

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of the Fall Board Meeting
Harris Ranch Resort, Coalinga, California
September 1-2, 2026
Host: Hermosa Garden Club
President: Adele Kelly

Business Meeting #1

President Adele Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Environmental Consultant Tom Krenek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amenities & Protocol Assistant Linda Smith gave the Inspiration.

Fall Board Meeting Chairman Alexis Slafer welcomed attendees. President Adele Kelly thanked Alexis and Hermosa Garden Club for hosting the meeting.

President's Project Chairman Barbara Weiler explained the "mystery bags," a fundraiser for the project.

President Adele Kelly presented the 2025-2027 Executive Committee.

Without objection, Greg Pokorski was appointed Recording Secretary Pro Tem for this meeting.

President Adele Kelley welcomed former presidents in attendance: Robin Pokorski (2007-2009), Rita Desilets (2013-2015) and Lynne Batchelor (2021-2023).

President Adele Kelly welcomed Circle of Poppies members in attendance: Robin Pokorski, Judy Unrine and Carolyn Villi.

President Adele Kelly acknowledged 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.

President Adele Kelly welcomed Beverly Newton, the new District Director for Greater Los Angeles District.

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks called the roll and the Chair declared a quorum present (forty board members were present).

Excused:

Judy Bates, Sue Bennett, Kathy Bramhall, Mary Brooks, Beverly Brune, Myrna Cabanban, Lisa Cosand, Carolyn Fergoda, Chuck Goodwin, Robert Gordon, Patricia Holloway, Donna Hood, Rosalie Hooper, Cynthia Jackson, Sandy Jaeger, Gudrun Kimmel, Bette Langford, Darcey Lober, Ellyn Meikle, George Perko, Rosa Radicchi, Cornelia Reynolds, Martha Smyser, George Speer, Beverly Switzer, Emily Troxell, Elisabeth Tufo, Carol Vallens, Gail Vanderhorst, Hank Vanderhorst, Carlotta Wixon-Welker.

Registrar Robin Pokorski reported a total registration of 50 (including 41 board members). She also promoted the Pacific Region Convention and encouraged registrations for that event. See Attachment B.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported that the Rules of Order are found on pages 6-7 of the Fall Board Meeting program. Rules of Order for Board Meetings were adopted at the Organizational Meeting on June 5, 2025 for this entire term.

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

Without objection, the Chair appointed the following committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Robin Pokorski, Chairman, Maria Krennek, and Judy Paul.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported that the minutes of the May 12, 2026 Pre-Convention Board Meeting in San Diego were reviewed and posted on the CGCI website on June 17, 2026 (with notice sent to board members on June 17). Without objection, they were **adopted as distributed**.

Minutes Review Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported that the minutes of the May 13-14, 2026 Convention in San Diego were reviewed and posted on the CGCI website on June 17, 2026 (with notice to board members and club presidents on June 17). Without objection, they were **adopted as distributed**.

2026 Convention Chairman Diana Drummey reported on the 2026 Convention in San Diego. She presented checks for \$5,000.00 (returning CGCI's initial deposit) and \$2,858.79 (CGCI's split of the convention proceeds).

The meeting recessed at 10:49 a.m.
The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

2027 Convention Chairman Judy Paul presented a PowerPoint invitation to the 2027 convention in Redding.

Financial Reports

Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported for Treasurer George Perko:

As of June 30, 2026:

Net worth:

Total Cash in checking/savings accounts	\$68,138	
Total Other Assets	\$736,964	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$805,102
of which liabilities and restricted funds are		\$505,932
Cash Balance Available		\$299,170

Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary Launa Gould reported. See Attachment A.

Recording Secretary Pro Tem Greg Pokorski reported the deadline for emailed reports (to be sent to Recording Secretary Gail Vanderhorst) is Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks reported. See Attachment A.

Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski reported. See Attachment A.

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

President-elect/District Director Coordinator Nina Blonski reported. See Attachment A.

President Adele Kelly reported. See Attachment A.

Executive Committee Recommendations

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks read and moved to adopt the following recommendations approved by the committee on August 14 and August 31, 2026:

1. To add President-elect Nina Blonski and Interim Second Vice President Maria Krenek as signers on Bank of America accounts ending in 1028, 7947, and 8324; and to add Interim Second Vice President Maria Krenek as a signer on Bank of America account ending in 8298. **Motion Passed.**
2. That the annual liability insurance rate for the February 15, 2027-February 15, 2028 policy year be \$2.00 per member with a \$20.00 minimum per club. That the late fee for insurance payments received after January 15 remain \$30.00. That the charge for Additional Insured Certificates be \$55.00 and that there be no change in the \$15.00 rush fee for Additional Insured Certificate requests received less than 14 days prior to the event. **Motion Passed.**
3. To accept, with regret, the resignation of Susan Delaney as Website Administrator. **Motion Passed.** President Adele Kelly announced that some of these responsibilities have been moved to Shelley Sparks.
4. To approve the registration fee of \$10.00 for the 2027 Winter Board Meeting for registrations received by January 9, 2027, with a late registration fee of \$20.00 for registrations received between January 10 and January 16, 2027. No registration accepted if received after January 16, 2027. **Motion Passed.**
5. To ratify the dates of September 13 to September 15, 2027 for the 2027 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch Resort in Coalinga, hosted by Costa Verde District. **Motion Passed.**
6. That CGCI close Black Point Historic Gardens Project (L/C 31523) and Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Project (L/C 31524). **Motion Passed.** President Adele Kelly announced that the related chairmanships of Julie West and Melvin Gaines had ended.
7. That the restricted Wildflower Conference fund (L/C 31012-1) be renamed Educational Conference fund (L/C 31012-1). **Motion Passed.**

8. To accept the invitation of Golden Foothills District to host the 2028 Convention. Dates and place TBD. Erin Angulo, Chairman. **Motion Passed.**
9. To approve Erin Angulo to serve concurrently as Golden Foothills District Director and 2028 Convention Chairman. **Motion Passed.**
10. To disburse \$2,500.00 from the restricted Sempervirens Fund, L/C 31518, to sponsor one of 22 bridges to be built on Timm's Creek. **Motion Passed.**

Committee Reports

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

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

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP): Corresponding Secretary Shelley Sparks reported for GTEP Chairman Cynthia Jackson and moved on behalf of the chairman to ratify the addition of Somerset Garden Club to CGCI's Group Tax Exemption Program. **Motion Passed.** See Attachment B.

Governance Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski reported and moved to approve three Standing Rule proposals. **All passed unanimously.** See Attachments B and D.

Life Memberships Chairman Linda Travis reported and moved to ratify:

Riviera Garden Club/Costa Verde District - Judy Unrine

Southern California Garden Club/San Fernando Valley District - Alice Lewin

Hermosa Garden Club/Costa Verde District - Elizabeth Brown, Christy Robinson

Willow Glen Garden Club/Santa Clara Valley District - Sarah Mitchell

Cherry Blossom Garden Club/San Fernando Valley District - Margaret Phelps

Motion Passed. See Attachment B.

Membership Chairman Rita Desilets reported and moved to ratify the following clubs:

Merced Fair Floriculture Boosters, 3 members, Yosemite Gateway District, President: Roberta Becker.

Linda Vista Garden Club, 5 members, Palomar District, President Lori Freitas.

Motion Passed. See Attachment B.

Nominating Committee Member Roseann Costabile reported for Chairman Carol Vallens. See Attachment B.

Youth Activities – President-elect Nina Blonski reported for Youth Activities Coordinator Lisa Cosand and moved to ratify the following youth gardeners:

District: Bay Bridges, El Cerrito Garden Club, El Cerrito High School Garden

District: Buttes, Lake Oroville Area Garden Club, Hearthstone School Garden

District: Palomar, Poway Valley Garden Club, Monterey Ridge Elementary, Painted Rock Elementary, Chaparral Elementary, Bluffs Elementary, Abraxas High School

District: Sacramento River Valley, Clarksburg Garden Club, Delta Elementary Charter School Community Garden

District: San Fernando Valley, Toluca Lake Garden Club, Toluca Lake Elementary School Garden Ranger Program

Motion Passed. See Attachment B.

The meeting recessed at 3:19 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 3:34 p.m.

Without objection, Shirley LIPA was appointed Timekeeper Pro Tem for this meeting.

District Director Reports

President-elect/District Director Coordinator Nina Blonski introduced those directors who reported. See Attachment C.

The meeting recessed at 4:38 p.m.

Business Meeting #2

The meeting reconvened on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Chairmen Reports

Interim 2nd Vice President/Chairmen Coordinator Maria Krenek introduced those chairmen who reported. See Attachment B.

President Adele Kelly announced the 2027 Winter Board Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on January 26, 27 and 28, 2027 (but the correct dates are January 25, 26 and 27, 2027).

Announcements were made.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Greg Pokorski _____ Date _____
Recording Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment A Officers' Reports

Financial Secretary, Launa Gould

Most of you attending today have a budget and/or collect checks for your chairmanship.

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:

1. Fill out the Cash Receipt Report 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. Mail checks to the appropriate address.

Copies of these forms are available at the head table.

Corresponding Secretary, Shelley Sparks

This corresponding secretary sent thank you notes to sponsors of the 2026 convention on May 15, 2026.

On May 14, received thank you note from Postal History Foundation that was read at the Fall Board meeting as part of the report.

On May 20 sent sympathy note to Pat Claves and notification to the board.

On May 21, CGCI calendar was updated with events and changes from the convention.

On June 3, sympathy note was sent to Dorothy Dempsey and announcement sent to the board.

On June 17, CGCI convention minutes were sent out.

On July 28 sympathy letter sent to Joan Craig and sad news to board announced.

On July 30 Reminder to PRGC convention in October was sent to board.

On August 1 Reminder to register for Fall Board meeting was sent.

On August 8 Sympathy letter sent to Krystal Migliore's mom and husband and announcement sent to the board.

On August 30, a thank you note was received from Conejo Valley Botanic Garden which was read at the Fall Board Meeting.

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

Parliamentarian, Greg Pokorski

This officer endeavors to support and promote the use of parliamentary procedure in the administration of CGCI and its clubs and districts.

Parliamentary Procedure is intended to make meetings fair and effective.

In addition to ongoing duties related to meeting preparation and follow-up, and participation in the Executive Committee and Governance Committee, this officer responds to questions from board members, clubs and districts. Let me know if you have questions or issues.

Remember that bylaws take precedence over *Robert's Rules of Order*. It is part of the responsibility of all CGCI board members to read and know what is contained in our governing documents. It is part of the responsibility of club and district board members and members in general to know and follow the bylaws and standing rules of each organization.

Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to serve CGCI and you in this position.

Interim 2nd Vice President & Chairmen Coordinator, Maria Krenek

Since my last reporting at the CGCI 2026 Convention, this Interim 2nd Vice President has been able to attend a variety of board committee meetings and the Fall Board District Directors Meeting. Each meeting proved productive and educational for me. My other duties have included conducting the meeting of the chairs of many of the CGCI committees which occurred prior to the convening of the 2026 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch. The work conducted at this meeting centered around two topics. The first was a review of the previous Chairs' meeting at convention and the responses the chairs gave at that time. Their responses helped me to understand their roles, needs and expectations. The second topic took up most of our meeting time and centered around four questions posed by President Kelly. Those questions were:

1. What new and impactful State Projects could CGCI adopt?
2. What can we offer at CGCI state conventions to entice club members to attend?
3. What type or method of education or training would benefit our organizational members?
4. How do we secure future leadership (officers, district directors, and chairman)?

The discussion was a very active and engaging session resulting in many great ideas worthy of consideration. Responses and ideas were noted and submitted for further review.

Further responsibilities of this Interim Vice President included chairing the California Consultants Council. A Zoom meeting was held on August 18, 2026. The California Consultants Council also met at the Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch on the evening of September 2, 2026 and sponsored a program, *The Restoration of Historical Rose Gardens* by Burling Leong. The program was well attended by CGCI Board members and guests at the Harris Ranch meeting. A full reporting of the Council's activities was submitted for the record separately.

President-elect & District Director Coordinator, Nina Blonski

This President-elect has been reaching out to the District directors, reminding them of our Fall Board meeting. During the District director's forum, 5 questions were asked, and comments were shared. I have also contacted the 21 club's presidents in the 4 districts that have no representation regarding the questions. Two clubs responded. The forum went well and everyone participated in the activity. I have a list of the comments and will be sharing them soon.

This President-elect attended the presentation of awards for the Smokey the Bear contest in Sacramento at the California State Fair, Wednesday, July 22. It was inspiring to see the winning posters and the pride on the young artists' faces.

This President-elect will be attending a Blue Star Memorial dedication in Newman at the Hills Ferry Cemetery sponsored by the Newman Gustine Garden Club, Friday, October 2.

I have been working on my president's project, along with filling the CGCI board with chairmen willing to continue or new members wanting to be on the 2027-2029 team. I am also looking for hosts for the 2028 Fall Board meeting and 2029 Convention. Please let me know if you would like to help in any way. I have been attending many Zoom meetings in the last month: Budget & Finance, Board of Trustees, Governance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Executive Committee.

Being part of the CCC- California Consultant Council, the business meeting was held before the Fall Board meeting scheduled time, so the meeting time will allow us to enjoy the presentation tonight.

President, Adele Kelly

After our successful Convention in San Diego, your president stayed busy over the summer.

In July I attended an NGC Virtual Care to Share Meeting. Topics discussed were Director's and Officer's Insurance, ADA Website Compliance requirements, and copyright and image usage considerations. I also went on a weeklong road trip to Northern California. I visited the Humboldt District, which sponsored the Leadership Workshop *Seeding the Future*, presented by Robin Pokorski. The workshop focused on identifying, cultivating, and creating future leaders for our clubs. Topics covered included conducting productive meetings, addressing personnel issues, reviewing treasurer reports and budgets, increasing membership, improving publicity, and building strong teams. Following the workshop, we enjoyed a lovely stroll through the Hadley Gardens in Ferndale and a tasty dinner at the Historic Ferndale Inn. My travels continued north to Redding, where I met with Cascade District Director and 2027 CGCI Convention Chairman Judy Paul and her committee members to plan our next convention.

In August, I attended the Organization of Floral Art Designers (OFAD) Seminar in San Francisco, which offered exceptional floral design workshops and programs. The seminar never fails to delight its attendees with beautiful floral works of art. I also attended a PRGC Virtual Meeting. Topics discussed were how to hold and encourage more Flower Shows, Flower Show Symposiums, and Flower Show Schools.

I look forward to visiting more districts and clubs in the months ahead. Every time we meet, I come away inspired and proud of the extraordinary work you're doing to support our mission. Your passion is the heartbeat of this organization—so please, keep sharing your big wins, creative ideas, and stories with me!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention at The Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks, October 12-14. CGCI is hosting, so let's make it a fantastic gathering as we learn, reconnect, and have FUN!

Attachment B Committee and Chairmen Reports

Awards, Pat Clayes

The Awards Committee members are Judy Bates, Shirley Lipa, Emily Troxell, and Elisabeth Tufo. The Awards Manual for the 2026 awards year was finalized in June. Please note the two award deadlines: December 1 and January 10. Some ask, "Why are there two deadlines?" The first date allows enough time for entries to be judged and winners forwarded to NGC and PRGC. The other date gives applicants more time to submit their entries that do not go on for further judging to NGC or PRGC. New this year: Yearbooks will now be mailed, as we found it more efficient to judge them in person rather than on a computer screen.

Awards Sponsors/Finance Chairman Elisabeth Tufo reports that two districts and one individual are behind on sponsorship fees that were due on deposit by August 31.

Blue Star Northern California, Maria Krenek

Thank you, Newman-Gustine Garden Club in cooperation with Hills Ferry Cemetery District for their BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER with a planned dedication of October 2, 2026.

Thank you also to Oakdale Garden Club who is dedicating a GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER in May 2027.

Thank you to all of the clubs and districts that are finding, restoring or replacing markers with care and respect. Keep it up everyone.

It is important we remember and honor those who have served and continue to serve.

Board of Trustees, Robin Pokorski

The Board of Trustees consists of Lynne Batchelor, Lisa Cosand, Roseann Costabile, Alexis Slafer, Carol Vallens and myself as chairman. The Trustees met via Zoom on August 13, 2026 with George Perko, CGCI Treasurer and Financial Advisor, President Adele Kelly and President-elect Nina Blonski and Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek as guests. Year-to-date financial records from as of June 30, 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 except that CGCI is so fortunate to have Launa Gould and George Perko as excellent stewards of our money.

The CGCI Endowment Fund which is invested in 67.71% Stocks and 32.3% Bonds reported a balance on June 30, 2026 of \$137,590.40 which demonstrated a quarterly increase of \$10,035.57.

The CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund which is invested in 67.3% Stocks and 32.3% Bonds reported a balance on June 30, 2026 of \$263,495.45 which demonstrated a quarterly increase of \$18,949.03.

The Trustees are reviewing the "Important Papers" binder to determine if, in fact, the hard copies the binder contains are actually current AND important.

The Trustees voted to recommend the closure of two state projects: Black Point Historic Gardens and Conejo Valley Botanic Garden which have both fulfilled their resolution goals.

The Trustees voted to recommend a Standing Rule regarding state projects and electronic transaction fees.

The Trustees voted to recommend renaming the Wildflower Conference Restricted Fund – L/C 31012-1 for more broad and generic educational events.

The Trustees continue to update the Endowment Funds Tracker for a quick visual reference.

The Restricted Guidelines document which was initially set up as an Excel spreadsheet has been converted to a Word document for ease in updating.

Budget & Finance Committee, Launa Gould

Members of committee:

Launa Gould	Financial Secretary
Cynthia Jackson	GTEP
Nina Blonski	President-elect
Maria Krenek	Int. 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 August 13, 2026

Treasurer- George Perko - Reviewed June 30, 2026 fiscal year end financials in depth.

Financial Secretary-reviewed income/expense spreadsheets and the Warrant register.

Signers have been added to Bank of America accounts: Nina Blonski and Maria Krenek

CD balances as of 8/3/2026

US Bank #7664 - \$145,706.52 Matures 12/8/26

US Bank #4022 - \$92,693.83 Matures 12/31/2026

withdrew \$10,000 from CD #4022 on 8/3/26 and transferred to B of A Max acct.

BofA #7050- \$75,810.46 matures 12/18/2026

Discussion was held regarding expanding the credit card usage for CGCI members.

After a recommendation was received from the Strategic Planning Committee, there were daily emails between our Web advisor, Jane McKee, Treasurer, George Perko, Financial Secretary, and President Adele Kelly.

Concerns and procedures were discussed, and a plan is in place.

1. We will offer Point of Sale (POS) credit card sales at the President Projects table at this meeting.
 2. The website donation pages will be updated
 3. Registration for Winter Board Meeting will offer an opportunity to pay by credit card
- We will continue to increase the credit card capabilities for payment of fees and more.
This plan has been enthusiastically accepted by the Executive Committee and others.
Thank you, President Adele for your support in this effort.

California Consultants Council, Maria Krenek

Since our May 2026 CGCI Convention and The California Consultants Council last reporting, we met on August 18, 2026 via ZOOM.

Our School Chairs reported schools recently completed with none scheduled except as ZOOM courses through NGC. Look for a survey that has been developed which will reach out to districts and clubs to help in understanding why more schools aren't being scheduled. We are also exploring the opportunity for zoom courses and refreshers. We invite you all to sponsor schools. There is plenty of help to support your effort.

Other work being pursued is a review of our awards structure to acknowledge the good work being done in our school disciplines. This Fall Board meeting will include an award to be announced.

A listing of Environmental and Gardening Consultants has been added to the Educational Schools Section of the CGCI website. The list of consultants for Landscape Design will be added in the near future. This will help keep track of those who are accredited and maintaining their status.

We invite all consultants to become members of the Council. Since Convention we have one new member. One of the benefits of that membership is our newsletter *Council Thymes*, Editor Sue Bennett. Our last newsletter came out in early August, a month prior to this meeting. It features a range of interesting articles that included snails, club activities and workshop ideas, awards and more. Last but not least, we hope you will enjoy the program sponsored by CCC on the Restoration of Historical Rose Gardens by Burling Leong at this Fall Board. You are all invited. Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Belmont Room. See you there.

Event Coordinator, Robin Pokorski

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

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

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

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. We have two students who have completed their schedule and are collecting their exhibiting and judging credits. One has chosen not to continue and the other 3 students are working on their assignment.

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

The Symposium is scheduled for October 27 and 28th, 2026 at the Handlery Hotel. The brochure is available on the CGCI website as well as several brochures in the foyer. The registration form needs to go to our Registrar, (and President-elect), Nina Blonski and the NGC form required for judges' advancement needs to be forwarded to Dyanna Madro, 6 weeks prior to the Symposium.

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

Gardening Schools, Greg Pokorski

This chairman attended the August 18, 2026 California Consultants Council (CCC) meeting where he delivered a similar report.

The list of Gardening Consultants, including expiration dates, has been updated and posted on the CGCI website.

We currently have 12 Provisional Consultants, 35 Consultants, 15 Master Consultants and 9 Emeritus Consultants, for a total of 71 Gardening Consultants. As always, clubs and districts are encouraged to know which of their members are NGC Consultants, recognize them for their achievements and utilize them as resources.

Several reminders have been sent to consultants who will lapse this year if they don't refresh this year.

Zoom refresher opportunities currently available are Georgia CI, 9/15-9/16; Connecticut C3, 9/21-9/22 and a Tri-Refresher, 10/2-10/3. Check the NGC website for details or check with me.

Please advise me if you enroll in any course for Gardening School credit so I can provide you with the required paperwork and be sure your state records are updated.

NGC has launched a Schools Portal. Consultants can pay \$15 a year to access their NGC records, but you can check your status with me for no charge.

This chairman wrote several articles for the recent issue of *The Council Thymes*, the newsletter of the CCC, and articles for *WACONIAH* and *Golden Gardens* regarding refresher opportunities.

Individual clubs and districts are needed to sponsor and conduct Gardening Schools – or team up with another club or district to offer this education to your members and the public, and to make some money.

Long Beach Garden Club and Palomar District are considering the possibility of holding a Gardening School. Stay tuned.

I'm happy to answer your questions, get you started, and walk you through the process.

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. *Golden Gardens* currently has over 3,000 subscribers. Committee members are dedicated to providing CGCI members and the public with engaging and diverse articles. We are once again asking the chairmen to submit articles about their chairmanships for inclusion in *Golden Gardens*. I sincerely appreciate those chairmen who have faithfully contributed articles throughout the years. We have also been including articles from our club and district newsletters, so please continue to send your newsletters to me. You will notice a change in the appearance of *Golden Gardens* starting with the November-December 2026 issue because Microsoft is discontinuing its Publisher program. The newsletter will now be done in Microsoft Word. We continue to use Grammarly.com to check articles for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and punctuation issues. So, do not hesitate to send an article to me. Grammarly.com will “fix it up.”

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 and Carol Vallens and this chairman. President Adele Kelly generally attends meetings as an ex officio committee member. Per Standing Rule 5, President-elect Nina Blonski and Interim 2nd Vice President Maria Krenek may attend meetings and participate except for the rights to make motions and to vote.

Following convention, the master bylaws and standing rules documents were updated to include changes voted on in the last year. These are posed on the website and are included in pages 53 to 83 of the new 2026-2027 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. This was reported in an article in the July-August issue of *Golden Gardens*.

Since convention the committee resumed monthly Zoom meetings in July and August.

Bylaws can only be amended at conventions. Proposed amendments must be submitted to this committee by November 1. Those proposals approved by the committee are presented to the board of directors at the Winter Board Meeting. The board votes to determine whether or not these are moved forward for the consideration of the membership at convention.

Please use the Amendment Request webform found on the Governance section of the website to submit your proposals.

The committee will be focusing on bylaws changes now through Winter Board Meeting.

Standing Rules may be adopted or amended at any board meeting. We have three proposals for you today. They are contained on the front and back of a handout distributed at this meeting. Since these were not presented to you prior to this meeting a two thirds vote is required for their adoption. If adopted they become effective immediately.

Madame President, I move to adopt the following amendments to the standing rules:
(See minutes, page 4 and Attachment D. All passed unanimously.)

Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), Cynthia Jackson

The only item that I have to report is my recommendation to add a club to the program. I move to add Somerset Garden Club to CGCI's group tax exemption program, retroactively effective to 7/1/26. (See minutes, page 4).

Landscape Design Schools, Alexis Slafer

This Chairman regrets to say that there is no Landscape Design School currently being planned in California. There are opportunities to attend that are available across the country -- either in person or virtually via Zoom... the NGC website has information and schedules. The four courses can be taken in any order.

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. Enthusiastically discuss these opportunities with your members. How many of you have hosted a Landscape Design School? And how many have discussed hosting a Landscape Design School with your club or district? This Chairman is interested in chatting with those who discussed it but did not hold the school to find out why it never happened. This is an opportunity for your members, to learn about landscape design...and your membership can grow... while often increasing revenue.

Currently, the total number of CGCI Landscape Design Consultants stands at 94. These include 14 Provisional (they have taken at least 2 courses), 10 Master (they have refreshed at least 4 times), and 7 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.

Madame President, 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.

The Liability Insurance Team consists of:

Launa Gould – Chairman

Tammy Eacker – General Liability Chairman

Paula Elias- Assists in processing Homeowner Certificates

This team has been a great benefit to the Liability Insurance chairmanship.

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

The insurance year starts on Feb 15.

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

Tammy Eacker has processed **262 clubs** that have taken advantage of the low-cost **General liability insurance. That is coverage for over 17,000 CGCI members.**

Additional Insured certificates are available to those clubs with General Liability insurance. The certificates are issued 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. This process can be complicated, depending on the contract the venue provides. Allow plenty of time for the process.

Since January, we have **issued 170 Additional Insured Certificates**.

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

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me or contact Tammy Eacker for General Liability questions.

Life Membership, Linda Travis

The following names are being submitted for LM ratification, from the May through August 2026 time period:

Riviera GC/Costa Verde District - Judy Unrine (May 2026)

Southern California GC/San Fernando Valley District - Alice Lewin (May 2026)

Hermosa Garden Club/Costa Verde District - Elizabeth Brown (May 2026), Christy Robinson (May 2026)

Willow Glen GC/Santa Clara Valley District - Sarah Mitchell (June 2026)

Cherry Blossom GC/San Fernando Valley District - Margaret Phelps

This brings the 2026 YTD total for LM's to 9 (representing four Districts and seven Clubs participating). Despite articles being published in the *Golden Gardens* Newsletter, explaining benefits of LM and do's and don'ts for completing applications, I continue to receive inquiries about LM, such as, i.e. who pays the recipients' club dues; do we get general liability insurance for garden club tours; if a lifetime member passes away or is no longer a club member, are we still responsible for dues?; and can I fill out one application for all 3 LM's and send in one check? All these inquiries are always responded to with politeness, expediency and detail.

The webmistress and I have really worked hard to streamline the application process and make it as easy as possible, to provide all the information and steps required for a member to easily apply for a LM. This included offering a generic online application, which can be easily modified to fit any of the 3 LM options.

Also, it is not necessary to submit updates on LM recipient status, relative to moving out of state, no longer belonging to a CGCI GC or death. The List of LM recipients on the CGCI website does not change, as this is a historical record of all LM's issued. If a club does alert me to a death, etc., I do update the digital record of the LM application impacted, but not the CGCI website list.

Lastly, we are going to start 'batch processing' the added LM recipients' names included on the CGCI website List of LM, to be updated twice a year (after Fall Board and after Winter Board). This is to make it easier on the Webmistress who handles list updates. So, if you don't see your name listed right away online, please give it a few months.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to promote and issue Life Memberships, in support of Scholarships.

Membership, Rita Desilets

These are the membership numbers as of August 26, 2026.

1 Affiliate

227 clubs with 13,540 members

45 APS with 3095 members for a total membership of **16,635**

Madam President, I move to ratify the following clubs:

Merced Fair Floriculture Boosters, 3 members, Yosemite Gateway District

President: Roberta Becker

Linda Vista Garden Club, 5 members, Palomar District

President: Lorri Freitas

The following clubs have disbanded: Tuolumne County Garden Club, Valley Lode District; Floral Arts of the Bay Area, Bay Ocean District

Additional members for 2026-2027 may be reported after September 1, 2026.

Nominating Committee, Roseann Costabile

The Nominating Committee met via Zoom August 26, 2026, 6 members attending. Some candidate interviews have taken place.

An upcoming article in *Golden Gardens* will highlight the skills needed for the Financial Secretary position. People with a general financial and Excel knowledge are encouraged to seek out a member of the nominating committee for clarification of an interview. District Directors may recommend any club members with skills as they do not have to be currently on the CGCI Board.

Pacific Region Garden Clubs Convention Coordinator, Robin Pokorski

This board voted to invite the Region to “our house” now we need the family at home to welcome our guests. TEAM PRGC26 is awesome and they have been working so hard to make this region convention educational, memorable and above all, fun.

We have two fantastic tours planned on Saturday and Sunday, Oct 10 and 11. On Monday, we have a workshop extravaganza that will give ideas that all will be able to take back to their clubs, districts and states; there will be a Photo Scavenger Hunt; Art in Design and much more. We still need lots of California members to man tables, smile, be friendly and host meal tables. Please consider this a personal invitation to help CGCI put on our best face to the region.

Thank you, President Adele for the opportunity to serve CGCI in this capacity as chairman of this AWESOME group – TEAM PRGC26!

Penny Pines, Terry Sampson

Penny Pines, according to Joe Sherlock who is a California Forester, is still in effect in the state of California. I do realize that Plant a Tree is a nationwide program which is all done electronically on your computer. This program does not have any interaction with CGCI. CGCI is still involved with Penny Pines in California. Some of the problems with the Forest Service, not cashing checks or getting certificates out is because of the cutback of staffing in the NFS. I do call the NFS with situations that are brought to my attention to “light a fire” under them so to speak. Usually, it does just take a phone call to get things moving along. CGCI has received 132 submissions as of this writing. Some have more than 1 plantation bought. I just received a submission with 12 donations on one submission form. Did you know that with the \$68.00 you can list more than one person to honor/ or in memory of?

President’s Project, Barbara Weiler

The fundraising campaign for the Abraxas Garden-Abraxas Orchard expansion is going very well. We have currently raised \$29,225 and hope that we can continue to raise more that our original goal of \$30,000. The plans for the Abraxas orchard include a greenhouse which will be used to raise seedlings

for the other school gardens in the district. CGCI has already transferred \$26,000 to Abraxas and our new goal is to raise additional funds to cover the cost of the greenhouse. Over the summer break, heavy machinery leveled and created paths, a new irrigation controller was installed, DG and edging were installed on the paths, and some trees have been purchased. Now that schools are in session, the students will construct raised beds, worktables and benches and start planting the trees.

Registrar, Robin Pokorski

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

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

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

Sempervirens Fund, Judy Unrine

We all are aware of the destructive CZU fire that devastated Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Construction crews worked to clear debris from roads and vital infrastructure, scientists studied how best to give aid to redwoods that were damaged. Now, the park has reopened to the public. But much work is needed.

A five mile trail is being constructed at Timm’s Creek. Amanda Krauss, Tribute Program Manager at Sempervirens, contacted me about the restoration project. She asked if we could sponsor one of the 22 bridges that will be built on Timm’s Creek. The cost is \$2500. This is one of the more modest bridges being built.

At this time, \$3523.40 dollars has been collected from members, line code —, in restricted fund. I propose use of \$2500 to pay for the bridge. That will leave \$1023.40 in the restricted fund.

Thank you to the Executive Board for recommending the project and the Board of Directors for approving this project.

Social Media/Facebook, Pat Clayes

The Facebook page is updated daily using Canva.com’s scheduling system. We share engaging and informative articles from our club and district newsletters, as well as additional gardening resources. Thank you all for consistently sharing your information with our members and the public. We now have 2,500 followers, with 135 following. Please continue to send your club and district newsletters to me.

The Instagram page was created in March 2026 and now has 200 photos, 127 followers, and 143 following. Check it out on Instagram – just search for “Californiagardenclubs” – all one word. Please send photos to me, along with their captions, so I can include them on our Instagram page. Thank you!

Stamps, Terry Sampson

The boxes were sent off to the Tucson Postal Museum last June. I can’t believe all of the interesting stamps that are sent my way. I have downloaded a program on my IPAD that can tell me if the stamps have any value, etc. Who knows???? We may have some valuable stamps donated. I have a few places that will buy stamps and any monies received will go to whatever project is chosen by the board of CGCI. Thank you for all of the stamps you... (the members) have sent my way.

State and Misc. Sales, Shirley Lipa

State Pins & Misc. Sales – Shirley Lipa

CGCI State President, Adele Kelly, gave her permission for this chairman to lower the cost of all remaining state pins to \$10 each. When these pins are sold, there will not be any new ones ordered, so when they are gone, they are gone for good. You may be able to buy them from National Garden Clubs, but there will be a big shipping fee.

This is the remaining stock of pins:

- 6 Club President
- 2 Past Club President
- 4 District Director
- 8 Past District Director
- 11 CGCI Member

Web Advisor and Members Only Database, Jane McKee

Organization records: 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 ensure ALL information is current. This includes meeting place/day/time, website or social media pages as well as contact info. Please don’t submit a request to the database administrator to update the record.

Online Directories: available to presidents and treasurers of member organizations and CGCI board members. The following Directories are “private” and can only be viewed by a member with password access.

- Member Organizations: Contact information for presidents and treasurers (listed by organization or by District)
- CGCI Board of Directors: Two lists: a) list only – name and board positions or b) full contact information.
- CGCI Youth groups with contact information
- CGCI Board of Directors only.
 - list of organizations that are members of GTEP
 - organizations paid or not paid. Records display the date thru which dues are paid and the number of members paid to date. District Directors can track the dues status of clubs in their district.
 - Organizations dropped – two lists: January 1, 2025 to date and those dropped prior to December 31, 2024.

Find a Club:

- This directory is “public” and anyone can access. It includes only information about meeting locations/days/times, a brief description of the club activities and a point of contact.
- Purpose: newcomers to the state or to a different part of California or new to garden clubs can search for clubs in the area where they will live.
- Search criteria:
 - By city or zip code: the system searches for the city or zip where the meeting takes place
 - Radius: how far are you willing to travel to meetings – 5, 10, 15, 20 miles. If you enter a zip code but no radius choice and see no results it probably means there is no club that holds meetings in your specific zip code. Remember that in larger urban areas a venue a few blocks from your home may be in a different zip code or even different city.
 - Keyword: do you have a special interest? Roses, orchids etc.
 - District: although most newcomers have no idea what a district is, current CGCI members might be interested in what clubs are in the various districts or when a particular club meets.

New directories are created and/or updated periodically as needed. If you would like a way to locate information about our members, let me know and if there isn't one currently available we will create one.

There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document along with the Members Only Handbook under the Help menu for those logged in. Check those out for more information on the membership database.

Webmaster, Sue Bennett

Madam President,

What has this chairman done since convention?

- Worked with the 11 districts and clubs to update their webpage that is managed by this webmaster.
- At convention, we discussed updating district webpages with club website links, Facebook pages, and/or Instagram accounts so clubs could be found online, even if they are not hosted on the CGCI website. Because many people were not using the *Find a Club* button, on the right-hand side -- new “**Looking for a Club to join? Check out [Find a Club](#)**” has been added closer to the top of the page. Visitors can click [Find a Club](#) and search by club or district.
- Gathering club names, website links, Facebook pages, and Instagram accounts from the Membership Databases required more effort than expected.
- District Directors, please work with your clubs to ensure the Membership Database is updated with all current information. This chairman found Clubs that have websites that were not mentioned in the Membership Database. Please remind clubs to review their Members Only information and update it as needed. It is their information; they are responsible for keeping it current.
- Please ensure that your President, Secretary, and Webmaster have the website login credentials, password, and hosting information documented. This way, if your webmaster becomes unavailable, your website can still be accessed and maintained.
- Many District and clubs have created their own websites, and have their information in the Membership Database, great; next this chairman will be working on removing “duplicate” sites,

duplicate since the information is now, or will be in the Membership Database for those 11 districts/clubs. You will be notified when it will start taking place.

Reminder: Jane is the Web advisor and Members Only Database administrator. This chairman is the Webmaster; we are happy to announce Shelley Sparks is now doing the Calendar.

Don't hesitate to ask this chairman any questions, be kind, we are all volunteers.

Youth Coordinator, Lisa Cosand

Thank you to the 9 clubs who have registered their youth club affiliations on the website either as active or donation status. This represents 4% of the 230 clubs in California. I am sure we are better at supporting our youth so please go to the website and be counted.

Youth contests have \$1200 of prize money to distribute this year. The entries need to be submitted through a garden club but the children don't have to be related to the club member such as your neighbor or kids at a garden event. The poetry, essay, pollinator poster and recycled sculpture contest entries are due December 1. Smokey the Bear which is done through schools and groups is due in January. For all contests, check the website for details.

Attachment C

District Directors' Reports

Arboretum District Director, Nancy Bird

The 1st minute was my frustration with not having enough help to run the District. I have a temporary Secretary, and a temporary Treasurer, and no 1st V.P. to arrange for speakers.

The Monrovia Garden Club

This club gave out 10 garden awards, including to 2 small gardens in mobile homes, based on drought tolerant and CA native plants. Their city gave them \$1,000 for encouraging this style. The club gave each winner \$100 on June 1st.

They were able to give a \$500 donation to FOODED who teach edible gardening to 4 elementary schools, starting with 2nd & 3rd graders.

It's Garden Time

On May 7 they awarded 7 Penny Pines donations to the San Bernardino National Forest. They are planning a field trip the gardens at Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos on October 8th.

Bay Bridges District Director, Sandy Jaeger (reported by Alternate Dona Pedvin)

Bay Bridges had two meetings this past year, in April and September. At each meeting we had representatives from 7 of our clubs, with 33 and 40 members present respectively. The September meeting generally lets us know what the clubs are planning for the year while we get reports from those events at the April Meeting.

At the April meeting we donated two \$1000 scholarships to students at Merritt College of Oakland. We also awarded 12 Bay Bridges District Awards, with each recipient receiving a certificate and a succulent plant.

During our club reports we heard of many great projects. The Begonia Society will have a fundraiser in September and always has speakers available for meetings. The El Cerrito Club tours their city and chooses front yard gardens to award with certificates. Heirloom Flowers has all of their meetings at the Shinn Park and Arboretum in Fremont where they meet every two weeks to do park maintenance and beautification. The Berkeley Club has a plant sale in May in conjunction with an art cooperative and is planning a garden tour for 2027. And Hillside Gardeners of Montclair again had their very successful biannual garden tour and made over \$40,000 in profit, which they will use for scholarships and donations.

It was another good year for the clubs of the Bay Bridges District.

Bay Ocean District Director, Nancy McDougal (reported by Nina Blonski)

Bay Ocean District continues to hold meetings after each of the three CGCI meetings to discuss any developments and to keep contact with the groups in our area. Though the meetings are short with light refreshments followed by an interesting program by an outside speaker, the attendance has been minimal. Through an inadvertent advertisement of our speaker last spring, we also had a large audience of gardeners unfamiliar with us or CGCI. Seeing this as an opportunity to make us more visible in the community, we have chosen to invite members of the public again at our coming Fall meeting. Also, in order to try to accommodate more of our own representatives, some of which work daytimes and others who don't go out at night, we are also trying an experimental change of this meeting time to a late Sunday morning. I continue to communicate through a newsletter before each meeting with other information of interest, periodic emails and a roster showing complete contact

information for each of the groups and all dates, activity information, and contact helps that have been found most useful over the years.

Buttes District Liaison, Carol Jauregui

Just like CGCI, clubs in the Buttes District give scholarships. Most all of the garden clubs hold annual plants sales, and earmark that income for scholarships and educational purposes.

Paradise Garden Club has held a garden tour and plant sale for over 25 years. Their proceeds allow for giving 5-6, \$1000.00 scholarships to Butte College Horticulture students.

Lake Oroville Area GC holds raffles after each club meeting. The raffle rules by the Secretary of State specify that 90% of the money collected must be used for educational or charitable purposes. Their treasurer named theirs the "Raffle for Education" with hopes of members purchasing more tickets to support the scholarship fund, with a goal of a \$1000.00 scholarship each year.

The Gridley Green Thumb GC held their annual plant sale, and gave a scholarship to their local high school. They also gave money to the floriculture and horticulture programs at the same school.

The other three clubs that annually hold pre-Mother's Day plant sales are Friendly GC of Orland, Garden Club of Colusa County, and the Sutter Buttes GC. All of these clubs use their earnings for High School scholarships. At least two of these clubs have CD's that they place their money in to save for the following year's donations.

Chico Horticultural Society gives money to local elementary schools, via school garden grants. Schools submit applications, stating what project or needs they have. A committee reads the applications and disperses the funds accordingly.

On another note, this District Director-Liaison has encouraged the clubs to give both to *Sempervirens* and Penny Pines.

This October, the Lake Oroville Area GC has planned a brunch to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1976 as the Kelly Ridge GC, they changed the name in 2004 to the Lake Oroville Area Garden Club, to attract and include members from all of the Oroville area.

Cascade District Director, Judy Paul

Cascade District welcomes two new presidents to our Redding and Lake California Garden Clubs. We will hold our first Board meeting for club presidents on September 10 to share successes and concerns, and generally help them off to a great start.

Red Bluff GC is having their annual Fall luncheon October 10. 200 tickets are nearly all sold!

October 22 will be our Cascade District Fall Board meeting, hosted by Lake California Garden Club. November 10 we will celebrate our district participation in The Great Sunflower Project with a Pollen Palooza Party!

Cascade District is hosting the 95th CGCI Convention, June 7-10, 2027 in Redding! We had our first kick-off brainstorming meeting August 14, with 24 members attending. Folks stepped up to be chairs of our committees, and shared some unique ideas. We "water warriors," plan to show attendees a super time up here in the North State!

Blue Star Memorials are on our minds too. Shasta Lake Garden Project is hoping to replace the Highway Marker at O'Brien rest area on I-5, a bit north of Redding. George and Maria are giving us some assistance as Cal Trans is hard to pin down. Cottonwood Garden Club has really cleaned up their intermediate marker, 8" x12", a style designed around 1952. Records show it was installed in 1968. It was festive with red, white, and blue décor for the 4th of July! It is located along SR 99, on Front Street, Cottonwood, in a small park they own and maintain.

At the time of writing these comments, a local news magazine, *"Enjoy,"* is writing an article on Blue Star Memorials with information shared by this director and a couple additional club members. It is due for publication in early November.

Channel Islands District Director, Darcey Lober

Conejo Valley

moved all meetings to Unity of the Oaks Fellowship Hall at 241 Lombard St in Thousand Oaks for improved accessibility. We will be presenting a flower show the last weekend in April, 2027.

Malibu

The club just had a special luncheon for one of its members who is 102 years old, served at the Battle of the Bulge, and survived to talk about it.

Westlake Village Garden Club

in September: Dr Dana Johnson spoke about the endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly. We are planning a field trip to Apricot Lane Farm in Moorpark in October.

Organic Garden

At Ventura County Farm Day Our first stop was at Prancer's Farm, where we were delighted with a gorgeous day on their farm tour. At the Agricultural Museum of Ventura County, so much was available to explore that we could have spent the day! We visited with friends from many different agricultural and ecological groups. A highlight was the fabulous "Wildflower and Weed Show"! Our last stop was at Petty Ranch with a hub of community organizations, 10,000 seedlings given out by Plantel Nursery, and we enjoyed a tour of their avocado farm.

Ojai

Is in a phase of rebuilding (add in new members) with education presentations regarding how to garden in the heat...keeping our 100 year commitment of providing fresh flowers for the Ojai post office with having them survive for the week. Oct we gave a guest speaker who will be showcasing her business of succulent arrangements and mid-September we will be foraging at Taft garden for natural materials for our early December wreath making fundraiser.

Las Floralias

Las Floralias is a flower arranging club based in Santa Barbara, California. Our aim is to bring together a group of floral enthusiasts to further the art of flower arranging through study, workshops, lectures, and participation in flower shows. We follow the *Art Principles* of subordination, opposition, transition, repetition, radiation, and symmetry.

Ventura County

Our mission is to promote interest in the subject of gardening and to foster community beautification through district projects.

Pleasant Valley

The Member's garden tour supported Livingston Memorial Hospice. The Summer Social was coordinated expertly, and was a sweet time for all who attended. We even had a get-to-know-you game of bingo!!

Sogetsu

Classes are offered by

CAMILLE VAN AST on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 10am-12pm - Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Thousand Oaks

Costa Verde District Director, Cindy Kovacs

The Costa Verde District is the lower part of Los Angeles County comprising of 6 clubs. We have 3 meetings and a holiday party each year, with one bus trip to a nearby botanic garden.

Since the last report, I have identified 3 unaffiliated clubs in my area, and made a presentation at one – The Bellflower Garden Club. They are just getting started and I am trying to support them without overwhelming them. The other two clubs, I plan to meet with and encourage sharing information that would help to build ties between clubs, while pointing out benefits of CGCI membership.

I was able to attend meetings of 4 of the 6 clubs in the District, and plan to attend all 6 this year. I think it will encourage more attendance at District meetings. We are planning a one-day trip to Catalina in March to view the habitat restoration work and the Native Plant Nursery. I will be conducting a terrarium workshop as a fundraiser in January. I have a 30-minute lesson plan if anyone would like to use it.

Priorities that I will be continuing from last year are Life Membership at the clubs, and the Club Presidents Forum in the Spring to discuss issues common to all the clubs.

Golden Foothills District Director, Erin Angulo

Madame President and fellow board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as District Director for the Golden Foothill District.

I had the pleasure of attending two of our clubs' end-of-the-year parties and presented the awards they earned through CGCI, PRGC and NGC.

Every year we have a District Garden Party along with a hat parade. This year it was hosted by the Placerville Garden Club. They did a wonderful job decorating the room and had outside garden vignettes for all to wander and enjoy. The speaker was Marlene Simon who is a Master Gardener and presents garden tips on our local Good Morning Sacramento show. She did a great job, with lots of questions from the audience. I am considering her for the 2028 Convention to be hosted by our District. We had a great turnout, and over 40 members competed for the best hat!

Two of our clubs have been interacting with field trips and projects. This has benefitted both clubs with an increase in membership.

We gained two new clubs at the end of the year. One is still struggling to get paperwork for GTEP and bank accounts open. I have been communicating with those involved and hoping all is done by the beginning of September.

Our first board meeting is Oct 2 when we will be discussing hosting the 2028 Convention. Committees will be formed and many have already said they would like to help!

Greater Los Angeles District Director, Beverly Newton

The Greater Los Angeles District is continuing to work together to promote environmental and sustainable gardening throughout the county of Los Angeles. The following report demonstrates the commitment of the Clubs that comprise GLAD.

CULVER CITY GARDEN CLUB:

In June, Culver City celebrated their 73rd annual Plant Show & Sale. Club Members and guests entered 359 plants in 24 categories. There were also 943 people in attendance. This year a 6-year-old member won **Best in Show** displaying a Banana branch, loaded with banana that was 2 feet long. A Garden Hop is scheduled for October 10, 2026.

GERANIUM SOCIETY:

In August the Geranium Society returned from their summer break with a robust meeting, with several guests (who became members) in attendance. The knowledge of geranium was on full display with discussions on how to fertilize the plants. Deeper discussion and a lecture were provided by renowned

geranium hybridizer Jay Kapac. The main topic was scented geraniums. The club show is scheduled for May 2027.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL LOS ANGELES CHAPTER NO.4:

On March 15 -16, 2026, Workshops, Plant Sale and Demonstrations were held. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026. Their website is very informative and up to date.

LOS ANGELES GARDEN CLUB, INC.

The 93-year-old Los Angeles Garden Club's next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. The guest speaker is Marian Dodge on the topic: "The History of Griffith Park." The Club has a robust social media presence – see their website at losangelesgardenclub.org. Also, there is a YouTube video posted. The Facebook page has following of 1600+ members.

PACIFIC PALISADES GARDEN CLUB:

This club experienced loss of their meeting place due to the Los Angeles fires in 2025. I applaud President Mary Schultz efforts in holding the club together during this upending time. On June 26, 2026 the meeting was held via zoom with guest speaker Yvonne Savio. On September 6, 2026 the club visited the rose garden of actress Julie Newmar. The next in person event is a club picnic on September 26, 2026.

Humboldt District Director, Ellin Beltz (reported by Shirley Lipa)

Our District Clubs have been busy since the State Convention.

The Ferndale Garden Club held their annual plant sale on Main Street in May. They hosted the district meeting at Town Hall in June and arranged for a Mystery Garden Tour in place of a speaker, which raised almost \$500 for the Districts HERE Fund. They held a GALA the night before the County Fair opened to raise funds for fair awards and local scholarships.

Southern Humboldt Garden Club held their 73rd annual flower show on May 17. They installed a watering system and plants at the roundabout at the south entrance to Garberville.

Eureka-Sequoia Garden Club held a Plant Sale in June and toured a community member's Dahlia garden during the summer.

The Fortuna Garden Club continues to take care of the corner gardens along Main Street and enjoys monthly tours to places of interest. A garden tour and Bar-B-Q were held in June and a mystery tour to Feren Cottage in Ferndale was held in July.

All the district clubs gave scholarships to local youth.

A Leadership Conference was held on the 21st of July presented by Robin Pokorski and we were happy that CGCI President Adele Kelly was able to attend.

Our District Project is "Off With Their Heads!". We are asking public and private landowners, and government agencies to chop off the heads of Pampas Grass, which will eventually kill the plant. Since it is an invasive species, we are trying to stop its spread, as it is making its way to the Redwood forests.

Mendo-Lake District Director, Cornelia Reynolds (reported by Nina Blonski)

Our Summer District Meeting was hosted by the Lake County-based Trowel & Trellis Club and held at Clear Lake State Park. Three of our four Clubs attended. Our treasurer Bill Monlux of Potter Valley Garden Club was unable to attend due to his wife's surgery that day. With the temperature over 100° no one else from Potter Valley was willing to attend the outdoor meeting.

The highlight of the day was the Pontoon boat birdwatching trip on the lake, led by birding expert Donna Mackiewicz, President, Redbud Audubon Society.

The Trowel & Trellis Club held their own meeting at the park that day and honored the local youth who were winners of CGCI's Poster contest. Our joint luncheon was an opportunity to mix with the

members of this vibrant club and the sizeable community crowd which attended the awards ceremony.

Our meeting began with an extraordinary Inspiration delivered by Leanne Harvey. Instead of the usual poem or contemplation, she told the assembly the story of her grandmother's long involvement with the Ferndale Garden Club. Her story went beyond inspirational to illustrate the strength of Garden Clubs in their communities and the importance of the Clubs in the lives of so many participants who are members for most or all of their adult years.

Our meeting began with the convention report of Bill Monlux which, in his absence, was presented by the District Director. Considerable discussion ensued about the value and expense of sending someone to the convention. There was open resistance to sending someone to the CGCI Fall Board meeting due to the expense.

We discussed the possibilities of events and other ways to connect our clubs and our activities. The discussion highlighted the work that is still to be done to demonstrate the value of the District to our local clubs and to energize and engage the individual clubs and their members.

Our Fall District meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the Ukiah Garden Club and will include a floral presentation and demonstration.

Montana de Oro District Director, Carolyn Fergoda (reported by Alternate Wendy McKeown)

For this report, I want to highlight the clubs in our District who responded to my request for information about what their clubs were doing and how they felt generally about their activities. Two clubs in particular are the Los Osos Valley garden Club and the Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society.

Both clubs have partnered with outside groups to magnify their impact in helping to "save" an important area from pollution and educate about the importance of mulch, compost and sustainable plants. The Los Osos club also had a workday to renew their Community Center's garden. The Lompoc Valley has worked to educate its volunteers about the importance of their local Burton Mesa Chaparral, a precious and unique landscape.

I believe that the clubs in our area are continuing to build on the renewed energy that I reported on for the last board meeting (in June). That energy is coming from new members that are younger and willing to take on volunteer positions. Garden tours of non-members' homes, tours of members' homes, trips to visit specialty nurseries, garden parties/luncheon are popular activities. They allow for socializing among active club members. At the same time, clubs are looking for ways to enjoy the social aspects of membership without having to exhaust themselves with fundraising.

Orange County District Director, Donna Hood (reported by Launa Gould)

The OC District is continuing our theme of Let's Connect. This theme has motivated clubs to connect with other clubs, and connect with their communities.

Our 17 clubs are active in community projects. They are educating gardeners and maintaining community gardens. They are providing scholarships to college students studying horticulture. 11 OC clubs received Blue Ribbon Awards at the CGCI convention in San Diego.

The OC District had a basket auction at our District meeting that raised \$1350.00 for our scholarship fund. We awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship to a student at Fullerton College.

All OC clubs report growth in their clubs. All our clubs have active club officers.

Club newsletters are full of interesting speakers, fund raising events, and club excursions. Niguel Shores Garden Club will celebrate their 25th anniversary in September. Naples Island Garden Club raised \$6,000 for their community beautification projects. Laguna Beach club hosted an expert speaker on the "Wonder of Mushrooms"

Our newest club, Coastal Bonsai Garden club is active in various Bonsai shows around Southern California. OC Organic Garden Club hosted a workshop on gardening for kids.

A district meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2027 at Sherman Gardens.

Roadrunner District Director, Terry Sampson

The Roadrunner District is doing very well. We have 3 active clubs. Each club seems to have different programs at their meetings. Hesperia Garden Club took a field trip to Sunshine Growers where they were given a tour of so many plants. Cactus Wren Garden Club has taken on a project of a Veteran's home with plans of assisting in Herb/Veggie gardens. Desert Crossroads Garden Club had a great speaker on succulents followed by a field trip to his house to view all of his majestic succulents. Of course, there were succulents for sale and I came home with way too many. Some of the clubs have a table at our local college at the biannual plant sale where they hand out flyers for all 3 clubs with information on meetings, etc.

Sacramento River Valley District Director, Susan Hernandez

Sacramento River Valley 9th District has been a busy bee.

Debb Rooney our treasurer and Secretary Margaret Watson-Hunt created an awesome new logo for us which is now on all our printed materials and even on our new aprons. Nancy Compton has created a very informative and attractive tri-fold which we now take to our community outreach events of which she is the chair.

Our district board meetings have gone from only a few in attendance to every district club represented. We had to move to the local library to accommodate all the interested. One district meeting which only had 20 or so members attending went to 80 members in 2025-26 and more will come in the future I am sure. I'd like to say it is my sparkling presence which has caused this but I am sure it is the delicious lunch provided by the Pioneer Garden Club and the outstanding speakers Nancy and her committee have brought to us.

10 of our 12 garden clubs were established over 60 years ago. Folsom Garden Club is celebrating 92 years and LaPerita 88 Years. Clarksburg will have been a garden Club for 99 years. Now that's commitment. Our present enrollment is over 700 members.

Santa Clara Valley District Director, Roseann Costabile

Willow Glen Garden Club celebrated its 5th year of founding and honored Pres. Sarah Mitchel with a Lifetime CGCI Membership. The club also held a plant sale in June earning \$4000. A workshop featuring food preservation was organized by the club with a Master Food Preserver. Three stations were set up to make herbal salts, fresh salsa and pickled vegetables with the home-grown vegetables members brought. Lots of fun, interaction and sharing recipes took place.

Marina Tree & Garden Club invited our Monterey Ikebana Designers to do a floral demonstration at one of their meetings. This collaboration was open to the public and drew several guests.

The Santa Clara County Library was the location for the Milpitas Green Thumb Garden Club to celebrate their 70th anniversary. The members created a flower & plant exhibit and interacted with both adults and children interested in gardening. The Green Thumb donated \$1000 to purchase a greenhouse for an elementary school garden.

Sequoia Foothills District Director, Linda Tucker

It is with pleasure I report our experience with Co-District Directors has been a real success. It has enhanced the working relationship of clubs in our district. Our first District bunco fundraiser was successful and our profits allow us to bestow a scholarship to a student in the District. In fact, one of our clubs had so much fun they met during the summer gathering to play bunco just to keep the community gardening spirit connected.

District meetings have provided great opportunities for clubs to sell tickets to one another encouraging cross pollination of opportunities to join other club's activities. Field trips, great programs, garden tours, and Holiday luncheons have benefitted from these connections.

Hanford Garden Club celebrated their 75th anniversary with a special history program given by Carolyn Villi and five members became Life Members of CGCI.

Our Blue Star Memorial (installed in 2001) located in Lemoore has been refurbished by Hanford Garden Club. Seven of our clubs were Blue Ribbon Clubs this past year.

Overall, Sequoia Foothills District is looking forward to an exciting 2026-2027 year ahead with community spirit and expanding our outreach to other potential members.

Looking ahead with excitement,

Valley Lode District Director, Paula Elias

As Valley Lode District kicks off a new season, I am happy to say we have an upcoming director to take over from me, Chris Hingley from the Escalon Farmington Community Garden. Chris currently is our assistant director and scholarship chairperson. She is also our webmaster. Chris was a former club president and has all of the skills and support to be a successful director.

This season we have 17 clubs, sadly losing the Tuolumne County Garden Club with Charlotte Tucker as president. The club had a handful of members and no one would step up to any board position. Charlotte had no choice but to close down the club. We will miss the club and Charlotte in our district. The 17 clubs are thriving with many activities and contributions to their community. I am excited that we will have two new Blue Star Memorials installed this year. It is so wonderful to raise the money needed for a memorial to honor our armed forces.

As for the district, we have three district meetings planned where all club members are invited, usually 100 attending from around all of the clubs. Last year I started sharing at these meetings my district activities such as attending club meetings, going to garden tours or plant sales, etc. I also share when my board members are doing the same, example, my Penny Pines chair visited a club or my secretary conducted a workshop on plant propagation. I want club members to know the district is out supporting them. It seems to be well received.

I am excited that we have four new presidents. It is so nice for new leadership to stand up. My motto has been, when everyone takes a turn, it makes it easier on all of us. One of the new presidents told me she stepped up to be president when she heard my motto. What a win.

Yosemite Gateway District Director, Mary Brooks (reported by Nina Blonski)

The Yosemite Gateway District has just welcomed a new Club: MERCED FAIR FLORICULTURE BOOSTERS

Currently the club has eight members whose main function is to promote the horticultural programs and ventures of the Merced County Fair. The goal is to inspire interest in the vast world of plant science through innovative forms of competitions for 4-H, FFA and open exhibitors.

Merced Garden Club, LeGrand Garden Club, Atwater Garden Club and Manzanita Garden Club of Oakhurst continue with their scholarship efforts and their annual garden tours.

The District sponsored two historical rose garden projects;

In Merced the District Director was able to relocate the three historical roses from the fire that destroyed the original public high school/library. These roses are approximately 70 years old and have been planted in the park that surrounds the museum and courthouse.

In Los Banos the District Director was able to work with the Public Works department from the City of Los Banos to create a specimen rose garden located at the entrance of the Public Library.

Membership of the District is currently: 152

Attachment D
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Proposed Amendments to the CGCI Standing Rules from the Governance Committee
for the Board of Directors at the Fall Board Meeting, Tuesday or Wednesday,
September 1 or 2, 2026

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

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #1 31. Anyone whether commercial or otherwise wishing to sell products for their own benefit at a CGCI function, must first be approved by the function host and CGCI president. (a) A commercial vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement. (b) A host club or district may sponsor sales tables/boutiques or related fundraisers at a CGCI board meeting or convention and retain all revenue from such sales. (c) Individual chairmen/committees may raise funds to support their specific chairmanship.	Proposal #1 31. ~~Anyone whether commercial or otherwise wishing to sell products for their own benefit at a CGCI function,~~ <u>Proposed sales at a CGCI function that would benefit an individual or organization or business other than CGCI</u> must first be approved by the function host and CGCI president. (a) A commercial vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement. (b) A host club or district may sponsor sales tables/boutiques or related fundraisers at a CGCI board meeting or convention and retain all revenue from such sales. (c) Individual chairmen/committees may raise funds to support their specific chairmanship.	Proposal #1 31. Proposed sales at a CGCI function that would benefit an individual or organization or business other than CGCI must first be approved by the function host and CGCI president. (a) A commercial vendor shall pay a percentage of the gross sales and/or a table fee as agreed upon in the signed Vendor Sales Agreement. (b) A host club or district may sponsor sales tables/boutiques or related fundraisers at a CGCI board meeting or convention and retain all revenue from such sales. (c) Individual chairmen/committees may raise funds to support their specific chairmanship.

Rationale: Clarify wording. It is sales, not people, that require approval.

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #2 39. Printing and postage expenses of the call and minutes of all board meetings and conventions shall be budgeted and paid from the general fund.	Proposal #2 ~~39. Printing and postage expenses of the call and minutes of all board meetings and conventions shall be budgeted and paid from the general fund.~~	Proposal #2 Delete this Standing Rule. No Standing Rule 39.

Rationale: Delete this standing rule which dates back to a time when calls to meetings and minutes of meetings were printed and distributed by postal mail. These communications have since been distributed electronically for years. In the event that an isolated call or set of minutes needs to be mailed to anyone without email the expense can be reimbursed from the budgeted allowances of the corresponding and recording secretaries.

CGCI Standing Rules Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Would Read After Amendment
Proposal #3 81. Any proposed new state project shall be verified by the person presenting the resolution as an established and viable project. No project will be accepted where CGCI would be a founding member or where the project is still only in the planning stages. The resolution shall state the aims and estimated time frame of the project. Should any project fail to fulfill the aims stated in the resolution, the board of directors shall vote on the termination of the project and determine disposition of any residual funds.	Proposal #3 81. Any proposed new state project shall be verified by the person presenting the resolution as an established and viable project. No project will be accepted where CGCI would be a founding member or where the project is still only in the planning stages. The resolution shall state the aims and estimated time frame of the project. Should any project fail to fulfill the aims stated in the resolution, the board of directors shall vote on the termination of the project and determine disposition of any residual funds. <u>CGCI absorbs all donation transaction fees for state projects (including the President's Project).</u>	Proposal #3 81. Any proposed new state project shall be verified by the person presenting the resolution as an established and viable project. No project will be accepted where CGCI would be a founding member or where the project is still only in the planning stages. The resolution shall state the aims and estimated time frame of the project. Should any project fail to fulfill the aims stated in the resolution, the board of directors shall vote on the termination of the project and determine disposition of any residual funds. CGCI absorbs all donation transaction fees for state projects (including the President's Project).

Rationale: Clarify which donation transaction fees are covered by CGCI, until such time as a different electronic or other means are utilized to receive donations.

The three proposals above were voted on during Committee Reports on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Without previous notice, a two-thirds vote was required for approval. All were approved unanimously.