**JANUARY 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

**Report**

**President**

**Al Latina**

**January 8, 2020**

**The time since the last Board Meeting during September, 2019 was eventful, with both enjoyable and sad times. We lost Gwen Swertfager, long-time Board Member and former District VI Director. Before the start of the Officers’ Tour, we were saddened to learn that John Schmitz, District II Director suddenly passed away. During the Tour Team’s visit to District II, your President appointed Cynthia Biegler as District Director, and whose appointment was ratified earlier during this meeting. Fortunately, the tour was completed without interruptions from Hurricanes, although the lingering effects of previous storms were noted as we traveled through the panhandle. As always it was a delight for the President and Vice Presidents to visit with members throughout the state. The Power Point produced by 2nd V.P. Tina Tuttle and used during the team’s talk was very well received. All of us welcomed Christy Linke, 3rd. V.P. on her first tour. It is not possible to overestimate the enthusiasm of the Vice Presidents as they conveyed important information to our members. Marge Hendon, 1st. V.P. was her usual self, full of emotion and dedication as she conveyed her love for FFGC. The cost of the tour for 2019 was $6552/49, well worth the time and money as we met so many of our FFGC family. It was a delight traveling from the Western Panhandle across the state and down to South Florida, and even into the Keys at Marathon for a total of 2645 miles.**

**For the first time your President attended Short Course North, and it was amazing how well attended it was with so many interesting and informative talks.**

**Two Special Committees were appointed for the following purposes. One Committee is responsible for discussing and proposing changes to the procedures for collecting Dues. The intent is to develop plans to simplify the process. The other Special Committee is discussing if there are defensible reasons for a reduction in mailing a copy of the Florida Gardener to every member and a select number of others. As has been reported on tour a savings of up to $40,000 is possible depending on how many fewer copies are printed.**

**Everyone should know by now that Liea Ward, our very capable Office Manager asked was approved for a Leave of Absence. Robyn Clifton stepped in to handle the office temporarily while Liea was away. Liea informed us before she was to return, that she decided to resign and move out of state to be closer to her family. We were fortunate to hire Leticia Celeste Blass, better known as LC for the Office Manager position. LC has done a remarkable job in learning so much information so quickly. Please welcome her if you have not already done so.**

**Awards Day was held on December 5, 2019 with Valerie Seinfeld in charge and aided by her talented Assistants. The Assembly Room at Headquarters was filled with able Volunteers who gathered to select winning awards. A multitude of thank you to all who participated. Awards are very special to FFGC as they recognize the accomplishments of our members. Valerie will have more to say about awards later.**

**Your President wants you to know that his report just scratches the surface of all the hard work that goes on by all the Officers, Chairmen, Committees, and Office Staff to ensure that the operations of FFGC are being handled in a timely, thoughtful, and professional manner.**

**Thank you, and please know we don’t rest on our laurels. There is still much to be done.**

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

 Florida Federation of Garden Club’s

 1st Vice President’s Report

 Marjorie H. Hendon

 January 8, 2020

This 1st Vice President had many enjoyable hours spent in garden club activities over the last few months. The Officers took their yearly tour, New Smyrna Beach’s Garden Club celebrated their 90th birthday, finance committee chairman duties, symposium and the judging of awards took place. These activities were so exciting to attend.

This VP rode over 2,000 miles while on the tour of the State of Florida as the President and VPs were able to visit all twelve Districts. We haven’t been able to doo this very often. Our weather was very good this tour and it was wonderful to hear all the reports and see all the excited garden club members. Each District was so different.

Test taking was in order at the symposium held at headquarters. There was a full house October 27-29 at headquarters as many flower show judges attended for credit or to refresh. All of us passed, onward we go.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club’s 90th birthday celebration was celebrated on November 15. I was excited when I saw the old cars, many close to ninety years old themselves, parked in front of the clubhouse. Food, cake, the Mayor, high school jazz band, and plenty of conversation made for a wonderful celebration.

The first week in December found many garden club members back at our Winter Park headquarters for judging awards. The new name for this is now Winners’ Day. Many awards were judged in record time helping all to be able to return home in the early afternoon.

It has been a busy Fall, but this FFGC officer is looking for an even busier winter.

 Marjorie H. Hendon

 1st VP FFGC

Summary: This has been a busy Fall. Touring the state of Florida, we drove 2,000 miles. This VP attended Symposium, 90th birthday celebrations, and judged awards, along with her Finance Committee Chairman duties.

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

FFGC 2VP Report

Tina V. Tuttle

8 January 2020

8-12 September Attended September Board of Directors, Finance, Strategic Planning and Wekiva Youth Camp meetings at HQ

11 September Met with President of Florida Sculptures Association, Jene Omens, to consider possibility of commissioning a sculpture to commemorate our 100th anniversary.

13 September Met with LaToya at Lexington Hotel in Jacksonville and took a tour in consideration of host hotel for 2024 and 2025 conventions.

24 September and 27 October Gave power point program to Pintado Park Garden Club and Honeysuckle Garden Club on “What Garden Club is Really all About”.

26 September Met with local Horticulture Study Group about NGC Flower Show classification/sub-classification rules.

7-25 October FFGC Officer’s Tour of 12 Districts. Prepared Power Point presentation for the officers and presented 2 main topics (Wekiva, 100th anniversary/strategic planning). Made arrangements for rental cars and drove over 2,500 miles.

24 October In coordination with Cissy Richardson and Stacey Helms, signed contracts for 2024 and 2025 conventions at Lexington Hotel in Jacksonville.

30 October Signed, notarized and returned contract paperwork with Jacksonville Tourist Development Council for 2024 and 2025 conventions

31 October Gave Invocation at Blue Star Marker Re-dedication in Fort Walton Beach for Garnier Beach Garden Club

November Reviewed all old state flower show schedules for 2024 state flower show. District 1 Judges Council will write the schedule to be held at Garden Club of Jacksonville building.

November-December Worked with Treasurer, Jana Walling, on Wekiva’s nearly $200K Budget for 2020.

16 November Personally recognized by National DAR and received Founder’s Medal for Education!

18 November Attended Blue Star Marker Dedication and gave ‘acceptance’ in Milton hosted by Milton Garden Club.

20 November Spoke to Department of Health, Karen Sikes, regarding Wekiva camper situation: Connor LaSure. Sent letter on behalf of Nurse J. Motsinger. Follow up call and provided more information on 16 December.

1-4 December Gave a series of 3 programs for Naples Garden Club.

4 December Made reservation and attended Officer’s Christmas dinner in Altamonte Springs.

5 December Attended Award Winners Day at HQ. Judged top awards with executive officers.

7 December Prepared agenda for 8 January 2020 Wekiva Youth Camp meeting.

10 December Attended Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas luncheon. Introduced entertainment and procured Salvation Army Red Kettle, netting $142.55.

11December Judged holiday flower show in Valparaiso. Attended their Christmas luncheon.

21 December Gave program on “Colonial Plants” to members of the DAR, Pensacola chapter.

27 December Prepared 6 contracts for Wekiva employees for President Latina’s signature and sent for camp t-shirt bids to 2 businesses.

28 December Sent in 3 written reports for January 2020 BOD meeting. Prepared article for *The Florida Gardener,* “Our Third Decade—FFGC History”.

6-9 January Attended January Board of Directors, Finance, Strategic Planning and Wekiva Youth Camp meetings at HQ. Secured restaurant reservation for Officer’s Dinner.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

 FFGC 3rd Vice President Report

 Christy Linke

 January 8, 2020

This 3rd Vice President experienced the first FFGC tour. What a first experience I’ll never forget and looking forward to the next tour in two years. Going to all the districts was an honor. Meeting the members of all the clubs and the hospitality of each and every district was very humbling. Just listening to all the programs and events that they all have coming up in the New Year was amazing. This Vice President always knew FFGC was an amazing organization but going on the FFGC tour even made me realize how much influence we as FFGC impact this state.

As 3rd Vice President there is the judging of Award #11 “The Yearbook Award”. Nine wonderful friends and I judged a total of 45 awards that day at my home. With so many beautiful and well done yearbooks it was very hard to choose the winner. Thank you to every club that submitted their yearbook for this award.

Let’s not forget Wekiva Volunteer Training (WVT) February 7th – 9th. Oh what a weekend we have planned. Nature, Crafts, and even a bird program are scheduled for this weekend. An Ice Cream Social/Game night Friday night and Saturday night is a campfire with S’mores. What would camp be without a campfire? Wekiva Open house is also scheduled for February 9th for all those who want to tour the camp that their children will be coming to this summer.

Way and Means have been a great success. With the sale in September at the board meeting, it helped to clear out merchandise so as we can stock up with eco-friendly items. Pins, calendar, and ornaments were taken on tour and sold as well.

The other part of this Vice President’s time has been working on 2020 Convention as I am the Convention Chairman for 2020. Looking forward to all that this convention is going to have to offer to all of our members all over the state.

## RECORDING SECRETARY

 RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

 Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Chairman

 January 8-9, 2020

The September meeting was quite a learning experience for me. Trying to figure out what I needed to do and organize my thoughts and job! Jana Walling, the previous secretary was a great help but I needed to figure out my own system. I didn’t receive some of the reports by email and that takes a bit of time to scan in the reports I received at the meeting. President Al Latina is doing a wonderful job getting the word out to all the chairmen and district directors. The only other advice I offer is to make sure a summary is added at the end of the report as that is what I use to do the minutes. Otherwise I have to read the report and try to summarize the contents and this takes quite a bit of time. Things are going a lot smoother this meeting. So far, I am loving my job and hope everyone is pleased with the work I am doing.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Report

Corresponding Secretary

Ingrid Velez

13 December 2019

The President’s project for each District Director and Chairman to submit Position Descriptions AND Short/Long Range Goals has been extended until January 2020. Less than a third of the Board have submitted.

Cards of Sympathy – Get well and Thinking of You have been sent immediately as information is received.

SUMMARY: Coordination for Officers, BOD, Members and Headquarters issues that require immediate attention are completed in a timely manner. Fall Tour was an outstanding success for 2019.

DISTRICT 1

 Kathy “Kat” Spieker

District I Director

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District I is proving again that our clubs and circles are truly Wonderful Ones! My district consists of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties and each is packed full of happening garden clubs and circles!

Here’s what’s been going on out in the Panhandle, besides hosting the new FFGC Board of Directors in October, 2019, The Short Course North in August of 2019 and planning the spring district meeting in May 2020.

I asked all my club and circle presidents to give me ONE thing their club had done during the year that they would like included in this report. Hang on to your hats! Here goes!

Garnier Beach Garden Club purchased and installed three Blue Star Markers and repaired, refurbished and rededicated one that was originally erected in 1960.

Dogwood Garden Club of Crestview (13 members) reports “we are gradually rebuilding our membership  which brought in $800 in our annual Christmas auction.  This is the most we have ever made for the auction. (Christmas gifts & decor, handmade crafts, homemade baked goods & candy were donated by members).  The funds go toward our projects with Habitat for Humanity, Penny Pines, Common Ground Community Garden, horticultural selections for the Crestview Library, Landscaping at Emerald Coast Zoo; materials for Triangle Park plantings for the city of Crestview and other club activities.”

Valparaiso Garden Club held two flower shows, grew its Junior Gardener group from 6 to 22, and continues to grow its membership with 12 new members just since September. The club will host a Youth Standard Flower Show in April of 2020.

Green Thumb Garden Club of Santa Rosa Beach, FL presented a three day gala titled Tour of Tables. Laura Dowling, a White House floral designer, was the guest speaker at two workshops and also judged the table entries. There were 28 invitation tables designed by individuals, groups, and retailers. First place went to Craig Hensen with his table “French Floral Fantasy”, 2nd Place went to Kay Crawford and her team of 4 with “A Cabbage Patch Celebration”, and 3rd place went to Kat Spieker,FFGC Dist I Director, for her table “A Tribute to Green Thumb Garden Club. The people’s choice award went to Stephanie and her team of 6 for their table, “A Toast To Our Military Heroes”. The free and open to the public gala drew 750 attendees. The event was chaired by Joyce Waters Smith. See Green Thumb’s facebook page for pictures and videos!

The Dogwood Garden of Gulf Breeze offered two Floral Therapy Classes to residents of The Arbors, an upscale Assisted Living Facility in Gulf Breeze. The residents made beautiful Fun with Flower type arrangements for their Thanksgiving tables as well as  beautiful Christmas arrangements, complete with a Snowman accessory. For fun, Club members went on a

Go-Retro  Bus Tour of Pensacola to view their Christmas Lights.

The dogwood Garden Club of Gulf Breeze also hosted a series of three Fun with Flowers workshops in addition to the two at The Arbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy “Kat” Spieker

District I Director

## District 2

 Report

 District II Director

 Cynthia Biegler

 January 8, 2020

District II now has 10 clubs, as the Bonifay Garden Club has become inactive. Activity summaries are presented for the following clubs.

**CHIPLEY**

In September, members distributed plants to first and third grade students at Kate M. Smith Elementary School. In the same month, the club held a Scarecrow Contest that drew over 20 entries and enjoyed great public participation. The Chipley Garden Club hosted the lovely Fall District Meeting. Other activities included terrarium building with 137 students at Kate M. Smith Elementary School, cleaning and refurbishing the butterfly garden at Falling Waters State Park. More recently, members glittered pinecones with children at Chipley Christmas Fest, hosted a Christmas Party at Guettler Woodshed, and made donations of sleepwear, socks, lap robes, and personal care items to residents at Washington County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

**GRACEVILLE**

Graceville Garden Club has two circles Camelia Circle meets in the afternoon, and Magnolia Circle meets in the evening. Members recently visited. a satsuma orchard near Marianna. The club is planning for its Arbor Day program in January as well as one in April. The club’s twenty American flags were flown throughout Graceville during Veterans Day. Members maintain the large pots of flowers in the town.

**GULF BEACH**

Gulf Beach Garden Club was fortunate to have several outstanding programs this fall. Sandra McQuagge displayed numerous examples as she presented a program on popular plants. In December Joyce Waters-Smith conducted a make-and-take workshop for Christmas centerpieces. As there was an abundance of materials, participants made several to share with friends and home-bound persons.

**LYNN HAVEN**:

The Lynn Haven Garden Club participated in the District II Fall Meeting.

It conducted its successful semi-annual plant, bake, and rummage sale in which every member participated. In December, members enjoyed a Christmas Potluck Luncheon.

Programs for the fall included a guest speaker from the Audubon Society who discussed birds native to Bay County and a speaker from the Extension Service who presented a program on Fall Landscape Beautification. Currently, Lynn Haven Garden Club is actively planning the District II Spring Meeting which they will host in April..

**MARIANNA**

Marianna Garden Club’s first fall program focused on the effects of Hurricane Michael on birds of the area and interventions to help them thrive again. In October, members visited a nursery near Defuniak Springs to learn more about butterflies. Current projects include maintaining large pots of flowers at the library and restoring the Blue Star Marker in Marianna.

**PANAMA CITY**

The Panama City Garden Club continues to deal with issues associated with damage to its building caused by Hurricane Michael. In September, PCGC hosted Master Gardners, Native Plant Society, and Audubon when Linda White presented a program on Florida Eagles. In October, the club conducted a working lunch with Operation Cinderella. October’s meeting featured Walter Farley who spoke and showed beautiful slides of Panhandle wildflowers. Sandra McQuagge presented a lovely and informative program depicting a Designers’ Garden in November, A covered dish luncheon in December featured Charles Johnstone’s fact-filled program on growing and propagating amaryllis.

**PORT ST. JOE**

In November, Port St. Joe Garden Club hosted a Plant Propagation Workshop for the public given by Gulf County Extension Agent and GC member, Ray Bodrey. During the fall, numerous workshops were held in preparation for Christmas in .the Garden, the club’s largest fund raiser. Workshops included Driftwood Workshop - making items from local driftwood & shells, Daffodil workshop - planting daffodils in and decorating unique containers, making and decorating cookies and cakes, hypertufa pot plantings, birdseed ornaments, and fresh wreaths. Christmas in the Garden which was held on Saturday, December 7th. Included three programs: Turtles of Gulf County, Eagles of Florida, and Cooking with Herbs. A visit from Santa Claus and a photographer enabled families to have photos with children and pets for their Christmas cards. CITG was a huge success, and the club donated $300 to the Turtle Foundation from the sale of 150 handmade turtle ornaments. Members also designed and installed a Christmas tree for the Joe Center for the Arts Festival of Trees. On Saturday the 14th, members decorated a float with the theme of Trees of Florida to participate in the PSJ Christmas Parade. Additionally, the club conducted two Board Meetings, two Member Meetings (day and night) and a Christmas Party.

**SNEADS**

Sneads Garden Club participated in the District II Fall Meeting

**VERNON**

October’s program was edible landscapes and pollinators.

In November, the club presented monetary prizes for first, second, and third place winners in the student art contest. A lovely Christmas party was enjoyed at a member's home in December. The club will be offering an opportunity drawing of another beautiful quilt in the New Year. The quilt was donated by a generous woman that has joined the club. Vernon Garden Club is proud announce it has gained three new members since September.

**WAUSAU**

In October, Matt Orwatt, Washington Co. horticulture agent, presented a program on gardening in the shade.  In November, John Hunt, brought a beehive and discussed how it is assembled as well as life in the hive.  In December, Steve Keator of Arbor Lane Nursery discussed drift roses; a gift exchange and a covered dish lunch followed.

## DISTRICT 3

 District III Director Report for Fall 2019

The Live Oak Garden Club had an eventful and rewarding

year. The programs they had of special interest were

Landscaping with Flowering Trees & Shrubs. Other programs

of special interest were Landscaping with Flowering Trees &

Shrubs designing miniature landscapes in container and

program on Orchids and Begonias.

The Club had great support from their members and 49

members attended the FFGC Convention in St. Augustine.

It was a long goal of the club to enhance the beauty of their

community. The annual sale of Caladium Bulbs has achieved

their goal apparent as a drive around town you will see the

fruits of their labor.

They have instituted an aggressive new member outreach and

have been successful.

The Madison Garden Club focused on five major objectives.

1. Improving gardens on their club grounds

2. Support their district sponsorship of the FFGC State

meeting in St. Augustine

3. Fighting to ban Fracking in all forms in Florida

4. Educate members with programs on care of house plants

5. Goal for this year is recycling and wildflowers initiatives as

well as field trips related to goal of FFG

Monticello Garden Club has concentrated on building their

membership. Last year they consolidated three circles into

two. Their community project is sponsoring scholarships to 4-

H camp. Plant and maintains the planter on the courthouse,

Public Library, decorate the opera house and Simmons house

for Christmas. Help provide needs of the residents in the

nursing and rehab centers. Propagate, grow plants, and plant

18 urns in the downtown area.

Perry Garden Club has had interesting programs featuring

local floral artisan taught them how to wood burn and color

gourds. As a fund raiser members did popular designer

featuring Bob Bell and auctioned for the Club.

Classes were held to learn how to use fresh and dried herbs

and Health Coach taught about the use of edible plants and

their benefits for health.

Steinhatchee Garden Club has been a busy summer replanting

the garden at the Steinhatchee Community Center. They had

several presentations by our County Agent Clay Olsen. This

year a lot of our members attended Master Gardener Classes

and were involved with many events at the Perry Agent Office.

The annual spaghetti Dinner was a big hit and the members

did a great job. All proceeds are for Camp We kiva and SEEK.

They also sponsor the Community fishing Tournaments and

the Nauti Girl Fishing Tournament.

We also had a program presented on Habitat for Humanity.

We learned about the new home coming to town and our club

will be doing the landscaping.

The clubs is preparing for the Fall Conference in October 10,

2019 and have a great attendance for our new FFGC Officers

visit to District III.

Tallahassee Garden Club has focused on educating members

about the working of TGC and FFGC. We established a

permanent web site with a professional web master.

The tree count for the year was 22,777. And they continue to

upgrade and repair the Historic Rutgers House better known

as the Garden Center. Improvements are new roof, and

projects that are required to keep a home in good repair.

The Wakulla Country Garden Club has been very busy with

new members. One main thing was learning what native

wildflower seeds do best in our native soil. Their November

meeting was so much fun. Two wonderful ladies from

Tallahassee Garden Club, Helen Purvis and Erica Chatham

guided them through creating a floral arrangement to take

home.

In Wakulla County, Arbor Day is a big celebration. They

provide the threes and this year they gave away about 800

healthy, native trees in gallon or larger pots. A week later they

potted up 850 more bare root trees to be given out next year.

Presented by Mickey Nyberg District III Director

## DISTRICT 4

 FFGC District IV QUARTERLY REPORT

 September 2019 thru December 2019

 Joy Elrod

Most all clubs in District IV were represented at the Fall District IV Meeting. We enjoyed the presence of the FFGC Officers at that meeting.

All clubs in district 4 enjoyed their Christmas holiday dinners together.

Visits to arboretums, gardens and other interesting venues in district 4 area were enjoyed.

The 50th annual tour of homes in Saint Augustine was also enjoyed by many members in District IV. Flower arranging classes were given to local VA caretakers and the Council on Aging.

Food donations by the GCFI was made to the local food pantry. GCFI continues to support our member and organizer Lynn Vernon for Kans4K9s on GCFIs blog on YouTube. The community also supported the effort and Lynn was able to finance the training for a dog for a veteran in need.

The Alligator Creek Garden Club held a program to promote protecting gopher tortoises and indigo snakes.Programs of clubs included lectures on preparing and planting north Florida winter Gardens.

A wreath decorating workshop using dried fruit was held by the Bartram Garden Club in November.

As a Youth Gardening project, Bartram Club introduced and conducted sensory gardens which were a great success.

Habitat for Humanity has been supported by many District IV Clubs.

Ribault Garden Club celebrated their 80th birthday with a membership coffee in the community.

They also held the first of four Flower Show School Classes. Ribault held their Home for the Holidays Fundraiser featuring demos on making holiday arrangements.

The Garden club of Green Cove Springs celebrated the CalaVida Arts Festival by hosting a southern garden tea on October 8 along the Saint Johns River on October 8th. Garden club of Green Cove Springs participated in laying wreaths across America in December. They also donated $1000 to the St. Mary’s Church in Green Cove Springs. Additionally, they provided they donated $500 to the local food pantry Tuesday and 200 pairs of socks to the 180 seniors residing in a long-term home.

Garden Club of the Lakes promoted organic gardening, helped local schools with their gardens,

Adopted a highway for two more years catcher had a speaker from the state park to share tips about being snake friendly. Their holiday activities with their community were great.

## DISTRICT 5

 Report

 Director, District V

 Jeanice Gage

 Board Meeting

 January 8, 2020

 Fantastic District Five has had a really good year.

 Our Fall District V Meeting was held on October 25. Riverhaven

 Garden Club was our host and WOW! did they do a really great

 job of making us feel welcome! Their sales tables were great, the

 morning refreshment yummy! but our lunch was prepared by a chef

 from Pennsylvania! Amazing! We oohed and ahed at everything!

 We passed a cute little bucket for Penny Pines and collected enough

 for an acre of seedlings! We purchased two newly designed

 environmental flags for Wekiva Youth Camp and a donation toward

 our one hundredth birthday party! This director could hardly stand it-

 so very pleased and proud of everyone!

 We were so honored to have our FFGC officers with us for the day.

 Our President and each officer told us about new things coming up

 for FFGC. Really interesting! We were their very last stop for their

 tour...but you couldn’t tell! Thank you so much, Al, Marge, Tina and

 Christy for all you do for Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep

 South Garden Club and National Garden Club. We’re so proud of

 you! We are excited about having FFGC and Deep South G. Club

 conventions back to back in Tampa!

 The fourteen garden clubs and twelve circles in District V had a

 wonderful fall with programs and festivals to make money for their

 on going community projects. Each garden club does so much. This

 director is always amazed and so proud of all their accomplishments.

 One of our goals for the year is to increase participation in our district

 meetings. Another goal is to gain new members and to take good care

 of the members we already have!

 Our Spring District Meeting will be in Ocala on May 13.

 We wish all of you a happy new year filled with wonderful memories.

## DISTRICT 6

 REPORT

 District VI Director

 Judi Jodoin

 January 8-9, 2020

This District VI Director continues to truly enjoy her commitment to the Gardens Clubs and Circles in Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties. She has been invited to their meetings, functions learning how strong and committed the GC’s are to FFGC Projects. This Director gives thanks to all District VI GC Presidents for working together with dedication, leadership, and education.

Membership installations continues to grow in most GC’s in District VI.

The GC at Palm Coast, Inc. with the FFGC Tour Team hosted on October 22, 2019 the Fall Meeting at the Halifax Plantation Country Club of Ormond Beach with 120 in attendance. Garden Club Presidents presented report from all but two GC in District VI. They outlined the “diversity” of each Clubs activities, projects, fundraisers, goals, and membership. The GC at Palm Coast, Inc. in November gave over 70 of their plants to two Nursing Home and distributed at their Christmas party in December $858.00 to three local charities.

This Director presented Cherry Laurel GC with a RUBY status certificate at their December 11th Holiday meeting. The installation of new members, a luncheon and a silent auction were held. They became Federated in February 1951. There were contributions/donations from members and guests and the silent auction netted $4,500.00. This is their only yearly fundraiser.

Bravo to New Smyrna Beach GC ladies who were busy elves in December as they decorated seven Christmas trees for the local Advent Health Hospital. They also contributed to the opening of another Habitat home and successfully completed another four figure Holiday Festival of Trees fundraiser.

South Peninsula GC collected, and distributed, dozens of pair sox at their Christmas luncheon for their Veterans at Emory Bennett Nursing Home.

Cocoa Rockledge GC has been sharing and caring through gardening with their recent assembly of l62 Meals on Wheels gift bags. They are planning a program on Jan. 8th with Renowned Dr. Craig Hugel. The program will be “open to the community”.

GC By-the-Sea was approved by the city of Indianlantic to install Blue Star Marker in Lily Park honoring the men and women of the armed forces.

SUMMARY: District VI has “Diversity in the Garden” serving local communities and increasing membership .

## DISTRICT 7

 District VII Director

 Gwen Carter

 January 8, 2020

District VII Clubs serving Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties continue to support and implement National, Regional, and State goals.

Clubs in District VII establish, maintain, and fund public, school, and community gardens in our area. The Path of Life in Winter Garden, Pulsifer Park in Winter Park, and Donnelly House in Mount Dora all benefit from District VII clubs. Clubs promote civic awareness by providing flowers for display at local libraries and government buildings. Floral designs or small flowering plants are donated to local hospice patients. Holiday trees are installed and decorated in city centers and cheer mugs are distributed in nursing homes. 1000 trees for 1000 years will be planted at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden this year.

In order to facilitate youth scholarships, civic beautification, horticulture, floral design, landscape design, and environmental awareness, District VII members grow plants to donate to their clubs to sell at Plant Sales, a great community pleaser and fundraiser. A High Tea fundraiser was also a success.

Floral Design Study Units 1-6, sponsored by District VII and Judges Council, at Orlando Garden Club, was a total success. It was attended by clubbers and non-clubbers. Some of those non-clubbers are now garden club members, yeah!

Clubs throughout District VII will host themed flower shows this year to educate the public in horticulture, floral design, and photography.

Clubs work with Junior Gardeners in Orlando and Longwood, plus a new High School Garden Club in Clermont, to instill a love of gardening while helping today’s students become tomorrow’s Earth Stewards.

District VII is looking forward to a fun and informative 94th FFGC Convention this April in Tampa and our Spring District VII General Meeting, May 7, 2020, hosted by Winter Park Garden Club.

District VII currently has 18 individual clubs, 1 advance club, and 1 district club. Regardless of the club size, all clubs work to promote the education of members and the public in the field of gardening, floral design, horticulture, botany, landscape design, environmental awareness, civic beautification, and a love of gardening.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we are saddened to submit the resignation of Magnolia Garden Club effective December 14, 2019.

## DISTRICT 8

 Board Report: District Director VIII

 Winter Board 2020

 January 8,9, 2020

 Barbara Rao

District VIII is the proud parent of a new fifteen-member Garden Cub in the Tampa area. The new President was a past member of a garden club in northern Florida and knew the advantages of belonging to a federated group. The New club has been excited to take advantage of nearby workshops and activities from other clubs. They are interested in everything from Backyard gardening to floral design and will eventually have and add to the club programs next year. Welcome Garden Club at Hunter’s Green!

The Books of Information shared by the many Clubs in District VIII were a wealth of knowledge and gave insight into what makes our various garden clubs work as well as they do. Some have memberships as small as 20+ and others tout a membership into the 100’s. It appears that each club is so unique and involved in its members needs and desires that the programs exemplify the diversity of each club.

Here are some examples of the unique ways the clubs educate and involve their members.

 Dade City Garden Club boasts 120 members and was federated in 1948. Its circles meet monthly with interesting programs, but they also share their talent with the community donating to a LUNCH TIME DESIGN PROGRAM to the various businesses in Dade City. They bring a free floral design class during lunch breaks. Club members bring a light lunch and materials to make a floral design under the guidance of a club designer. Each attendee makes a floral design to take home. That is a clever way of spreading education and creating greater visibility to the community. Dade City also hosts a MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROJECT by partnering with the city to promote this through workshops, habitats and hosting the Butterfly Festival.

 Palm Harbor Garden Club was federated in 1982 and boasts 20 plus members. Each month the club meets with interesting guest speakers who are current and of interest to its members. The topics sound delightful, especially DIRTY GARDEN SECRETS! For such a small club they manage to have many Standing Committees with members who work diligently at maintaining the club’s purpose and achieving its goals. Their interest and experiences reach out to the community to make them a viable part of the activities there.

Sunset Park Garden Club was federated in 1928 and has 40 members. The club’s monthly meetings boast Fieldtrips, design activities and programs on bees, dragonflies, and garden art. Such an interesting array of programs! This lovely little club has a full-fledged FLOWER SHOW in March! The club also hosts a marketplace and plant sale that brings revenue for scholarships.

These three clubs own their own buildings and host outside activities at their clubhouses. The rental fees help maintain the buildings. This is both a pleasure and a pain. The best part is to have your own space whenever you want to have an activity, the burden is to keep up and maintain the buildings. District VIII has many clubs with their own buildings and we always try to share with each other our successes and failures when we have our workshops. Building owner ship is a unique aspect of Garden Club! It is a compliment to the many clubs who are productive in maintaining their own buildings as a business and run a perfectly smooth Garden Club with all the educational, and beautification goals required to be a sustaining Garden Club.

Events from now to spring…Flower Shows, Garden tours…District VIII can lay claim to many activities in the upcoming months in our little corner of the world. Lemon Bay Garden Club will host,” Hey There, What’s Cooking”, a Flower Show at their Clubhouse on March,13,14. March 21 has Sunset Park’s Flower Show at their clubhouse in Tampa area. Sarasota Garden Tour is hosting “Garden to Table” flower Show and Horticulture event on Thursday March 26. Tamp Garden Club will have its Flower Show and Garden Fest on March 28-29. Venice Area Garden Club will showcase gardens on its March 13-14. Our members have planned their shows and tours so as to be ready to pitch in and help out at the FFGC Convention, Perfect Harmony and Flower Show, Sounds of Music in Tampa from April 16th on. These events are the highlights of our Garden Club season.

Summary: Garden Club Book of Information was a wealth of knowledge in learning about the clubs and the activities that make their members appreciate belonging to the clubs. So many event events occurring especially in March!

## DISTRICT 9

 District Director’s IX Report

 Leslie Montwid, District Director IX

 January 8th, 2020

As the new year of 2020 is upon us this director is hoping that we will all have 2020 vision. A lot occurred in district 9 since the last board meeting. The district 9 meeting in the fall was held in Winterhaven and all of the Winterhaven clubs participated in sponsoring this wonderful meeting. The theme of the meeting was “digging diversity” paying homage to our President Al Latina’s theme. The very next week before the dust could settle Bouquet Garden Club used the same venue for their annual fashion show, “An Evening in Paris”.

Clubs in the district who are involved in restoring blue star markers include Wauchula, Port Charlotte, Lakeland and Colusa. One member of the Colusa Garden club even has had dialogue with the head of George’s blue star marker program in identifying some markers that needed restoration with much thanks from Georgia.

Colusa Garden Club with guidance from Dale DeFeo has completed the first phase of a pioneer Garden to represent native plants indigenous to that area. Much research went into the planning of this garden to make it authentic.

The district published their first newsletter of this term in October with a great deal of effort by Brenda Luedeman. The letter was well received with many comments regarding amount and quality of the information contained.

After a whirlwind week in November this director visited an historic marker rededication in Wauchula on Monday, a natives garden tour with her own club in Groveland on Tuesday, delivered a succulent presentation to the Lake Placid garden club on Wednesday and did a master gardener presentation in Lake Wales on Thursday. On Friday this director decided to spend some time in her own garden where she tripped backwards over a pool lounge and fractured her pelvis which led to a lengthy recovery. Things are now much better but still ongoing physical therapy. Needless to say Christmas was different this year as this director transitioned from walker to cane to independence just in the past two weeks. With all that going on this director did manage to make her first outing to Punta Gorda and Lake Placid Garden Clubs to attend their Christmas holiday tours which were magnificent!

Here’s hoping 2020 vision will be clear and bright for all in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Montwid, Director District IX

Addendum: Due to personal reasons the assistant director for our district has been replaced. Sharon Ann Ashton has agreed to remain as district chair for Penny Pines and Coral Restoration. Our new assistant director is Dale DeFeo, a member of Calusa Garden Club 239-394-2737. dwdefeo@aol.com

## DISTIRCT 10

 District X Board Report

 Carol Coleman

 January 8, 2020

Lots of exciting projects have been going on in District X over the past few months.

District X Garden Clubs have a unique opportunity leading the way in this new NGC initiative, ”Plant America with Trees, Each One (member) Plant One (native trees)”

Florida Arbor Day is January 17, 2020 and can be the focal point of the initial phase of PAT in our District. The need for carbon sequestration through expanding our tree-planting efforts is rapidly becoming the most vital program to ensure our planet has the clean air we need to survive. And planting native trees—both saplings and mature trees --in great numbers in cooperation with our local community organizations is the goal of the NGC PAT initiative. Adults, youth and wildlife will benefit from the creation of clusters of native trees labeled for identification and wildlife support. Educational field trips for adults and youth to these areas help fulfill the mission statements of our garden clubs. This project fulfills the mission statement of our Garden Clubs in the following ways:

* “To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design and environmental awareness.”
* “Conservation of natural resources”
* “Civic beautification”
* “Nature studies”
* “ Instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment.”

Projects to be considered would include expanding the native trees in County and local parks as well as supporting the planting of wetland native trees around the water-retention areas at local schools, helping local Boy and Girl Scouts to obtain their Tree Planting merit badges, educating homeowners on the advantages of planting native trees and providing easy access to obtaining trees through plant sales.

To date there have been meetings with the Palm Beach County, Board of Commissioners/Parks and Recreation Department, the Office of Public Engagement, Greenacres Community Center, The City of West Palm Beach, Gulf Stream Council of Boy Scouts, which covers 7 counties and we are planning to do plantings of native seedlings and trees in John Prince Park (we have dates planned for January 4th and January 18th and April 25th Earth Day ) as well as covering other locations of our District X Clubs. For Boy Scouts of America, there is a three-pronged approach:

1. Actively involve Scouts in tree planting-for the Plant Science: Horticulture merit badge and Community Service hours
2. Funding from Council
3. Eagle Scout Projects-planting native tree gardens with signage.

Signage could include Blue Star Markers in the gardens to additionally support our Veterans.

In addition to this exciting project, I will be visiting several of the Garden Clubs meetings in the New Year. Hopefully, I will be invited to all clubs over the 2020 and 2021.

Carol Coleman, District X Director

## DISTRICT 11

 District XI Director

 JerylAnn B Decker

 January 5,2020

It has been a busy Fall for District XI. Our theme for the next two years is “Be a Do Bee, Not a No

Bee”. And our District has been buzzing with activities.

In October all our clubs submitted their activities, speakers, and field trips for the upcoming year.

Wow! they will be buzzing around in schools, neighborhoods, and community planting, educating

and having fun.

Our Fort Lauderdale club just finished their Flower Show school. They’re continuing their work

with their youth gardening and floral design. They will again be and sending campers to camp

Wekiva. Their annual Flower Show and Secret Garden Tour, and Plant Sales.

The Coral Springs club plans on hosting the Environmental School in November of this year. And

are busy collecting bottle caps to help repair wheelchairs for the handicapped, empty medicine

bottles for doctors without borders, old eyeglasses as well as corks to help our trees and oceans.

They celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2019. And will be having their annual Garden fest in

conjunction with the cites Art Festival.

Three of our clubs Lauderdale By the Sea, Pompano Beach, and Lighthouse Point will be joining

together to have a Flower show. Some magnificent designs are in the works.

In February our Hollywood club will be having their annual home and Garden Tour and the ladies

of Pompano Beach plan to be models during their annual Fashion Show.

Bring your bonnet in March Light House Points, annual Mad Hatter luncheon and Chinese Auction.

We can’t forget the amazing speakers and field trips every club offers each month.

Our gardens and clubs are being diversified and growing both in size and culture.

Our District is planning on restoration of our Blue Star Markers and possibly purchasing a new Blue

Star Marker.

We will be contributing scholarship funds to future SEEK, and Camp Wekiva.

We are looking forward to learning with our informative speakers, classes and

sharing our knowledge with our youth and each other.

## DISTRICT 12

 District XII Report

 Jean Hawa, District Director

 January 8, 2020

On the evening following the September 11, 2019 FFGC Board of Directors Meeting, this Director attended a meeting at the Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, Florida as the President of Coral Pines Garden Club installed the Officers of the South Dade Garden Club using the hard-working busy bee as the theme.

This Director is extremely proud of and thankful for the members of the Marathon Garden Club for hosting the FFGC District XII Fall Meeting on October 15, 2019. Chairwoman Nancy Miller under the direction of President Scarlett Duffy handled all aspects of the meeting making it a pleasant experience for everyone, especially since everyone had to travel at least one hundred miles to drive to the Florida Keyes. The beautiful centerpieces created by the Marathon GC members and the eclectic gift baskets brought by each club were used for the raffle. Three floral designs were explained and three nominees (Sandra Deery, Mayfair Hydro, and Marianne Nation) were elected for the District Nomination Committee. Last, but not least, our inspiring FFGC officers impressed the audience with their enthusiasm and informative Power Point presentation. Then, just six weeks later, the MGC conducted its fundraising Holiday Bazaar and Christmas Rummage Sale.

After several delays, the Miami Beach Garden Club was able to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial in Miami Beach on November 10, 2019. In addition to several veterans, Florida Congresswoman Donna Shalala was a participant.

One member of Coral Pines Garden Club and three members of the Miami Beach Garden Club continued their studies in the Flower Show Judges School Course III hosted by District XI on November 11-13, 2019.

The Coral Gables Garden Club Floral Extravaganza was very well attended on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Floral Designer Kathryn Parrish demonstrated easy to do Fall and Holiday floral creations. DIY kits and other supplies were made available for sale.

All the District XII garden clubs conducted holiday festivities in their own way.

Aside from the above activities, this director has communicated to all District XII members (who have provided an email address) through ***the BUZZ***, the District XII digital newsletter which advertises the clubs’ activities and passes on information from FFGC. This DD sits on the Board of the Miami-Dade County Council of Garden Club Presidents which meets monthly and relays FFGC information to its members to pass onto each garden club. The DD has conferred with the FFGC President and members of one garden club and its President regarding irregularities and compliance of its By-Laws affecting membership issues and how to solve the irregularities.