing from 1860 to 1960.

Our spring General meeting was hosted by the Chicago Park Garden Club, which invited Kathi Keville, a renowned herbalist, to share her knowledge at our district meeting.

Most of our district clubs host plant sales in the spring. These are very popular with the public – providing good prices, unusual plants, knowledge of gardening, and welcoming new members.

In June, we will have our annual Golden Foothills District Potluck and Hat Parade. All district club members are invited. This is a fun get-together, and the Hat parade is very popular!

Mendo-Lake District, Bill Monlux representing Director Cornelia Reynolds

Mendo-Lake District has 4 local garden clubs, Clear Lake Trowel and Trellis with 48 members, Ft. Bragg with 53 members, Potter Valley with 31 members and Ukiah garden club with 58 members. Total membership for our district is 190. For many years our district was dysfunctional and did little to share information or provide support for the local garden clubs....but never the less we still collected membership dues.

At one point, all the officers resigned but Diane Cerutti resurrected the district leadership and we are regaining the trust of our local garden clubs. The district is also trying to provide opportunities for special projects or activities to help expand their membership. There is a wealth of information and creative ideas provided in the CGCI website, and by its officers if one takes the time to use these resources. I plan to reach out to other district directors for additional ideas on how to make the district more relevant for the local clubs. Currently our district is attending the CGCI conventions after many years of absences, we are attending local garden club meetings to share information and services, the district is sponsoring a yearly \$1,000 high school scholarship, and we also provide \$400 grants to each club for special project proposals. All the clubs are very active in their local communities. One club uses its Plant Day sales to sponsor high school scholarships. Last year this club provided \$4,000 in scholarships. Many of the clubs have beautification projects for local non-profit community-based organizations. The District and local clubs make use of the Penny Pines program. The District is continuing to try and find ways to make a difference.

Montana de Oro District Director, Carolyn Fergoda

This club year has continued to see growth in most of the clubs in the district. The club leaders continue to provide stimulating educational programs, new member events (teas, field trips, member garden tours), and educational programs with speakers on all topics related to gardening. A theme this year reflects importance of governance, adherence to Bylaws, and officers and members knowing their responsibilities.

Cactus and Succulent Society: Currently we have had a speaker from the San Diego area speak about Tillandsias, or air plants. Little focus is placed on these unique plants so finding a speaker for a meeting was a real find. Next we have become involved with the Dinosaur Caves Preservation Society which is replanting the park in Pismo Beach with cactus and succulents. This will be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Lastly, we are becoming involved with One Cool Earth which is a nonprofit that has a program for the schools which encourages interest in gardening of all types in young people. (Kathleen Goss, President)

Cayucos Garden Club: This club has had several great outings. A tour of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant - highly recommend. Tour of the Morro Bay Maritime museum- another very informative tour. The last meeting of the year is a potluck luncheon. They will go over the past years meetings and prepare for next year. They will have a plant sale over Labor Day Weekend. In general, they are getting along with stimulating field trips. Small membership is doing well with its relatively new officers. (Margaret Bretz, President)

Floral Design Club: Most recently, club members have been working with residents at two nursing homes to make floral designs.

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 and their next meeting is in March.

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 year and are currently looking for more opportunities to partner with other nonprofits. They are also preparing for their yearly Plant Sale, their main fundraiser. Their membership is strong with lots of volunteer participation. They had a successful, new member tea. As with the MFGC, this club experienced some governance issues. Its president resigned and a new president was eventually elected.

Multiflora Garden Club: Another year of successful plant sales. They continue to experiment with a multi-day sale. This takes much time and energy from the membership and in spite of the volunteer fun and financial success, the club may reduce the number of sale days. They held elections for club officers, many of which served last year, and inducted in May (today, May 13!) New officers include relatively new and younger (!) members. Membership has almost returned to normal pre-covid levels. Younger members joining.

Also, experienced for the first time, having a president resign into the first term. However, board members quickly recouped and appointed a new president.

Orange County District Director, Donna Hood

John Muir said, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it connected to the rest of the world." The OC district theme of Let's Connect has been inspired many of our clubs. Clubs have been supporting other club events, and starting new community projects. Newport Hills and Huntington Harbor are connecting by having a joint meeting this month. Our district meeting at Sherman Gardens was well attended with 75 members representing 14 of our 17 clubs. We raised 1350.00, the most ever raised, for our district college scholarship.

At the district meeting, I asked club presidents to report on how their clubs were connecting with their communities. Here are some of the projects they shared:

- Planting trees and flowers around schools
- Cleaning up beaches
- Butterfly education kits for schools
- Baby showers for wives of Marines
- Planting trees on Arbor Day
- Taking gifts and having parties for a nursing home
- Pruning roses at the post office

College scholarships

And many more! It is encouraging to see our clubs connecting with their communities in these important ways.

I have visited 11 clubs in Orange County and look forward to visiting more next year.

As you may have heard, our garden club volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

Roadrunner District Director, Terry Sampson

I am very fortunate to only have 3 clubs in my district so it is very manageable. We have (almost) completed our jewelry sale (6 different sales, with 1 more to go). Roadrunner District made 783.00 dollars on the sale of only “donated” jewelry. The 3 clubs are planning a field trip with members from two different clubs doing the groundwork. Our big function this year was our garden tour. We did very well with only 4 houses on the tour. The district only took donations for the tour and we sold tickets for baskets donated by each club. Each club hosted a house and they had plant sales so they were very happy as well. It was a win win situation for the Roadrunner District as well as each individual club.

We have two District meetings a year with each club taking a turn as the host. Each club is different as some clubs do a lot of field trips and others have the most interesting speakers. We, also, have a printed newsletter twice a year with lots of gardening tips as well as upcoming events in our area.

Sacramento River Valley District Director, Susan Hernandez

The Sacramento River Valley has been growing in members to nearly 700. We have though lost one of our clubs-Woodland. They have promised they would return after they reorganize.

The club members have been busy with all kinds of projects. Folsom had a garden tour of several of their members’ gardens where over one thousand visitors came and were delighted to pay the fee to participate. The club had a limit as to who could participate and there was a waiting list. Many of the clubs also had home garden tours but they were much smaller to raise scholarship money.

SRVD participates in the Shepard Garden Fall Plant and Art Show. They set up several tables that are loaded with plants that have labels and prices on popsicle sticks stuck in plant dirt. All 13 clubs donate gardening items also. Members from all the clubs volunteer to stay at the booths to sell for 3 days. Funds earned go to our scholarship fund.

As a new Director it is so supportive to have a full membered competent board. My Assistant Director served as a director and has been a member for many years.

Several members are working on a trifold brochure to highlight our club and invite new members to join. They have also participated with a booth in The Fall Festival at Fair Oaks Park where the Master Gardeners have a huge vegetable garden, orchard, and copious flowers. Bookmarks have also been ordered from CGCI.

Valley Lode District Director, Paula Elias

This year has been a very fun and successful time starting with our district hosting the VLD Fall Board meeting. We enjoyed supporting the state, had a lot of fun and made money for our district. We encourage any district or club to host a CGCI meeting.

All of our 18 clubs have supported their communities through work at community, rose and school gardens, garden tours, plant sales, table settings, meetings with interesting speakers and more. We as a total contributed over \$35,000 in scholarships which includes the district going on our third year with awarding \$1000. This year we will award \$2000 because of the money we collected from the Fall Board Meeting.

Our fourth Blue Star Memorial will go up this year. It was very exciting to have Adele Kelly join us for the Stockton Blue Star Memorial event and for her also to join the VLD district meeting hosted by Manteca Garden Club.

Paula has one more year as director and Chris Higley from the Escalon Farmington Garden Club will serve as our next director. When we all take a turn, it is easier for all of us

Yosemite Gateway District Director, Mary Brooks

All 4 clubs are very active in their fundraising events. All have contributed to significant scholarship donations to their local high school. Fundraising events have been garden tours and plant sales. We're now in the process of acquiring another garden club that is affiliated with the MERCED Fair Horticultural Department.