

## **Rappahannock Garden Club Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by President Mary Hutya at 12 noon.

The Blessing was given by the President substituting for the Chaplain, Joan Eremenko, who was unable to attend the meeting

**May Birthdays:** Deborah Brooks, Judy Burlbaugh, Jenny Boyenga, Cheryl Brown Davis and Susan Edmunds were wished a happy birthday.

**Executive Board 2021-2022:** The President reviewed the results of a recent survey of members concerning procedures to select a new Executive Board. The two-year term of service for the current board concludes this coming June. The club, however, has not met since March, 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A new Executive Board should be installed at the meeting scheduled on June 13. Rather than try to identify new candidates to fill the board positions and run an election in the time available, the membership voted to extend by one year the term of service for the current Executive Board. Elections for a new Executive Board will be held in 2022 with a new board installed in June of 2022.

Most of the current board have agreed to serve until June of 2022. However, there are two vacancies on the board that need to be filled. They are Recording Secretary and Historian. Ms. Hutya told the membership that anyone interested in filling those positions should let her know.

**Future Direction of RGC:** The President noted that currently, the club has 23 active members. It's been very difficult to get the number of volunteers that are needed to properly service the activities and work on the programs the club offers. More and more we see a core group of about 10 members volunteering for committees/activities and then because we can't get other volunteers, doing double and triple duty to keep things going. It seems the time has come for the membership to make some decisions on what kind of club we want. The members were asked, do we want an active garden club involved in improving our surroundings and community while providing programs to educate and inspire the membership? Or, do we want a club that is primarily a social club?

A member noted that the age of many of our members prohibit them from doing all the things they did in the past and that needs to be taken into account.

It was suggested a more active and stronger member recruitment plan should be adopted. A couple of the members noted they came to meetings and ultimately became members due to articles in the newspaper inviting public attendance.

A member said her reason for joining the club was to learn about flowers and design, etc. She suggested cutting back on community activities to focus more on internal club activities.

Another member said when she joined the club, it was more oriented on working within the community. Now, she said the club is a lot more involved in National and District Garden Club activities. She asked how much do we want to or need to get involved in statewide and district activities?

Another suggestion was to cut down on having to prepare designs or show flowers during meetings and focus on just a couple things.

It was also suggested that the club do some different things than we've done in the past. Some of the suggestions included garden tours of members gardens and other non-professional gardens; and, a garden tour with a scavenger hunt.

Lacking a clear direction for the club, Ms. Hutya volunteered to survey the membership to see if a consensus of opinion on the future direction of the club could be obtained.

**Next Meeting:** Members were reminded the next meeting will be held on June 10. It's anticipated the meeting will be held at the Irvington Baptist Church. We will be discussing programs for upcoming meetings.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.