

**RGC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JULY 30, 2019
LANCASTER LIBRARY**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Mary Hutya.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Hutya, President
Deborah Burgess, 1st Vice President
Carol Clark, 2nd Vice President
Bonnie Schaschek, Treasurer
Deborah Brooks, Chairman, Membership
Susan Edmonds, Chairman, Hostess
Cathie Elliott, Chairman, Judges & Artistic Design
Joan Eremenko, Chaplain
Francie Huggins, Historian

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Judy Burlbaugh, Membership
Catherine Brincefield, Recording Secretary
Helen Johnson, Parliamentarian
Mary Ann McKay, Chairman Youth Comm.
Nancy Peterson, Corresponding Secretary

GUESTS: Margie Redlin, Communications Comm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hutya began by presenting the President's Report. She thanked those who agreed to serve in various capacities. Mary spoke to the situation involving the Blue Star Memorial and the call she received from Judy Ripley pertaining to its condition. Mary praised Debbie Burgess for taking quick action by weeding the flower bed. Mary purchased and put down several bags of hardwood mulch and will donate the rest to the Free Health Clinic. Judy Ripley called Mary afterwards and thanked her for our quick action.

Mary talked in detail about her ideas for a garden club theme for the next two years that captures the essence of what we do as a club for our members, community and into the future. She mentioned that she read NGC President Gay Austin's message on the NGC website and it was helpful in focusing on a possible theme -- "Gardening -- A Heritage for the Generations." She'll fine tune our theme before the yearbook is printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bonnie Schaschek handed out a Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for July 2019 through June 2020. She began by stating that the Bank has been switched from First Union in White Stone to VCB in Kilmarnock. There is \$3,151 in Checking; \$6,352 in Savings. We are getting about 1.7% on our Money Market and she received a little income from Cathie Elliott for BBQ sales. To date, we have 24 paid Active Members; two paid Associate Members. A lengthy discussion ensued as to the best way to get members to pay their dues. Mary will craft a form letter that new Membership Chair, Deborah Brooks, can send to the Active and

Associate members that have still not paid their dues. Deborah will send these form letters out and follow-up with an email. Bonnie mentioned that we need new members and that programs take the most amount of the budget. Along these lines, the Board agreed that the Executive Board will take on the responsibility of Ways and Means since Mary has been unable to find someone to chair this important

position. Margie Redlin, Cathie Elliott and Joan Eremenko will guide the Board in this process. Sidebar: Susan Edmonds talked about an upcoming event on August 31st in Irvington called a Boot Sale. For \$10, you sell things from your car/trunk. You pay \$10 but you keep your net proceeds. Margie was interested in doing this from a Ways and Means standpoint.

Cathie also mentioned that we could do a BBQ plate sale sometime during the club year. The last time our club did this was in conjunction with our Small Standard Flower Show. It was very successful and the club significantly profited from this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs: Debbie Burgess talked about various programs and presenters that she is looking at for the upcoming club year. She is still in the planning stages and will firm up as we get closer to printing the yearbook: Possible programs include Sept--Proper Pruning; October--Salad Gardening with Microgreens; November—Jenny Boyenga doing a holiday design workshop; January—Hydroponic Gardening; February—not sure but maybe Audubon or planting natives for wildlife, she'll do more research for February; March—Workshop by Cathie Elliott on Alcohol Inks and Creating a Vase; April—Deborah Brooks—Creating a Vase; May—Plant Swap.

Community Gardens: Debbie Burgess is going to try to get mulch from GEO Products for the Free Health Clinic. She would like to have a meeting with the FHC members in the near future. Her goal is to have more natives and less invasive plants. Debbie also talked about the Blue Star Memorial and needing someone to monitor this flower bed. Mary agreed to take this on since she lives close to the Blue Star Memorial.

Communications: A recommendation was made to discontinue the Newsletter. Carol Clark commented that no one has volunteered to do the monthly newsletter. Due to other projects, the committee can't produce a monthly newsletter with their current staffing.

Margie sent an email out to those members that contribute to the Yearbook and gave them a deadline of 8/25 to get their documents to her for the Yearbook. Carol mentioned that they want to print the yearbook in full for all members and especially new members. Then in subsequent years, just print the pages that change. Carol talked about the many files she will be receiving and has suggested a certain naming convention for each file to lessen confusion. She needs all files in a pdf format.

Artistic Design: Cathie Elliott explained the theme she would like to use each month for artistic design. For example, the theme for September would read: "When I think of September, I am reminded of _____, or it makes me think about _____, (you fill in the blank and then follow the schedule." For example, for September, Class I would be Parallel Design; Class II is still Designer's Choice. The designer would complete their NGC Entry Card; their 3x5 card would note plant material and how they came up with their theme. Cathie would like to have about five minutes at the end of the meeting to talk about the next month's design and she can demonstrate how she interprets the theme each month. In general, board members felt that this still could be too confusing for members to follow. Cathie agreed that we'll see how it goes and we can make adjustments if the members do not like this format.

Judges: Cathie Elliott explained that we have lost three NGC Accredited Judges in the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club. In addition, there are two other local judges that cannot judge on the 2nd Thursday due to another commitment. Because of this, Jenny Boyenga will judge at least twice; Cathie will need to judge two to three times. Jenny is an NGC Emeritus Judge but she can judge for our Club and she is willing to do this even though she is an RGC Emeritus member at this time.

Horticulture: In Judy Burlbaugh's absence, she provided a written report to board members. The report said Hort schedules are being revised and will be sent to Carol Clark along with guidelines for showing Hort for inclusion in the Yearbook. There will be no exhibits in December but Judy does plan to have exhibits at the June meeting when awards are given. Display cards have been ordered and will be available for sale at \$5.00 for a pack of 75. Previously, these cards were given away. More were taken than were used causing a shortage so a nominal fee for the cards has been instituted. A club sale of supplies required to exhibit Hort & design is planned. More Volunteers for judges, clerks and guides are needed.

Membership: Deborah Brooks confirmed that four members have still not paid dues. Deborah reiterated that we need more new members. She plans to contact previous members that are no longer in the club to see if they would be interested in returning. A general thoughtful discussion ensued on various ways we can recruit new members and keep existing members. Some comments: Need hands-on workshops for horticulture and design; how can we get our club name "out there"; possibly doing arrangements and placing them around town at various businesses with a card giving information about the club and a contact number; hold a meet and greet for possible new members; we need a Greeter at the door at garden club meetings so that guests and visitors don't get lost in the crowd; one board member commented that she invited her neighbor to come to a meeting and the neighbor thought our club was very unfriendly; bad first impression. Lots of very good ideas were floating around.

Mary suggested that we have a separate meeting just on Membership and ideas to obtain additional funding for the club. She will get back to members with possible dates.

Youth: In Mary Ann McKay's absence, she provided a written report to board members. The report noted Mary Ann has been in touch with the Middle School about presenting the Smokey Bear contest to the 4th and 5th graders in October. She also has plans to contact the Elementary School or YMCA to present the Saved Seed to Kindergarten or first grade children.

Hostess: Susan Edmonds spoke to the problem that we do not have enough members to fill all hostess responsibilities without members having to do hostess duties more than once. Many ideas were discussed. June could possibly be a pot luck lunch. May could possibly be a BBQ plate for \$10, or just a BBQ sandwich for \$5 (or you bring your own sandwich); members would need to sign-up for BBQ. Several members liked the idea that when we do workshops, we ask members to bring a sandwich; club will provide chips, dessert and beverage.

DECISION ITEMS:

- Conservation Committee: The question was whether or not to eliminate this committee or activate it only when necessary. The Board wanted to keep the committee and Bonnie agreed to chair this committee.

- Should the use of the Phone Tree be reinstated? Mary explained that a member approached her about reinstating the phone tree. The general consensus of the board is that email communication is the primary and most effective means of communicating club business.
- Newsletter: The Communications Committee has been unable to secure a volunteer to prepare the monthly newsletter. The suggestion was made to take some time off and see if members want the Newsletter back. In the meantime, enough other articles and club news items will be generated for other sources to keep members informed. Perhaps the newsletter could be done on a quarterly basis but the feeling was to wait and see what the demand is.
- Website Password: Susan Edmonds asked whether or not we should consider changing the website password because of members that leave the club. The general opinion was the password should be changed.
- Email Blasts: Catherine Brincefield will now be sending email communications out to club members instead of Cathie Elliott. Cathie will do a final email blast indicating to members to expect RGC blasts from a new email address.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by,

Cathie Elliott