

GCI Fall Board 2016

October 3, 2016 - Boise ID

The Fall Board Meeting of the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. was called to order by President Janet Petersen at 9:30 a.m., October 3, 2016 at the Idaho Correctional Industries Building, Boise ID.

Members joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and GCI Mission Statement.

“Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. will create, promote and further interest in horticulture, gardening, civic beautification and natural resource conservation through education, charity and community improvement projects.”

Invocation – Happy Ford.

President Janet thanked Merry Tillers for the morning treats. President Janet welcomed the group and introduced former Idaho State GC President Louisa Cone, the GCI Officers and District Directors.

Roll Call. Thirty (30) members were present. The Chair declared a quorum.

Committee to approve minutes - Janice Zabriskie, Happy Ford, Jodene Caldwell; Tellers - Michael Russell and Charlene Hammons.

Reading of the Minutes. The minutes of the GCI Fall Board Meeting, October, 2015 were approved as read.

REPORTS.

GCI President Janet Petersen. Theme: *“We all live downstream. Choices Matter. Grow Organic.”*

Our President summarized her 2016 travels to the NGC Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan and NGC Fall Board Meeting in Portland, Maine. “Primary emphasis this year has been on the reforming of the Pacific Region as we know it...” •Locally GCI helped sponsor the Flower Show Judges Symposium in Boise. •The 2016 GCI Convention in Orofino was graced by NGC President Sandy Robinson’s attendance. She departed in awe of the wilds of Idaho. •Robyn Pokorski visited from California to offer an enthusiastic presentation on Leadership. •Our own GCI Bylaws Committee has spent countless hours rewriting, again and again, our Bylaws in an effort to make them more user friendly. That very dedicated committee has done an incredible job.

Treasurer’s Report (handout) - Janice Zabriskie. Janice reviewed the 2016 Yearend report thru June 30, 2016. Total cash and bank accounts: \$42,769.10. The report will be place on file. Total Club Members currently stands at 328 with 16 clubs and 5 affiliates.

District Director Reports. Lorraine Smith, Clearwater; Janice Zabriskie, Southeast (for Linda Carter Beck); Happy Ford, Southwest. In addition to the DD report, Lorraine reported on the 2016 GCI Convention in Orofino. The Financial Report for the convention was presented with a closing balance of minus \$70.59.

Committee Chair Reports.

Awards – Clubs are reminded that all entries are due to Susanne Hibbert by December 1, 2016. *Please contact Susanne if you could help with judging the entries during the month of December (2nd to Dec 20).*

GCII Fall Board 2016 – page 2

Blue Book – Ruth Kassen, Meghan Shepard, Claudia Hambacker and President Janet have been working to make the policies and procedures correspond with the new proposed bylaws. Consideration will target, e.g., primary online access, limiting number of hard copies, improving communication methods, and redefining the Board of Directors.

Blue Star Markers – see price increase on the NGC website.

GCII Bylaws Committee: Janet Petersen, Claudia Hambacker, Meghan Shepard, Tom Martin. The final draft of the Revision of the Bylaws has been sent (e-mailed) three separate times to the Board of Directors. Any comments received were considered by the committee. Final revision will be included in the *Gem State Gardener*. At a date to be determined, Club Presidents will be asked to take a vote within their clubs and tally a YES/NO response. More info to come.

Gem State Gardener – deadline to Laurie DeRocher November 15.

Memorials and Recognition – deadline to Happy Ford by May 1.

Penny Pines. The GCII Treasurer will continue to accept donations from clubs/Districts to be combined and forwarded to the NGC or clubs/District can submit their donations directly to NGC headquarters in increments of \$68.00 (form available on the NGC website).

Pollinators. Judy Snow. “Over 185 species of pollinators are considered threatened or extinct.” Clubs are urged to create at least one pollinator garden in their community. Complete information can be found on the website NGC President’s Project/Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Judy has a 30-minute power point presentation she would be happy to share.

Scholarships – The Scholarship and Guidelines has been updated and will soon appear on the GCII website. A designated representative from each District will contact Financial Aid Officers at eligible colleges in their district and make appropriate academic departments/professors aware (to pass info on to their students) that the \$1000 scholarship will be available for the 2017-18 school year.

Youth – Bonnie Winters. Pacific Region Director Project: “Looking to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities”

Nominating Committee Report - Happy Ford. The Nominating Committee presents two candidates for the 2017-2019 term: GCII President - Claudia Hambacker; First Vice President – Lisa Artiga. The remaining slate TBD.

Corrections to the current Blue Book. Jo Bohna has resigned as President of Moscow Garden Club due to health issues and Kathy Lu Szabo, Moscow GC Vice President will assume the role as President.

GCII Fall Board 2016 – page 3

NEW BUSINESS.

501(c)3 discussion. **Group Exemptions.** (IRS publication 4573)

It has come to light recently that individual garden clubs in our state cannot benefit from the GCII nonprofit status. A **Group Exemption** would allow clubs to have their own nonprofit status for filing for grants and money making projects.

Meghan Shepard moved that the GCII President appoint a committee to explore the process, cost and feasibility of applying for a group exemption for GCII, under which affiliated garden clubs would be included and also be exempt; and that the committee report its finding to the Board of Director for action. Seconded by Pat Baker.

Meghan requested permission to withdraw the motion. There being no objections, the motion was withdrawn.

Meghan Shepard moved that GCII apply for an IRS Group Exemption under which the districts and subordinate affiliated garden clubs would be included and exempt. Seconded by Pat Baker and carried.

(FYI- for purposes of determining a Board of Directors Meeting quorum.) Section 8 Policies and Procedures manual states: Eleven (11) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the Board of Directors.

Invocation – Happy Ford. Recess for lunch.

Speaker: Barbara Ertter “Treasures of the Boise Foothills”

Call to Convention. Janice Zabriskie extended an invitation to the GCII 2017 Convention in Idaho Falls, hosted by Southeast District.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Pacific Region Convention April 19-20, 2017 in Seattle WA

National Garden Clubs Convention May 16-21, 2017 Richmond Virginia

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Joyce Parr, GCII Recording Secretary

GCII Fall Board 2016 – page 4

Attested to:

Janice Zabriskie 11/8/2016

Happy Ford

Jodene Caldwell 10/22/2016

WEBSITES: National Garden Clubs, Inc. www.gardenclub.org User: member, Password: flight

Pacific Region: www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org User: Board, Password: Child

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. www.gcii.org

HANDOUTS – *please share these with your members.*

Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Program

Puzzle Pieces, Kristie Livreri, Pacific Regional Director

Bee City USA

Allocation of GCII Membership Dues

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest (2)

GCII Membership Form

GCII Application for Affiliate Membership

Group Exemptions (IRS publication)