

APRIL 2023 CONVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Pre-Convention Board Meeting 4/18	2
2. Convention Board General Meeting Minutes 4/19	4
3. Officer and DD Reports.....	16
4. Board Chairperson Reports.....	44
5. FINANCIAL Reports April 2023	
P&L Budget vs Actuals June 2022-Dec 2022	127
P&L Budget vs Actuals Jan-March 2023.....	132
6. Special Post Convention Meeting 4/21	138
7. Charter & Bylaws	142

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pre-Convention Board of Directors Meeting

April 18, 2023

Call to Order:

The Pre-Convention Board of Directors Meeting of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was called to order at 3:35 PM April 18, 2023, by President Marge Hendon. It is taking place the day before the opening of the 96th annual FFGC State Convention in Kissimmee, Fl. President Hendon extended a warm welcome to all members.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:

Pat Strawn, FFGC Chaplain, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

REGULAR BUSINESS IN ORDER

Appointment of Committees:

The Chair named the following committees who were appointed with no objections.

Committee to Approve the Minutes: Christy Linke, Mary Whisler, and Leticia Gunn

Timekeeper: Linda Feifarek-Johnson

Teller of the Meeting: Rosita Aristoff

Introductions

Honored attendees:

Former Deep South Garden Club Director: Carol Hall

Former Deep South Garden Club Assistant Director: Sue Angle

Officer Introductions: Mary Whisler (3rd VP), Christy Linke (2nd VP),

Tina Tuttle (1st VP), Sue Roberts (Rec. Secretary), Linda Feifarek-Johnson (Corr. Secretary), Jana Walling (Treasurer) and Carolyn Lowry-Nation (Parliamentarian).

Quorum: Chairman declared a quorum of 50 present.

Report of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the January 2023 Winter Meeting of the Board of Directors:

Tina Tuttle reported that the minutes were approved as corrected.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

In this meeting only those chairmen with issues that require action will report. All others will be heard at the general convention sessions.

Treasurer: Due to the change in our fiscal year the budgets were approved at the Sept. 2022 board meeting. Jana Walling, Treasurer, deferred her report until tomorrow at the general meeting.

Reports of District Directors: No reports that required action were heard.

H&E Committee: no report with action items

By-Laws & Standing Rules Committee Chairman - Cissy Richardson

On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, the following is submitted for consideration by the Board of Directors:

STANDING RULE: # 2 FUNDS

INSERT: NEW b. The duly elected FFGC President, FFGC First Vice President, FFGC Second Vice President, FFGC Third Vice President and FFGC Treasurer shall be authorized signers on all FFGC bank accounts during their terms of office.

All authorized signers are required to be bonded.

RATIONALE: The FFGC Treasurer made a similar motion at the FFGC January BOD meeting. It was adopted by the Board of Directors. Standing Rule # 2 Funds is being updated to reflect the adopted revision.

ADOPTED: APRIL 17, 2023, PRECONVENTION BOD MEETING

Convention Chairman: Susie Berryhill

The convention committee moves that the 2023 convention expenses be paid.

Passed 4/18/2023

Announcements:

Please sign the attendance list that is being circulated. Add your room number and cell phone number.

Susie Berryhill – convention related announcements.

Cissy Richardson – announcements about Early Arrivals dinner

Jo Ann Guise – protocol announcements

Next Board Meeting will be at Winter Park Headquarters on September 5-7, 2023.

Opening session of convention tomorrow April 19, 2023, at 8:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Susan Roberts _____

Susan Roberts, Recording Secretary

Attest:

Marge Hendon _____

Marjorie Hendon, President

Committee to approve the minutes: Christy Linke, Mary Whisler, Leticia Gunn

Looks good to me. Thank you, Mary

Good morning. Sue. I had written in my notes that Jana asked to defer her report until tomorrow's board meeting. That was due to she didn't bring her report. She was granted this request. Christy

I revised my notes and approve the minutes. Leticia

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of 96th FFGC Annual Convention General Meeting
April 19, 2023
Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista, Kissimmee, FL

Call to Order:

The 96th Annual Convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was called to order at 08:30 AM, April 19,2023, by President Marge Hendon. President Hendon extended a warm welcome to all members.

The chairman declared a quorum present. The FFGC chaplain, Pat Strawn, gave the invocation. The colors were presented by the Cypress Creek High School ROTC team. Dennis Hale, General Manager of the Embassy Suites gave the welcome. Susie Berryhill Convention Co-Chairman also gave a welcome and Jenny Weber, 2024 Convention Chairman, gave the response.

FFGC Chaplain, Pat Strawn, conducted a memorial service for all who have left us in the past year. Members were invited to take rose petals in remembrance from a bowl in the front of the room. The names of the deceased members were shown on the screen during a convention meal.

Introductions

Deep South Board Members

Carol Hall, Deep South Director

NGC Board Members

Former NGC Presidents: Lois Shuster and Barbara May (not present)

The chair declared a quorum present.

Appointments

Committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Andrea Finn Chairman, Barbara Jacobson and Helen Purvis

Tellers: Carolyn Stevens, Margaret Kirkpatrick and Lorene Junkin

Timekeeper: Inger Jones

Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee as of 4/18/23 was read by Jana Walling, FFGC Treasurer:

Total number of Delegates	84
Total number of alternatives	2
Total number of members	49
Total number of Guests	6
Total registration	141
Voting Strength	84

The preliminary credentials report was adopted.

The preliminary registration report was given by Skip Lamoureux, Convention Registrar. Total registration was 141. The report is for information only and will be filed with the minutes.

Carolyn Lowry-Nation read the convention rules.

Linda Feifarek-Johnson moved to adopt the convention rules as read They were adopted unanimously.

The convention program was presented by Kelley Wood, Co-Chairman of the 2023 Convention. The program was adopted unanimously.

Kalia Baillene, Chairman of the Committee to approve the minutes of the 2022 Convention, reported that the minutes were approved as corrected.

The pages for this convention are:

Emilie Palmieri – for Marge Hendon

Kat Spieker – for Tina Tuttle

Rosita Aristoff – for Cissy Richardson, Susie Berryhill and Kelley Wood

Joanne Mulinare & Becky Lindhorst - Pages at large

Judi Jodoin -- Pages Chairman

Officer Reports: all reports were received and will be filed with the minutes and can be found on the FFGC website.

Marge Hendon, President

Tina Tuttle, President-Elect

Christy Linke, Second VP

Mary Whisler, Third VP

Sue Roberts, Recording Secretary

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary

Jana Walling, Treasurer

Jana presented two reports, first from June – December 2022 and the second from January - March 2023. Reports will be filed.

Carolyn Lowry-Nation, Parliamentarian

Report of the Nominating committee by Helen Purvis, Chairman

Helen read the report, announcing the slate of officers and then thanked the members of the Nominating Committee.

Tina Tuttle, as President-Elect was not on the ballot.

Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary are appointed officers. Carolyn Lowry-Nation was appointed parliamentarian and Linda Feifarek-Johnson was appointed Corresponding Secretary.

Christy Linke was nominated by the Nominating Committee as First Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Mary Whisler was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Second Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Leticia Gunn was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Third Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Jennifer Barber was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Recording Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

Jana Walling was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor.

Since there was only one person nominated for each office, the election was by voice.

Christy Linke was elected First Vice-President.

Mary Whisler was elected Second Vice-President.

Letitia Gunn was elected Third Vice-President.

Jennifer Barber was elected Recording Secretary.

Jana Walling was elected Treasurer.

The newly elected Executive Board was introduced and recognized.

Thanks to Helen Purvis and the Nominating Committee for their service.

Bylaws, Cissy Richardson

FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2023 FFGC CONVENTION:

ART III, IV and XI ESTABLISHING ONLINE (E) CLUB

ART III MEMBERS Sec 1 Voting Membership

a. Eligibility, Admission INSERT: (4) ONLINE (E) CLUB

(4) An Online (E) Club shall have a membership of not less than ten (10). Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the FFGC 3rd Vice President. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues and an alphabetical list of names, District number, mailing address and email address of all members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

DATE: 4/19/23

ADOPTED: YES

LOST:

COMMITTEE:

ART IV DUES AND FEES

Sec 1 INSERT: ONLINE (e) CLUB If adopted, this will read: The annual dues of each Garden Club, Online (E) Club and each Garden Club organized.....

d. INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs

If adopted, this will read: Annual FFGC dues of member belonging to two or more Garden Clubs including Online (E) Clubs and Garden Clubs organized...

ART XI REPRESENTATION Sec 1 b. Garden Clubs INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs

RATIONALE: Formation of Online (E) Clubs are being considered within FFGC structure. An Online Club existed many years ago but was never formally adopted as an FFGC Club. The Bylaws listed above will include this new club designation for FFGC.

DATE: 4/19/23 ADOPTED: YES LOST: COMMITTEE:

ART IV Dues and Fees Sec 1 e.

STRIKE: e and (1) in entirety. e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by June 1. Dues of members enrolled after June 1 shall be payable immediately.

(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by June 30, and a notice shall be sent.

If not received by November 1, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstated.

INSERT: e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by May 1. Dues of members enrolled after May 1 shall be payable immediately.

(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by May 1 and a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 1, a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 30, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstatement.

PROVISO: Effective date – January 1, 2024.

RATIONALE: Addresses the issues: (1) Club members/Officers leaving for the summer without having paid dues for upcoming year.

(2) Timely submission of updated information for the Book of Information which is compiled over the summer for fall distribution including current contact information for Officers and members.

(3) NGC dues are payable June 1, and delinquent Oct 31. The current FFGC Bylaw for dues collection has a delinquent date of Nov 1 which is after the delinquent date for FFGC to pay NGC dues. Therefore, FFGC dues are delinquent and does not allow FFGC dues/membership numbers reported to NGC to be accurate.

PROCEDURE: The FFGC Membership Chairman would send Dues Notice out the middle of March. With Bylaw revision, the dues would be delinquent June 1 and a notice sent.

Dues not received by June 30, would result in forfeit of membership privileges. Revision proposed allows for collection of FFGC dues prior to the summer hiatus that many clubs observe.

DATE: 4/19/23 ADOPTED: YES LOST: COMMITTEE:

ART V FINANCES Sec 3 General Funds (after sentence – The General Fund of FFGC shall be derived.....)

INSERT: A reserve shall be established within the General Fund to support the Penal Garden Therapy Program at the Avon Park Correctional Institution. The source of funding shall be specific donations and

specific fund raisers therefore, and the use of the funds shall be exclusively for support of Avon Park Correctional Institution Penal Garden Therapy Program.

RATIONALE: The Avon Park Correctional Institutional Penal Garden Therapy program was an established FFGC project.

District IX coordinated this program. This is an FFGC project and should be included in the FFGC Bylaws including all funding detail.

DATE: 4/19/23 **ADOPTED:** YES **LOST:** **COMMITTEE:**

ART XXI DISTRICTS Sec 1 Structure **STRIKE: a.**

INSERT: a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.

If adopted, this will read: a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.
(2) Districts shall be established with boundaries defined by the FFGC Board of Directors.

d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the Board of Directors, provided such transfer is approved by the Directors of the respective Districts.

INSERT: FFGC STRIKE: is **INSERT: was previously** **INSERT: and their District Board of Directors.**

If adopted, this will read d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the FFGC Board of Directors, provided such transfer was previously approved by the FFGC Directors of the respective Districts and their District Board of Directors.

INSERT: e. Bylaws for Districts are generally not required. Policies and Procedures are usually adequate. However, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures must conform to FFGC Bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation and/or District Bylaws must be reviewed by the FFGC Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee prior to District approval.

INSERT: Sec 4 Finances Districts are required to obtain individual TIN number in order to become unique organizations for IRS tax filing purposes. A 501 (c)(3) is not required in most instances.

RATIONALE: FFGC is clarifying current FI Sales Tax Laws that affect Districts.

DATE: 4/19/23 **ADOPTED:** YES **LOST:** **COMMITTEE:**

Presented for consideration of adoption: 2021-2023 Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee – Cissy Richardson, Marjorie Hendon, Arlene Rand, Tina Tuttle, Rosita Aristoff, Margaret Chodosh, Judi Jodoin and Carolyn Nations, Parliamentarian.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS -- All reports are filed and will be included with minutes and will be on the FFGC website.

DISTRICT 1 – Joyce Waters-Smith

DISTRICT 2 – Sue Schmitz

DISTRICT 3 – Marilyn Larsen
DISTRICT 4 – Connie Gladding

Lunch– Laura Perdomo presented “Growing Plants from Start to Finish”.

District II ,III, and IV were honored.

Break out sessions began at 10:45 and then again at 2:15.

At dinner Districts VI, X, and XI were honored and Josh Henderson, CEO of Bonnet Springs Park was the guest speaker.

President Marge Hendon recessed the business meeting at 10:26 AM Wednesday to reconvene Thursday at 8:30 AM.

The business meeting reconvened at 8:30 am.

FFGC Treasurer, Jana Walling

Interim Credentials Report 4/19/2023 was read by Jana Walling, Treasurer.

Total Delegates 146

Total Alternates 4

Total Members 118

Total Guests 11

Total Registration 279

Voting Strength 146

The credentials report was adopted.

Convention Registrar, Skip Lamoureux

Registration report, see detail on credentials report

Continuation of District Director Reports

District V – Donna Thomas

District VI – Suzi Bailey

District VII – Charlotte White

H&E Committee, Sue Roberts, Chairman

Finance Committee – Tina Tuttle

Strategic Planning – Gina Jogan

Wekiva Youth Camp Committee – Mary Whisler

FFSJ – Parke Finold

Tropical Short Course – Michele Maguire

Awards – Gwen Carter

Short Course North – Tina Tuttle

Centennial Celebration – Tina Tuttle

Roadside Beautification – Brenda Luedeman

Trees & Reforestation – Kat Spieker

NGC Environmental Studies Schools – Lydia Barbour

Continuation of District Reports

District VIII – Phyllis Weber reporting for Kitty Wallace

District IX – Dale DeFeo

District X – Michele Maguire

District XI – Sharon Bogard

District XII – Leticia Gunn

Tri-council – Pat Caren

FFGC Matching Grants – Gina Jogan

Note: all reports can be found in the ‘reports’ books that will be on the website (ffgc.org) along with these minutes once approved.

Invitation to Next Year’s convention

Jenny Weber and team presented a skit to invite us to the 97th FFGC Convention – “CELEBRATING 100 YEARS” at Southbank Marriot Hotel in Jacksonville FL.

No New Business

President Hendon recessed the business meeting at 10:35am.

Thursday breakout sessions were at 10:45 and 2:45. Installation Rehearsal at 3:45.

Districts honored at lunch were VII, IX, and XII. Kevin Brown spoke about sea turtles at the luncheon.

Districts honored at dinner are I, V, VIII. The dinner program was the installation of new officers.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 pm Thursday.

President Hendon introduced the head table and honored guests.

BLESSING: Carolyn Lowry Nation gave the blessing

After dinner, several awards were announced.

Report of the Credentials Committee: Jana Walling, Treasurer, gave the Final Report of the Credentials Committee.

Total delegates 154

Total alternates	4
Total Members	151
Total Guests	14
Total Registration	323
Voting Strength	154

Jana moved the adoption of the final credentials report. It was adopted. The registration report was also read just for information. The report will be filed with the minutes. All three credentials reports are included at the end of these minutes.

The 2023 96th FFGC Convention was adjourned at 9:30 PM to be followed by the installation of the new officers and district directors.

Susan Roberts

FFGC Recording Secretary

Marjorie Hendon

FFGC President

Committee to approve the minutes: Andrea Finn, Barbara Jacobson, Helen Purvis

Couple corrections:

Andrea Finn:

1. Page 3- line 7: Jennifer Barber was nominated by nominating committee as **recording secretary** (not 2nd v.p.)

2. Page 5 - line 10: if adopted ... 2. (1) Districts form **an** integral...

Page 10 and 11 Registration report:

page 10 - 4-19-23 4:35 p.m. District IV has 14 members.

page 11 - 4-20-23 5:00 p.m. District IV has 0 members ??? How can that be? Where did they all go?

That's all I've found.

I have attached my *suggested* edits for your consideration. They are highlighted in yellow.

This is a WORD document but I can convert it back to a PDF if you have trouble opening it.

I did not review the Bylaws - I assumed you inserted the wording provided by the Committee.

Regards,

Barb Jacobson

I have read the minutes and agree with the corrections and did not notice any other corrections.

Thanks helen

CREDENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
FFGC CONVENTION
(dates/place)

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time) 4/18/23 4pm

PRELIMINARY: INTERIM: _____ FINAL: _____

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>84</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>2</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>49</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>6</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	<u>141</u>

VOTING STRENGTH: 84

REGISTRATION REPORT:


FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>1</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>49</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>6</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>57</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>51</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>28</u>	First time Attendee	<u>14</u>
Delegates	<u>84</u>	Alternates	<u>2</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : 141

DISTRICT REPORT

District I	<u>14</u>	District V	<u>25</u>	District IX	<u>13</u>
District II	<u>4</u>	District VI	<u>14</u>	District X	<u>9</u>
District III	<u>11</u>	District VII	<u>8</u>	District XI	<u>10</u>
District IV	<u>4</u>	District VIII	<u>25</u>	District XII	<u>4</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

 _____
Signature/Title/Date

CREDENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
FFGC CONVENTION
(dates/place)

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time) 4/19 4:35

PRELIMINARY: _____ INTERIM: ✓ FINAL: _____

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>146</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>4</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>118</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>11</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	<u>279</u>

VOTING STRENGTH: 146

REGISTRATION REPORT:

FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>2</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>118</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>11</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>68</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>70</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>74</u>	First time Attendee	<u>62</u>
Delegates	<u>146</u>	Alternates	<u>4</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : _____

DISTRICT REPORT

District I	<u>18</u>	District V	<u>46</u>	District IX	<u>25</u>
District II	<u>9</u>	District VI	<u>28</u>	District X	<u>31</u>
District III	<u>13</u>	District VII	<u>22</u>	District XI	<u>12</u>
District IV	<u>14</u>	District VIII	<u>48</u>	District XII	<u>12</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

_____ Signature/Title/Date

CREENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
 FFGC CONVENTION
 (dates/place)

4-20 5:00

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time)

PRELIMINARY: _____ INTERIM: _____ FINAL: ✓

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>154</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>4</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>151</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>14</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	<u>323</u>

VOTING STRENGTH: 154

REGISTRATION REPORT:

FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>15</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>151</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>14</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>75</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>80</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>80</u>	First time Attendee	<u>82</u>
Delegates	<u>154</u>	Alternates	<u>4</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : _____

DISTRICT REPORT			
District I	<u>19</u>	District V	<u>54</u>
District II	<u>11</u>	District VI	<u>29</u>
District III	<u>14</u>	District VII	<u>31</u>
District IV	<u> </u>	District VIII	<u>54</u>
		District IX	<u>29</u>
		District X	<u>37</u>
		District XI	<u>12</u>
		District XII	<u>18</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

 _____ Signature/Title/Date

April 2023 FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING

OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Note: to access a specific report look it up in the table of contents and note the page number. Go to the upper left corner of the screen and over key the ‘1’ of 31 with the page number you want.

Table of Contents

PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....	2
1 ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....	3
2 nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT	5
3 rd VICE PRESIDENT.....	6
RECORDING SECRETARY	7
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.....	8
DISTRICT 1	9
DISTRICT 2	9
DISTRICT 3.....	11
DISTRICT 4.....	13
DISTRICT 5.....	15
DISTRICT 6.....	17
DISTRICT 7.....	18
DISTRICT 8.....	19
DISTRICT 9.....	23
DISTRICT 10.....	23
DISTRICT 11.....	26
DISTRICT 12.....	28

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President FFGC

Marjorie H. Hendon

4/19/2023

This President has had a wonderful two years as Florida's President. We have seen members come and go, raised funds, started new clubs, Blue and Gold Star Markers were dedicated, we fought the weather, and celebrated our 99 years of existence.

First, we have added 3,201 new members to the Florida Garden Clubs. WOW, that represents new ideas, beautiful designs, more information going out to new members on gardening, the environment and landscaping, helping wildlife and our youth.

Donations have helped us achieve our goals. We have almost completed the new building at our Wekiva Youth Camp. That is being built from a \$700,000+ donation to FFGC by the Todd family. Our scholarship fund was boosted by a \$42,000 donation. FFGC garden clubs have donated more than \$165,000 to their communities in 2023. Our members have been very generous with their funds.

FFGC has seen great loss this year. We have seen our huge oak trees washed out into the Gulf, along with Blue Star Markers, and garden club clubhouses. Our members have been killed while sheltering within their homes. Now we have come together as a family would. We have added five new garden clubs and continue to rebuild.

Florida Continues to honor the men and women of the armed services. The garden clubs have one rededicated Blue Star, 7 new Blue Star, and 4 Gold Star markers to our Florida's landscape.

We have held 16 NGC courses in G, L, E, FI Shows, and two symposiums.

We look forward to 2024 as the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs celebrates its 100th anniversary/birthday. Please, join us.

It has been an honor,

Marjorie H. Hendon

President Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Summary: FFGC has added 3,201 new members, completed a new leaders lodge at Wekiva, given over \$165,000 to our communities and members, made it through hurricanes, added 5 new garden clubs, added 12 new Gold and Blue Star markers, hosted 16 NGC schools and two symposiums, and look forward to Tina Tuttle FFGC's new President and FFGC's 100th birthday celebration.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual Report
FFGC First Vice President
Tina V. Tuttle
19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

When you hear or read this report, you are going to wish you could be the First Vice President of this amazing organization! Oh, the places you will go, the things you will see, the people you will meet! You will be greatly enriched for the experience! Probably the best part of being your First Vice President has been meeting so many awesome members throughout the state and planning for the new Board of Directors for the next administration and getting to know the 12 new District Directors. The second-best thing has been the planning for a new administration—so many exciting things are coming in the next 2 years!

--Generally, the primary chairmanship of the First Vice President is that of **Chairman of the Finance Committee**. Working alongside the 8 committee members, we have conducted 4 meetings annually, some in person and some by Zoom. Foremost in our minds was the good stewardship of our organizations' money, in our bank accounts, in our investment portfolio and in the assets we hold. We have gone line by line and dollar by dollar to ensure we keep your trust in managing our resources. We have scoured the budgets of programs, conventions, and courses to confirm that our members are getting the best educational value for their registration fees. We are forever indebted to our Treasurer for keeping us within the bounds of generally accepted accounting practices and on solid fiduciary ground!

--As a member of **the Bylaws Committee** our focus was always on the myriad rules and regulations, policies and procedures necessary to run such a large organization! While not every eventuality is covered, the guidelines are there for us to move forward and conduct our business astutely. This past administration saw a complete review of the entire Bylaws document and the committee is to be commended for their efforts to bring all Articles, Sections and Rules in line with current circumstances. Who would have thought that my favorite book would become *Roberts Rules of Order*?

--The **Headquarters and Endowment Committee** truly got a workout this past year and our building and grounds are in better shape for it. Taking care of the routine, unexpected and emergency situations such as plumbing, air conditioning, painting, flooring, furnishings, grounds maintenance, code conformance, etc., were dealt with in a timely manner. The work of H&E is never done as daily, the chairman can tell you, "It's always something!"

--The **Legal Issues Committee** has had our patience tested for almost 2 years as we continue waiting and waiting for legal decisions from the City of Winter Park regarding the future of our headquarters. Obviously, the committee hopes to bring this issue to an end, but for now, no news is good news!

--Nothing handled by the First Vice President can be considered as minor. Everything done and every decision made affects our members in some way. Sometimes it is these "lesser" issues that take the most time and attention: The planning for our **Centennial Celebration** and the **conventions for 2024 and 2025 in Jacksonville** continues. And what fun it has been to plan the installation and reception for tomorrow night! The construction of the **new Office/Clinic building at Wekiva** is nearly completed! The

original building burned to the ground on 26 April 2019 and it has been a slow process to have this building finally rise from the ashes like a phoenix! We have scheduled the building dedication for Thursday, 15 June 2023 and we hope you will be able to join us! *Save the date!*

Working with the **Strategic Planning Committee** and with the **FFGC Matching Grants Program** allows one to 'think outside the box' about the future of FFGC! As we turn the corner to a new century, our organization must look for new ways to grow into that future and meet the needs of a new generation of garden club members. And working with **FFSJ** on their new *What's your Type* book and with **Tri-Council** on their projects and programs has been a motivating factor that always keeps the mission of FFGC in sharp focus. It is so much more worthwhile to DO garden club rather than to simply BE garden club.

It may sound trite, but is meant sincerely, to say it has been an honor and a privilege serving as your First Vice President! I highly recommend the experience and hope it has fully prepared me to become your next President!

Tina Tuttle

Summary: The duties of First Vice President and all associated activities are being handled day by day, interacting with all who serve this organization with zeal and commitment. As Chairman of Finance and a member to three other Standing Committees, the issues dealt with are always for the welfare of our members.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FFGC 2nd Vice President
Christy Linke
April 18, 2023

What an honor it has been the past two years as FFGC 2nd Vice President. Learning so much along the way. This 2nd VP still cannot believe how fast the time has gone.

Serving on the Finance committee has been a very educational and eye opener experience. Following Tina and learning from her so that I can fulfill my duties as head of finance in the upcoming two years as FFGC 1st Vice President.

Serving on the Strategic Planning Committee under Gina Jogan and planning the future of FFGC has been very rewarding. This committee has the best interest of all of the FFGC Members and what the next 100 years will bring. With FFGC turning 100 years young this upcoming year we have so much to celebrate. What FFGC looked like 100 years ago and where we are today is amazing to say the least. This 2nd Vice President is excited to be a part of the celebration.

This 2nd Vice President also serves on the Wekiva Strategic Planning Committee. With Mary and Devon leading the ZOOM meetings and planning the future of Wekiva Youth Camp and of course the new building dedication that we will all be a part of is very exciting. Then we also have the 50th birthday celebration of Camp Wekiva that we are all a part of planning. So much to celebrate!!!!
As my term of FFGC 2nd Vice President is coming to an end a new adventure awaits as FFGC 1st Vice President. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the FFGC 2nd Vice President. I never use the word I when writing a report but, I am excited to be the FFGC 1st Vice President and serving in any way I can help this organization grow and thrive.

Summary:

This 2nd V.P. has served on the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Wekiva Strategic Planning committee, fulfilling all duties as needed. This 2nd V.P. is looking forward to serving FFGC as their 1st Vice President for the next two years.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

FFGC 3rd Vice President
Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP
April 2023

As my term of 3rd VP ends, I look back to remember all the wonderful members I've met and so much that I have learned. This is a wonderful organization with so many people putting in long hours to make FFGC grow and be successful. I look forward to becoming 2nd VP and learning all the duties, and chairing the Wekiva Camp

Ways and Means has been busy selling pins and getting ready to sell our 100th Celebration items. Many members participated in the "order ahead" option for convention and their orders will be waiting for them. The framed FFGC ornaments will be available at convention as well as a new ornament.

Wekiva Volunteer Training was a great success with 30 volunteers attending. We introduced our incoming Junior Gardener Chairman. Both our former and incoming Junior Gardener Chairman discussed the program and awards for the program. We scheduled great speakers as well as "education walks" around the camp. Wekiva Open House on Sunday, February 12th had many new parents and campers attend as well as our new Registrar, Barbara Fowler and her husband.

Camp Wekiva is again in Chairman transition. As Chairman Elect this VP has been working closely with the outgoing Chairman to make a smooth turnover. A great deal has changed this year with hiring a new chef and working with a new registrar. We are excited that the Office/Clinic will be completed in time for camp, and the dedication is scheduled for June 15, 2023.

It continues to be a great honor to serve FFGC. As a member of the H&E Committee, Strategic Planning, Wekiva Board, and Secretary of the Finance Committee, this VP continues to learn and understand the complexities of the organization.

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP (mary.whisler66@gmail.com)

Summary:

Wekiva Volunteer Training

Camp Wekiva

Ways and Means

RECORDING SECRETARY

FFGC Recording Secretary
Sue Roberts
April 18, 2023

The Recording Secretary has kept the minutes of all board meetings for this term. These minutes and associated reports are published on the website once approved and will be put on the FFGC Google drive for archive purposes at the end of the term.

In order to keep track of the many chairman reports I have created a word document in the form of a book; one for the chairman reports and one for the officer and district director reports. These documents are also filed with the minutes and will be saved along with the minutes for each meeting.

As Recording Secretary, I have been available to the President throughout her term for special requests, such as email blasts to the board, the club presidents, and the members.

As the bylaws state I have possession of the corporate seal but have not had an occasion to use it during this term.

Summary: As the bylaws state the Recording Secretary must keep minutes and reports of all FFGC board meetings and convention meetings. It is also the Recording Secretary's job to keep all important papers of FFGC and file them along with the minutes in a electronic database. This will be held on the FFGC Google Drive for the required number of years.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

FFGC Corresponding Secretary
Convention Report
Linda Feifarek-Johnson
April 19, 2023

I manage the event calendar so any events your club or district is doing, please send your events information to me. There is a form to be filled out that can be found on the FFGC website. On the home page, scroll down until you find "For all FFGC forms – click here" (it's right above Photos. The seventh item down is "Calendar Entry Form (Add an event to the FFGC Calendar on this Website)". It can be filled out online and emailed directly to me. There is one peculiarity, after you fill out the lines you must put your cursor to go to the next line, it doesn't automatically go to the next line. I can also add flyers and registration forms for the event.

Working with the District Directors on the fall tour schedule is also one of my jobs. So please send me any forms for the tour.

As of September, 2022 I have sent out 19 cards: get well, thinking of you and thank you cards. If you know of anyone who needs a card, please let me know.

email: feif@bellsouth.net

regular mail: PO Box 982, Steinhatchee, FL 32359
call 352-356-2751 (cell) or 352-498-5806 (home).

DISTRICT 1

Joyce Waters-Smith
D 1 board report
April 19, 2023

Instead of giving the normal District report, I thought I'd try something different and tell you the story of our newest FFGC member club. DESTIN! WOW, that's what that Marge says!

Destin Garden Club became a member of FFGC in January 2022 at the Winter Board meeting. Right off they applied for an FFGC matching grant for \$500. Obviously they did a great on their application, as they received a \$500 grant for their work in the Destin Library landscape. At the same time, they applied for a BLUE STAR BYWAY MARKER, also to be installed at the library. WOW! That's what Marge says!

At our District I Spring meeting In May of 2022 Destin Garden Club received a District Grant for \$250. Again, that Velda Dougherty does a great job with those grant applications, with help from Wonder Woman, Betty White on our District Staff. WOW! That's what Marge says!

In October of 2022, our very newest, brand new club co-hosted the Fall District Meeting with all of our FFGC Board members in attendance. Well, you can just imagine, since they didn't know any better, they went over the top, with the help of the Valparaiso Garden Club with Camille Greeley as president. These members do a professional job with graphics, flyers, brochures, online registration. You name, they are uptown. WOW, that's what Marge would say!

They had an OCTOBERFEST THEME, with everyone wearing braids and durndels, german food that was fabulous. We had a record number of attendees (also due to the fact it was more centrally located in the district) and they made a record amount of profit. They had gone around to all the businesses in the area for donations of baskets and gift certificates. Several items such as golf packages and concert season tickets went for more than \$400 each! WOW! That's what Marge says!

Following the District meeting, everyone headed over to the Destin Library for the dedication of the BLUE STAR MARKER. Could there have been better timing, everything and everyone cooperated, including the weather. Can you imagine applying for and installing a BLUE STAR MARKER, 10 months after you become a member of FFGC? WOW, that's what Marge says!

Velda got our her magic pen and started working on a PLANT AMERICA GRANT, which Destin Garden Club received in January 2023 for \$1,000 to begin a Japanese Garden at the Destin Library. WOW! That's what Marge says!

What could be next for this brand new club? You guessed it! They will host their very first NGC FLOWER SHOW June 5 and 6 of this year! Yep, you betcha, we've got allot of training for these folks coming up in the weeks after we get home from convention! But can you imagine putting on a FLOWER SHOW, 17 months after you join FFGC? WOW! That is what Marge says.

It's been a pleasure to be the District I Director the past 2 years. What a fun job!

WOW! That is what Marge says.

DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 3

FFGC District III Report
District Director
Marilyn Larson
April 18, 2023

Spring has finally sprung, along with winter annual weeds and summer weeds soon to follow! All part of gardening! Clubs in district III are active, hosting monthly meetings, educational programs, field trips, community-centered activities and workshops. In short, they have busy schedules.

The array of educational, inspiring and fun program offerings across clubs is well documented in each club calendar and directory.

Live Oak Garden Club held a February flower waxing workshop. Camellias are generally the flower chosen for waxing but since Camellia specimens were difficult to find due to the winter temperatures, members waxed Carnations, Azaleas and Roses. The event was so successful, the Club plans to schedule a repeat workshop for their next calendar year. Waxed flowers can last many weeks if refrigerated. Their March meeting was a program by Suwanee County Extension agent on “Flowering Perennials” and their April calendar is equally a busy one with a workshop on constructing compost containers for kitchen scraps, and their April Spring Bazaar and program on Trees in Suwanee County in recognition of Arbor Day.

Madison Garden Club has been busy with community activities. The club donated money to the Four Freedoms Park toward purchase and installation of a new sprinkler /irrigation system. The Club maintains landscape beds in the Park and the irrigation system will help keep the flowers watered and healthy. The Club’s April program is a “down home days” plant sale to raise money toward sponsorship of students to Camp Wekiva and SEEK.

Monticello Garden Club which is comprised of two circles, Founders Circle, Claudette McRae President and Magnolia Circle, Jan Munn, President. Club members are busy getting ready to host the Spring District III meeting on May 16 at the Monticello Opera House. They are especially excited about the program planned for the Spring District Meeting of “Wild about Wildflowers”. They also report their county Extension agent joined both circles in a show of support toward the club. This is also the time of year when roses are in bloom and one of their club members hosts a “first bloom” event of her rose bushes, shrubs, and vines

Perry Garden Club’s March meeting program was Wynn’s Daylily Gardens, a well-known daylily farm and supplier of daylilies in north Florida. Each year, because the program is so well received, they schedule a “make and take” stepping stone workshop. The stepping stone workshop is held this month (April). The stepping stones are made of quick set concrete poured into a form with glass pieces or shell design embedded in the stepping stone.

Steinhatchee Garden Club also has an April “Make and Take” stepping stone program as their monthly meeting. Their March program was a topic on hummingbirds given by the Suwanee County Extension agent.

Tallahassee Garden Club, comprised of 21 circles, had their spring membership meeting March 8 with a program on the history of the Club’s participation on the Parks and Recreation Board. The Club has had a long history of involvement with the City’s park system. The Club selected Robin Walls, Buddleia Circle, to attend her first FFGC convention with registration compliments of District III, an effort put forth by this District Director to expand participation and involvement in FFGC. Creative Programs offered by Circles include: making wildflower seed balls, painting/decorating a Shamrock door hanging, and a program on Spring Ephemerals, to name a few of the varied and educational programs offered at several of the circle meetings during the spring months of March and April. An April 29 Spring Extravaganza is a highlight of their calendar year – an event held on the house grounds featuring plant sales, yard art, food and various community partners.

Wakulla County Garden Club hosted a spring program of “Planting for Pollinators” and a spring and summer vegetable gardening program, followed by a plant sale to encourage active participation by community members. The Club began their new program year with newly recruited group of board members who set educational and informative monthly programs. They plan to feature a native plant of the month and identify what’s blooming and why it’s significant, and developing graphics to help new members grasp available opportunities and how they can participate.

DISTRICT 4

Report
District IV Director
Connie A. Gladding
April 5, 2023

This spring, District IV clubs lined up a wide array of educational opportunities. The district sponsored an in-person NGC Landscape Design School Course 3 with an amazing group of landscape designers and architects. The Garden Club of Jacksonville offered the six units of Floral Design Study; participants soaked up the expertise shared by the designers. Lastly, Gardening as Therapy, a horticultural program was held by the Garden Club of Orange Park. Participants heard from a University of Florida Horticulture Agent; landscape architects; the African Violet Society; and a registered Horticulture Therapist.

District IV and District IV Flower Show Judges held three flower shows this spring: Bartram Garden Club “Down the Rabbit Hole”; St. Augustine “From Sea to Shining Sea”; and Ribault Garden Club “Holiday Celebrations”.

Garden Clubs were showcased at the Clay County Fair. Orange Park, Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, and Alligator Creek had exhibit tables loaded with plants and information highlighting club events and encouraging membership. Each Club won competitive Fair Superintendent ribbons. Middleburg promoted an upcoming “meet and greet” and Green Cove Springs a plant sale. All tables had their meeting dates and locations prominently displayed. The Fair’s theme “The Fair is for Everyone”, was repeated on the exhibits with “So is Gardening”.

A District IV Plant America Grant recipient, The Garden Club of Switzerland, received a flat of native milkweed from MonarchWatch and has completed an important first step in making their Plant America Grant proposal a reality. A kiosk was placed at the Alpine Groves Park native plant butterfly garden. On display is a poster from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It features butterfly photos along with information about the host plants they need to ensure the survival of the species. The next step is to tag the host plants with QR codes to allow visitors to look up the plants/butterflies on an accredited database. In this way, the garden educates its visitors.

Another of the District IV Plant America Grant recipients, The Garden Club of Green Cove Springs completed the creation of an urban rain garden, filled with stone, barrels, native plants, papyrus, iris, and lilies. The club worked with the middle and high school boys at their alternative school. The club has plant sales and educational programs on the community calendar. For the first time, the club is sponsoring an educational program with the local girl scouts on wildflowers and butterflies. Each girl scout earned the NGC/FFGC patch.

Bartram Garden Club also conducted a program with the Girl Scouts: "Wild About Wildflowers". Junior Girl Scouts learned about gardening for pollinators, took home a coreopsis plant, and received the NGC/FFGC wildflower patch.

The Garden Club of Fleming Island held their much anticipated by the community annual Butterfly Release and the "Art and the Garden" events. The Butterfly release is in partnership with the local library and high school and the "Art and the Garden" event partners with the Art Guild of Orange Park. The club is flourishing with new members, and all had the opportunity and were encouraged to engage in both of these events.

St. Augustine held a spring plant sale with an educational program, "All About Fertilizer" and a rummage sale. Hibiscus Circle of Garden Club of St. Augustine hosted a bonsai styling workshop open to the public to share of joy of bonsai to our community. Guests and members learned to transplant a tree into a training pot and style a new design using Chinese elm stock.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville continued with celebrating the club's 100 years. Horticulturists and designers presented children and adult educational programs. Work continues upgrading the historic property with a resilient landscape. Fundraisers included a flea market and a green market, Blooms Galore and More, with raffles, thousands of plants, and garden related items. The Club continues to work with the 2024 Convention leadership to prepare for the flower show.

Thank you to the Garden Club of Middleburg for hosting the 2023 Spring District Meeting. District Director Smaro Runyon shared her vision for the next two years. Guest speaker was Dr. Dave Clark from University of Florida speaking on basil hybridization.

At the end of this program year, new volunteers in positions of responsibility were installed. To help with transition, orientation for District IV and Club officers and chairs is planned for June 21st. As Jan Sillik, former FFGC President taught this District Director, District IV Soars! It takes flight on our members' wings!

DISTRICT 5

Report
District V Director
Donna Thomas
April 2023 – Convention

It should be very obvious what District V has been doing for several months – working on hosting this convention. Marge Hendon, our illustrious FFGC president hails from District V and we are so proud of her. It is our privilege to host this convention. We hope you avail yourself of all the learning and playing opportunities.

Some of our clubs do their annual year fundraisers in months other than March and April. The Citrus Garden Club hosted their annual Mahjongg tournament in January and Lake City Garden Club hosted their scrabble tournament in February. We are all delighted that Gainesville continues to host “Short Course” in June. If you haven’t signed up yet, times a wasting.

Several of the clubs have already hosted their fundraisers in March. Four Seasons Garden Club hosted their plant sale March 20th. And they are planning a secret garden walk July 8th. Pioneer Garden Club was not only planting day lilies in March, but they are also selling lilies and hydrangeas for an Easter fundraiser. The Garden Club of Crystal River hosted their first annual Craft Fair Plus show March 25th. You might want to crib from Homosassa River Garden Club who hosted a “Growing a Scholarship” Comedy Show on March 25th and Gainesville Garden Club hosted “Music in the Garden” April 2nd.

It's true that you have missed some other plant sales such as Floral City Garden Club on April 1, as well as McIntosh Seedling’s sale on the same day. But there’s still time to get great plants on April 22nd at Brooksville and Newberry Garden Clubs.

It seems like yesterday that I was here being installed as District Director - how quickly time slips away. As my term of office comes to an end, I’m both sad and happy at the same time. I’ve had a grand time meeting lots of new friends, learning

new skills and becoming accomplished at juggling, switching gears and changing plans not just from A to B but sometimes to D. District V is absolutely the best district. I so appreciate all the help and support you all have extended to me over my term in office. I haven't called one single person and ask for their help and been turned down. That's says a lot about the dedication of all our members. It has been my honor to be District V Director. In 24 hours, we will have a new director – Carol Stevens. I know you all join me in wishing her the very best. With your help she's going to be an outstanding director. Carol's home club is hosting the May District meeting – Lake City on May 10th. I am looking forward to presenting her with her District Director's pen which in District V, makes you official.

DISTRICT 6

**District VI Report
Suzi Bailey
District Vi Director
April, 2023**

The garden clubs in District VI are still working hard and having fun doing it. Scholarships totaled \$26,565! Wow! How exciting to see how these clubs are Planting for the Planet with their investments in our future gardeners.

The Garden Club of Palm Coast is continuing to grow with 195 members. Arrangers Guild, Propagation Guild, Junior Garden Clubs, fundraising events have been a part of this growth. A Spring Festival, Open to the public was held. Their propagation guild formed a Creativity Team, and showcased beautiful plants at the Palm Coast High School. Arrangers guild is planning a November Flower Show, and open to the public. In addition, they will also host the May 9th Spring District VI Meeting.

Ormond Beach Club hosted a flower show extravaganza. Monthly Fun with Flower events are teaching them new techniques from a newly retired florist shop owner. This club stated that they are enjoying life and living the dream.

South Peninsula Garden Club has had wonderful programs which have been presented by their own talented members. Each month they were led on a “world tour of gardens”.

Titusville Garden Club is excited about celebrating 75 years!

Garden Club by the Sea has been providing scholarships. \$2,000 to a college student studying sustainability and \$2,000 to the D.O.C.K. Which is an afterschool program for underprivileged children. A gardening program will teach them about growing nutritious foods. A member led cooking class will have the two classes overlap. A Pollinator Fair was held for all of the community. Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club had a busy year. They added 72 new members. They have sponsored several students to Camp Wekiva and feel fortunate to sponsor 6 more camper ships for other garden clubs. They have had many fun programs and community events. Their club was invited to participate and speak at their first tree city event. Partnership with the city officials to create more environmental efforts is one of their goals.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as District VI Director.

DISTRICT 7

2023 Convention Report
District VII
Charlotte White

District VII has had a remarkably busy spring.

Winter Garden's Bloom n Grow Society will be hosting the May District VII meeting with the installation of our new District Director Gwen Carter.

A highlight for some of us was attending: Camellia's completed **Blue Star By-Way Marker** installation with a dedication ceremony in Feb. They planted a native plant garden around the marker at the Eustis Memorial Library. During this hot spring it has been a constant effort to keep our new plants watered and healthy. Camellia will complete their year with a May luncheon and installation along with a silent plant auction to benefit next year's Wekiva youth Camp scholarship fund.

Our very own Joanne Mulinare's presentation was moved from the 6th to the 7th. Website, YouTube, and Roku on the air date of Apr 7, 2023 at 9 AM. **Sample Post Content:** I am a guest on the talk show Emily Tells All. I was interviewed about Bloom Where You are Planted. You can watch it at <https://emilybonilla.com/emily-tells-all/>. You can find the YouTube video of the interview at <https://youtu.be/VZni7b6X7p0>

Lakes and Hills Garden Cub members have enjoyed learning about spices and their many uses. We even made our own spice blends and tea bags. We also enjoyed a wonderful presentation on orchids by local Mount Dora national orchid judges, Glenn and Donna Brown. We will complete our year with tree planting and dedication for National Arbor Day on April 28 and a final club luncheon with installation of our new officers.

Many/all of District VII's clubs financially supported Wekiva State Park Camps and Seek this year. This past Friday The Orlando The Garden Club held an NGC PETITE FLOWER SHOW Flower under the direction of Silvia Zuniga. Beautiful selection of miniature entries.

The Spring Board of District VII meeting was held on Thursday, February 23rd by Zoom. There was much to share from the January State/DDVII Board meeting as well with all the activities of reported by club presidents.

Please check FFGC's website to see all the upcoming opportunities in our district such as: Clermont Garden Club's Spring Garden Festival on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from A.M. - P.M. at Clermont Garden Club and along the shores of Center Lake Park.

Dates are in discussion for workdays at headquarters.

DISTRICT 8

D VIII board Report
Kitty Wallace
April 19, 2023

Dade City – Still Growing, a Small Standard Flower Show, was held in March. It was two years in the planning and two days of flower show fun. The judges were treated to a beautiful lunch in the gardens. The next day the Flower Show was open to the public along with a fun Garden Market Bazaar on the garden club grounds.

Thanks to all who participated, supported and attended. **The Dade City Flower Show** Committee offered this invitation: We look forward to seeing you in 2 years with our next flower show. Yes! It takes 2 years to plan, but it is so worth it!



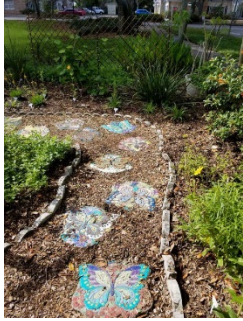
Clearwater Garden Club “Danced into Spring” with their lovely flower show. There was a break of a few years but they are back!! New members entered horticulture and design items for the first time and now they are “hooked”.



They vow to be back again next year. Continuing their tradition of hosting a plant sale for Mother’s Day at the Clearwater Garden Club on May 6th. There is always a wide selection of interesting plants. See you there!

Sunset Park Garden Club hosts *Flavors & Flora from around the World - Charity Auction & Wine Tasting* on April 20th at the Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd. 6:00 to 9:00.





Dunedin Garden Club maintains the butterfly garden at Dunedin Public Library. They participated in Plant Day on April 1st at the library, donating scores of plants.



Sarasota Garden Club held Panache with Pooches Fashion Show in February. It was a howling success. In March, the 9th Annual Gardens in Paradise Tour featured eight fabulous home gardens and a tour of the gardens at the club. Just in time for the yellow tabebuia tree to show all of its glory.



Venice Area Garden Club hosts their plant sale on April 29 at Blalock Park. There will be orchid demonstrations and exhibits.

Lemon Bay Garden Club held their Pop-Up Plant Sale on Friday, April 14th.

Manatee River Garden Club invited all of your imagination to come to the "ObSEUSSed" A SEUSICAL CELEBRATION FLOWER SHOW in March.

They were recently honored by Meals On Wheels PLUS of Manatee for their volunteering excellence.

The **Plant City Garden Club** hosted their Flower Show within the Horticulture Booth at The Strawberry Festival in March. Members will be having a fun with flowers on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m. at The First United Methodist Church.



Temple Terrace Garden Club celebrates “Yard of the Month”. April is all about the bougainvillea.



Upcoming event, *Delightful Designs & Delectables* offers members an opportunity to practice their design skills while enjoying a tea party at the Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club on June 4th.



Tampa Garden Club, hosted a very festive Standard Flower Show, Cocktails & Mocktails in March in collaboration with Tampa GreenFest, offering the public a premier plant sale and supremely artistic flower show of designs, horticulture, botanical arts, and photography. Attendance was the best yet!

Davis islands Garden Club has had such interesting programs this year on vegetable gardening, coleus, amaryllis, agapanthus, African violets and more. And then there was the super field trip to Bok Tower Gardens! Members very much enjoyed hosting the Children's Activity tent at Tampa GreenFest.



Garden Club of St. Petersburg hosts their annual flower show at the Green Thumb Festival in Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26th Ave. N, April 29 & 30th, 9:00 to 4:00. This is the biggest plant sale in our area; it is HUGE. When you go to Green Thumb, please go inside to enjoy their NGC Standard Flower Show, "PARTY TIME". It is full of exciting floral designs and thrilling horticulture.

Lakewood Ranch Garden Club had a wonderful program at Plantion La Orquidea in Sarasota. Rafael, the owner, showed members different types of orchids, how to plant the orchid in a container, in a tree, or on wood, and detailed how much light each needed. After his presentation, each member picked an orchid and decided where they would place it in their yard. In another exciting program, members learned about becoming a Monarch City.



DISTRICT 9

Report
District IX Director
Dale W. DeFeo
April 18, 2023

DISTRICT IX

District IX clubs have been exceptionally busy this spring. Club events that were cancelled or postponed due to COVID19 and Hurricane Ian have all been scheduled for this spring.

Naples Garden Club, Punta Gorda Garden Club, Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, Gulf Coast Garden Club and District IX Council of Flower Show Judges held impressive flower shows.

There also have been numerous plant sales and garden/home tours. Lakeland, Arcadia, Calusa, Cape Coral, and Royal Palm Garden Clubs held large plant sales that provided funds for their ongoing projects and scholarships. Gardenia Garden Club held their spring Junior Gardener event with members sharing a day with young mothers and children. Avon Park Founders Garden Club held their annual plant sale, planted a garden at their depot and refurbished their Blue Star marker.

Bouquet Garden Club held their first fundraiser Spring Tea in March. Members decorated the tables with their own china, floral designs, and accessories and there were 125 people in attendance.

Most clubs are holding spring celebratory luncheons and other social events, often including the installation of new officers for the coming term.

Scholarships in District IX totaled more than \$22,500. This is amazing, considering what club members had to deal with after Ian. Support went to Wekiva, SEEK, college students and other educational venues.

Environmental and Landscape Design Schools were held this spring. The Environmental School was via Zoom and was well attended.

Although we gained members overall, we are saddened that Jasmine Garden Club with 11 members disbanded. Their youngest member and president is in her 80's and they just couldn't attract younger members to keep the club operating. At least two of the members will join nearby clubs.

It was also a shock to recently learn that Pat Beaton, President of Camellia Garden Club, has been very ill with lengthy hospitalizations since November and will be relocating to be near her niece.

In closing, this Director wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the District IX officers, board and club presidents who have been so supportive during the past two very challenging but rewarding years. District IX is indeed comprised of very strong and dedicated members. It has been a privilege to serve as Director.

Now, I would like to present the new incoming District IX Director, Claudia Chopp.

DISTRICT 10

Final District Director Report

Michelle Maguire, District X

April 19, 2023

This has been a most interesting two years with COVID and trying to navigate our district ByLaws. As District Director you are challenged every day by your clubs. Thank you to all who invited me to speak not just as a District Director but also as a Tri- Consultant of the NGC schools. I have met many people along the way and not just in my District, many have become close friends.

District X clubs are very busy people, as Marge has told me several times. Pipers Landing GC 1000 Orchid Project will continue every year by collecting Orchids from members as they leave for the summer. They just planted 60 Orchids in the trees in our community. Stuart Garden Club which holds a Garden Tour one year and a Flower Show the next year. Garden Club of Indian River County which has held Gardenfest for umpteen years and is absolutely amazing. Large Plant Sales by Boca Garden Club, Boynton Beach Garden Club, Rio Linda Garden Club, Clewiston Garden Club and the Garden Club of Fort pierce. Ocean Ridge Garden Club with all their many fundraisers to be able to send 10 campers to Wekiva every year. College scholarships from Ocean Ridge, Indian River County, Fort Pierce, Jupiter-Tequesta and Stuart. District X this past year raised close to \$40,000 in monies donated to education of their communities, Wekiva , Seek and to their members to go to NGC schools. WOW

The District X Spring meeting on April 27, 2023 will be hosted by the Boynton Beach GC. Precious Metal Certificates will be given to Rio Lindo GC for 60 years and Wellington GC for 70 years.

Thank you to Marge for spending time with me in my home , you are definitely one of the most kindness people in this world. I will continue with my Theme of Beautify Your Surroundings in District X with an annual award as promised when I became the District Director.

Tropical Short Course will again be sponsored by District X to be held on January 25 and 26, 2024. This will be a tri-refresher and it will be held at the Wellington Community Center in Wellington Florida.

I now pass the torch to Maria Wolfe of the Wellington Garden Club and Mary Ann Cody her assistant from Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your District X Director, it was a pleasure.

Michelle Maguire, DXD 2021-2023

DISTRICT 11

Report for FFGC Board Meeting
District XI
Sharon Bogard
April 12, 2022

It is bittersweet that I will give you my final District XI report today. It was a joyous journey getting to know the wonderful members of the Broward County clubs I served. The gardener members are single-minded in their commitment to learn, teach and share their knowledge with their communities. From the largest club, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, to the smallest, Hollywood Garden Club, the enthusiasm for conservation and education is apparent. The Clubs continually promote good gardening practices and innovation.

Coral Springs Garden Club continues its rapid-fire projects throughout spring. Jeri Decker, President, has shared some their projects for this report. The club donates and maintains plants at Broward Health nurses' stations; continues to plant native orchids as part of the Million Orchid project; offers field trips, and the most energetic project upcoming is supporting the City's annual GardenFest. The garden club is a vendor and assists the city with traffic control, refreshments and assisting other vendors. There is no doubt that its exposure and outreach has had such a positive impact on the community and the club, signing 33 new members in March. CSGC strong!

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, despite its tenuous situation at its Garden Center through the loss of its user agreement with the state's Department of Environmental Protection, has not missed a beat with its programs and events. Susie MacPherson, President, has captained this ship through rough waters with grace and dedication and her members wish to acknowledge their appreciation. Maintaining business as usual, a small Standard Flower Show, "Birding Bliss," was a lovely event that was staged, judged, and dismantled in only one day. The annual Secret Garden Tour of seven gardens was again a sell-out with visitors from all over the country as well as international attendees. The club will support the "Adopt-a-Dune program over a three-year period. Removing invasive species and replanting with natives to save our beaches is part of our continued commitment to the garden club's mission.

The **Hollywood Garden Club's** President, Susan Berry, reminds us that the "The best path to take is in the garden." She is a Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist who loves sharing her knowledge with members. A small, close-knit group that meet in each other's homes, raffle plants from each other's gardens and take field trips to local nurseries for informative lectures (that always results in the purchase of new plants). Members are encouraged to bring friends and share lunch following the field trip. Susan reports that she has created more friendships

with members in these past years than she has had in all the 47 years she has been a member of Garden clubs. This is proof that small clubs have a significant impact.

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club's recent "FUN raiser" was a boilerplate for a successful event (what a garden club *is and does*). Traditional targets to raise money and recruit new members is always a given though, the educational exhibits were the highlight: so clever and informative. Illustrating how to care of sick plants; what Apps are good for plant and tree identification, and why and where to buy native plant species. This small community of seven hundred balloons to thousands during "season" and so many of these part-time residents are uninformed about South Florida's natives and invasives that this exhibit had far-reaching effects. Yolanda Bernardi, President, remarked that "A result of the morning's FUN raiser yielded five new members, and another fifteen who said they might be interested! This new blood is exactly what our club needs."

The **Garden Club of Lighthouse Point** is preparing for the annual Spring District XI meeting. They have chosen the theme, "The Mad Hatters Tea Party in the Garden of Wonderland." The theme alone will guarantee a fun event! This will be Bonny Cole's first District meeting as the new Director for XI. She is enthusiastic and prepared to assist the Broward clubs. She has put together a team of seasoned members. We all wish them well in their new roles. They will rock!

Reviews are in and **Pompano Beach Garden Club** annual fund-raising luncheon held in February was a five-star event. Attendance and enthusiasm were abundant. The Garden Club participated in the City's "Plants and People Day" held at the historic Sample McDougald House. The members sold their floral arrangements and baked goods. The club informed the public of its part in the community and welcomed interested parties to explore what the garden club has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

DISTRICT 12

Convention 2023
District XII Report

Good Morning Madam President and FFGC Convention Attendees

Newly elected as District Director of Tropical Twelve, we saw our world live through something I never thought our world would live through. Yet as we all halted and sheltered in place, our homes and gardens beckoned and all activity of gathering to learn and celebrate our gardens ceased. This District Director thought "Oh no! This ship is going to sink under my watch!" Instead, the Clubs of District XII jumped into action and together as a District we strategized and shared ideas of how to keep our Garden Clubs going.

It quickly became apparent that there was no keeping District XII members from their Garden Club Activities! Through the fear and unknown of the Pandemic, the Clubs innovated and activated and suddenly "Zoomed" into all things technology. Suddenly we were in need of Audio Visual Chairmen!

The members of District XII now Zelle, Venmo, Cashapp, Evite, Eventbrite, Square and even use Google Docs, Forms and Slides to get the business of Clubs done and this District Director is most happy about it! (Not gonna lie, some went kicking and screaming.... But some of those same ones now prefer the ease of using all this technology!)

The District welcomed back Miami Lakes Garden Club, added many new members, three new Flower Show Judges, and saw Clubs host Flower Shows and Home Tours for the first time. Tropical Twelve also sent campers to Wakevia for the first time in a very long time. One Club even created a Photography competition that has been very successful and grown exponentially.

Many worthy events and programs have been executed!! So many trees have been planted and many environmentally focused activities have been enacted by all of the Clubs to try to give our pollinators a chance or to help mother nature help our beautiful south Florida. In closing, the ship didn't sink! Indeed it came to shore and delivered many many riches. By far, the most valuable to me are the friendships newly established or deeper fortified not only within our Clubs, but within our entire Tropical Twelve District.

It has been a true honor to represent our beautiful South Florida and to further the mission of FFGC alongside my fellow District Directors, the Wonder Women of President Marge Hendon.

April 2023 Board Meeting

Board Chairmen Reports

Note: to access a specific report look it up in the table of contents and note the page number. Go to the box in the upper left corner where it shows 1 of 81 and over key the '1' with the page you want.

Table of Contents

4-5 STAR MEMBERS	4
ADOPT-A-PARK.....	5
AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP	6
AMAZON PROJECT	6
ARBOR DAY	7
ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARDENS.....	7
AWARDS – FFGC.....	8
BEES.....	10
BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES.....	11
BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS.....	12
BOI Editor	14
BRICK PATHS	17
BYLAWS-STANDING RULES	18
CONVENTION COORDINATOR.....	18
CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2023	19
DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT	19
DUES AMBASSADOR	20
EARTH STEWARD.....	21
FFGC Nominating Committee	22
FFGC 100 th Birthday	23
FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	24
FLORAL DESIGN STUDY	26
FFSJ PRESIDENT	27
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON	32

FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS	33
FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES	33
FUN WITH FLOWERS	34
GARDEN THERAPY	35
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	37
HALL OF FAME	38
HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)	39
INSURANCE	40
INVASIVE SPECIES	41
JUNIOR GARDENERS	41
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS	43
MATCHING GRANTS	44
MEMBERSHIP	45
MEMBERSHIP RETENTION	46
NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN	47
NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN	48
NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN	48
NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN	49
NGC SPECIAL PROJECT LIAISON	50
NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS	55
PARKS – TRAILS - GREENWAYS	55
PENNY PINES	56
PHOTOGRAPHER	57
PILLAR OF PRIDE	57
PLANNED GIVING	58
PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS	59
PROTOCOL	60
ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE	61
SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC	63
SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC Report	64
SCOUTING LIAISON	65
SEEK CONFERENCE	66

SHORT COURSE – UF	67
SHORT COURSE – NORTH.....	68
SHORT COURSE TROPICAL	69
SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL	70
SOCIAL MEDIA.....	72
SOLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER	73
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE	74
TOURS & TRAVEL	75
TREES & REFORESTATION	76
TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....	79
WATER AND WETLANDS	81
WEBSITE EDITOR	82
WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP	83
WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING	83

4-5 STAR MEMBERS

Four/Five Star Report

4/5 Star Chair

Sally Flanagan

April 19,20 2023

I did not send a report for the Board meetings in January 2023 as there were no updates for this category.

There are also no new 4 or 5 Star recipients in Florida for the year April 2022 to April 2023.

We are hoping that the next year we will have additional people receiving one of these awards.

The present number of 4 Star persons who live in Florida and are in good standing are 11

The present number of 5 Star persons who live in Florida and are in good standing is 9

The additional number from last year is Dale DeFeo whose 4 and 5 Star awards were given when she lived in Washington. Dale now lives in Florida but her credentials on the NGC website, show her credentials for these awards being held in Washington.

Sally Flanagan

ADOPT-A-PARK

AFFILIATES MEMBERSHIP

AMAZON PROJECT

ARBOR DAY

ARBORETA & BOTANTICAL GARDENS

AWARDS – FFGC

April 18, 2023
FFGC Awards Chair
Gwen Carter

For Awards Year, 2022-2023, one hundred ninety-six (196) FFGC Awards Applications were entered for adult awards. Since the end of judging, the Chairman has worked with 31 Awards Judges to ascertain judging results. Members of the Award's Team communicated with Judges regularly via telephone or email. An excel spreadsheet of award winners was created for FFGC Treasurer to prepare checks for winning awards.

All winning awards were reviewed and determined their compatibility with DSGC and NGC Awards using NGC and DSGC handbooks. Twenty (20) award entries were sent to DSGC, 18 awards sent electronically, and two (2) awards mailed. FFGC received nine (9) First Place, four (4) Second Place, three (3) Third Place, four (4) Honorable Mention from Deep South, plus Second Place for the Deep South Unified Project Award. Twenty-two (22) FFGC award entries were sent electronically to NGC. We anticipate positive results at the NGC Convention in May.

Embossed seals were mailed to Junior Gardener Chairman for certificates.

The Chairman had the opportunity to work with the Convention Committee on awards presentation, protocol, logistics, and securing Cypress Creek High School's JROTC Color Guard for the 96th Annual FFGC Convention opening on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 8:30 A.M.

Gathered winning awards from Junior Gardener Chair, Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair, Youth/HS Chair, Flower Show Achievement Chair, Flower Show Related Chair, and Tree & Reforestation Chair. Purchased twelve (12) bags for each District's winning awards with related information for District Director to be presented at Convention.

Worked with the FFGC Office Coordinator to order additional certificates and covers. Also, worked with the Office Coordinator to print winning certificates, put embossed gold seals, stamps with the President's signature, and place in cover. Later, certificates were put in each District's bag.

Awards Directory with FFGC & DSGC winners were typed and emailed to Florida Gardener Editor and FFGC Historian. Awards Directory will be placed on the website after Convention.

Five (5) PowerPoint presentations were prepared for winning Districts, three districts (3) during lunch, and three districts (3) at dinner on Wednesday and Thursday. Also, FFGC Top Honors PowerPoint presentation and speeches for FFGC #2 Outstanding Service Award, FFGC #3 Leadership Award, FFGC #5B Special Achievement, Individual, Award, and FFGC #8 Garden Club of the Year Award were prepared for the last night of the Convention to honor recipients. Paths of Sunshine Awards were added to PowerPoint presentation.

FFGC Banner with new 100th Year Seal was created and ordered plus First Place ribbons ordered for Awards Room. Entries from Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl, Junior Gardener, Poetry Contest, and Youth Sculpture Contest will be displayed in the Awards Room. Thank you.

BARTRAM SOCIETY

BEES

FFGC Bees Chairman

Christy Linke

April 18, 2023

This Bee Chairman has been busy speaking on bees since my last report. It was an honor to speak at the Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society in March. There were 40 members present with two being guests just to hear about native bees. My next speaking engagement is at the Peace River Butterfly Society in Port Charlotte. Jim Peterfeso was one of the guest and he was so excited he asked if I would come speak on native bees. As he put it my speaking on native bees sets me apart from so many speakers they have had. What an honor it was to hear that. This chairman will be speaking at a church women's club meeting in April and looking forward to educating them as well on our beloved bees. All along this chairman always takes brochures on FFGC as well as information on our garden club in Plant City.

Summary: Promoting bees through Knowledge is something I will continue to speak on and educate all that will listen.

BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

**Blue Star Memorial Program
Blue Star Memorial Chairman
Rosita Aristoff
April 18, 2023**

1) Completed Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers Dedications

- Camellia Garden Club (District VII) - The new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker dedication at the Eustis Library took place on February 17, 2023.

2) Pending New Memorial Markers Activity

- Milton Garden Club (District I) - The new Gold Star Families Memorial By-Way Marker to be dedicated at Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza is still planned for May 29, 2023.
- Gardeners Out East Garden Club (District VIII) – A new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker has been received for placement at the new East Manatee County Library. A dedication is planned for November, 2023.

3) Replacement Markers

- Dunedin Garden Club (District VIII) – A Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker has been ordered to replace their existing marker. A dedication ceremony is planned for November 2023.

4) Price Increase

- Effective May 1, 2023 the manufacturer will be implementing price increases as follows:

❖ Highway/Memorial marker, post & shipping	\$1,995.00
❖ Byway Markers	\$665.00
❖ Replacement Posts	\$375.00
❖ Refurbishment (large markers only)	\$1,200.00

5) Summary

Since the last report one new marker was dedicated and one replacement Blue Star By-Way Marker was ordered. A manufacturer's price increase takes effect for any orders received after April 30th.

Rosita A. Aristoff

Rosita A. Aristoff

Blue & Gold Star Memorial Chairman

BOI EDITOR

CONVENTION 2023 FFGC BOARD REPORT BOOK OF INFORMATION (BOI) -- EDITOR

Lisa Packard, Editor

April 21, 2023

The *Book of Information* is under construction right now, awaiting updated information not available until the convention. It will be published by the September board meeting.

PRIOR PRINTING COSTS

PRINTING ESTIMATE OPTIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR

SUGGESTIONS & RATIONALE

The previous editions have been over 100 pages primarily due to the duplication of full contact information under every name, and it repeats every time that name comes up. That literally adds ~35+ pages to the document. I suggest we do one alpha list with full contact, but under all the categories, we list only names.

As this document is easily downloadable and saved to a computer, perhaps fewer hard copies can be printed and people can download it. Also, the printing bid has been for a spiral bound notebook. Some interest has been made to have it be standard letter page so it fits easily into a binder. That would also make it shorter, so whatever people want to do.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Consider changing to full letter size if there is enough demand. Consider printing fewer. No strong opinion either way, but reducing the duplication will greatly reduce the overall page number which saves in printing.

BOOK OF INFORMATION PRINT ESTIMATES 2023-2025

Receive data after April elections and installed in May.

Send communication to each DD in early April who should be in touch with each president after their elections to get the new names and contact. Currently, the BOI is 155 pages. Current questions and suggestions:

1. Have one master alphabetical listing only with full contact information in the front of the Board of Directors, BOI, past presidents, everyone.
2. Under each subsequent category, list names only. That alone will reduce the number of printed pages close to half.
3. Other printed sections include (a) the Charter and by-laws and standing rules which may stay); (b) each club and circle in the state and all personnel. Who actually requires that information? Is it

necessary for all BOI recipients to have that information? Could we print copies for only those who require it and host it online for everyone else. They can download to their computer and save it.

CATEGORIES:

1. Opening pages and FFGC officers (9 pages) (8 names)
2. District Directors (2 pages) (12 names)
3. Advisory Council (1 page) (11 names)
4. Board of Directors (9 pages) (~90 names)
5. Chairmanships (10 pages) (~100 names and repetitive)
6. Committees (2 pages) (10 committees so 10 chairs and repetitive)
7. Club Listing alpha (54 pages) – cut this page from BOI; this info is provided by clubs;

Who else needs it? Online version only?

8. Past presidents (2)
9. Flower Show Judges (1)
10. TriCouncil (1)
11. Schools (6)
12. Charter/bylaws/standing rules (35 pages)
13. Club Presidents (< 200)

TOTAL 239 names but at least 100 are repetitive

Inc/ club presidents, 439 w/ 100 repetitive

BIDS: 450 copies max, not 550, both are 5x8"

Baker Press: 52 pages **Spiral Bound** 450 Books \$1,780 RECOMMENDED with further reductions

550 Books \$1,875

80 pages 550 (\$2,049)

450 (\$1,917)

52 pages **3-hole drill** 450 books \$1,541.00

550 books \$1,622.00

80 pages 450 books \$1,676.00

550 books \$1,759.00

116 pages 450 Books \$2031

550 Books \$2,160.00

THE FLORIDA GARDENER PRINT BIDS

Baker Press:

"The Florida Gardener" Magazine. including self-cover. Printed 4/4 on 70# Gloss Book. Finished size is 8.5 x 11, saddle stitch, inkjet, sort, bag and deliver to BMEU for mailing. Left over copies to be delivered to FFGC Office,

	2000	Cost pp	2500	Cost pp	3000	Cost pp
Winter Park, FL.						
# of mags printed						
24-page magazine	\$3,079	\$1.54	\$3,414	\$1.37	\$3,770	\$1.26
28-page magazine	\$3,653	\$1.83	\$4,083	\$1.63	\$4,445	\$1.48
1 extra full-page ad covers the difference						

BRICK PATHS

Brick Paths Chairman

Annual Report

April 19, 2023

Our vendor once again disappeared and it was not an easy job to find a new one. Engraving bricks is a specialty and the suppliers have come and go often. Throughout 2022 and into 2023 we amassed a large backlog of 40 orders for bricks which we were finally able to get engraved by Bricks and Tiles LLC of Naples FL in January. They were delivered to HQ in February. The cost for this new vendor is comparable to our previous vendors, so it is still a profitable endeavor if we can keep installation costs low. Delivery by truck is included in the price. The only add-on is if a donor wants a graphic added to the lettering, but it is still a reasonable fee after that.

Then the hunt for someone to install them started and we believe the brick repairman who has been working at FFGC HQ in recent months will be able to install them soon. While waiting for him to be available we ordered an additional 17 bricks, bringing us up to date on orders through 2023 convention. The bricks are in the storage closet that is accessed via a locked door behind the Patrons wall off the patio. Although a new chairman is taking over in the new administration this chairman will oversee this installation since many bricks were ordered in groups to be placed together, and this chairman will, as usual, send a photo of each brick to the donor once they are placed in the path.

Joanne Mulinare

Brickmaster 2016-2023

BYLAWS-STANDING RULES

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2023

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS UNIFIED PROJECT

DUES AMBASSADOR

Dues Ambassador
Sue Roberts
April 18, 2023

The Dues Ambassador put the announcement of dues renewal procedure and the updated forms out to the cub and circle presidents and the website on March 15. Dues are due by June 30. Late notices will be sent after June 30 and then again Aug. 30. These dates are the same as last year and the forms have had only minor changes from last year.

The Office Coordinator has prepared the accounting spreadsheet and will open renewals and deposit the checks. She and I will process the clubs updating their profiles as they come in. The goal is to complete the entire update process by Sept 1. After that the clubs will continue to add new members as they get them.

The role of Dues Ambassador is to be available for all questions and issues that may arise in the clubs. Over the last two years these issues have become less and less and I hope that trend will continue this year. Next year the due dates will be moved up by one month in hopes that we can get more clubs to pay before they break up for the summer.

Summary: the Dues Ambassador's role is to answer questions, prepare the forms, and define the renewal process and then help to get the clubs profiles updated as they are paid. Unfortunately this is a time consuming job for the month of June, July, and August.

EARTH STEWARD

**BOD Annual Report
Earth Steward Recognition
Kathy Siena
April 19, 2023**

FFGC's Tri-Council first introduced the Earth Steward Recognition in 2013. A total of 135 recognitions have been given out up to April 2023. This recognition is given to honor the recipient for outstanding efforts and stewardship of our natural resources. It can be awarded in the field of Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environment. This chairman requests that these efforts be clearly indicated on the application form biography section for the recipient.

A worthy individual can be recognized with the honor in many ways. It may be awarded by a club, district, an FFGC organization or by an individual. The recipient of the Earth Steward recognition is presented with a pin and certificate. The recipient is not required to be an FFGC member. The fillable application is available on the home page of the FFGC website under "Honoring Garden Club Members. The \$100 donation goes to the "Color Our Garden Fund", a part of the Headquarters and Endowment (H&E) budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters.

Summary:

The Earth Steward Recognition was created in 2013. A worthy individual is recognized with a certificate for this special honor as earth stewards. They also received a specially designed pin. The \$100 donation is given to the "Color Our Garden Fund" at FFGC Headquarters. Since that time, a total of 135 recognitions have been given out with only two awarded during the 2023 year so far. An updated list of all recipients is available on the FFGC website at this link:

<https://ffgc.org/page-18059>

[Click on Earth Steward Recipients.](#)

FFGC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report
FFGC Nominating Committee
April 19, 2023

First, I'd like to recognize those members who served on the nominating committee for FFGC officers for 2023-25. If you are in the room, please stand when I call your name.

District I – Gina Jogan
District II – Sue Schmitz
District III – Jana Walling
District IV – Pat Caren
District V – Donna Thomas
District VI – Andrea Finn
District VII – Cynthia Pesch
District VIII – Carol Lucia
District IX – Leslie Montwid
District X – Kathy Siena
District XI – Inger Jones
District XII – Jean Hawa

Thank you for your service.

The task of this committee was to select a nominating slate for FFGC 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Fortunately, the 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President and Treasurer were willing to continue.

The committee met by zoom in January to interview for 1st and 2nd Vice President and Treasurer. The

Committee met in person on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, to interview candidates for 3rd Vice President and Recording Secretary.

Today the slate we are presenting is as follows:

1st Vice President – Christy Linke
2nd Vice President – Mary Whisler
3rd Vice President – Leticia Gunn
Recording Secretary – Jennifer Barber
Treasurer – Jana Walling

FFGC 100TH BIRTHDAY

Annual Report
Centennial Celebration
Tina V. Tuttle
19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

The time is here!! With the beginning of this new administration, we will begin to celebrate 100 years as a vibrant, vital and viable organization, serving the community and our members. The fundraising will continue but with your help, we have raised **\$35,262.45** in 80 separate donations!

Since we are such a large state, we are bringing the celebration to you and your districts so all members can participate and help celebrate!! We truly hope to involve **EVERY member** in some way! Please note that *much of the money raised will be returned to the districts in the form of birthday gifts, grants and discounts*. **The more you give, the more we can give back!!**

To date we have spent \$10,691.68 on the **2024 commemorative calendar** (\$5,761) **pins, ornaments** (\$1778.33), **candy jars, t-shirts, skit gifts** (eyeglass wipes), **and stickers** (\$2348) **and banners** (\$149). Sales of commemorative items will begin tomorrow night at the reception, and will be available online and on the October Officer's Districts tour. Our goal is to sell out!

The 2024 convention committee is already up and running and promises you a wonderful 100th birthday party in Jacksonville beginning with a light-hearted Early Arrivals dinner, fabulous guest speakers, useful workshops, craveable vendors, meaningful tours, and so much fun! The schedule for the **state flower show** entitled, "Celebrating 100 Years!" and written by the District I judges' council, has been turned over to the state judges' council for finishing touches and final execution. It will be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. As part of the 2024 convention, we will have our *first-ever* **Members Art Show** so get busy creating your best work and win a cash prize! Along that same line, we will be creating a **commemorative quilt** for 2024. One hundred-twenty simple block pattern kit instructions were given out on tour last year! A dozen have already been returned and they are awesome. We will also be bringing back **Tombola!!** You can win 100 *some things!!* How fun! And, we certainly plan to honor our four **founding garden clubs** as well as any member born in 1924!

Yes, we are planning to hold a lively **catered brunch and a separate sit-down dinner at headquarters on 24 April, 2024**, our actual birthday. Judi Jodoin has bravely taken on this special project as her chairmanship. Remember, those individuals and groups who donated \$1,000 to the Centennial Celebration will receive a special invitation to the dinner!

We are hopeful that all clubs and circles will plant a tree on **Florida Arbor Day, 19 January 2024**, at exactly 11am EST so we can get statewide publicity! Lynn Artz will coordinate this project. And so much more is being planned to recognize this milestone in the history of FFGC and for your enjoyment!

To ensure that our Centennial Celebration is truly historic, all you have to do is accept the invitation being given to each and every one of you! Please join us in 2024!

Tina Tuttle

Summary: Plans are moving forward for our Centennial Celebration in 2024: the convention, the state flower show, our official birthday party, arbor day, etc.. Funds continue to be solicited and so many projects are being planned. The goal is to make every member a participant! Make plans now to join us!!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report
FFGC Finance Committee
Tina Tuttle, Chairman
19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

The FFGC Finance Committee met on 13 April by Zoom with all members participating. Following a welcome by chairman Tina Tuttle and President Marge Hendon, our **Treasurer**, Jana Walling reviewed our cash and investments and Profit and Loss statements. She noted that the investment portfolio was making a slow but steady comeback. She reported that the contractor for the new building at Wekiva Youth Camp has made three draws for payment thus far totaling nearly \$217,000, one third of the donated amount. Approximately \$40,000 of the donated Wekiva money has been set aside for the purchase of furniture and the June 15th dedication ceremony. Jana has all credit cards and banking signatory requirements ready for the next administration. The committee voted to **add a line item** to future budgets to cover our **biennial state flower show** and to include an amount to cover the **biennial training** of our new district directors.

Next, Kelley Wood, our **insurance** chairman, helped us to understand who in the organization needs to be **bonded**. Our current insurance policy allows for only 7 people to be bonded, so that number will need to be increased to at least a dozen people who are in possession of an FFGC credit card or who handle checks or can sign checks.

Sue Roberts, Chairman of H&E, reported on the status of purchases, repairs, and contracts related to the **Headquarters building and grounds**. Her report to you will include the new oven, new AC control panel, new lawn care contractor, benefits for the Office Coordinator, among other things. Sue is working with new grounds chair, Charlotte White, and Tri-Council representatives to develop a \$9,000 **landscape plan** using native plants for possible planting in the fall. The committee agreed to purchase and mount an AED for the headquarters building.

Mary Whisler, as chairman of Wekiva Youth Camp, is making plans to replace the **dining hall oven** for summer 2024. The final financial report for the **Wekiva Volunteer Training** in February was under budget by \$56! Mary will be turning over responsibilities of the **FFGC Ways and Means** to our new 3VP Leticia Gunn beginning with this convention. They are working together to ensure sales by credit card and cash go smoothly.

Gina Jogan will rotate off the committee with the change in administration. She will give her report to you regarding \$4,925 in **Matching Grants** awarded for 2023 and changes for the 2024 application cycle. Gina was kind enough to volunteer to be the registrar for **Short Course North** and prepared a \$4,300 budget for approval. She also helped with preparing budgets for the upcoming biennial state flower show of \$4,580, the 2023 flower show school symposium for \$5,500, and the **100th brunch and dinner parties** slated for April of 2024, combined total of \$12,500, all of which were approved by the committee.

Claudia Bates, who has been asked to remain on the Finance Committee for the next administration, explained plans for the upcoming **2023 fall flower show school symposium** to be held at our headquarters. With Jan Griffin and herself as instructors, this symposium will be a no-frills venture for judges needing credit and will have limited seating.

As chairman of the **Centennial Celebration**, this chairman presented a newly revised budget of \$40,000 including ways and means logo items, the birthday brunch and dinner, the member art show, the commemorative quilt, etc. The budget was approved.

As First Vice President, Christy Linke, will take over chairmanship of the Finance Committee. Her first task will be to host our summer finance meeting.

Only one budget was submitted for review: The **Landscape Design School in New Smyrna Beach** in September at \$2,860 received a positive review.

Serving as chairman of the Finance Committee these past 2 years has been an eye-opening learning experience! Deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the members of this committee. It has been a pleasure working with you!

Tina Tuttle, Chairman, FFGC 1VP

Summary: The FFGC Finance Committee met 13 April by Zoom. We considered submitted budgets and financials for FFGC related educational programs and projects and HQ repairs. It is our mission to investigate every aspect of the fiscal health of our organization and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding expenditures, investments and avenues of revenue.

FLORAL DESIGN STUDY

FFSJ PRESIDENT

Report
Florida Flower Show Judges
April, 2023

Over the 2021-2023 term, FFSJ members and the twelve Districts remained busy, having 47 programs and workshops and 39 Flower Shows. District I and VIII each hosted a Symposium. What an accomplishment considering the slow return from Covid.

Districts reached out to their clubs to help mentor those who have never held a flower show and to those who haven't held one in years. The Program 'Flower Show in a Box' was presented by Gina Jogan and several Districts invited clubs to programs to actually demonstrate how easy a show can be. District VIII had two clubs organize a flower show, each commented on how the show brought their club together!

FFSJ's project has been "What's Your Type" A design book for beginners as well as experienced designers. Edition 2 is to be sold at the 2023 FFGC Convention in Kissimmee. One hundred Binders and Edition 1 were printed as well as 400 copies of Edition 2. Those not sold will be taken to the NGC Convention in West Virginia. FFSJ looks forward to the continuing success of this project with Gina Jogan and Anne Collins as Co-Chairs.

FFSJ continues to be strong and a vital part of the FFGC community

Parke Finold
FFGC-FFSJ Liaison
What's Your Type? co-chair

PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES OF THE MAGAZINE

Since the January 2023 meeting to now, *The Florida Gardener* has produced the Spring edition which was mailed to over 2,000 people and posted online. We held a cover photo contest which was won by Olivia Turowski of Hollywood Garden Club, District XII—a gorgeous picture of a bird.

From the beginning, but especially since the last issue, I have tried to understand the entire process and protocol of the magazine with a special interest in the reliability of the distribution list for mailed copies and how that list has been monitored for accuracy. The commercial printer, Baker Press, provides a list of undeliverable addresses to us after every issue so we can edit them. That list is provided to Circulation. After the Spring edition, I began to look at the flow of information and areas of responsibility. I have not found one procedure nor one protocol for checking those addresses, nor any proof that notified changes were made. Since those addresses have repeatedly been mailed multiple times, it is fair to assume that monitoring the accuracy of the list has not been happening. *As a result, FFGC has wasted considerable money delivering magazines to hundreds of deceased or relocated people.*

Action on cleaning up the list is underway. Baker Press and I both searched addresses on Google and found tons of obituaries. Tina Tuttle has asked district directors to address the list of life members which continues to yield a long list of names to remove.

FFGC cannot afford to waste money on anything, especially something so easily avoidable. The process is undergoing a rigorous examination and a new procedure must be in place prior to the next edition.

THE NEW PUBLISHING SCHEDULE IS:

Fall -- due Aug 1; in mailboxes by Sep 1 (as clubs are just starting)	Winter -- due Dec 1; in mailboxes by Jan 1 (so clubs can include December activities and submissions don't mess up their busy December schedules)
Spring -- due Mar 1; in mailboxes by April (just before convention)	Summer -- due Jun 1 (well after the convention); in mailboxes by July 1

PAST EXPENSE AVERAGED OVER THE LAST YEAR (PRINT + POSTAGE TOGETHER):

# of issues mailed	average of 2,063 per issue	4x a year
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~ cost per issue is \$1.80	(2,063 magazines x 4 issues/yr) =	8,252 total magazines printed at \$1.80 each
COST		\$14,853.00

DISTRIBUTION NEEDS EXAMINATION:

Tina and others have been addressing the life members distribution list and removing those who are deceased or relocated out of state and left no forwarding address. I would consider that last category as someone who opted out. We cannot be expected to honor a promise if they do not tell us where they are. **I have requested a Wild Apricot report on who is on each of the lists below and that any final changes occur before the summer edition gets mailed July 1.**

- All BOD members (~70)
- Magazine for Life members (# **unknown**)
- Paid subscribers (15)
- Members who do not have an email address in the Wild Apricot database (?)
- All District Directors (12)
- All club/circle presidents (~ 150 clubs total, with circles it is likely to be a minimum of 500 copies)
- All members with “Send Hardcopy” flag set (?)

ISSUES TO BE REVIEWED:

1. Our website does not have the ability to check the statistics/analytics to document or quantify how many people actually read the magazine online; we are not tracking that. **Solution:** *Opening a Google Analytics account (free), we could access a lot of information. Just need a Gmail account to start an analytics account.*
2. Revisit some of the categories under the distribution tab. (a) Anyone who moves and fails to provide a forwarding address has just indicated they are no longer interested and should be removed. (b) Should someone receive a free printed copy because they don’t have an email account? (c) What is “hard copy?” **Suggestion:** *Clarify these categories and discuss who is truly eligible for a printed copy.*
3. New procedures need to be created that will guarantee the veracity of our database and ensure proper monitoring is occurring. FFGC has wasted \$\$\$ on undeliverable addresses and deceased members. **Suggestion:** *Consider hiring a dedicated part-time dedicated database manager and no longer leave it up to a volunteer.*
4. Eventually, a discussion will need to occur about what the magazine is and isn’t. What format the magazine takes in the future should be discussed. It could be morphing into something that could be of wider interest and use a different vehicle to disseminate district news, and class schedules, etc.
5. Create a new policy on how lifetime benefits. No organization should create a built-in, unsound fiscal policy.

PRINTING ESTIMATES FOR 2024-2025:

I sought three bids, but received only two. Our current printer offered the best price and their service to us has been phenomenal.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Always work towards better and better content that represents the magazine and has valuable to members and subscribers.
- Revisit the distribution list and evaluate procedures and protocols for eligibility and monitor obsolete information. Establish a Google account to capture magazine stats, among other stats.
- Discuss the future format and content of the magazine vs another adding a secondary less formal newsletter with district news, etc.

RATIONALE:

- (1) The magazine expenses exceed income. *With the current situation, people who do not receive a hard copy are subsidizing those who do.* Members, nor FFGC, should not be subsidizing it. It has the potential to be a quality product that is fully supported by subscribers and a few more advertisers. The annual print bill is over \$14,000 and is \$8/year per person who receives a hard copy. The members who do not receive a hard copy, and FFGC, are paying the difference. That is not a sound fiscal policy.

FLORIDA GARDENER – CIRCULATION

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER LIAISON

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER
FOUNDATION LIAISON
Carolyn Schaag
April 19, 2023

I have been blessed to serve on the Florida Wildflower Foundation since their first meeting on September 6, 1999 and as the liaison to FFGC. Next year FWF will celebrate 25 years. The Board which has grown in size meets for one hour every third Thursday of the month. Since the Wildflower License plate which collects a \$15 donation on each plate went on sale in 2000 well over \$4,000,000 has been generated. Membership dues, contributions, grants, and fund raising events add additional income.

Emphasis is strong on planting and conservation such as Seedlings for Schools, roadside beautification, Bee City certification, establishment of pollinator habitat. Research continues especially on ground covers and native plants. Outreach in the Panhandle and south Florida is increasing. Education continues strong with monthly webinars, field trips, newsletters, presentations, publications, instagram, twitter, and facebook.

Stacy Matrazzo, Executive Director, will present a program on Invasive Plants at a Workshop at the FFGC Convention on April 19.

In June 2022 this member along with Anne MacKay and Nancy Bissett participated in an hour-long panel discussion at the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) Convention held in Jacksonville. We were honored by FNPS which established an internship program for young conservationists which carries our names. During the few days of the Conference, which was held virtually, \$15,000 was raised.

At the September 2022 FFGC Board meeting it was my joy to present to FFGC President, Marge Hendon, and Tina Tuttle, First Vice-President, a \$5,000 donation from Florida Wildflower Foundation for the 100 year celebration of FFGC.

Carolyn Schaag, Liaison
Florida Wildflower Foundation

SUMMARY: The Florida Wildflower Foundation donated \$5,000 to FFGC's 100 year Anniversary.

FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION/AWARDS

FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

FUN WITH FLOWERS

Fun with Flowers

Emilie Palmieri

FFFG Board Meeting

April 15, 2023

This chairman has provided “Fun with Flowers” workshops and demonstrations with several garden clubs in her District X , XI as well as a local condo association. Everyone left with new knowledge of the ease of flower arranging.

This chairman has shared several new ideas after receiving phone calls from clubs interested in adding Fun with Flowers to their programs. Many of these clubs have posted photos on their Facebook page. It is a delight to see them having so much fun with this program.

A list of member who may be willing to demonstrate Fun with Flowers in their clubs and districts has been started.

Summary: Fun With Flowers is well received and a wonderful way to invite new people to join Garden clubs as well as learn how to have fun with flowers. Wouldn't it be great to have someone from each District willing to share this program.

GARDEN THERAPY

GRANTS

**ANNUAL REPORT
GRANTS
Carolyn Schaag
April 19, 2023**

Plans are to upgrade the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. files, activities, and the officers and board members. Concentration will be placed on financial needs of Wekiva Youth Camp, SEEK, the 100 year anniversary of FFGC, and requests from the FFGC Chairmen.

Carolyn Schaag
Grants Chairman

HALL OF FAME

FFGC HALL OF FAME

SANDRA MESSER

APRIL 26, 2023

April 2021 Citrus Garden Club registered 1 recipient. District V

January 2022 Garden Club of Stuart registered 1 recipient. District X

April 2023 Garden Club of Stuart registered 1 recipient. District X

May 2023 Coral Gables Garden Club registered 3 recipients. District XII

May 2023 The Garden Club of Deland registered 1 recipient. District VI

May 2023 Garden Club of St. Augustine registered 1` recipient. District X

HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT (& GROUNDS)

H&E Trustees
April 19, 2023
Sue Roberts, chairman

The period since our last board meeting in January has been a busy time at headquarters. Projects that have been completed and problems that have been addressed include:

Last year shortly after this meeting a big tree fell on our building. All repairs associated with that disaster have been completed and insurance claims have been settled.

Larsen Landscaping and tree service has cleared our property of all the hurricane damage as well as dead and dangerous trees.

Grandtopia, our landscape service signed new contract in February and resigned in March

New Landscaper hired

New Refrigerator installed

Brick repair across the property has been completed

Cocktails Catering did a landscape job on the corner to make it presentable for spring weddings. Since he did that we voted to not ask him for the 10% yearly increase that is allowed in his contract for this year.

Due to a power problem with the city wires coming into the building our oven dated 1999 died. A new wall oven has been installed.

Other miscellaneous minor problems across the facility have been addressed.

Future projects include the purchase of an AED for headquarters, landscaping project for corner of building, replacement of camellias in the President's garden, repairs of the driveway and parking lot, and addressing the back path from parking lot to patio. Maintenance of our building and the grounds is a constant effort and I could not do this job without the help of our Office Coordinator, Robin. We thank her for all she does.

I would like to welcome Charlotte White as our new grounds director. We will be working on relandscaping of the front corner of the building with a native plant garden over the summer.

I want to thank the three members of the H&E committee that will be leaving us after this administration:

Marge Hendon – thank you for your guidance over the last two years

Mary Whisler – her term is complete

Sue Angle – has completed six years on H&E and was past chairman. This last year of her term she has been an advisor to me and always there to answer questions. And she always knows the answers!

I also thank the other members of H&E:

Tina Tuttle, Jo Ann Guise, Joanne Mulinare, Jana Walling, always watching out for our finances and Gwen Carter, who has been our amazing secretary. And we will welcome three new members to the committee shortly.

Thank you

Sue Roberts, Chairman of FFGC Headquarters & Endowment Trustees

INSURANCE

INVASIVE SPECIES

JUNIOR GARDENERS

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & POLICIES

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

FFGC NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB &

DEEP SOUTH LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

SANDRA MESSER

There have been no Deep South Life Memberships.

There has been two National Life Memberships registered.

One in March 2023 given by The Naples Garden Club. District IX

One in April 2023 given by The Garden Club of St. Augustine. District IV

MATCHING GRANTS

MEMBERSHIP

New Membership Chair

Ed Nendick

Apr. 2023

Successes of 2023 include.

1. An increase in new members.
2. The programs of 2 by 2 have been a success. The first person has a friend to go to the meetings with. They are much more comfortable participating.
3. All districts are encouraging adding members using all or most of the things suggested in the past

Please keep up the good work and remember a smile and a polite greeting to a visitor are your very best tools to bringing new members in. Just smile and ask if the person would like to meet more Like-Minded People, which should allow the conversation to go toward your Garden Club.

Please continue to use the Next-Door App. It is free and it advertises for Garden Clubs. Use it every month to advertise your meetings, programs, and up and coming trips. Let everyone know who to contact to join.

Please encourage everyone in your club to just ask their neighbors, church members, and civic club friends to visit your meeting and remember what we mentioned in the above paragraph.

Membership is two parts; a. new members; b. Retaining current members You need to have two people in your club advocating for both parts.

As this is one of my last meetings as New Membership Chair, it has been a great thrill to have worked with each and everyone of you. I will be around to help the next New Membership Chair.

Ed Nendick

We have discovered, along the way, that there are several reasons Garden Club Members choose not to renew their Membership:

- 1. Former Members felt a LACK OF VALUE for their Membership dues. (Little “bang for the buck”!) Every meeting, the general Membership should be “reminded” in some way, just what this Program means...or what this Fundraiser can do...or how the Club has helped their community in some way.**
- 2. Former Members felt LEFT OUT of their Garden Club Community. The very minute a new person joins, they should be given a Club responsibility, according to THEIR INTERESTS!**
- 3. Former Members felt the Programs were BORING and did not meet their interests! This is why the Membership Form should be completed by ALL! This form has the Members list their interests.**

In conclusion, there are several Forms in the MEMBERSHIP MANUAL/HANDBOOK (on the ffgc.org/Membership website) that are essential to Retention: Membership Form; Membership Survey and Suggestions; Membership Exit Form. Of course, the Club’s Leadership MUST meet the needs/wants of the Membership. A hard copy of this Manual is kept for each District by the Assistant District Director and is passed to the new Assistant District Director for sharing.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – FFGC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN/CREDENTIALS

NGC Environmental State Chairman

April 18, 2023

Lydia Barbour

The most important aspect of my job as NGC Environmental School State Chairman is to work with Districts and Local Chairmen and their teams to make plans and successfully deliver Environmental School Courses. Currently there are two active schools, Fort Myers in District IX and Tampa in District VIII. Districts I and IV are each considering beginning a school in the fall of this year. Both Fort Myers and Tampa completed courses in the last two months despite their areas being devastated by Hurricane Ian in September. Fort Myers completed Course 2 in February and Tampa completed Course 1 a week ago.

This Chairman also actively works with students, reminding them to take courses to complete their accreditation as consultants or to refresh on their way to becoming Masters or retaining that accreditation. This often involves helping them with the paperwork confirming eligibility to take the desired course. As a student registers for a course, this Chairman verifies the data entries on Forms 6 & 7 and approves the form once complete. Because Form 7 has now replaced the cards that NGC formerly sent students alerting them to their GSD, this Chairman forwards the approved Form 7 to each student when notified of successful completion of a course.

An important aspect of the job is ensuring that the Environmental School database is up-to-date and accurate so that the students as well as the FFGC and NGC organizations have accurate information about the school and the students.

As of 4/14/2023 the number of each category of student is: 117 active students including 32 Masters, 46 Consultants, and 39 students still working to complete the four courses within the seven-year time requirement. I anticipate that 11 new students will be added once the data for the two courses can be entered, bringing the total students to 128.

Summary: Assisting, guiding and supporting Local Chairmen and students are the important elements of this Chairman's work. Maintaining an accurate database and supporting documentation supports this work.

NGC GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

NGC SCHOOLS CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

April 18, 2023

8 grants awarded to FL.

Application process, access at:

<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants?fbclid=IwAR2jMAmunZVEbKGv4CzUVB8Om4GenK8pqrHQtyovXZLm7nl9koJ2DtkSz94>

summary:

2022-2023 PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECTS GRANT RECIPIENTS

CLUB NAME	STATE
Oakdale Garden Club	California Garden Clubs. Inc
Ledyard Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.
Nichols Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.
Babies Breath Circle of Tallahassee Garden Club	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Citrus Garden Club	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Destin Garden Club	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Garden Club of Green Cove Springs	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Garden Club of Orange Park	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Garden Club of Switzerland	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Jasmine Garden Circle Tallahassee	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Milton Garden Club	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Burkeland Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Gray Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Marietta Council of Garden Clubs	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Morning Glory Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Pine Needle Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc

Pine Tree Garden Club Hartwell	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Rose Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Union Point Garden Club	Garden Club of Georgia, Inc
Darien Garden Club	Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc

Garden Club of Evanston	Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc
Lincolnshire Garden Club	Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc
Lecompte Garden Club	Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
Bloomfield Garden Club	Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc
Camden Garden Club	Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc
Bolton Hill Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
Evergreen Garden Club of Harford County	Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
Oxford Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
Holland Garden Club	Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Brandon Garden Club	Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc
Cherokee Rose Garden Club	Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc
Isola Garden Club	Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc
Seven Pines Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.
Webster Groves Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.

Great Falls Flower Growers	Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Desert Gardeners	Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc

Bow Garden Club	New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Point Pleasant Garden Club	Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.
West Trenton Garden Club	Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.
Chappaqua Garden Club	Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.
Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson	Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.
New Bern Garden Club	Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
Transylvania Garden Club	Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
Lebanon Town and Country Garden Club	Garden Club of Ohio, Inc
Penn-Cumberland Garden Club	Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Pucketos Garden Club	Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Tuckaleechee Garden Club	Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Lexington Garden Club	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Town and Country Garden Club/Roanoke Garden Club	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Cowen Garden Club	West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
East River Mountain Garden Club	West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
Edgewood Garden Club	West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee	Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

NGC & DSGC YOUTH CONTESTS
PARKS - TRAILS - GREENWAYS

I don't have a lot to report at this time. I have received many inquiries about Penny Pines the past few months. They range from why do they have to be in \$68 increments, to applying for a grant to restore local urban forests. Many of our Clubs are still using old forms, and don't know that our Forms are on-line at the FFGC website. I have answered all their queries and they seem to appreciate that.

I have not received any money figures yet for this year from Jana Walling. I'll probably see them on the next financial statement.

Andrea Finn, FFGC Chairman
Penny Pines Project

SUMMARY: Many inquiries were answered. Have not received donations summary from FFGC Treasurer yet.

PHOTOGRAPHER
PILLAR OF PRIDE

PLANNED GIVING

**ANNUAL REPORT
PLANNED GIVING
Carolyn Schaag
April 19, 2023**

The Gifts Today for Tomorrow has received very little recognition and publicity in recent years. Efforts will be made to have information in *The Florida Gardener* to make FFGC members aware of the fund, especially those who may wish to make commitments in financial gifts in their future. The 100th year anniversary celebration may help create an awareness of the organization and their commitment to our communities, our children, and our earth.

Carolyn Schaag, Chairman
Planned Giving

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

PROTOCOL

2023 FFGC Protocol

Report

April 19, 2023

Jo Ann Guise

The 2023 Convention Committee had the experience and knowledge of Cissy Richardson Convention Co-ordinator as she mentored her newly appointed successor Connie Gladding. Cissy was still responsible for covering all bases. Cissy worked closely with everyone providing suggestions and possibilities to ensure a seamless transition.

It helped and aided this Chairman to be included in all the pre-convention Zoom meetings for current and latest information for the changing decisions that happened.

This Chairman is also mentoring her successor, Joleen King as FFGC Protocol Chairman.

Susie Berryhill, Convention Co-Chairman was an additional asset as she provided timely Minutes of the meetings and updated Charts for the Meals and Assignments.

With much of this committee continuing to work on the 2023 Convention, and the previous year's experience behind them, this Chairman has looked forward to being involved in the 2023 Convention.

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION/ PATHS OF SUNSHINE

Roadside Beautification/Pathways of Sunshine
Chairman's Report
Brenda Luedeman
April 2023

This chairman completed a second term as the Roadside Beautification and Paths of Sunshine (POS) Chairman for 2021-2023. COVID-19 and variants continued to minimize in-person interaction, so virtual technology communications and digital recognition have continued to be essential in fulfilling this position. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and its landscape architects, managers, and roadside crews etc. continue to initiate, enhance, and support Roadside Beatification in diverse areas of Florida. Appreciation is shown for all sustainable Florida Friendly practices and any roadside beautification efforts, but the POS Ella P. Woods award especially encourages and recognizes Florida native vegetation and wildflower plantings that are pleasing to see while benefiting the environment and supporting essential pollinators.

FDOT Wildflower Specialist Jeff Norcini, who has has been a fabulous liaison in the awards process, retired in February, and his successor has not yet been determined. This chairman is grateful for his guidance and the oversight of Gary Henry, FWF Board President and former FDOT Landscape Architect, in revising and updating the award guidelines and judging criteria plus established new ways to recognize FDOT accomplishments while staying true to goals and objectives of the POS award. PowerPoint presentations describing and depicting applicant accomplishments were created in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 for all to view and appreciate.

Four nomination/applications were received and evaluated for the 2023 Ella P. Woods POS awards. Panelists representing FFGC, FDOT, FWF, and Master Gardeners with different areas of expertise met virtually via ZOOM on February 23, 2023 to evaluate the applications. This chairman appreciates and thanks moderator Jeff Norcini and the jurists including Sue Angle, Christie Linke, Carol Hall, and Brenda Luedeman of FFGC, Dena Wild of Master Gardeners, C.J. McCartney of Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF), and Jeff Norcini FDOT Wildflower Specialist.

The 2023 award recipients are:

1st place - FDOT District 8 Turnpike Enterprise/Turnpike Maintenance Unit/Osceola County: For one of the most stunning wildflower displays in turnpike history with nearly 14 acres over 2 sites enhancing native wildflower communities along the stretch of the turnpike corridor in the medians of Turnpike Mainline (SR-91) at MP 216 and MP 226 (Osceola County). Future goals include expanding the the northernmost area by 50% and wrapping the wildflowers even more around the pine flatwoods and cypress swamps. (FFGC D-VII Director Charlotte White)

2nd place - FDOT District 2 Chiefland Maintenance/Pond Locations: US-27A (SR-500) between Chiefland and Bronson (Levy County): For Monarch butterfly/pollinator habitat: For a research project with Dr. Jaret Daniels, Univ. of Florida, with a purpose of evaluating can wet and dry retention pond areas be planted and managed as habitats for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with planted native milkweeds as well as native nectar plants? (FFGC D-V Director Donna Thomas)

3rd place – FDOT District 2 Chiefland Maintenance: SR-121, approx. 6.5 miles southwest of US-41 in Williston (Levy County): For mapping native milkweeds on SR-121 in a research project with Univ. of Florida and Duke Univ. Native milkweeds are critical to the spring monarch re-migration and colonization in Florida. Chiefland

Maintenance Office is protecting milkweed areas by marking them with signs so that that these areas are not mowed. (FFGC D-V Director Donna Thomas)

Honorable Mention - FDOT District 3 Chipley District Office/SR-83 at the I-10 Interchange, Infield Area (Walton County): For Wildflowers to support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators Inspired by the nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly on Energy and Transportation Lands. Native wildflowers serve as nectar plants. Status and future plans Two-phase plan - One: Herbicide to treat for undesired weeds and grasses; then seeded native wildflowers Two: Ongoing program of targeted herbicide treatments to reduce undesirable weeds while preserving showy wildflower species, both naturally occurring and introduced. (FFGC D-I Director Joyce Waters-Smith)

Following formal announcement of the recipients to the FFGC Board, a 2023 POS PowerPoint Presentation describing and depicting the above accomplishments will be displayed to inform all FFGC members in attendance at the convention's awards presentations. If FFGC in-person meetings take place, award recipients can be recognized with certificates in person in their geographical areas, ideally when the FFGC Executive Officers complete fall tour. I respectfully request that FFGC District Directors allow time on their meeting agendas for brief award certificate presentations if merited by a FDOT maintenance crew within their district, and that I be informed of meeting date, time, and location so that award recipients can be so advised. Award certificates will be created and mailed directly to recipients in lieu of FFGC's customary procedure of presenting them in person at district meetings if deemed necessary.

With Sue Robert's or FFGC office assistance, FFGC website awards information will be periodically updated to reflect any updated guidelines, procedure, nomination forms, and contact information. A poster promoting FFGC's Ella P Wood "Pathways of Sunshine" Award, Florida State Wildflower License plate information, and other brochures supporting roadside beautification and scenic pathways at this FFGC Spring Convention 2023 and at future FFGC functions when possible.

Please view the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Paths of Sunshine Awards details archived in the PowerPoints on FFGC's website, see Ella P Woods "Paths of Sunshine" award educational exhibits at gatherings, and enjoy the native plantings and wildflowers along Florida's roadways.

SCHOLARSHIP - DSGC, NGC

Chairman DSGC and NGC Scholarships
Mary Adams
April 18, 2024

A total of seven applicants applied for the state of Florida Federation of Garden clubs Scholarship for 2023. Two applicants were chosen and submitted for consideration for the NGC scholarship. NGC has accepted the applicants. Their names are Jorge Del' Angel from Florida A&M of Tallahassee and Mackenzie R. Spiroff of the University of Florida.

There were no submissions for the Deep South Garden Club Scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP – FFGC REPORT

Scholarship and Endowment Report
April 20, 2023
Helen Purvis

In 1990 a group of wise garden club members established the scholarship endowment fund and it is my honor to be chair of this committee. Today I am here to thank the generous garden clubs and individuals who have contributed \$1000 or more this past year.

Another one of my jobs is to review scholarship applications and interact with the students and hear of their passions and plans. But wait, why should I be the only one. Let's listen to the students and how they feel about your generosity. (PLAY VIDEO)

5% of the last three year's average of the value of Scholarship Funds at the end of May is used to fund the current year's scholarships. Deadline for applying is May 1 and the money will be awarded to the students who meet the approved criteria. Most scholarships are granted at \$3000 per year or \$1500 per semester. Since 2007, FFGC has awarded \$246,718 to college students.

President Hendon, I present to you this year's donors:

Thank you to Gulf Beach Garden Club for their \$10,000 donation. (Sue Schmitz)

Thank you to the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce for their \$3000 donation. (Vivian Kobe)

Thank you to Tallahassee Garden Club for their \$2000 donation. (Sue Griner)

Thank you to Lake County Council of Garden Clubs for their \$2000 donation. (Sue Roberts)

Thank you to Jean Hawa for her individual contribution of \$2000. (Jean Hawa)

Many other clubs, circles and individuals have donated to this fund every year and we appreciate all donations, of any size. So if your club or circle or individual has donated, any amount, please stand and we can recognize your contribution, as well. I know there's Boynton Beach, Port Charlotte, Pompano, Temple Terrace, Palm Beach, Punta Gorda.

Thank you

SCOUTING LIAISON

SEEK CONFERENCE

SHORT COURSE – NORTH

Annual Report
Short Course North
Tina V. Tuttle
19 April 2023, Kissimmee, FL

Like a boomerang, the Short Course North chairmanship, created in 2009, has come home to roost...with me. A series of unfortunate circumstances caused the person who asked for this chairmanship to withdraw her name at a critical point in the planning process. After asking several District I people, who have religiously attended the Short Course for the past 14 years, no one was willing to take the job. So, instead of waiting for a new chairman to show up, Gina Jogan and I decided to go ahead with plans for the **10 and 11 August 2023** session. We met with the extension agents from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties on 8 December 2022, after having secured the 4-H building in Pensacola, *at no cost*, for the course. Also attending were the Shermans, mother and daughter, who normally work the kitchen for this event, and Ann Luther, a possible candidate for chairman. We discussed a **theme, "In the Beginning..."** that would lend itself to a variety of topics about how plants, soil, water and other gardening items come into being. We tossed around several possible speakers to present on interesting topics that would allow the Master Gardeners in attendance to earn 8 hours of CEUs. We will again offer the optional one-hour design segment daily.

With the new year, this *temporary* chairman contacted perspective speakers and secured 8 presenters needed and one plant vendor thus far. We have university professors, extension agents, a native American, among others, to educate and entertain the expected 100 attendees. Contracts will be drafted and sent in the near future.

It was decided that the event would be catered rather than have the Shermans cook the lunches.

The informational flier and registration were designed and have been posted on the FFGC website under Events.

Gina Jogan will serve as our registrar and our district treasurer, Ginger Eisele, will handle the funds. A budget of \$4300 was approved at the January FFGC Finance Committee meeting. The registration price remains \$50 for garden club members and \$65 for all others in attendance (this price has remained consistent for 14 years!).

An article was written and sent to *The Florida Gardener* editor for publication in the summer issue.

Since we had time at our original meeting, we went ahead and discussed the Short Course North for August 2024 and, since it was close to lunch time, we decided on a theme "I'm Hungry", all about sowing, planting and growing food crops.

The search continues for a permanent chairman.

Tina Tuttle

Summary: Short Course North will take place on 10 and 11 August at the Escambia County 4-H Building in Pensacola. This year's theme is "In the Beginning...". Speakers and vendors have been secured on a variety of interesting topics. Lunches will be catered. The registration price remains \$50 for garden club members and \$65 for non-garden club attendees. Look for an article in the next issue of *TFG* and the registration flier and information can be found on the FFGC website.

SHORT COURSE TROPICAL

Tropical Short Course Final Report

Michelle Maguire, Chairman

April 18, 2023

This is my final report as Tropical Short Course chairman. This was my third year as chairman and a committee member for the past six years. I have enjoyed my years as chairman mindful that it takes a village to have a successful two day event. Over the past three years I want to thank, Donna Berger, Jane Zezeck, Barbara Hadsell, Barbara Campbell, Emilie Palmerie, Joleen King, Li Roberts, Blanca Rancourt, Mary Kaub and Stephanie Aleffandrini-Giarraffa, these people were my chairman for all the different parts for TSC.

After much scrambling up until the last minute, we had 94 attendees. Thanks to the raffle, 50/50 and auctioning off of flowers, District X had a successful fundraiser. Based on the evaluations we received, our speakers were given high marks for their presentations. I am pleased to present a check for \$1004.82 to FFGC and thank them for their continued support.

Michelle Maguire, Tropical Short Course Chairman

SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL

Annual Report
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl
Jill Anderson, Chairman
April 2023

151 posters were judged either at the local or state level.

10 Garden Clubs submitted posters.

All eligible posters were judged and the winners in each grade level were sent to the Deep South. poster chairman. The Deep South winners were sent to NGC. A State Chairman report accompanied our FFGC winners when they were submitted to Deep South.

Awards were won in each grade at Deep South. The National winners will be announced by NGC after the US National Forest Service makes their final selection.

Florida poster winners at Deep South are:

SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST -

1st Grade – 2nd Place Damarian Rodgers, GC of Crystal River

2nd Grade – 1st Place Lila Mathis, GC of Orange Park

3rd Grade – 2nd Place Ethan Pringle, GC of Orange Park

WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST –

4th Grade – 2nd Place Dialog Benjamin, Temple Terrace GC

5th Grade – 1st Place McKayla Detloff, New Smyrna Beach GC

Students from first through fifth grade were invited to participate in the 2022 Poster Contest! Brought to you by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the US Forest Service. The entries must be sponsored by a local garden club and be florida residents.

The poster contest is listed on the FFGC web site under Youth Awards & contest <https://ffgc.org/Youth-Awards-&-Contests>

It includes links to NGC for poster timeline, tips, history, and information about entering the poster contest.

Miami Beach Garden Club found that the art teachers in the area were underfunded, so they offered a \$100 sponsorship to buy supplies to teachers that participated. They submitted 92 posters.

District 8 offered any club who wanted to participate 11x17 cardstock. There were 4 Garden Clubs who participated and submitted a total of 85 posters.

This chairman continues to reach out to garden clubs to increase entries for next year.

Summary:

151 posters were judged either at the local or state level.

10 Garden Clubs submitted posters.

There are 5 winners at the Deep South level. NGC will announce National winners at a later time.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FFGC Social Media
April 17, 2023
Valerie Seinfeld, NGC
Social Media Chair

FFGC Social Media continues to grow in followers.

[15K likes](#) • [18.2K followers](#)

Chair posts everyday. Following what is happening on the National, Regional, State, District and Local Levels.

April 2017 this chair started with 1139 Likes.

FFGC is the most Liked and Followed State Page in the Country.

SOLAR ENERGY/WIND POWER

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report
Strategic Planning Committee
Gina V. Jogan, Chairman
Convention Meeting, April 2023

The Strategic Planning Committee has discussed many issues since January's report:

Headquarters: from the President's report pertaining to the physical building: kitchen (new over), landscaping (new lawn maintenance company), legal issues (nothing new at this time), storm damages (repaired and reimbursed by our insurance), air conditioner (new unit needs a new panel) and so forth.

Membership: it is strongly suggested that dues payment be moved **forward to May 1st** to avoid snafus that occur when changing club officers, 'snowbirds' going north, etc. Member deaths need to be reports in a timely manner by cubs, districts.

On-line Garden Clubs an Ad hoc committee is working to bring back Gardens of the World and special interest clubs such as an Environmental, Wekiva Alumni or Horticulture club.... and a new on-line club in the works is a group of teachers from Plant City. (Snapdragons Photography Club is not a garden club, but a group of like-minded folks who meet monthly).

Current Library: Discussion of dismantling and disposing/selling of books. Presidents of Tri-Council and FFSJ will be asked to see if any books should be retained.

Matching Grants: applications have a new requirement: how does the project fit the FFGC criteria for the Grants? Also, NO grants considered for work completed/wanting reimbursement for the projects. Late applications are not accepted.

Districts: Discussion (they were designated in 1958) with a disparity of 220 to 1500 members! Representation is skewed. Finances have become an issue; Districts must have their own EIN. Travel time/distance/time should be a consideration. Directors will research/decide.

Member Personnel: It was suggested that we resurrect this to more easily fit jobs to people.

Terms limits: of 6 years (3 terms) for all chairmanships remains on the table for discussion.

Membership: retention and recruitment issue continue. Lack of communication seems to be the main problem/key.

An exit poll: for the Federated clubs that disband.... many leave due to ageing-out of members...others for 'complaints' against FFGC

100th celebration of FFGC: Kickoff will be at the 2023 Convention/installation.

New Members: Lisa Packard, Leticia Gunn and Connie Gladding will join the SPC.

To summarize: YOUR Strategic Planning Committee is addressing issues, suggestions, recommendations, problems, etc. brought to us by YOU, the members, for investigation. There is nothing too big or too small to be brought to us. This committee is looking forward to the future of FFGC. This chairman thanks those with whom she has worked since the inception of the SPC. It was an honor to serve you and FFGC.

TOURS & TRAVEL

TREES & REFORESTATION

Kathy "Kat" Spieker, Trees and Reforestation Chairman

1530 Royal Palm Drive, Niceville, FL 32578-3529

850-687-6381, kspieker3@gmail.com

Trees and Reforestation Report Convention April 18-21, 2023

Trees and Reforestation requested that all garden clubs of FFGC record and report trees that they planted during the period from Mar 1, 2022 through Feb 28, 2023. Thanks to the immense effort and hard work of those clubs throughout the year **133,131** trees were planted comprised of **304** tree species.

Certificates of recognition are being awarded to the following clubs and/or circles for their extraordinary efforts to restore trees for habitat and beauty throughout the state.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:

Tallahassee Garden Club	85308
Live Oak Garden Club	40270

TOP TEN CLUBS

#1 Boynton Beach	Dist X	1442
#2 Moringa Circle of Ft. Lauderdale		
Circles	Dist XI	1271
#3 Pipers Landing Garden Club	Dist X	928
#4 Wellington Garden Club	Dist X	751
#5 Parkinsonia	Dist XI	612
#6 The Garden Club of Middleburg, Inc		589
Dist IV		
#7 Homosassa River Garden Club	Dist V	518
#8 Temple Terrace	Dist VIII	451
#9 The Garden Club of Palm Coast	D VI	358
#10 Bloom & Grow Society	Dist VII	288

The report of Arbor Day activities is attached for the record.

FFGC Trees and Reforestation Report Arbor Day Celebrations March 1, 2022-Feb 28, 2023

- 1 District X, Wellington Garden Club celebrated Public Lands Day Sept 24, 2022 with a program and community wide activity to plant 650 Southern Florida Slash Pines at the Wellington Environmental Preserve
- 2 District V, Homosassa River Garden Club observed Arbor Day by bagging and distributing 500 Red Mulberry saplings at local Publix stores
- 3 District X, Garden Club of IRCC/Bougainvillea Circle celebrated Arbor Day by planting a butterfly garden with plants and trees at the Wabassa School which is a special education center school serving students from ages 5-22. Individual members of the circle will be planting their own trees at various sites
- 4 District V, Newberry Garden Club observed National Arbor Day with a tree planting at Newberry's park.
- 5 District X, Rio Lindo Garden Club observed Arbor Day January 20, 2023 with a tree planting of a Sabal Palm at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden. The club provided drinks and snacks to attendees. 51 members attended to welcome guests. As always, a beautiful ceremony under the trees.
- 6 District VI, Melbourne Garden Club observed Arbor Day with a program with the City of Melbourne. 80 trees were given away
- 7 District VI, The Garden Club of Palm Coast celebrated Arbor Day with a planting of 2 memorial trees (a bottle brush and Japanese Blueberry). The club also donated money to the Arbor Day Foundation for tree plantings in Florida
- 8 District IV, Garden Club of Orange Park contributed money to Penny Pines donated by members and circles
- 9 District X, Garden Club of Fort Pierce conducted a tree planting ceremony in which large pots of Little Gem Magnolia trees were placed along Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce to enhance a beautification project
- 10 District IV, The Garden Club of St. Augustine, Inc observed Arbor Day on January 20, 2023 with a native plant giveaway focusing on trees that would be beneficial to pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Handouts with information on each tree species were given out as well as a handout on how to plant and care for the trees
- 11 District V, Citrus Garden Club observed Arbor Day April 29, 2022 with a tree planting at Pine Hill Cemetery in memory of a garden club member
- 12 District VII, Bloom and Grow Garden Club observed National Arbor Day April 29, 2022 with a gathering at Tucker Ranch in Winter Garden to give TLC to bald cypress trees planted in 2022 for the project "1000 Trees for 1000 Years". A ceremonial Bald Cypress was planted in honor of club president, Jeanne Yazinski. 61 members attended. The club also observed Florida Arbor Day on January 20, 2023 with a Guided Heritage Tree

Walking Tour through the Historic District of Winter Garden using a brochure created in 2022 “Winter Garden Heritage Trees Walking Tour” for self-guided tours. 57 members attended with 5 tour leaders present

- 13 District X, Piper’s Landing Garden Club planted two trees in the community to observe both National and Florida Arbor Day

Respectfully Submitted,

Kat Spieker

Trees and Reforestation Chairman

TRI-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tri-Council of FFGC
Pat Caren
April 18, 2023

Tri-Council has been working hard to prepare for the FFGC Convention. President Marge Hendon requested that the three schools (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design), plus the Flower Show School, create exhibits in the Magnolia Ballroom. These “parking spaces,” each ten by twenty feet, will showcase what the schools teach and how this knowledge can benefit the students as well as their communities. This exhibition will raise awareness of the educational opportunities Garden Club has to offer.

TC Vice President Brenda Luedeman headed the committee, made up of the Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design representatives as well as the state chairmen and consultants, to plan and construct these displays. Many hours of planning and several Zoom meetings have gone into this effort.

The displays will be colorful as well as inspiring, as more than 100 live plants, many flowering, will be included. One challenge is to have the “parking spaces” completed before the Convention opens on Tuesday, and to have everything broken down and removed on Thursday in time for the room to be cleaned and prepared for President-Elect Tina Tuttle’s inauguration. Teamwork and dedication, as well as hard work, are called for.

As if that weren’t enough to keep Tri-Council members busy, the long-anticipated Trashion Show is scheduled for that evening. At the Early Arrivals Dinner, attendees will be regaled by models who have designed and made their own fashions out of recycled items, i.e. trash. President-Elect Tina Tuttle will be the emcee.

With society creating excessive amounts of trash, a large percentage of which is paper and plastic, it is imperative that we individually help reduce, reuse, and recycle items to keep them out of the landfills. In keeping with President Hendon’s theme of Recycling, repurposed items and recycled art will be on display at the convention.

The educational component of FFGC is becoming more and more relevant with increased storm damage and other environmental concerns. Canals and other waterways in Florida await cleanup of toxic items and substances. Red tide and other algae are an ongoing problem. A new challenge is Sargassum, a variety of seaweed also called Brown Algae, an enormous mass of which will arrive at the Florida east coast sometime in June. Its size is twice the width of the United States. Besides degradation of the environment and loss of marine life, these algae cause illnesses in humans and millions of dollars in economic damage.

Raising awareness of these issues and educating ourselves and the public are an important part of Garden Club.

Schools were held by Zoom during the pandemic. There is now a transition back to in-person learning and also hybrid courses, which allows some students to tune in by zoom while others learn in-person.

District IV competed Landscape Design Course 3 in February.

Hurricane Ian caused Environmental Course 2 in Ft. Myers to be rescheduled from November to February.

In April, Tampa offered Environmental Course 1 as hybrid.

In June, the UF/District V Short Course, a Tri-Refresher, will be held in Gainesville.

Short Course North will take place in August in Cantonment.

In September, Landscape Design 3, a Zoom course, is planned in New Smyrna Beach.

Gardening Course 3 will be held in West Palm Beach in November.

Besides these, several classes are being offered around the country by Zoom.

Tri-Council will install new leadership at the convention. The slate of officers is:

President	Brenda Luedeman
Vice President	Pat Caren
Treasurer	Carolyn Schaag
Secy. &Parliamentarian	Inger Jones
Environmental Rep.	Janice Miller
Gardening Rep.	Marge Hendon
Landscape Design	Sally Flanagan

With these officers taking the reins, Tri-Council is expected to do much good over the next two years.

WATER AND WETLANDS

WEBSITE EDITOR

FFGC Website Editor
Sue Roberts
April 18, 2023

This website editor has kept the website up to date through out the year. Occasional changes to the format have been made, but mostly the time has been spent keeping the information up to date and accurate.

The corresponding Sec. takes care of the Event page. The awards chairman monitors and updates the award page. The Office Coordinator now maintains the member profiles and therefore keeps the directory up to date. The convention chairman is responsible for the convention page.

The website editor is only responsible for the home page and the member page and their associated child pages.

At the change of administration there will be major changes to update the entire website.

Summary: The website editor is responsible for the accuracy and timeliness of the information on the website.

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

WEKIVA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

FFGC 3rd Vice President/Camp Wekiva Chair

Mary Ann Whisler/3rd VP

April 2023

Wekiva Volunteer Training was a great success with 30 volunteers attending. We introduced our incoming Junior Gardener Chairman. Both our former and incoming Junior Gardener Chairman discussed the program and awards for the program. We scheduled great speakers as well as “education walks” around the camp. Wekiva Open House on Sunday, February 12th had many new parents and campers attend as well as our new Registrar, Barbara Fowler, and her husband.

Camp Wekiva is again in Chairman transition. As Chairman Elect this VP has been working closely with the outgoing Chairman to make a smooth turnover. A great deal has changed this year with hiring a new chef and working with a new registrar. We are excited that the Office/Clinic will be completed in time for camp, and the dedication is scheduled for June 15, 2023.

Numerous issues have been identified for the 2023 camp season. It was determined that the ovens in the kitchen were not working efficiently. The committee notified the Park, and service repairs were made to handle this year’s season. Due to the age of the stove/ovens the committee suggested that we place bids for a new stove/oven to be installed once the kitchen renovation is started in August 2023. Both our Warmer and Mixer needed repairs. An estimate was approved by Finance Committee and repairs have been scheduled. Four new luggage carts have been ordered, two new tents, ramp curbs, and fire boxes using the generous donations of garden clubs.

In March this Chairman requested District Directors contact their garden clubs to help find volunteers for Wekiva. It was an overwhelming success! Volunteers registered and we have filled all our needed positions. It was wonderful to see how our garden club members jumped in to help with camp.

In April the committee was contacted that Wekiva Youth Camp was voted “One of the Best Summer Camps” by Newsweek Magazine. This is a great way to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Summary:

Wekiva Volunteer Training, Camp Wekiva, One of the Best Summer Camps

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget for 6/1/2022-12/31/2022 - FY23 P&L

June - December, 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
100 100th Anniversary celebration!	7,295.00	33,248.00	-25,953.00	21.94 %
6000 GENERAL INCOME				
6001 Dues - Members	65,063.00	66,000.00	-937.00	98.58 %
6003 Dues - Affiliate member	200.00	100.00	100.00	200.00 %
6004 FFGC Life Memberships	1,200.00	2,000.00	-800.00	60.00 %
6005.1 Undesignated Donations	1,633.00		1,633.00	
6008 Headquarters Rental (H&E)				
6008.2 Taxable Rentals	29,122.66	29,200.00	-77.34	99.74 %
Total 6008 Headquarters Rental (H&E)	29,122.66	29,200.00	-77.34	99.74 %
Total 6000 GENERAL INCOME	97,218.66	97,300.00	-81.34	99.92 %
6100 PROGRAM SERVICES (FFGC)				
6101 FFGC/UF Short Course	518.38	500.00	18.38	103.68 %
6102 F/S Schools and Symposiums	1,393.95	500.00	893.95	278.79 %
6103 Floral Design/Educ activities		250.00	-250.00	
6106 Tropical Short Course		500.00	-500.00	
6107 Travel-Tours		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
6108 Short Course North	582.25	500.00	82.25	116.45 %
6109 Avon Park	20,705.89		20,705.89	
6201 TFG Subscriptions	135.00	150.00	-15.00	90.00 %
6202 FI Gardener Adv.Income	2,220.00	1,750.00	470.00	126.86 %
Total 6100 PROGRAM SERVICES (FFGC)	25,555.47	6,150.00	19,405.47	415.54 %
6300 SERVICE ITEMS (FFGC)				
6302 Flower Arr Calendar				
6302.01 2021 Calendars	210.00		210.00	
Total 6302 Flower Arr Calendar	210.00		210.00	
6308 WAYS AND MEANS-SALES (FFGC)				
6308.1 Square Inc	1,977.52	250.00	1,727.52	791.01 %
6308.1 Square Inc	1,178.36		1,178.36	
Total 6308 WAYS AND MEANS-SALES (FFGC)	3,155.88	250.00	2,905.88	1,262.35 %
Total 6300 SERVICE ITEMS (FFGC)	3,365.88	250.00	3,115.88	1,346.35 %
6400 INVESTMENT INCOME				
6401 Interest Earned - Gen Fd (FFGC)	59.92	30.00	29.92	199.73 %
6403 Interest Earned Grant Account	18.88		18.88	
6407 Int earned- Scholarship	29.30		29.30	
6410 Int Earned H&E	20.28	7.00	13.28	289.71 %
6424 Interest on Wekiva B&M	3,041.74		3,041.74	
Total 6400 INVESTMENT INCOME	3,170.12	37.00	3,133.12	8,567.89 %
6500 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (FFGC)				
6307.4 Amazon.com				
6307.4 Amazon.com	132.28		132.28	
6308.3 Credit Card Points	938.19	750.00	188.19	125.09 %
6507 Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00 %
6507.2 Sales Tax Collection Allowance	54.52		54.52	

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
6507.3 Insurance Claim Proceeds	50,610.11		50,610.11	
Total 6500 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (FFGC)	51,735.10	1,750.00	49,985.10	2,956.29 %
6600 WEKIVA INCOME				
6604 Wekiva Critter Camp	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00	100.00 %
6605.2 Campership Donations	6,245.00	5,000.00	1,245.00	124.90 %
6605.3 Undesignated Donations	22,949.06	15,000.00	7,949.06	152.99 %
6605.34 In Memory of Carol Wood	4,010.00		4,010.00	
Total 6605.3 Undesignated Donations	26,959.06	15,000.00	11,959.06	179.73 %
6605.4 Designated Donations	3,475.00		3,475.00	
6607 Interest and Dividends	120.56	25.00	95.56	482.24 %
6609 Wekiva Misc Income	3.00	50.00	-47.00	6.00 %
6610 Wekiva Registrations		156,000.00	-156,000.00	
6610.2 GC Sponsored(\$250)	29,925.00		29,925.00	
6610.4 Parent Paid Registrations	118,590.00		118,590.00	
Total 6610 Wekiva Registrations	148,515.00	156,000.00	-7,485.00	95.20 %
6612 Wekiva 9th Grade(LIT)	11,500.00		11,500.00	
6610.1 Full (\$325)		10,500.00	-10,500.00	
Total 6612 Wekiva 9th Grade(LIT)	11,500.00	10,500.00	1,000.00	109.52 %
6614 Logo Sales	4,570.81	3,400.00	1,170.81	134.44 %
Total 6600 WEKIVA INCOME	204,588.43	193,175.00	11,413.43	105.91 %
6700 CONTRIBUTIONS				
6005 Pillar of Pride	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.00 %
6007.1 bricks/garden path (H&E)	1,300.00	350.00	950.00	371.43 %
6009 Hall of Fame Income (HQ)		200.00	-200.00	
6307.10 Coral Reef Restoration	242.76		242.76	
6307.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)				
6307.21 Earth Stewardships H&E)		100.00	-100.00	
Total 6307.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)		100.00	-100.00	
6307.3 Penny Pines	3,604.00		3,604.00	
6504 Scholarships	15,675.00		15,675.00	
Total 6700 CONTRIBUTIONS	21,321.76	1,150.00	20,171.76	1,854.07 %
7000 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/PROJECTS				
7004 Convention Awards	50.00		50.00	
7019 SEEK Youth Envir. Conf.	9,700.00	12,000.00	-2,300.00	80.83 %
Total 7000 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/PROJECTS	9,750.00	12,000.00	-2,250.00	81.25 %
Postage	-6.48		-6.48	
Total Revenue	\$423,993.94	\$345,060.00	\$78,933.94	122.88 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$423,993.94	\$345,060.00	\$78,933.94	122.88 %
Expenditures				
200 100th Celebration Expenses		43,712.00	-43,712.00	
66000 Payroll Expenses				
Taxes	0.00		0.00	
Wages	0.00		0.00	
Total 66000 Payroll Expenses	0.00		0.00	
8000 GENERAL EXPENSES				
8001 NGC Dues -Members	10,006.00	10,500.00	-494.00	95.30 %
8002 NGC Dues Youth Gardeners		10.00	-10.00	

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
8008 HQ RENTAL EXPENDITURES (H&E) (deleted)				
8008.6 Janitorial (SYMM Svcs) (deleted)	0.00		0.00	
Total 8008 HQ RENTAL EXPENDITURES (H&E) (deleted)	0.00		0.00	
Total 8000 GENERAL EXPENSES	10,006.00	10,510.00	-504.00	95.20 %
8100 PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES				
8101 State Convention	0.00		0.00	
8201 FL Gardener Advertizing	0.00		0.00	
8202 FI Gardener-Circulation	9,254.29	6,400.00	2,854.29	144.60 %
8202.1 Florida Gardener Postage	2,480.20	1,600.00	880.20	155.01 %
Total 8100 PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES	11,734.49	8,000.00	3,734.49	146.68 %
8600 WEKIVA EXPENSE				
8601.1 Chairman's Expense		300.00	-300.00	
8601.2 Tour Team Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
8604 Wekiva Bldg & Maintenan	455.13		455.13	
8604.10 Wekiva Bldg. Expenses	3,982.30		3,982.30	
8605 Wekiva Camp Supplies	417.05		417.05	
8605.1 Nametags	111.22	100.00	11.22	111.22 %
8606 Wekiva Canteen	10,407.18	8,200.00	2,207.18	126.92 %
8607 Wekiva Critter Camp		160.00	-160.00	
8609 Wekiva Clinic	1,015.12	600.00	415.12	169.19 %
8610 Wekiva Crafts	2,039.87	2,540.00	-500.13	80.31 %
8610.1 Wekiva -Evening Program	1,500.00		1,500.00	
8611 Wekiva Depreciation		1,500.00	-1,500.00	
8612 Wekiva - Food	34,237.80	33,000.00	1,237.80	103.75 %
8612.5 Cleaning Supplies and Maint.	2,480.17	2,100.00	380.17	118.10 %
8613 Wekiva Insurance	5,919.86	4,500.00	1,419.86	131.55 %
8613.01 Wekiva Workers' Comp. Insurance	2,945.70	2,750.00	195.70	107.12 %
8614 Wekiva Miscellaneous	402.95	400.00	2.95	100.74 %
8614.1 fingerprinting	2,308.62	2,300.00	8.62	100.37 %
Total 8614 Wekiva Miscellaneous	2,711.57	2,700.00	11.57	100.43 %
8616 Wekiva Office Exp	604.64	1,300.00	-695.36	46.51 %
8617 Salaries	0.00		0.00	
8618 Wekiva -Payroll Taxes	5,806.58	5,585.00	221.58	103.97 %
8619 Wekiva Postage	511.67		511.67	
8622 Wekiva 7th Gr Program	376.97	560.00	-183.03	67.32 %
8623 Wekiva 8th Gr Program	964.92	864.00	100.92	111.68 %
8624 Wekiva 9th Gr Prog(LIT)	8,430.00	9,000.00	-570.00	93.67 %
8624.1 Camper Pictures & Dogtags	319.55	900.00	-580.45	35.51 %
8625 Wekiva Wages - Staff	52,415.03	51,000.00	1,415.03	102.77 %
8627 Wekiva-Wages-Kitchen	23,385.01	22,000.00	1,385.01	106.30 %
8627.1 Wekiva Waterfront Expense	366.23	1,700.00	-1,333.77	21.54 %
8627.2 Wekiva Website Hosting	134.40		134.40	
8628 Wekiva Telephone & Internet	1,237.88		1,237.88	
8629 WYC designated donation purchas	2,216.23		2,216.23	
8630 Wekiva Park Fees	22,320.00	17,500.00	4,820.00	127.54 %
8631 Wekiva Nature	490.31	500.00	-9.69	98.06 %
8632 Wekiva Transportation	2,020.00	1,000.00	1,020.00	202.00 %
8633 Wekiva Legal and Accounting	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.00 %

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
8636 Wekiva - Bank & CC Fees	5,556.57	4,500.00	1,056.57	123.48 %
8638 Wekiva Registration Expense	839.00	400.00	439.00	209.75 %
8639 Amer. Camp Assoc. ACA	2,743.00	1,271.00	1,472.00	215.81 %
8641 Opening/Closing/set up camp	294.25	600.00	-305.75	49.04 %
8642 Volunteers	590.09	1,000.00	-409.91	59.01 %
Total 8600 WEKIVA EXPENSE	203,045.30	181,330.00	21,715.30	111.98 %
8900 OPERATING EXPENSES				
8901 BOD Meeting Hospitality	186.64	500.00	-313.36	37.33 %
8901.1 Hospitality-Other(Awds/H&E/Nom)		250.00	-250.00	
Total 8901 BOD Meeting Hospitality	186.64	750.00	-563.36	24.89 %
8902 Bank Charges-General Fd	0.13	50.00	-49.87	0.26 %
8907 District Mtg Tour Expenses	8,524.58	3,000.00	5,524.58	284.15 %
8911 Gifts/Memorials/Courtesies		25.00	-25.00	
8915 Floral Design Study		25.00	-25.00	
8917 Flower Arr.Calendar	5,761.00		5,761.00	
8920 Engraving/Bricks/Plaques		175.00	-175.00	
8921 Insurance	18,773.82	5,000.00	13,773.82	375.48 %
8921.1 Workers' Compensation	1,378.00	92.00	1,286.00	1,497.83 %
Total 8921 Insurance	20,151.82	5,092.00	15,059.82	395.75 %
8923 Legal & Accounting	2,183.00	20,000.00	-17,817.00	10.92 %
8927 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	10.00	1,000.00	-990.00	1.00 %
8927.1 1st Time Conv. Attendees Party	0.00		0.00	
Total 8927 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	10.00	1,000.00	-990.00	1.00 %
8929 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,882.08	1,300.00	1,582.08	221.70 %
8943 Postage	320.27	300.00	20.27	106.76 %
8945 Printing & Stationery	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.00 %
Total 8929 OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,202.35	2,200.00	1,002.35	145.56 %
8932 Major Repairs and Renovations		10,000.00	-10,000.00	
8933 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	950.00	200.00	750.00	475.00 %
8932.1 Insurance Claim Expenditures	92,332.98	17,716.00	74,616.98	521.18 %
8933.1 Pest Control - JC Ehrlich (H&E)	168.88	240.00	-71.12	70.37 %
8933.3 HVAC (H&E)	29,697.00	28,500.00	1,197.00	104.20 %
8953 Repairs & Maintenance - Bldg.	5,872.06	5,000.00	872.06	117.44 %
8954 Repairs & Maintenance - Grounds	11,790.00	5,344.00	6,446.00	220.62 %
8933.4 Security Monitoring	470.01	315.00	155.01	149.21 %
8954.1 lawncare (Grandtopia (H&E)	9,435.00	7,000.00	2,435.00	134.79 %
8954.2 irrigation(Poole/Fuller)(H&E)	1,033.85	1,500.00	-466.15	68.92 %
8954.3 Q F (lawn/shrub/pest)(H&E)	880.00	875.00	5.00	100.57 %
Total 8954 Repairs & Maintenance - Grounds	23,608.86	15,034.00	8,574.86	157.04 %
8957.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)		300.00	-300.00	
8959 Supplies - Janatorial	130.49	200.00	-69.51	65.25 %
Total 8933 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	152,760.27	67,190.00	85,570.27	227.36 %
8947 Presidents Official Exp	2,591.45	5,000.00	-2,408.55	51.83 %
8964 Licenses and taxes	160.00	250.00	-90.00	64.00 %
8965 Telephone/ISP	779.44	800.00	-20.56	97.43 %
8966 Utilities (H&E)	10,358.53	7,700.00	2,658.53	134.53 %
8969 Vice-Presidents Exp				
8969.1 First VP	154.30	950.00	-795.70	16.24 %

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
8969.2 Second VP	84.65	950.00	-865.35	8.91 %
8969.3 Third VP		950.00	-950.00	
Total 8969 Vice-Presidents Exp	238.95	2,850.00	-2,611.05	8.38 %
8971 WAYS AND MEANS	990.26	300.00	690.26	330.09 %
8951.1 Credit Card Fees	114.65	300.00	-185.35	38.22 %
Total 8971 WAYS AND MEANS	1,104.91	600.00	504.91	184.15 %
8973 Web Site/ Membership Software	4,284.00	2,625.00	1,659.00	163.20 %
8974 Donor NGC & DS Awards		300.00	-300.00	
8977 FFGC Promotion	1,071.59	1,500.00	-428.41	71.44 %
9100 SALARIES	0.00		0.00	
8909 Payroll	9,650.07	11,300.00	-1,649.93	85.40 %
8963 Payroll Taxes	738.23	868.00	-129.77	85.05 %
Total 9100 SALARIES	10,388.30	12,168.00	-1,779.70	85.37 %
Total 8900 OPERATING EXPENSES	223,756.96	143,300.00	80,456.96	156.15 %
8957 CONTRIBUTION EXPENSES				
8914 FFGC Scholarships	10,500.00		10,500.00	
8957.3 Penny Pines	2,788.00		2,788.00	
Total 8957 CONTRIBUTION EXPENSES	13,288.00		13,288.00	
8958 H & E Miscellaneous	26.72	100.00	-73.28	26.72 %
9000 SPECIAL PROJECTS EXPENSES				
9006 Avon Garden Therapy	2,424.26		2,424.26	
9019 SEEK Youth	17,362.49	12,000.00	5,362.49	144.69 %
Total 9000 SPECIAL PROJECTS EXPENSES	19,786.75	12,000.00	7,786.75	164.89 %
Total Expenditures	\$481,644.22	\$398,952.00	\$82,692.22	120.73 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -57,650.28	\$ -53,892.00	\$ -3,758.28	106.97 %
Other Expenditures				
Reconciliation Discrepancies-1	-0.17		-0.17	
Total Other Expenditures	\$ -0.17	\$0.00	\$ -0.17	0.00%
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$0.17	\$0.00	\$0.17	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$ -57,650.11	\$ -53,892.00	\$ -3,758.11	106.97 %

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget - FY23 P&L

January - March, 2023

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
100 100th Anniversary celebration!	660.00	108,248.00	-107,588.00	0.61 %
6000 GENERAL INCOME				
6001 Dues - Members	49,594.00	111,000.00	-61,406.00	44.68 %
6003 Dues - Affiliate member		300.00	-300.00	
6004 FFGC Life Memberships	1,800.00	3,000.00	-1,200.00	60.00 %
6008 Headquarters Rental (H&E)				
6008.2 Taxable Rentals	12,481.14	49,900.00	-37,418.86	25.01 %
Total 6008 Headquarters Rental (H&E)	12,481.14	49,900.00	-37,418.86	25.01 %
Total 6000 GENERAL INCOME	63,875.14	164,200.00	-100,324.86	38.90 %
6100 PROGRAM SERVICES (FFGC)				
6101 FFGC/UF Short Course		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
6102 F/S Schools and Symposiums		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
6103 Floral Design/Educ activities	50.00	500.00	-450.00	10.00 %
6105 State Convention		107,000.00	-107,000.00	
6106 Tropical Short Course		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
6107 Travel-Tours		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
6108 Short Course North		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
6109 Avon Park	305.00		305.00	
6201 TFG Subscriptions	120.00	300.00	-180.00	40.00 %
6202 FI Gardener Adv.Income	1,365.00	3,500.00	-2,135.00	39.00 %
Total 6100 PROGRAM SERVICES (FFGC)	1,840.00	117,300.00	-115,460.00	1.57 %
6300 SERVICE ITEMS (FFGC)				
6308 WAYS AND MEANS-SALES (FFGC)	296.52	500.00	-203.48	59.30 %
6308.1 Square Inc	737.08		737.08	
Total 6308 WAYS AND MEANS-SALES (FFGC)	1,033.60	500.00	533.60	206.72 %
Total 6300 SERVICE ITEMS (FFGC)	1,033.60	500.00	533.60	206.72 %
6400 INVESTMENT INCOME				
6401 Interest Earned - Gen Fd (FFGC)	36.43	60.00	-23.57	60.72 %
6403 Interest Earned Grant Account	21.94		21.94	
6407 Int earned- Scholarship	38.46		38.46	
6410 Int Earned H&E	5.37	15.00	-9.63	35.80 %
6424 Interest on Wekiva B&M	1,713.33		1,713.33	
Total 6400 INVESTMENT INCOME	1,815.53	75.00	1,740.53	2,420.71 %
6500 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (FFGC)				
6500 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (FFGC)	20.55		20.55	
6307.4 Amazon.com	83.54		83.54	
6308.3 Credit Card Points		1,500.00	-1,500.00	
6507 Miscellaneous Revenue	27.25	2,000.00	-1,972.75	1.36 %
6507.2 Sales Tax Collection Allowance	22.15		22.15	
6507.3 Insurance Claim Proceeds	17,802.83		17,802.83	
Total 6500 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (FFGC)	17,956.32	3,500.00	14,456.32	513.04 %
6600 WEKIVA INCOME				

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
6604 Wekiva Critter Camp		4,160.00	-4,160.00	
6605.2 Campership Donations	1,055.00	6,000.00	-4,945.00	17.58 %
6605.3 Undesignated Donations	3,390.01	13,000.00	-9,609.99	26.08 %
6605.31 In Memory of Marion Hilliard	100.00		100.00	
6605.34 In Memory of Carol Wood	50.00		50.00	
Total 6605.3 Undesignated Donations	3,540.01	13,000.00	-9,459.99	27.23 %
6605.4 Designated Donations	5,449.00	2,000.00	3,449.00	272.45 %
6607 Interest and Dividends	205.12		205.12	
6608 Volunteer Training (WVT)	2,040.00	2,250.00	-210.00	90.67 %
6610 Wekiva Registrations				
6610.2 GC Sponsored(\$250)	13,840.00	33,600.00	-19,760.00	41.19 %
6610.4 Parent Paid Registrations	145,045.00	130,691.00	14,354.00	110.98 %
Total 6610 Wekiva Registrations	158,885.00	164,291.00	-5,406.00	96.71 %
6612 Wekiva 9th Grade(LIT)	810.00	12,420.00	-11,610.00	6.52 %
6614 Logo Sales		4,500.00	-4,500.00	
Total 6600 WEKIVA INCOME	171,984.13	208,621.00	-36,636.87	82.44 %
6700 CONTRIBUTIONS				
6005 Pillar of Pride	1,700.00	1,000.00	700.00	170.00 %
6007.1 bricks/garden path (H&E)	800.00	500.00	300.00	160.00 %
6007.2 Patron/Guardian of Gardens-H&E	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	133.33 %
6009 Hall of Fame Income (HQ)	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.00 %
6307.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)				
6307.21 Earth Stewardships H&E)	100.00	200.00	-100.00	50.00 %
Total 6307.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)	100.00	200.00	-100.00	50.00 %
6307.3 Penny Pines	3,352.10		3,352.10	
6504 Scholarships	4,600.00		4,600.00	
Total 6700 CONTRIBUTIONS	13,052.10	3,700.00	9,352.10	352.76 %
7000 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/PROJECTS				
7001 Natural Disasters	250.00		250.00	
7004 Convention Awards	50.00		50.00	
7019 SEEK Youth Envir. Conf.	1,790.00	12,000.00	-10,210.00	14.92 %
Total 7000 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/PROJECTS	2,090.00	12,000.00	-9,910.00	17.42 %
Credit Card Fee	-0.32		-0.32	
Postage	6.71		6.71	
Total Revenue	\$274,313.21	\$618,144.00	\$ -343,830.79	44.38 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$274,313.21	\$618,144.00	\$ -343,830.79	44.38 %
Expenditures				
200 100th Celebration Expenses		37,712.00	-37,712.00	
8000 GENERAL EXPENSES				
8001 NGC Dues -Members	623.00	10,500.00	-9,877.00	5.93 %
8002 NGC Dues Youth Gardeners		10.00	-10.00	
8008 HQ RENTAL EXPENDITURES (H&E) (deleted)				
8008.6 Janitorial (SYMM Svcs) (deleted)	0.00		0.00	
Total 8008 HQ RENTAL EXPENDITURES (H&E) (deleted)	0.00		0.00	
Total 8000 GENERAL EXPENSES	623.00	10,510.00	-9,887.00	5.93 %
8100 PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES				
8101 State Convention		104,000.00	-104,000.00	

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
8101.2 Convention Board Dinner		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
Total 8101 State Convention		107,000.00	-107,000.00	
8103 NGC/DS Conventions		200.00	-200.00	
8104 FFGC Awards Preparation		350.00	-350.00	
8106 FDS/Educ Activities		50.00	-50.00	
8202 FI Gardener-Circulation	2,920.00	12,800.00	-9,880.00	22.81 %
8202.1 Florida Gardener Postage	802.25	3,200.00	-2,397.75	25.07 %
Total 8100 PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES	3,722.25	123,600.00	-119,877.75	3.01 %
8600 WEKIVA EXPENSE				
8601.2 Tour Team Expense		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
8605 Wekiva Camp Supplies		600.00	-600.00	
8606 Wekiva Canteen		10,500.00	-10,500.00	
8609 Wekiva Clinic		1,100.00	-1,100.00	
8610 Wekiva Crafts		2,100.00	-2,100.00	
8612 Wekiva - Food		42,000.00	-42,000.00	
8612.5 Cleaning Supplies and Maint.		2,500.00	-2,500.00	
8613 Wekiva Insurance		6,000.00	-6,000.00	
8613.01 Wekiva Workers' Comp. Insurance	292.00	3,000.00	-2,708.00	9.73 %
8614 Wekiva Miscellaneous		400.00	-400.00	
8614.1 fingerprinting		2,500.00	-2,500.00	
Total 8614 Wekiva Miscellaneous		2,900.00	-2,900.00	
8616 Wekiva Office Exp		700.00	-700.00	
8618 Wekiva -Payroll Taxes		6,400.00	-6,400.00	
8619 Wekiva Postage		450.00	-450.00	
8622 Wekiva 7th Gr Program		400.00	-400.00	
8623 Wekiva 8th Gr Program		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
8624 Wekiva 9th Gr Prog(LIT)		8,500.00	-8,500.00	
8625 Wekiva Wages - Staff		56,850.00	-56,850.00	
8627 Wekiva-Wages-Kitchen		26,860.00	-26,860.00	
8627.2 Wekiva Website Hosting		140.00	-140.00	
8628 Wekiva Telephone & Internet	479.74	1,100.00	-620.26	43.61 %
8629 WYC designated donation purchas		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
8630 Wekiva Park Fees		23,000.00	-23,000.00	
8631 Wekiva Nature		500.00	-500.00	
8632 Wekiva Transportation		2,100.00	-2,100.00	
8633 Wekiva Legal and Accounting		1,200.00	-1,200.00	
8636 Wekiva - Bank & CC Fees	3,825.85	5,500.00	-1,674.15	69.56 %
8637 Wekiva Volunteer Training	2,455.66	3,000.00	-544.34	81.86 %
8638 Wekiva Registration Expense	79.00	300.00	-221.00	26.33 %
8639 Amer. Camp Assoc. ACA		1,300.00	-1,300.00	
8641 Opening/Closing/set up camp		300.00	-300.00	
8642 Volunteers		600.00	-600.00	
Total 8600 WEKIVA EXPENSE	7,132.25	214,900.00	-207,767.75	3.32 %
8900 OPERATING EXPENSES				
8901 BOD Meeting Hospitality	-209.81	500.00	-709.81	-41.96 %
8901.1 Hospitality-Other(Awds/H&E/Nom	77.90	500.00	-422.10	15.58 %
Total 8901 BOD Meeting Hospitality	-131.91	1,000.00	-1,131.91	-13.19 %
8902 Bank Charges-General Fd		100.00	-100.00	

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
8907 District Mtg Tour Expenses		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
8911 Gifts/Memorials/Courtesies		50.00	-50.00	
8915 Floral Design Study		50.00	-50.00	
8920 Engraving/Bricks/Plaques	1,126.45	250.00	876.45	450.58 %
8921 Insurance		9,400.00	-9,400.00	
8921.1 Workers' Compensation	732.00	167.00	565.00	438.32 %
Total 8921 Insurance	732.00	9,567.00	-8,835.00	7.65 %
8923 Legal & Accounting		39,800.00	-39,800.00	
8925 Membership Cards		500.00	-500.00	
8927 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	1,132.91	2,000.00	-867.09	56.65 %
8929 OFFICE SUPPLIES	901.49	2,500.00	-1,598.51	36.06 %
8943 Postage	120.74	650.00	-529.26	18.58 %
8945 Printing & Stationery		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
Total 8929 OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,022.23	4,150.00	-3,127.77	24.63 %
8932 Major Repairs and Renovations		20,000.00	-20,000.00	
8933 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	300.00	500.00	-200.00	60.00 %
8933.1 Pest Control - JC Ehrlich (H&E)	92.04	400.00	-307.96	23.01 %
8933.3 HVAC (H&E)	250.00	2,000.00	-1,750.00	12.50 %
8953 Repairs & Maintenance - Bldg.	1,844.00	9,500.00	-7,656.00	19.41 %
8954 Repairs & Maintenance - Grounds	1,350.00	5,000.00	-3,650.00	27.00 %
8933.4 Security Monitoring	105.34	540.00	-434.66	19.51 %
8954.1 lawncare (Grandtopia (H&E)	2,970.00	13,000.00	-10,030.00	22.85 %
8954.2 irrigation(Poole/Fuller)(H&E)	195.45	2,500.00	-2,304.55	7.82 %
8954.3 Q F (lawn/shrub/pest)(H&E)	330.00	1,500.00	-1,170.00	22.00 %
Total 8954 Repairs & Maintenance - Grounds	4,950.79	22,540.00	-17,589.21	21.96 %
8957.2 Color Our Garden (H&E)		500.00	-500.00	
8959 Supplies - Janatorial	75.19	300.00	-224.81	25.06 %
Total 8933 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	7,512.02	35,740.00	-28,227.98	21.02 %
8947 Presidents Official Exp	435.75	8,250.00	-7,814.25	5.28 %
8964 Licenses and taxes		375.00	-375.00	
8965 Telephone/ISP	223.15	1,500.00	-1,276.85	14.88 %
8966 Utilities (H&E)	2,072.34	13,200.00	-11,127.66	15.70 %
8969 Vice-Presidents Exp				
8969.1 First VP	126.41	2,350.00	-2,223.59	5.38 %
8969.2 Second VP	100.35	1,600.00	-1,499.65	6.27 %
8969.3 Third VP		1,600.00	-1,600.00	
Total 8969 Vice-Presidents Exp	226.76	5,550.00	-5,323.24	4.09 %
8971 WAYS AND MEANS	-168.00	500.00	-668.00	-33.60 %
8951.1 Credit Card Fees	122.85	500.00	-377.15	24.57 %
Total 8971 WAYS AND MEANS	-45.15	1,000.00	-1,045.15	-4.52 %
8973 Web Site/ Membership Software		4,500.00	-4,500.00	
8974 Donor NGC & DS Awards		500.00	-500.00	
8975 NGC & DS Award Preparation		25.00	-25.00	
8977 FFGC Promotion		2,500.00	-2,500.00	
9100 SALARIES				
8909 Payroll	4,143.75	17,800.00	-13,656.25	23.28 %
8963 Payroll Taxes	316.99	1,367.00	-1,050.01	23.19 %
Total 9100 SALARIES	4,460.74	19,167.00	-14,706.26	23.27 %

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Total 8900 OPERATING EXPENSES	18,767.29	172,774.00	-154,006.71	10.86 %
8957 CONTRIBUTION EXPENSES				
8914 FFGC Scholarships	9,000.00		9,000.00	
8957.3 Penny Pines	1,496.00		1,496.00	
Total 8957 CONTRIBUTION EXPENSES	10,496.00		10,496.00	
8958 H & E Miscellaneous	5.00	100.00	-95.00	5.00 %
8974.1 NGC/DS Program Ads	100.00		100.00	
9000 SPECIAL PROJECTS EXPENSES				
9004 Convention Awards	4,100.00	7,000.00	-2,900.00	58.57 %
9006 Avon Garden Therapy	2,678.89		2,678.89	
9019 SEEK Youth		12,000.00	-12,000.00	
9021 Matching Grants	4,925.00		4,925.00	
Total 9000 SPECIAL PROJECTS EXPENSES	11,703.89	19,000.00	-7,296.11	61.60 %
Total Expenditures	\$52,549.68	\$578,596.00	\$ -526,046.32	9.08 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$221,763.53	\$39,548.00	\$182,215.53	560.75 %
Other Expenditures				
Wekiva Youth Camp Office	295,606.67		295,606.67	
Total Other Expenditures	\$295,606.67	\$0.00	\$295,606.67	0.00%
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -295,606.67	\$0.00	\$ -295,606.67	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$ -73,843.14	\$39,548.00	\$ -113,391.14	-186.72 %

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Special Post Convention Pre-Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2023

Call to Order

The post-convention special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc was called to order at 8:30 AM by President Tina Tuttle. President Tuttle welcomed everyone to the 2023-2025 administration.

Committee to Approve the Minutes

The President appointed Christy Linke, First Vice-President; Mary Whisler, Second Vice-President; and Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary as the committee to approve the minutes of this meeting.

Call to Meeting

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Barber read the call to the meeting. "This is the call to the Special Meeting only for all 2023-2025 Officers, District Directors, FFGC Former Presidents and Previously Ratified 2023-2025 Chairmen." All others were asked to leave the room until the start of the Post-Convention Meeting.

Approval of Appointments

President Tina Tuttle presented the proposed appointments of Committee Chairmen for approval. The proposed appointments of Committee Chairmen were approved unanimously. The list of Board of Directors was distributed. The List was approved with corrections.

Adjournment

The Special Post Convention Pre-Board Meeting of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was adjourned at 8:39 AM.

Christy Linke

Christy Linke, First Vice-President

Mary Whisler, Second Vice-President

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary

Attest:

Tina Tuttle, President

Submitted:

Jennifer Barber

Jennifer Barber, Recording Secretary

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Post-Convention Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, April 21, 2023**

Call to Order:

President Tina Tuttle called the Post-Convention Board of Directors Meeting to order at 8:45 AM. The President welcomed everyone to the first Board of Directors meeting of the 2023-2025 administration. President Tuttle thanked everyone for volunteering to serve with her during this historic time.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:

Ed Nendick, FFGC Chaplain, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Quorum:

The chair stated that a quorum was present. Visitors made themselves known and their ability to interact with the proceedings was defined.

Regular Business in Order

Appointment of Committees:

The Chair named the following committees which were appointed with no objections.

Committee to Approve the Minutes:

President Tuttle appointed Christy Linke, Mary Whisler, and Linda Feifarek-Johnson to approve the minutes of this meeting.

Tellers of the Meeting:

President Tuttle appointed Skip Lamoureux and Diane Lamoureux to serve as tellers for this meeting.

Timekeeper for this meeting:

President Tuttle appointed Inger Jones to serve as timekeeper.

Introductions

Officer Introductions:

President Tuttle introduced the officers: Leticia Delatorre Gunn, Third Vice-President; Mary Whisler, Second Vice-President; Christy Linke, First Vice-President; Jennifer Barber, Recording Secretary; Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary; Jana Walling, Treasurer; Carolyn Lowry-Nation, Parliamentarian; and herself - Tina Tuttle, President.

Appointment of Fiscal Agent:

Linda Feifarek-Johnson moved that Jana Walling, Treasurer of FFGC, serve as fiscal Agent for FFGC for 2023-2025. District III Director Lana Arnold, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

CPA Engagement

FFGC Treasurer and Fiscal Agent Jana Walling moved that the FFGC Board of Directors approved the engagement of Thomas Howell Ferguson, CPAs, to prepare and file a 990 Income Tax Return for the seven-month period ending 12/31/2022. The motion was seconded by District X Director Maria Wolfe. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

The chair appointed the following to serve on the Finance Committee:

Christy Linke, First Vice-President and Finance Committee Chair

Mary Whisler, Second Vice-President

Letitica Delatorre Gunn, Third Vice-President

Jana Walling, Treasurer

Sue Roberts, Chairman of Headquarters and Endowment

Claudia Bates, Former President & Florida Flower Show Judges

Carolyn Schagg, Former President & Tri-Council

Kelley Wood - Insurance Chairman

Tina Tuttle, President of FFGC

Strategic Planning Committee

The chair appointed Gina Jogan to the Strategic Planning Nominating Committee. Jane Nendick and Valerie Seinfeld volunteered to serve on the committee and will report at the September Board Meeting with a nominee to elect for an At Large member vacancy of this committee. The Board will meet after this meeting to appoint a Chairman.

President Tuttle appointed Lisa Packard and Connie Gladding to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Headquarters and Endowment Committee

Sue Angle, H&E Nominating Committee Chairman presented Former President Claudia Bates and District III Lana Arnold as nominees for the 3-year role as Headquarters & Endowment Committee Trustee. No nominations were received from the floor. The nominees were approved unanimously.

By virtue of her office, Christy Linke, First Vice-President is now a Trustee on the Headquarters and Endowment Committee.

Other Appointments:

Chairman of 2024 Convention: Jenny Weber, District I.

Chairman of 2024 State Flower Show: Gina Jogan, Florida Flower Show Judge (FFSJ) Chairman, Barb Jacobson, FFSJ Co-Chairman, and Ann Crawford, Co-Chairman.

Reports of District Directors:

Each District Director was asked to introduce themselves and their Assistant District Director, if present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Assistant Director</u>
I	Jenny Weber	Lori Echols
II	Sue Meyer	Sarah Darden
III	Lana Arnold	Susan Weaver
IV	Sam Runyon	Steve Davies
V	Carol Stevens	Sandra Arnold
VI	Valerie Seinfeld	Debra Griffith
VII	Gwen Carter	Pat Neff
VIII	Phyllis Weber	Michelle James
IX	Claudia Chopp	Susan Lawson
X	Maria Wolfe	Mary Ann Cody
XI	Bonny Miller Cole	Melissa Weekley
XII	Susan Rodriguez	Joanne Rosenbluth-Rigl

List of Chairmen:

The Chairmen on the Board of Directors were approved at the Special Post Convention Board of Directors Meeting. All were asked to check the list that was made available and contact President Tina Tuttle with any corrections that need to be made before the end of the meeting.

Reports

Book Of Information (BOI):

Chairman Lisa Packard made a motion to approach Baker Press for a bid on multiple options for a revised format of the Book of Information. District XI Director, Bonny Miller Cole seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- *The Bid If 450 books printed with 52 pages and a 3-hole drill, cost of \$1,541.00, and/or 450 Books with 52 pages and Spiral Bound, cost of \$1,780.00.*

The Florida Gardener:

Chairman Lisa Packard made a motion to move forward with Baker Press to print the Florida Gardener based upon a bid to print a 24-page book, two thousand, five hundred (2500) copies, four times a year. Former President Sue Angle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- *The bid for the Florida Gardener came in at an annual cost of \$16,700(Sixteen thousand, seven hundred dollars) or \$1.67 per issue printed.*

President Tina Tuttle and Chairman Lisa Packard discussed the possibility of the curtailment of mailing the Florida Gardener to the Board of Directors and Committee Chairman in an effort to decrease costs and honor the green choice of members.

New Business

1. President Tina Tuttle brought a motion to Vote to continue the tradition of saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America at FFGC meetings. District VIII Director Phyllis Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Please note: This motion went against Robert's Rules of Order and will be withdrawn at this time and revisited at the September Board meeting.*

2. President Tina Tuttle brought a motion to Vote to continue the tradition of including Invocation before the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Benediction at FFGC meetings. First Vice-President Christy Linke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Please note: This motion went against Robert's Rules of Order and will be withdrawn at this time and revisited at the September Board meeting.*

3. Review of the Conflict of Interest Policy and Standing Rule #30.

Announcements:

*****Save the date** for Camp Wekiva's new building dedication on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 from 9:30 to 11 AM! Located at Camp Wekiva in Wekiwa Springs State Park.

+++Dates of Future Board meetings and conventions can be found on the FFGC website under the Calendar of Events.

~Fall Board of Directors Meeting will be September 5th - 7th at FFGC Headquarters in Winter Park.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Attest:

Tina Tuttle, President

Tina Tuttle

Christy Linke, First Vice-President

Christy Linke

Mary Whisler, Second Vice-President

Mary Anne Whisler

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary

Linda Feifarek-Johnson

Jennifer Barber, Recording Secretary

Jennifer Barber

CHARTER

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE I

The name of the Corporation is: FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INCORPORATED. The location of the Corporation shall be Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park, Florida

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The general nature and object of this non-profit Corporation shall be:
To organize themselves into a non-profit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Specifically, the purposes of the association are as follows:

- (a) To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect for and protection of the environment.
- (b) To encourage the erection of memorials to veterans of the United States armed forces;
- (c) To co-ordinate the interests of the several Garden Clubs in the State of Florida to the extent such co-ordination represents a furtherance of the activities specified in (a) and (b) above provided always that such purposes shall be effectuated by activities which are within the scope of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
- (d) To do and perform all other acts and things necessary to carry out the purposes of this Corporation as a Corporation not for profit in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided.

ARTICLE III

The qualifications of members and the manner of this admission shall be regulated by the rules and regulations of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV

The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual unless dissolved by law.

ARTICLE V

The names and resident addresses of the subscribers are as follows:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Addresses</u>
Mrs. Halle Cohen, President	2241 River Road, Jacksonville, FL
Mrs. Eugene A. Smith, 1st VP	315 SE 17th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mrs. J. Adams Bruce, 2nd VP	82 Columbia Ave, Tampa, FL
Mrs. John R. Parkinson, 3rd VP	Box 666, Daytona Beach, FL
Mrs. L. P. Sherwood, Rec. Secretary	324 N. Lakeside Ct., W. Palm Beach, FL
Mrs. Arthur P. Coe, Corresponding Secretary	2577 Forbes St. Jacksonville, FL
Mrs. W. Lee Barber, Treasurer	4310 SW 2nd St., Miami, FL

ARTICLE VI

- Section 1.** The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted and administered by its elected Officers and a Board of Directors.
- Section 2.** The elected Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a First Vice- President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other elected officers as may be provided for from time to time in the Bylaws. Each of such officers shall be elected at the Annual Convention held during odd numbered years.
- Section 3.** The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of its Officers, all former Presidents of the Federation, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, the members of the Board of Directors authorized by or appointed pursuant to the Bylaws, and one (1) Director (referred to as "District Director") from each District of the State of Florida established pursuant to the Bylaws.
- Section 4.** The manner of electing and the powers, duties and terms of office of all Officers, the manner of electing each District Director, and the procedure for filling a vacancy in any office or in the Board of Directors shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

The Corporation shall hold an Annual Convention, the place and date of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and during which the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation shall be held.

ARTICLE VIII

- Section 1.** The Bylaws may be amended at any Annual Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, providing the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Board of Directors for approval, and a copy of the approved amendments shall have been sent to each Member Club at least four (4) weeks before the Convention.
- Section 2.** Without such notice the Bylaws may be amended at any annual convention by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE IX

The total liabilities of the Corporation at any one time shall not be greater than an amount which is equal to two thirds (2/3) of the total fair market value of all assets owned by the Corporation at that time.

ARTICLE X

The amount and value of real estate which the Corporation may hold is \$1,000,000 subject to the laws in such cases made and provided.

ARTICLE XI

- Section 1.** No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any Member, Director, or Officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation affecting one or more charitable purposes.
- Section 2.** Upon the dissolution of the Corporation or winding up of its affairs, the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder; and no Member, Director, or Officer of the Corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any such assets.

Section 3. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE XII

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation by a two thirds vote of the Members present and voting at any such meeting when a quorum is present; provided, however, the amendments to be so adopted at such meeting must first have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation by a two thirds (2/3) vote of those Directors present at an annual or special meeting of the Board of Directors when a quorum is present and which is duly called for such purpose, and a copy of the amendments so approved by the Board of Directors must be sent to each Member Club (as defined in the Bylaws) at least four (4) weeks before such Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, these Articles of Incorporation may be amended without sending the proposed amendments approved by the Board of Directors to the Member Clubs in the manner aforesaid if the proposed amendments so approved by the Board of Directors shall be approved by a unanimous vote of all the Members of the Corporation present and voting at any Annual Meeting of such Members when a quorum is present.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF DUVAL**

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Mrs. Halle Cohen who acknowledged to and before me, that she is one of the subscribers in the above and foregoing Charter, and she, on oath, states that it is intended in good faith to carry out the purposes and objects set forth in said charter.

Mrs. Halle Cohen
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Notary Public, at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, this 23rd day of May, A.D. 1952

Julius L. Mack, Notary Public

Charter Amended April 18, 1958 - Recorded in the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit -
Bartow, Florida
June 2, 1958 Charter Signed: D. O. Rogers, Circuit Judge

Charter Amended June 13, 1960 -
Charter Amended April 14, 1961 - Recorded August 9, 1961
Charter Amended May 13, 1964 - Recorded July 17, 1964
Charter Amended April 16, 1970 - Recorded June 18, 1970
Charter Amended April 6, 1993 - Recorded April 1993
Charter Amended May 1, 2003 - Recorded August 18, 2003
Charter Amended April 21, 2021 - Recorded

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the Corporation is: FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INCORPORATED; hereinafter referred to as FFGC.

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The general nature and object of this non-profit Corporation shall be:
To organize themselves into a non-profit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Specifically, the purposes of the association are as follows:

- (a) To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect for and protection of the environment;
- (b) To encourage the erection of memorials to veterans of the United States armed forces;
- (c) To co-ordinate the interests of the several Garden Clubs in the State of Florida to the extent such co-ordination represents a furtherance of the activities specified in (a) and (b) above provided always that such purposes shall be effectuated by activities which are within the scope of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
- (d) To do and perform all other acts and things necessary to carry out the purposes of this Corporation as a Corporation not for profit in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided.
- (e) Membership in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is open to all regardless of gender, age race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERS

The membership of FFGC shall consist of two (2) classes: Voting Membership and Non-Voting Membership.

SECTION 1 - Voting Membership

Voting membership shall consist of members of Garden Clubs, Garden Clubs organized on the Circle Plan. Councils, and FFGC Life Members and Honorary Members of FFGC who are members of a Garden Club.

a. Eligibility, Admission

(1) Garden Clubs

A Garden Club shall have a membership of not less than ten (10). Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the Director of the District in which the Club is located. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues, and an alphabetical list of names and mailing addresses of all officers and members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

(2) Garden Clubs Organized on the Circle Plan

A Garden Club organized on the Circle Plan shall be composed of constituent Circles of not less than ten (10) members each under the direction of the governing body of the Club. Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the Director of the District in which the Club is located. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues, and an alphabetical list of names and mailing addresses of all officers and members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

(3) Councils

A Council shall be composed of three (3) or more FFGC Garden Clubs that have united to give strength to community projects. Application for membership shall be submitted to the Board of Directors through the Director of the District in which the Council is located. The application shall be accompanied by the names and mailing addresses of all officers and members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the Council which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

(4) Online (E) Club

An Online (E) Club shall have a membership of not less than ten (10). Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the FFGC 3rd Vice President. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues and an alphabetical list of names, District number, mailing address and email address of all members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

(5) Life Members

FFGC life membership may be accorded to an individual, either a member or a non-member, interested in the work of FFGC upon payment of the required fee. Life Members shall be members of an FFGC Garden Club in order to vote and hold office.

(6) Honorary Members

Honorary membership may be conferred upon an individual who has notably promoted the purposes of FFGC. Such individual shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and voted on by the convention body. An Honorary Member shall be exempt from FFGC dues, but only those who are members of a Garden Club may vote and hold office.

- b.** Membership may be accorded in an adjoining District with the approval of the District Directors involved.

SECTION 2 - Non-Voting Membership

Non-voting membership shall consist of Life Members and Honorary Members of FFGC who are not members of a Garden Club; Affiliate Member Organizations; and individuals and groups of Junior Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners, High School Gardeners, College Clubs and Vocational-Technical School Garden Clubs.

a. Eligibility, Admission

- (1) Life Members and Honorary Members of FFGC who are not Members of Garden Clubs.

See ARTICLE III, Section 1, a., (4) and (5).

- (2) **Affiliate Member Organizations**

Affiliate membership may be granted to a related organization, other than a Garden Club in Florida, whose nature and general purpose parallel FFGC.

Application for such membership shall be submitted to the Board of Directors. Application shall be accompanied by annual dues and the names and mailing addresses of its officers. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors shall elect.

- (3) **Junior Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners, High School Gardeners, College Clubs and Vocational-Technical School Garden Clubs**

- (a) Junior Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners, and High School Gardeners shall be sponsored by FFGC Garden Clubs, Councils or Districts.

- (b) College Clubs and Vocational-Technical School Garden Clubs shall be composed of at least ten (10) students, faculty, or campus-related members and shall be sponsored by FFGC Garden Clubs, Councils or Districts.

- b. Additional categories of non-voting membership may be added as authorized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 - Resignation

A Club wishing to resign shall submit a written notice to its District Director for presentation and Headquarters. Following further contact by the District Director, the resignation shall be presented to the Board of Directors by the District Director at the next Board of Directors Meeting. In the event a Club does not submit written notice to the District Director and notification is received from Headquarters of nonpayment of dues, the District Director shall make contact with the Club to verify membership standing. If contact is unable to be made or confirmation of resignation received, the District Director will present this information at the next Board of Directors meeting as Notice of Resignation.

SECTION 4 - Reinstatement

A Club which resigns in good standing may be reinstated upon payment of the current dues and a reinstatement fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

ARTICLE IV - DUES AND FEES

SECTION 1 - The Annual dues of each Garden Club, Online (E) Club and each Garden Club organized on the Circle Plan shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00) per capita on all categories of members enrolled as of June 1, with the exception of the members specified in b and c below.

- a. Dues of members joining between June 1 and May 31 shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00).
- b. Annual dues of a legally married couple with membership in the same Club shall be fourteen dollars (\$14.00) for a couple membership.
- c. Annual FFGC dues of a Life Member, including multiple Club membership, shall be exempt.
- d. Annual FFGC dues of members belonging to two or more Garden Clubs, Online (E) Clubs and Garden Clubs organized on the Circle Plan shall be a total of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per capita paid to the FFGC Club designated by the member. Proof of FFGC dues paid to the designated FFGC Club or Club organized on the Circle Plan shall be the responsibility of the member.

e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by May 1. Dues of members enrolled after May 1 shall be payable immediately.

(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by May 1 and a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 1, a further notice shall be sent. If not received by June 30, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstated.

PROVISO: Effective date – JANUARY 1, 2024.

(2) Clubs forfeiting membership for non-payment of dues shall be reinstated by payment of current dues, and a reinstatement fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

f. Dues for members of new clubs accepted for membership during the Winter Board of Directors meeting shall be six dollars (\$6.00). Dues of a legally married couple shall be seven dollars (\$7.00).

g. FFGC Membership dues are non-refundable.

SECTION 2 - The fee for a Life Membership shall be three hundred dollars (\$300.00), the sum to be placed into the FFGC General Fund.

SECTION 3 - An Honorary Member whose honorary membership is conferred by FFGC shall be exempt from FFGC dues.

SECTION 4 - The annual fee of an Affiliate Member Organization shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) and shall be remitted to Headquarters on the year's anniversary date of affiliation.

SECTION 5 - Junior Gardeners, Intermediate Gardeners and High School Gardeners shall be exempt from fees. The dues required by National Garden Clubs, Inc. shall be funded by FFGC.

SECTION 6 - The annual fee of College and Vocational Technical School Garden Clubs shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).

SECTION 7 - The FFGC Board of Directors, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may adjust dues in special cases.

SECTION 8 - The annual dues shall be placed in the general fund of FFGC to pay annual per capita dues to the National Garden Clubs, Inc., to help defray the cost of *The Florida Gardener* and the *Book of Information*, to help pay the operating expenses of FFGC, and to fund any other items authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - FINANCES

SECTION 1 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of FFGC shall be from January 1 through December 31.

SECTION 2 - Finance Committee

There shall be a Finance Committee composed of the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Third Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, and three members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President. The Chairman shall report at each meeting of the FFGC Board of Directors.

a. The Committee shall direct the investment, reinvestment and distribution of all funds, other than the Headquarters and Endowment Fund, as authorized by the Board of Directors.

b. The Finance Committee shall prepare a budget for adoption by the Board of Directors at its fall meeting.

c. All amendments to the budget shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

d. The Finance Committee shall approve all budgets directly related to FFGC including but not limited to Short Courses, Annual Convention, State Flower Show, SEEK and Wekiva. Budgets from outside groups/hosting groups including but not limited to NGC Schools are reviewed and accepted.

- e. The President may assign other duties to the Finance Committee as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3 - General Funds

The general fund of FFGC shall be derived from the payment of dues and other sources as authorized by the Board of Directors. A reserve shall be established within the General Fund to support the Penal Garden Therapy Program at the Avon Park Correctional Institution. The source of funding shall be specific donations and specific fund raisers therefore, and the use of the funds shall be exclusively for support of Avon Park Correctional Institution Penal Garden Therapy Program.

SECTION 4 - Special Funds

- a. Special Funds established by trusts, special contributions, donations and fees are:
 - (1) The FFGC Scholarship Fund is established to award postsecondary scholarships to eligible students pursuant to the FFGC Scholarship Program as authorized by the FFGC Board of Directors.
 - (2) The Headquarters and Endowment Fund is established to provide for the maintaining of Headquarters Building and Grounds. The Color Our Garden Fund is part of the Headquarters and Endowment Fund and budgeted for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds of FFGC.
 - (3) Wekiva Youth Camp Building and Maintenance Fund – Established to provide funds and support for the FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp building and maintenance program.
 - (4) Wekiva Youth Camp Operating Fund – The operating fund of WYC shall be maintained to defray expenses and pay bills.
 - (5) The Gifts Today for Tomorrow Endowment Fund
 - (a) Established to provide funds to enhance the financial future of FFGC.
 - (b) The fund is restricted to FFGC needs not encompassed by the General Budget or self-sustaining entities.
 - (c) Only income produced from the principal may be used once per Administration as recommended by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the FFGC Board of Directors.
- b. **Variance Power** - As set forth in tax regulations, the Board shall have power to modify any restrictions or condition of distribution of funds for any specified charitable purposes or to specified organizations if, in the sole judgment of the Board (without approval of any trustee, custodian or agent), such restriction or condition becomes, in effect, unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable purpose of this Corporation.
- c. Any surplus accruing to any restricted fund may be used for operational purposes within the scope of that fund.
- d. Other funds may be established as authorized by the FFGC Board of Directors.

SECTION 5 - Other Funds

The Board of Directors may authorize the Headquarters Office Manager and Committee Chairmen whose duties entail the handling of money to collect funds and pay bills as necessary.

SECTION 6 - Bonding

Bonds shall be required for the Treasurer and others whose duties entail the handling of monies. The amount of the bond shall be determined by the FFGC Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - Elected Officers

The elected officers of FFGC shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer.

- a. To be eligible for office, except for that of President and First Vice-President, a candidate shall have completed a minimum of one (1) year on the Board of Directors at the time of nomination. To be eligible for the office of President or First Vice-President, a candidate shall have served a minimum of three (3) years on the Board of Directors.
- b. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Convention in the odd-numbered years. A term of office shall be for two (2) years or until a successor is elected.
- c. All officers, except the Treasurer, shall assume their duties at the close of the Annual convention at which they are elected. The term of the Treasurer shall begin at the close of the fiscal year.

No elected officer shall serve more than (1) consecutive term in the same office except the Treasurer. The FFGC Treasurer may serve no more than five (5) consecutive terms effective April 2019.

SECTION 2 - Appointed Officers

The Corresponding Secretary and the Parliamentarian shall be appointed officers.

SECTION 3 - President-Elect

The First-Vice President shall also assume the title and duties of the President-Elect as of October 1 in the even-numbered year.

SECTION 4 - Vacancies

- a. All vacancies in elective offices, other than the President, shall be filled for the unexpired term by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- b. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled for the unexpired term by the FFGC Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

All officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, the Standing Rules and by the adopted Parliamentary Authority.

SECTION 1 - President

The President shall:

- a. Be the official representative of FFGC;
- b. Preside at all meetings of FFGC, its Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee;
- c. Appoint, at the beginning of each term, the Corresponding Secretary, the Parliamentarian and the members of the Board of Directors except the Chairman of FFGC Nominating Committee, the Chairman of Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.
 - (1) Appointments of members of the Board of Directors made at the beginning of each term shall be subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors, and Former Presidents at a meeting called by the President for that purpose.
 - (2) Subsequent appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- d. Shall be Editor-in-Chief of *The Florida Gardener*.
- e. Be a member, ex officio, of all committees except the Nominating Committee;
- f. Be responsible for the general supervision of Headquarters;
- g. Direct the activities of all officers and members of the Board of Directors.
- h. Plan the Annual Conventions;
- i. Appoint, as requested by the First Vice-President, members of the Board of Directors whose duties overlap administrations. Such appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- j. Fill vacancies in offices subject to the approval of the Board of Directors;
- k. Submit the name of a Certified Public Accountant and engage the Certified Public

Accountant approved by the Board of Directors;

- l.** Secure legal counsel when necessary;
- m.** Make the official report at the National Convention at the end of the first year of the term of office. If the President is unable to attend, a Vice-President in order of rank shall make the official report. At the end of the second year of the term of office, the retiring President shall make the official report at the National Convention. If the retiring President is unable to attend, the newly-elected President or a Vice-President in order of rank shall make the official report. The expense of the individual making the official report shall be defrayed by FFGC; and
- n.** Be authorized to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer and co-sign checks in excess of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

SECTION 2 - President-Elect

The President-Elect shall:

- a.** Assume the duties of President-Elect as of October 1 in the even-numbered year;
- b.** Select potential members of the Board of Directors;
- c.** Plan the post-convention meeting of the FFGC Board of Directors; and
- d.** Make preliminary plans and preparations for the Annual Conventions of the next administration.

SECTION 3 - First Vice-President

The First Vice-President shall:

- a.** In the absence of the President or Treasurer, perform the duties of that office;
- b.** Be a chairman of Committee;
- c.** Be a member of the Finance Committee and of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees; and
- d.** Assume the duties of President-Elect as of October 1 in the even-numbered year.

SECTION 4 - Second and Third Vice-Presidents

The Second and Third Vice-Presidents shall:

- a.** Perform, in order of rank, all duties of the President in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President;
- b.** Each be a Chairman of a Committee; and
- c.** Each be a member of the Finance Committee.

SECTION 5 - Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall:

- a.** Record the proceedings of all meetings of the FFGC Board of Directors and of the Annual Convention;
- b.** Be responsible for and affix the Official Seal of the Corporation;
- c.** Have charge of all papers pertaining to the office; and
- d.** Present to the FFGC Board of Directors an electronic copy of the minutes and of the reports as soon as possible after the close of the term of office.

SECTION 6 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- a.** Be responsible for all monies;
- b.** Be accountable for receipts and disbursements;
- c.** Render statements and issue receipts;
- d.** Pay bills authorized by the President and/or the FFGC Board of Directors;
- e.** Be a member of the Credentials Committee, the Finance Committee and the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees;

- f. Make accounts and vouchers available for inspection by the Board of Directors;
- g. Present a financial statement at each meeting of the Board of Directors and at each Annual Convention;
- h. Coordinate with the President the engagement of a Certified Public Accountant for purposes of completing an annual tax return as required by the Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, coordinate with the President the engagement of a Certified Public Accountant for conducting an audit upon the replacement of current Treasurer. The President shall submit the Certified Public Accountant firm for FFGC Board approval pursuant to ARTICLE VII, Section 1. k. The audit shall be reported at the Board of Directors meeting following completion; and
- i. Transfer to the succeeding Treasurer, at the close of the fiscal year, custody of all monies and all records pertaining to the office which are not required by the Certified Public Accountant.

SECTION 7 - Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- a. Attend to correspondence as directed by the President or the FFGC Board of Directors;
- b. Maintain a list of members of the FFGC Board of Directors;
- c. Maintain a list of all FFGC Committees; and
- d. Maintain the Calendar of Events.

SECTION 8 - Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall:

- a. Assist the President on points of parliamentary procedure when requested;
- b. Fulfill required duties as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised book; and
- c. Be knowledgeable of the FFGC Charter, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VIII - FFGC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - Structure

The FFGC Nominating Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and one (1) member from each District.

a. Chairman

- (1) The chairman and an alternate shall be elected by and from the FFGC Board of Directors at its Pre-Convention meeting in even-numbered years. To be eligible, each nominee shall have served a minimum of two (2) years on the Board of Directors and is currently serving on the Board of Directors. Election shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. If there is only one (1) nominee for either vacancy, such election may be by voice.

- (2) The chairman shall be ineligible to serve as chairman or as alternate in the succeeding administration. An alternate who may have served as chairman pro tempore of the committee shall be ineligible to serve as chairman or as alternate in the succeeding administration.

b. Committee Members

The members of the Nominating Committee and their alternates shall be elected in their respective Districts at the SPRING District Meeting in even-numbered years (see ARTICLE XIX, Section 3 for Election Procedures).

SECTION 2 - Duties

The Nominating Committee shall:

- a. Nominate one (1) candidate for each office to be filled after having ascertained that each

- nominee is qualified and willing to serve if elected;
- b.** Meet at the Fall Board Meeting in **even numbered** years and again at the Winter Board Meeting at which time they will select a slate of officers for the coming administration;
 - c.** Reconvene in the event of a vacancy on the slate prior to the election; and
 - d.** Furnish the slate of nominees to the Headquarters Office Manager for distribution to each member club at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - Elections

The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Convention in the odd-numbered years at which time nominations may be made from the floor. All elections shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. However, in the event that there is only one (1) nominee for any elected office to be filled, election may be by voice.

SECTION 2 - Tellers

The President shall appoint Tellers who shall distribute, collect and count the ballots, and report the vote.

SECTION 3 - National/State Emergency

In the event a National/State Emergency presents the Election of Officers to be held at the FFGC Convention, elections may be held by mail. This procedure follows the NGC adopted guidelines.

- a.** The Recording Secretary will send each Club, Circle or Council President an email for nomination of persons wishing to be a candidate for consideration as an FFGC Officer. The Slate of Officers presented by the Nominating Committee will be included with this email. The date and time nominations close will be stated on the Recording Secretary's email announcement.

Name of person wishing to be nominated must be received within five days of original email for the FFGC Recording Secretary. The name of nominee along with address, telephone number and email address must accompany nomination. The Office being sought must be included and permission from the person being nominated to have name placed on the ballot. The Nominating Committee Chairman will authenticate request to be placed on the ballot.

- b.** Ballots shall be sent by electronic/postal mail to:
 - (1)** Board of Directors as delegates
 - (2)** Presidents of Clubs, Circles, and Councils as delegates with the correct number of additional ballots for the Club, Circle and Council based on FFGC Bylaw ARTICLE XI, Representation.
- c.** The date and time ballots must be received shall be annotated on ballots. All ballots must be returned to FFGC Headquarters within fifteen (15) days via electronic or postal mail. The Electronic Ballot should indicate "Ballot" on Subject line. The postal mail should indicate "Ballot" on envelope.
- d.** Three tellers will be appointed by the President to count ballots at FFGC Headquarters.
- e.** A plurality of the ballots returned shall determine the results.
- f.** Immediately upon the report of the Tellers to the FFGC President, the President and/or Nominating Committee Chairman will notify the candidates of the election results. The President will notify the delegates of election results. The Officers elected shall assume their duties immediately upon notification except for the Treasurer who shall assume the duties at the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - Annual Convention

- a. An Annual Convention shall be held, the place and date to be subject to the approval of the FFGC Executive Committee.
- b. The Voting Strength is determined on the Credentials Report submitted by the FFGC Treasurer from information supplied by the Convention Registrar. Three Credentials Reports are adopted – Opening Day Business Meeting; second day Business Meeting; and final Credentials Report at the close of Convention. The Registrar presents the Registration Report.

SECTION 2 - Special Meetings

Special meetings of FFGC may be called by the President or by its Board of Directors and shall be called upon the written request of fifty (50) members in good standing. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the Call. At least fifteen (15) days' notice shall be given.

SECTION 3 - National/State Emergency

If an FFGC Annual Convention cannot be held in the event of National/State Emergency, official business may be conducted to include, but not limited to, Election of Officers - FFGC ARTICLE IX and Bylaw Amendments FFGC ARTICLE XXI. Bylaws may be approved invoking the Florida State Statute 617.0303 Emergency Powers. Refer to FFGC ARTICLE IX – Election of Officers; ARTICLE XXI – Amendments; FFGC Standing Rule #24 E-Mail Voting Guidelines and Standing Rule #25 Guidelines for FFGC Electronic and Telephone meetings.

SECTION 4 - Quorum

Fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI - REPRESENTATION

SECTION 1 - Annual Conventions and Special Meetings

A delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

a. FFGC Board of Directors

Each member of the Board of Directors shall be a delegate.

b. Garden Clubs including Online (E) Clubs

(1) Each club shall be entitled to delegates or alternates as follows:

- (a) Membership of 10 to 25: President or alternate
- (b) Membership of 26 to 50: President plus one (1)
- (c) Membership of 51 to 75: President plus two (2)
- (d) Membership of 76 to 100: President plus three (3)
- (e) Membership of 101 to 125: President plus four (4)
- (f) Membership of over 125: President plus four (4) plus one for every additional 25 over 125.

(2) A Club with membership below ten (10) shall forfeit representation. A Club shall regain representation when membership of at least ten (10) is attained. The membership shall be determined by the number of members whose dues are current.

c. Clubs organized on the Circle Plan

(1) A Club organized on the Circle Plan shall be entitled to representation by the Club President or alternate.

(2) Each Circle shall be entitled to delegates or alternates as follows:

- (a) Membership of 10 to 25: Circle President or alternate

- (b) Membership of 26 to 50: Circle President plus one (1)
 - (c) Membership of 51 to 75: Circle President plus two (2)
 - (d) Membership of 76 to 100: Circle President plus three (3)
 - (e) Membership of 101 to 125: Circle President plus four (4)
 - (f) Membership of over 125: Circle President plus four (4) plus one (1) for every additional 25 over 125.
- (3) A Circle with a membership of below ten (10) shall forfeit representation. A Circle shall regain representation when membership of at least ten (10) is attained. The memberships shall be determined by the number of members whose dues are current.
- d. Councils
A Council of Garden Clubs shall be entitled to representation by the President (or its chairman) or alternate.

SECTION 2 - Delegate Vacancies

A vacancy occurring in a delegation may be filled by the respective President or authorized by the FFGC Credentials Committee.

SECTION 3 - Registration

Names of delegates and alternates shall be sent to the Convention Registration Chairman by Clubs and Circles ten (10) days prior to the Annual Convention.

SECTION 4 - Affiliate Member Organizations

Members of Affiliate Member Organizations may attend but shall not be entitled to a vote.

SECTION 5 - National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Conventions

- a. Delegates and alternates to National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. convention shall be nominated and elected by the FFGC Board of Directors, the number to be determined by the respective bodies.
- b. Names of eligible members may be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors for consideration as nominees.
- c. Elections shall be by ballot and a plurality vote shall elect. If there are no more than the requisite number of nominees, election may be by voice.
- d. Vacancies in the delegation shall be filled as authorized by the President.

ARTICLE XII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of FFGC, the Corresponding Secretary, the Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Parliamentarian shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee as advisor.

SECTION 2 - It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to transact business requiring immediate action either in session, by mail or by email and/or electronic means between meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Committee shall submit a full report at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 - The Executive Committee may approve such appropriations from the treasury, not provided in the budget and not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) as are urgently needed to carry on the work of FFGC.

SECTION 4 - Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the President or upon written request of three (3) committee members.

ARTICLE XIII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 - The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of FFGC, Former Presidents of FFGC, District Directors, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and appointed Board members.

SECTION 2 - The Board of Directors shall perform the specific duties outlined in these Bylaws and shall be empowered to transact any and all other business of FFGC and to control the affairs and funds of the Corporation by the authority vested by the Charter.

SECTION 3 - Each Officer, District Director, Chairman of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees and members of the Board of Directors shall:

- a.** Submit a report at each meeting of the Board of Directors, and to the Annual Convention when requested by the President; and
- b.** Transfer records to their successors or to the President prior to the post-convention meeting of the FFGC Board of Directors.
- c.** Board members who are absent from two consecutive scheduled meetings without notifying the FFGC President; do not submit written reports; or do not respond to email or telephone contacts in a timely manner, may be removed from the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The FFGC President may appoint a replacement to complete the term of appointment with Board of Directors approval.

SECTION 4 - Regular meetings of the FFGC Board of Directors shall be held each **fall**, each **winter**, immediately preceding each annual convention, immediately following the annual convention in the odd-numbered year. Other meetings may be called by the President or at the request of ten (10) members of the Board.

SECTION 5 - In the event of a National/State Emergency, official business may be conducted invoking Florida Statute 617.0303 Emergency Powers. Meeting may be conducted with quorum present using video/audio conferencing or similar telecommunications invoking Florida Statute 617.0303 Emergency Powers. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be one-half (1/2) of the members serving on the current Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV - HEADQUARTERS AND ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

SECTION 1 - Membership

- a.** The Headquarters and Endowment Trustees shall consist of nine (9) members, three (3) of whom shall be the President, the First Vice-President and the Treasurer of FFGC. A Chairman shall be elected by the Trustees and shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee.
- b.** Vacancies shall be filled by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 - Eligibility

The remaining six members of the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees elected shall meet the following criteria:

- a.** At least three (3) members to be currently serving on the FFGC Board of Directors and shall have served as elected Officers of FFGC excepting those currently serving on the Executive Committee.
- b.** The remaining three (3) members shall be currently serving and have served at least two (2) years on the FFGC Board of Directors.
- c.** Members of the Executive Committee not specifically noted in ARTICLE XIV, Section 1 Membership a., are not eligible to serve on the H&E Trustees. Members currently serving on the H&E Trustees and elected to serve as a member of the Executive Committee other than President, 1st Vice President and Treasurer of FFGC will not be eligible for re-election

to the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees. PROVISIO: If adopted this Bylaw will become effective April 2023.

SECTION 3 - Elections

- a. Trustees shall be elected by the FFGC Board of Directors.
- b. A Nominating Committee of three (3) shall be selected at the Winter Meeting of the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President and two (2) members shall be elected by the Board of Directors.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall submit one (1) nomination for each vacancy to be filled at the pre-convention meeting in the even-numbered year and the post-convention meeting in the election year of the Board of Directors at which time nominations may be made from the floor.
- d. Election shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. If there is but one (1) nominee for each vacancy to be filled, election may be by voice.

SECTION 4 - Term of Office

- a. The President, the First Vice-President and the Treasurer of FFGC shall serve for the duration of their terms of office.
- b. The term of an elected Trustee shall be three (3) years.
- c. An elected Trustee may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 5 - Duties

- a. The Headquarters and Endowment Trustees shall be governed by a set of Rules and Regulations adopted by its members subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, a copy of which shall be available to each Board member.
- b. The President and the Trustees shall have general supervision over all affairs of Headquarters and the Headquarters and Endowment Fund, subject to the approval of the FFGC Board of Directors.

SECTION 6 - Honors and Funds

- a. The Honors listed below have been established to honor Garden Club members or others who have distinguished themselves in garden club work for FFGC. The minimum fee/contribution for each of these honors will be placed in the H&E Fund. Specific details of each honor are listed in the Standing Rules #4 HONORS. These Honors are Guardian of Gardening; Patron; Hall of Fame, Earth Steward and "Bricks Along the Garden Path".
- b. "Color Our Garden Fund" is a Headquarters and Endowment Fund established for the continued stewardship and care of the FFGC grounds at Headquarters. This is a budgeted item for FFGC supported by donations including Earth Steward contributions/fees.

ARTICLE XV - STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - Membership

- a. The Strategic Planning Committee shall consist of nine (9) members. Three (3) members shall be the First Vice President, Second Vice President and Third Vice President of FFGC. Three (3) members to be serving on the current Board of Directors shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Three (3) members serving on the current Board of Directors shall be elected by the Board of Directors with one (1) serving a two-year term and two (2) serving a three-year term. (The President serves by virtue of office on all committees except the Nominating Committee.)

- b. Vacancies shall be filled by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

- c. The chairman shall be elected within the Strategic Planning Committee. The FFGC President will not be eligible for chairmanship of the Strategic Planning Committee.

SECTION 2 - Eligibility

Elected and appointed members shall currently serve on the FFGC Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 - Election

The Chairman of the Strategic Planning Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President at the Post Convention Board of Directors meeting in the odd numbered year. Two members to the Nominating Committee shall be elected at the Post Convention Board of Directors meeting in the odd numbered year. The Committee will report at the September Board of Directors meeting in the odd numbered year to elect the three At Large members to the Strategic Planning Committee. The election shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. If there is but one (1) nominee for each vacancy to be filled, election may be by voice.

SECTION 4 - Term of Office

- a. The FFGC Officers shall serve for the duration of their terms of office.
- b. The term of one (1) elected member shall be two (2) years. The term of two (2) elected members shall be three (3) years.
- c. An elected member may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 5 - Duties

The Strategic Planning Committee duties would include consideration of issues to protect the future of FFGC and strengthen the Corporation and other items as suggested by the President, Officers or FFGC Board of Directors. The Committee functions in an advisory capacity only. The Committee will report recommendations to the President who will then assign to the appropriate existing FFGC Committee for consideration.

ARTICLE XVI - BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - Membership

- a. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of seven (7) voting members: President, 1st Vice President, Chairman appointed by the President, two (2) members appointed by the President in consultation with the Chairman (one member who is a former FFGC President), and two (2) elected by the FFGC Board of Directors. The Parliamentarian will serve as a non-voting member.
- b. Vacancies shall be filled by the President subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 - Eligibility

Members of the Bylaws Committee shall have served for four (4) immediate past consecutive years and currently serve on the FFGC Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 - Election

The Nominating Committee for the Bylaws Committee would be selected in the fall of the even numbered years (beginning September 2020). The Chairman shall be appointed by the President and two (2) members elected by the Board of Directors. Bylaws Committee members elected in winter of odd numbered year to begin serving at the Post Convention meeting of the odd numbered year. Elected members serve for a two-year term with an option for a second two-year term. (Committee members appointed do not have a term limit restriction.)

SECTION 4 - Procedure

All requests submitted to the Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee must be in writing and include date of request, rationale and be signed by the person/committee chairman making the request. (Standing Rule #29). Requests should be received not less than six (6) weeks prior to the next

Board of Directors Meeting.

Notification of decision with rationale will be given to the person/committee chairman making the request when decision has been made. If approved within the Bylaws Committee, the Bylaws/Standing Rule will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Standing Rules may be amended or adopted by vote of the Board of Directors only. Bylaws submitted for adoption or amending shall adhere to ARTICLE XXIII.

SECTION 5 - Duties

The Bylaws Committee duties include but are not limited to:

- a. Immediately following the Winter Board of Directors meeting, all Bylaw changes to be addressed at the Annual Convention must be prepared and forwarded to *The Florida Gardener* Chairman for the Spring Issue. This is in accordance with ARTICLE XXIII, Amendments, Section 1.
- b. Immediately following the Annual Convention, a list of all Bylaws and Standing Rules adopted from one convention through the year to the next Annual Meeting are to be prepared and submitted:
 - (1) In the even number year to be published in the BOI Supplement; and
 - (2) In the odd number year (end of each administration) the Master Bylaws and Standing Rules need to be updated for publishing in the Book of Information.
- c. Immediately following the Annual Convention, the Master Bylaws and Standing Rules are updated on the website.

ARTICLE XVII - SEEK CONFERENCE

(Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge)

The SEEK Conference is held annually at various locations throughout Florida for students entering Grades 10-12. The mission is to increase student environmental literacy through hands-on and field-based educational experiences, to inspire student interest and involvement in environmental conversation and protection, and to promote student development of environmental stewardship ethics as well as environmental career opportunities.

SECTION 1 - Structure

- a. The Chairman of SEEK shall be appointed by the FFGC President.
- b. A Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the FFGC President after consultation with the Chairman.
- c. The FFGC Treasurer may serve as the Treasurer of SEEK unless an Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the FFGC President for this purpose.
- d. The SEEK Chairman and SEEK Vice Chairman shall serve as members of the FFGC Board of Directors. Other SEEK committee members will not serve on the Board of Directors in that capacity but may serve on the FFGC Board of Directors in another capacity.
- e. All paid staff or those receiving stipend, shall be contracted annually with contracts signed by the FFGC President. All staff shall be fingerprinted and vetted by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Level II background check or equivalent.
- f. Volunteers shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a DCF Level II background check or equivalent.

SECTION 2 - Finances (as listed in FFGC Bylaws ARTICLE V, Section 4, Special Funds)

- a. The budget for the SEEK Conference shall be prepared and presented annually by the Chairman and Vice Chairman for approval by the Finance Committee in September, prior

to being presented for approval by the FFGC Board of Directors at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

- b. The Operating Fund shall be maintained and all invoiced bills paid promptly by the Treasurer, SEEK Chairman or designate.
- c. All donations for Scholarships/Financial Aid to the general operating fund shall be acknowledged in writing and used for the purpose intended/indicated.
- d. Insurance will be required as deemed necessary for the protection of FFGC. The FFGC Insurance Chairman should be consulted.

SECTION 3 - Operations

- a. The Chairman shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all conference programs in accordance with established Policies and Procedures.
- b. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Registrar shall be responsible for managing attendee registrations and scholarships.

ARTICLE XVIII - WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

The Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC), held annually at Wekiwa Springs State Park, Apopka, Fl shall be executed under the current 25-year formal Agreement (DEP Contract R2498, expiring 2047) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Parks and Recreation. The Purpose is *“a youth camp with major program emphasis on nature appreciation, preservation, and conservation, for the education and enjoyment of youth.”*

SECTION 1 - Structure

- a. The Chairman of the Wekiva Youth Camp (WYC) shall be appointed by the FFGC President. The Chairman shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all camp programs in accordance with established Policies and Procedures including Financial Aid decisions.
- b. WYC Vice Chairman and WYC Treasurer shall be appointed by the FFGC President after consultation with the Chairman. All other committee members will be appointed by the WYC Chairman.
- c. The FFGC Treasurer may also serve as the Treasurer of WYC unless an Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the FFGC President for this purpose.
- d. The WYC Chairman, WYC Vice Chairman and the WYC Treasurer shall serve as members of the FFGC Board of Directors. Other WYC Committee members will not serve on the Board of Directors in that capacity but may serve on the FFGC Board of Directors in another capacity.
- e. All paid staff shall be contracted annually and contracts signed by the FFGC President. All paid staff shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Level II background check or equivalent.
- f. Volunteers, and others as deemed necessary, shall be fingerprinted and vetted by a DCF Level II background check or equivalent.

SECTION 2 - Finances (as listed in FFGC Bylaws Article V, Section 4, Special Funds)

- a. The annual budget for the Wekiva Youth Camp shall be prepared by the Chairman and WYC Treasurer (with input from committee) and presented for approval by the Finance Committee in September prior to being presented for approval by the Board of Directors at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. The Operating Fund shall be maintained by the WYC Treasurer, and all invoiced bills paid promptly by the WYC Treasurer or designate.
- c. A Building and Maintenance (B&M) Fund shall be maintained by the WYC Treasurer and

used for approved purchases related to FFGC fixed assets at camp. For purchases over three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00), three bids shall be obtained, and purchase approved by the FFGC Finance Committee.

- d. All donations for camperships/Financial Aid to the operating fund or to the B&M Fund shall be acknowledged in writing and used for the purpose intended/indicated.
- e. Insurance will be required as designated in the formal Agreement between FFGC and the DEP and as deemed necessary for the protection of FFGC.

SECTION 3 - Operations

- a. The Registrar shall be responsible for managing camper registration (credit cards and cash payments) and camper cabin assignments.
- b. Wekiva Volunteer Training (WVT) shall be held annually in February. Chairman for this training shall be appointed by the FFGC President.
- c. Program Coordinators shall be responsible to the WYC Chairman for program curriculum, planning and execution.

ARTICLE XIX - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 - Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be established by the President or the Board of Directors as necessary to carry out the purposes of FFGC. These Committees shall conform, insofar as practicable, to those of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

SECTION 2 - Special Committees

Special Committees may be appointed by the President.

SECTION 3 - Members of the Board of Directors

- a. The members of the Board of Directors, except the FFGC Nominating Committee Chairman, Headquarters and Endowment Trustees Chairman, and Strategic Planning Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each term subject to the approval of the Officers, District Directors and Former FFGC Presidents and Early Appointments to the Board of Directors. Subsequent appointments of Members to the Board of Directors shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. The Chairman of each Committee shall attend all Board meetings and submit reports as directed.
- c. The Chairman of each Committee, except the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee and the Headquarters and Endowment Trustees, shall select the Committee members.
- d. Following the final report of a Special Committee Chairman, that chairman may continue to be a member of the Board of Directors in that capacity through convention of that year.

SECTION 4 - Committee Lists

The Corresponding Secretary shall maintain a list of all Standing and Special Committees.

ARTICLE XX - PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1 - The official publications of FFGC shall be:

- a. *The Florida Gardener*
- b. *Book of Information*
- c. *FFGC Calendar*; and
- d. *Florida Garden Club Manual*

SECTION 2 - Other official publications may be authorized by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3 - Guidelines for these publications shall be established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XXI - DISTRICTS

SECTION 1 - Structure

- a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.
(2) Districts shall be established with boundaries defined by the FFGC Board of Directors.
- b. All member Clubs within the designated boundaries shall comprise District membership.
- c. Each district shall be represented by a District Director who shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
- d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the FFGC Board of Directors, provided such transfer was previously approved by the Directors of the respective Districts and their District Board of Directors.
- e. Bylaws for Districts are generally not required. Policies and Procedures are usually adequate. However, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures must conform to FFGC Bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation and/or District Bylaws must be reviewed by the FFGC Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee prior to District approval.

SECTION 2 - District Directors

- a. Each District Director shall:
 - (1) Coordinate and promote the purposes of FFGC;
 - (2) Appoint District Chairmen as deemed necessary; and
 - (3) Preside at all District Meetings.
- b. Each District Director shall attend FFGC Board of Directors meetings; and
 - (1) Present a report of District activities;
 - (2) Organize Garden Clubs within the District and submit membership applications and resignations;
 - (3) Report Circles formed or disbanded within Garden Clubs organized on the Circle Plan; and
 - (4) Submit membership applications of Councils.

SECTION 3 - Elections

a. District Nominating Committee

- (1) A Nominating Committee of three (3) members shall be elected at the FALL District Meeting in odd-numbered years.
- (2) The Committee shall submit at the following SPRING District meeting (even numbered years) one (1) nominee, and an alternate for the FFGC Nominating Committee. The Committee shall submit at the following FALL District Meeting (even numbered years) one (1) nominee for the office of District Director.
- (3) Nominations may be made from the floor.
- (4) Elections shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, the vote may be by voice.

b. District Directors

- (1) A District Director shall be elected in each District at the FALL District Meeting in even-numbered years.
- (2) Any District Club member shall be eligible for the office of District Director.
- (3) The term of office shall be for two (2) years and shall begin at the close of the convention following election.
- (4) A director shall be ineligible for two (2) consecutive terms.
- (5) Vacancies shall be filled by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

c. FFGC Nominating Committee Member

- (1) One (1) member of the FFGC Nominating Committee and one (1) alternate shall be elected in each District at the SPRING District Meeting in even-numbered years.
- (2) To serve as a member or alternate, the nominee shall have served at least two (2) years on the FFGC Board of Directors within the last four (4) years immediately preceding the election.
- (3) In the event the elected member or alternate cannot attend the scheduled meetings of the Nominating Committee, the Director or Assistant Director of that District shall represent their District as the voting member.

SECTION 4 - Finances

Districts are required to obtain individual TIN number in order to become unique organization for IRS tax filing purposes. A 501(c)(3) is not required in most instances.

SECTION 5 - Meetings

- a. At least two (2) District meetings shall be held annually, one (1) in the spring and one (1) in the fall, the places and dates to be determined by the President and the District Director.
- b. The number of delegates and alternates to District meetings shall be the same as for the Annual Convention as prescribed in ARTICLE XI, Representation.
- c. Additional delegates at District meetings shall include the District Director, the Assistant Director(s), each District Officer, each District Chairman, each former District Director, and each member of the FFGC Board of Directors living within the District.
- d. The names of all delegates and alternates shall be registered ten (10) days prior to each district meeting.
- e. A delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- f. In the event of a National/State Emergency, an Electronic/Telephone meeting may be scheduled to conduct necessary business of the District. The protocol for this meeting is developed by the District using the Bylaws/Standing Rules of the District and guidelines of Standing Rules #24 and #25. Two consecutive meetings of a District may not be cancelled.

ARTICLE XXII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of FFGC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XXIII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 - These bylaws may be amended at any FFGC Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Board of Directors for approval, and a copy of the approved amendments shall have been sent to each member Club at least four (4) weeks prior to convention.

SECTION 2 - Without the prescribed notice, these Bylaws may be amended at any annual convention by unanimous vote.

SECTION 3 - In the event of National/State Emergency, the Bylaws may be amended invoking The Florida Statutes 617.0207 Emergency Bylaws and 617.0303 Emergency Powers. Bylaws approved invoking the Florida Statutes will be in effect until the termination of the emergency. The Bylaws approved during the time of the National/State Emergency must stand adoption by

the delegates at the next FFGC Annual Convention.

SECTION 4 - These Bylaws may be revised only upon the authority of the convention body.

Revised May 1, 1980	Amended April 21, 2001
Amended April 28, 1983	Amended April 17, 2002
Amended April 23, 1986	Amended April 30, 2003
Amended April 29, 1987	Amended April 30, 2005
Amended April 20, 1988	Amended May 2012
Amended April 18, 1989	Amended April 2013
Amended April 18, 1991	Amended April 2015
Amended April 29, 1992	Amended April 2016
Amended April 6, 1993	Amended April 2018
Amended April 27, 1994	Amended April 2019
Amended April 17-18, 1996	Amended April 2020 (Convention cancelled due to Covid 19.)
Amended April 16, 1997	Amended April 2021
Amended April 21, 1999	Amended April 2022
Amended April 25, 2000	Amended April 2023

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
STANDING RULES

1. FEDERATION

- a. The name of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., may be used to endorse any product, lecture, tour or organization only when authorized by the Board of Directors.
- b. The word "Federation" shall not be a part of the name of any other Garden Club or Circle after June 21, 1985.
- c. The official emblem of FFGC may be used for non-commercial purposes by any member group.
- d. The mailing list of FFGC members may be made available for purposes of advertising and soliciting only when authorized by the Board of Directors.

2. FUNDS

- a. The expenditure of FFGC funds by any member shall be subject to approval of the President and the Board of Directors. All bills shall be submitted for approval by December 31 or the monies may be forfeited.
- b. The duly elected FFGC President, FFGC First Vice President, FFGC Second Vice President, FFGC Third Vice President and FFGC Treasurer shall be authorized signers on all FFGC bank accounts during their terms of office. All authorized signers are required to be bonded.
- c. Chairmen of committees involved in income producing activities shall submit tentative budgets to the Finance Committee for review no less than four (4) months prior to the activity. Requests may be submitted by those committees requiring monetary advances after such review.
- d. Chairmen of committees handling funds shall make detailed financial statements to the Finance Committee within six (6) weeks after the activity. Final fiscal reports shall be made to the Finance Committee prior to December 31. Monies remaining in any committee fund except FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp and FFGC SEEK Youth Conference shall be transferred to the appropriate fund prior to December 31.
- d. The official membership roll shall be maintained at Headquarters. A duplicate roll shall be preserved at a location determined to be secure.
- e. An FFGC Contingency Fund of approximately 10% of annually collected member dues will be established and maintained.

3. FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- a. Scholarships established shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. All checks for fellowships or scholarships awarded by FFGC shall be made payable to the university, college or organization concerned, with the stipulation that if the recipient fails to matriculate, withdraws or is dismissed, or fails to maintain a full-time student status, the unused funds, or any portion thereof, shall be returned within thirty (30) days.
- c. Interest accrued during the current year in the Fellowship/Scholarship Fund shall be included in the budget of the succeeding year.
- d. Scholarship Funds shall be available for awards to equal 5% of the average value, as of May 31, of the past three years' Scholarship Funds.

4. HONORS

a. GUARDIAN OF GARDENING

Guardian of Gardening is a high honor given by a club, circle, district, council, or an individual to a garden club member in recognition of outstanding and distinguished service to the mission of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. With the minimum contribution/fee of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) the name of the guardian is engraved on a 3” by 11” Bronze plaque permanently installed on the brick Guardian Wall at FFGC Headquarters. Complete the Guardian of Gardening form and send with a check for fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to FFGC Headquarters for the H&E Fund. The form will be forwarded to the H&E Chairman. For information or questions, contact the H&E chairman.

b. PATRON

Patron is an honor given by a club, circle, district, council or an individual to a garden club member in recognition of dedicated service to the mission of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. With the minimum contribution/fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) the patron’s name is engraved on a Brass plate and mounted on the Patron’s Plaque at FFGC Headquarters. Please complete the Patron form and send with a check for five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to FFGC Headquarters for the H&E Fund. The form will be forwarded to the H&E Chairman. For information or questions, contact the H&E Chairman.

c. HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame is awarded to an individual who has made a special contribution to their club, community, or a particular phase of garden club work. It may be requested by FFGC Garden Clubs, Districts, Board of Directors, or other groups affiliated with FFGC. The FFGC President may choose, during their term of office, to award the Hall of Fame of Fame to individuals who have made a special contribution to the administration. The Hall of Fame application form must be completed and signed by no less than two club or circle officers (as the case may be) and received by the Chairman no less than four weeks prior to the presentation date. The minimum contribution/fee is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) made payable to FFGC. The recipient is presented with a certificate and pin. Recognition will be presented at the appropriate place.

d. EARTH STEWARD

An Earth Steward is one who has been recognized for outstanding efforts in the Stewardship of our natural resources in the field of gardening, landscape design, education or legislation. The Earth Steward application form must be completed and sent to the Chairman by an individual, a club or a circle. The minimum contribution/fee is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and goes to the Color Our Garden Fund, a part of the Headquarters and Endowment budget for the continued stewardship and care of the grounds at FFGC Headquarters. The recipient is presented with a certificate and pin. Recognition will be presented at the appropriate place.

e. BRICKS ALONG THE GARDEN PATH

Bricks are available for purchase to honor individuals, clubs, programs, special occasions, years of service, etc. Each brick is placed along one of the garden paths at FFGC Headquarters. Form is to be completed including the inscription. The minimum contribution/fee is fifty dollars (\$50.00) to be placed in the H&E Fund.

f. PILLAR OF PRIDE

This honor was established to provide special recognition for members of pride, purpose and productivity in garden club work. The Pillar of Pride application must be completed and returned with the minimum contribution/fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the Chairman. Honorees are presented with a certificate and pin. Recognition will be presented at the appropriate place.

g. FFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This recognition was established for individuals of an FFGC garden club. This can be given by a club, circle, district, council or an individual may honor themselves or another person with an FFGC Life Membership. A Life Member no longer pays FFGC yearly dues. Life Members receive the Florida Gardener for life. The honoree is awarded a certificate, a pin and life membership card. The minimum contribution/fee is three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Recognition will be presented at the appropriate place.

h. DEEP SOUTH LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This recognition was established for individuals, residing in the Deep South Region. The fee for the Deep South Life Membership helps to fund Deep South Scholarship Fund. The honoree receives a certificate and pin. Application form is to be completed and returned with a minimum contribution/fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

i. NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This recognition honors a member or non-member with an expression of gratitude for their dedication to the aims and ideals of NGC. Funds collected are evenly divided between the Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment Fund. Honoree receives a membership card and lifetime subscription to The National Gardener. Application is to be completed and returned with a minimum contribution/fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

5. CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. FFGC Convention contracts are considered and may be executed five (5) years in advance.
- b. Net income from FFGC conventions and their attendant activities shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group. Any deficit shall be assumed by FFGC.
- c. In the event of a national emergency, a convention or a meeting of the Board of Directors may be canceled by the President in concurrence with the Vice-Presidents.
- d. The FFGC portion of net income from Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Conventions shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group. Any deficit shall be assumed by FFGC.

6. FFGC/NGC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

a. Environmental Schools

- (1) Net income shall be shared equally by FFGC, Tri-Council and the hosting group.
- (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and Tri-Council.

b. Gardening Schools

- (1) Net income shall be shared equally by FFGC, Tri-Council and the hosting group.
- (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and Tri-Council.

c. Landscape Design Schools

- (1) Net income shall be shared equally by FFGC, Tri-Council and the hosting group.
- (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and Tri-Council.

- d. FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**
 - (1) Net income after completion of a series from Flower Show Schools shall be shared equally by FFGC, FFSJ and the hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be shared equally by FFGC and FFSJ.
- e. FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIA**
 - (1) Net income from Flower Show School Symposia shall be shared equally by FFGC, FFSJ and by hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be shared equally by FFGC and FFSJ.
- f. FFGC BIENNIAL STATE FLOWER SHOW**
 - (1) FFGC Biennial State Flower Show shall be limited to one (1) during each administration.
 - (2) Net income from FFGC Biennial State Flower Show shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group. Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
 - (3) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and FFSJ.
- g. LEGISLATIVE DAY EVENT**
 - (1) Net income from Legislative Day Event shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
- h. UF/FFGC SHORT COURSE**
 - (1) Net income from UF/FFGC Short Course shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
- i. SHORT COURSE NORTH**
 - (1) Net income from Short Course North shall be shared equally by FFGC and by the hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
- j. TROPICAL SHORT COURSE**
 - (1) Net income from Tropical Short Course shall be shared equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
 - (2) Any deficit shall be assumed equally by FFGC and the hosting group.
- 7. RECORDS RETENTION (Paper and Electronic)**
 - a.** All awards won by FFGC, with the exception of National Garden Clubs Awards shall be retained by FFGC Headquarters. (See current awards on the FFGC website).
 - b.** Electronic copy of records will be maintained as designated by the Executive Committee. These may be stored on FFGC Google Drive or other approved method. No Records may be destroyed without making certain required information is safely stored and available if requested.
 - c.** Expense for required records shall be expense of FFGC with Finance Committee approval.
 - d.** Copies/originals of all FFGC publications, including books or pamphlets written by FFGC members are the property of FFGC and will be electronically retained at Headquarters.
 - e.** The history of FFGC shall be electronically retained at Headquarters and maintained on the FFGC website.
 - f.** The FFGC Treasurer shall annually review the IRS requirements regarding the retention of records. Any needed changes to this Standing Rule shall immediately be forwarded to the FFGC President, the Chairman of H&E Committee, the Chairman of the Bylaws

Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee, The Chairman of Wekiva Youth Camp, the Chairman of SEEK and the Office Coordinator. Members of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers shall adhere to this Standing Rule.

g. Permanent Records:

- (1) Governance records, including the Charter, Amendments to the Charter, the Bylaws, Amendments to the Bylaws and other organizational documents.
- (2) Board and Committee records, including Minutes and documents presented and acted upon during meetings of the Board of Directors, Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Headquarters and Endowment Committee, Wekiva Youth Camp Committee and SEEK Committee.
- (3) Tax records, including all tax returns both Federal and State.
- (4) The IRS Letter of Determination and all correspondence related to it.
- (5) Intellectual Property Records, including copyright and trademark registrations.
- (6) Financial Records, consisting of fiscal year-end financial statements, audits, property records and depreciation schedules.
- (7) Legal Documents including liability letters.

h. The following records shall be maintained for seven years:

- (1) All other financial records and supporting documentation, including Contracts, Licenses, the Annual Convention Financial Records and FFGC State Biennial Flower Show Financial Records.
- (2) Employee/Employment Records for terminated employees, including applications, evaluations, compensation, Worker's Compensation Claims and W4s.

i. General Correspondence shall be maintained for two years.

8. BOOK OF INFORMATION

Information required for the Book of Information shall be sent to FFGC Headquarters by each Club before May1 each year. *Books of Information* shall be distributed as follows:

- a. Two (2) copies to each District Director, one of which shall be retained in District files.
- b. One (1) copy to each Club (for the President) and one (1) copy for each Circle.
- c. One (1) copy to each member of the Board of Directors.
- d. One (1) copy shall remain in the files for the use of the succeeding *Book of Information* Chairman.

9. THE FLORIDA GARDENER

- a. Each Club shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership list and shall notify the FFGC Office Coordinator promptly of changes of names, address, zip code, email address and telephone number, members added and members dropped. Members may access *The Florida Gardener* digitally. If mailed, a legally married couple will receive one copy of *The Florida Gardener*.
- b. The FFGC Life Membership Chairman shall furnish the FFGC Headquarters the name, address, zip code, and the name of the member's Club (and Circle) for each addition or deletion.
- c. Each affiliate members organization shall receive *The Florida Gardener*.
- d. The names of FFGC officers and Board of Directors may be published in *The Florida*

Gardener in the election year. The theme and the message of the incoming President and the message of the retiring President may also be published in an issue.

10. OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS/PUBLICATIONS

- a. Any printed material or publications produced by an appointed Chairman must be approved by the President. All material shall become the property of FFGC and may be copyrighted or trademarked. Consent is required by FFGC to reproduce materials/publications. Originals shall be stored at Headquarters electronically.
- b. Material selected for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) Calendar may appear in local news media prior to being published in the FFGC Calendar. Material having appeared in books, magazines, or other copyrighted or trademarked publications and national media shall not be accepted for the FFGC Calendar.
- c. Disposition of calendars not sold will return to Ways and Means and become the responsibility of the FFGC Third Vice President.

11. FLORIDA FLOWER SHOW JUDGES (FFSJ)

The Florida Flower Show Judges (FFSJ) organization is composed of members accredited by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The President of the Florida Flower Show Judges shall serve on the FFGC Board of Directors acting as a liaison between FFGC and FFSJ.

12. TRI-COUNCIL OF FFGC

The Tri-Council of FFGC organization is comprised of members provisional and/or accredited as a Consultant by National Garden Clubs, Inc. in one or more of the following: Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design. The President of Tri-Council shall serve on the FFGC Board of Directors acting as liaison between FFGC and Tri-Council.

13. ENDORSEMENTS FOR FFGC OFFICERS

- a. Each candidate will submit an FFGC Resume Form showing qualifications for the office being sought, support of family, background and other experience relevant to position. The Resume Form (pdf file) may be downloaded from the FFGC website.
- b. A person seeking FFGC office shall be endorsed by a club or circle by **October 30** in the even numbered years. This Letter of Endorsement (one page only) shall be received by the Chairman of the FFGC Nominating Committee by **November 15**, in the even numbered year. A District may **NOT** endorse a candidate.
- c. Three Letters of Recommendations (one page only) stating specific reasons for recommendation of candidate to position sought shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the FFGC Nominating Committee by **November 15**, in the even numbered year. Former FFGC Presidents and current FFGC President may **NOT** write Letters of Recommendation.
- d. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee will send the submitted Letter of Endorsement and three (3) Letters of Recommendation to the FFGC Nominating Committee members along with the candidate's resume, including a photograph of the potential candidate, no later than 10 days before the FFGC Nominating Committee convenes. Only original Letter of Endorsement and Letters of Recommendation containing specific qualifications of any endorsed candidate will be considered by the Nominating Committee. Letters are each limited to one page.
- e. All qualified candidates will be interviewed by the FFGC Nominating Committee.
- f. A person seeking FFGC office shall be contacted by the Chairman of the FFGC Nominating Committee or someone designated by the Chairman as to the Committee decision.

- g. Information specific to Nominations/Elections is published in the Elections Manual. The Manual is maintained by the FFGC Nominating Committee Chairman to be used for the nominating committee process and procedures.

14. FFGC PRESIDENT'S PINS/JEWELRY

- a. The FFGC President's pin/jewelry shall be presented at the installation ceremony by the retiring President. The immediate former President representing the FFGC at the National Garden Clubs Convention that same year shall wear the FFGC President's pin/jewelry.
- b. Each Vice President shall be presented with an FFGC pin/jewelry. The FFGC First Vice President's pin/jewelry shall be presented to the incoming First Vice President at the installation ceremony by the outgoing First Vice President. The FFGC Second Vice President's pin/jewelry shall be presented to the incoming Second Vice President at the installation ceremony by the outgoing Second Vice President. The FFGC Third Vice President's pin/jewelry shall be presented to the incoming Third Vice President at the installation ceremony by the outgoing Third Vice President.
- c. Each Executive officer (President, First, Second and Third Vice President) shall sign a Letter of Agreement to return the FFGC pin/jewelry if a situation arises that he/she can no longer perform his/her duties. A copy of this letter shall be kept in the presentation box bearing the pin/jewelry at Headquarters.
- d. Former President's pins/jewelry shall be presented at the installation ceremony by the incoming President. Former Presidents' pins/jewelry are the property of FFGC and should not be altered. The Chairman of the Advisory Council shall be responsible for the inventory of former FFGC Presidents' pins/jewelry. The Chairman of the Advisory Council, prior to the installation ceremony, shall insure that the immediate former President and a member of his/her family sign a Letter of Agreement to return this property to FFGC upon death or when no longer able to represent FFGC. A copy of the letter shall be kept in the presentation box and at FFGC Headquarters.
- e. The NGC pin worn by Mrs. Carroll O. Griffin may be worn by the FFGC President on occasion and shall be maintained in the safe at FFGC Headquarters.
- f. Any additional Former Presidents' pins/jewelry shall be maintained in the safe at FFGC Headquarters. Former President pins/jewelry shall be fabricated by a jeweler of choice in a timely manner as the budget allows. Usable mold for the pin shall be maintained in the safe at FFGC Headquarters.
- f. All FFGC pins/jewelry shall be insured under the FFGC insurance policy and periodically appraised.

15. ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council shall be composed of FFGC Former Presidents. The immediate former President shall be Chairman of the Advisory Council. The Chairman shall be responsible for the inventory of former FFGC Presidents' pins/jewelry. The Advisory Council is charged with advising the current FFGC President or as requested by the Board of Directors. The Advisory Council shall meet at the Fall and Winter Meetings of the FFGC Board of Directors or as requested.

16. PRECIOUS METALS AND GEMSTONES STATUS

- a. A club having a minimum of thirty years membership may apply to FFGC through the District Director for one or more of the following designations: 30 years - silver; 40 years - gold; 50 years - platinum; 60 years - ruby; 70 years - emerald; 75 years - diamond; 80 years - double diamond; 85 years - yellow diamond; 90 years - pink diamond; 95 years

– blue diamond; 100 years – Centenary diamond; and 125 years – blue star sapphire.

b. Precious Metal and Gemstones Certificates for circles will be awarded at club level.

17. FFGC AWARDS

a. ADULT and YOUTH AWARDS

- (1) An FFGC Awards Program shall be developed and maintained. Award description including eligibility therefore, shall be published on the FFGC website. The website shall include the award processes and procedures.
- (2) FFGC shall include in its General Fund budget an amount to fund all FFGC Awards during the fiscal year except as noted for the Flower Show Related Awards.
- (3) The FFGC Awards Committee may secure any FFGC member or other expert in the subject of the award to judge award applications.
- (4) All presentations of FFGC Awards are the responsibility of the FFGC Awards Committee as directed by the FFGC President.
- (5) Proposed awards and award changes shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval and if adopted, published in *The Florida Gardener* and the FFGC website. Proposed new FFGC Awards shall not bear the name of a person, place or organization.
- (6) Awards having no activity for four (4) successive calendar years may be discontinued. The awards proposed for discontinuation shall be announced at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting. Input from the Board shall be solicited at this meeting and taken into consideration by the Awards Committee prior to the final discontinuation of such awards. The final list will be announced at the Pre-Convention Board of Directors meeting.

b. FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

- (1) FFGC Flower Show Achievement Awards See: FFGC website - Awards for specific details. Application requires a Book of Evidence and three (3) Flower Show Evaluations following NGC rules.
- (2) FFGC shall include in its General Fund budget an amount to fund all FFGC Flower Show Awards during the fiscal year.
- (3) Proposed awards and award changes shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval and if adopted, published in *The Florida Gardener* and on the FFGC website. Proposed new awards shall not bear the name of a person, place or organization.

c. FLOWER SHOW RELATED AWARDS

- (1) See the FFGC website – Awards for criteria. These awards may not be altered without consultation with the FFSJ Executive Committee.
- (2) FFSJ accepts the financial responsibility for these awards.

18. POLICIES OF FFGC, INC.

FFGC is committed to incorporating the values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the governance and operation of this Corporation.

a. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. to provide equal membership/employment/service opportunities to all eligible persons and to administer personnel policies and practices in accordance with all applicable laws. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, creed, religion, color, personal appearance, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, family responsibilities, the presence of any sensory, physical or mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, matriculation, membership in any labor

organization, lawful source of income, political affiliation, or political ideology.

- b. ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY** - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. committed to maintaining an environment that is free of harassment. Accordingly, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. will not tolerate harassment of any of our members, employees or others present at our facilities or events by anyone, including any supervisor, co-worker, vendor, client or customer of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

HARASSMENT consists of unwelcome or unwanted conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, that is based upon a person's protected status. Examples of unlawful harassment include words, gestures, stories, jokes or nicknames that are derogatory, demeaning or insulting to a person based upon his or her race, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or other protected attribute.

Sexual harassment deserves special mention. Sexual harassment consists of: unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment/membership, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment/membership decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to the following conduct by any employee/member, whether male or female: Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, offering employment/membership benefits in exchange for sexual favors, making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", jokes about gender-specific traits, making sexual gestures or comments, displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons or postures, impeding or blocking another's movement, physical contact, such as patting, pinching, or brushing against another's body, and continued requests for a date after rejection.

- c. WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY** - Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to operating in furtherance of its tax-exempt purposes and in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including those concerning accounting and auditing, and prohibits fraudulent practices by any of its board members, officers or members. This policy outlines a procedure for members to report actions that a member reasonably believes violates a law, or regulation or that constitutes fraudulent accounting or other practices. This policy applies to any matter which is related to Florida Federation of Garden Club's business and does not relate to private acts of any individual not connected to the business of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

If a member has a reasonable belief that a member has engaged in any action that violates any applicable law, or regulation, including those concerning accounting and auditing, or constitutes a fraudulent practice, the member is expected to immediately report such information to the FFGC President. If the member does not feel comfortable reporting the information to the FFGC President, he or she is expected to

report the information to the First Vice President. All reports will be followed up promptly, and an investigation conducted, in conducting its investigations, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs will strive to keep the identity of the complaining individual as confidential as possible, while conducting an adequate review and investigation. Florida Federation of Garden Clubs may take disciplinary action (up to and including termination of membership) against a member who in the Board's assessment has engaged in retaliatory conduct in violation of this policy.

Board members will be trained on this policy and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' prohibition against retaliation in accordance with this policy.

d. VISITORS TO THE FFGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Visitors in attendance at an FFGC Board Meeting must sign in with the Parliamentarian prior to the Call to Order. Non-members of the Board of Directors may not speak or vote on any issue since they are not a member of the Board of Directors.

- e.** Photographs, videos or recordings of FFGC meetings or activities must be pre-approved and/or announced to participants.

All FFGC Policies are on file at Headquarters.

19. FFGC E-MAIL VOTING GUIDELINES

- a.** FFGC ASSEMBLY and Committees are permitted to conduct business by electronic devices. Justification for e-mail voting should be clearly stated as well as rationale for the motion shall be included. This guideline is for voting and information for a meeting.
- b.** The FFGC President or FFGC Committee Chairman shall present action in the form of a motion and the FFGC Recording Secretary/FFGC Committee Chairman shall send this motion to each member of the voting body by electronic device. This e-mail will include the date and time set by the FFGC President/FFGC Committee Chairman, to call for the vote. (Members who are not voting members of the committee, are entitled to receive the notification.
- c.** Debate and comments, either positive or negative, may be made by any voting member and sent by reply all. During the debate period, the motions may be withdrawn or amended. The date and time to conclude debate shall coincide with the date and time of the call for vote. Time period may vary and will be determined by the FFGC President or Committee Chairman.
- d.** At the end of the time period for debate, the FFGC Recording Secretary/Committee Recording Secretary shall e-mail a ballot on which the motion is stated and a "for" or "against" box is provided, to be returning using reply.
- e.** The FFGC President/Committee Chairman may vote on the motion with other members.
- f.** Changes to an individual vote on the motion may be made up until the time that the FFGC President/Committee Chairman declares that the motion has been adopted/defeated.
- g.** A majority vote of the entire Assembly/Committee shall adopt a motion. A motion will be considered adopted whenever a majority vote of the entire Assembly/Committee has been reached, even if it is before the end of the specified time period.
- h.** The FFGC Recording Secretary or the appointed Committee Secretary shall compile the vote and immediately notify the FFGC President/Committee Chairman when a majority vote of the entire assembly/committee has been reached.
- i.** At the end of the voting period, the FFGC Recording Secretary/Committee Recording Secretary shall send a Teller's Report to the FFGC President/Committee Chairman that

will include:

- (1) Date and time the motion was sent and the polls were open;
 - (2) Number of votes cast;
 - (3) Votes necessary for adoption (majority);
 - (4) Votes for motion;
 - (5) Votes against; and
 - (6) Illegal votes.
- j. Upon request by any committee member, a roll call of the voting will be made available by the FFGC Secretary/Committee Secretary.
 - k. The President/Committee Chairman will immediately declare the result of the vote to all members of the Assembly/Committee by electronic device when notified by the Secretary that a majority has been reached. The Secretary will then send out the Teller's Report at the end of the specified time period of voting.
 - l. The motion, Tellers' Report and the result of the vote shall be ratified and recorded in the Minutes of the next meeting of the Assembly/Committee.

20. FFGC GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRONIC/TELEPHONE MEETINGS

In the event of a declared Emergency of Health or Natural Disaster, the FFGC President or Committee Chairman may call an Electronic/Telephone Conference meeting for the sole purpose of conducting necessary business that requires immediate action.

Many free services are available. All charges incurred are the responsibility of the group scheduling the meeting. FFGC hosts are limited to FFGC Board of Directors, Executive Committee or Standing Committee meetings unless approved by the President. All other called meetings including District Meetings, etc. will have a private host selected by persons scheduling the meeting.

The following rules would apply:

- a. **CONNECTION INFORMATION:** The Corresponding or Recording Secretary shall be sent at least one day prior to the meeting, an email invitation including all information for members to connect to the telephone/video conference. If there is sufficient time, advance notice of the meeting will be sent. Notice is required for all persons eligible to be present at the meeting. Contact may be by phone, email or written notice.
- b. **CALL IN TIME:** On behalf of the group meeting, the Committee Chairman/Host shall schedule a telephone/video conference call, using a free service, to begin with sufficient time for all attendees to sign in prior to the start of the conference meeting. Any charges incurred are the responsibility of the group.
- c. **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE ANNOUNCEMENT:** Members shall announce themselves when joining the conference. Members leaving conference prior to adjournment are noted on screen. Arrival and Departure Announcement should not interrupt a speaker.
- d. **QUORUM CALLS:** The presence of a quorum shall be established by Roll Call at the beginning of a meeting. Any persons not named by the Recording Secretary shall immediately identify themselves and reason for participating in the conference meeting. The quorum established must be present for all votes taken and recorded. The early departure of delegates will reflect in the quorum required for voting.
- e. **OBTAINING THE FLOOR:** To seek recognition by the Chair, a member shall address the Chair with his or her name. (Additional information requested for identifying speaker

may be established such as chairmanship, status, etc.).

- f. **MOTIONS SUBMITTED:** Written motions may be submitted prior to the meeting to the person presiding at the meeting. The presiding member will designate a committee member to forward all pre-submitted motions by email to all members in advance of the meeting. Motions may be submitted orally at the meeting with person stating their name and other identifying information as required.
- g. **VOTING METHODS:** All votes shall be taken by roll call. Unless a fully recorded roll-call vote is required/requested, only the number of votes on each side and the number of members present but not voting shall be entered in the Minutes. Business may be conducted by unanimous consent. A “show of hands” or similar icon on the meeting platform may be utilized unless a roll-call vote is required.
- h. **RECORDING OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the electronic meeting shall be available for approval at the next called meeting. These Minutes will be a part of the permanent records. The meeting will be recorded by the Host.

21. DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (DSGC) REGION DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

- a. **Eligibility for the office of Region Director and for the office of Alternate Director (per DSGC Bylaws):**
 - (1) Have served as President of FFGC for a minimum of two (2) years. In the event FFGC does not have a Nominee who has served a minimum of two (2) years as President of FFGC and is willing to serve, the current President becomes eligible for nomination.
 - (2) Reside within the state of Florida.
 - (3) Have attended a minimum of two DSGC Conventions and may include the DSGC Convention when installed.
 - (4) Have the endorsement of the governing board of FFGC, signed by FFGC President.
- b. **Election, Installation and Term of Office:**
 - (1) The offices of DSGC Region Director and Alternate Director shall be rotated among the Deep South Region states as follows: Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. Should FFGC fail to submit candidates for the offices of Region Director and Alternate Director, it shall yield the right of the offices to the next designated state and not be entitled to the offices again until its designated turn in rotation. (per Deep South Bylaws).
 - (2) The DSGC Region Director shall be elected for a two-year term by the governing board of that Region Director’s State Garden Club in session during the even-numbered year prior to assuming office. (per NGC Bylaws).
 - (3) The incoming Region Director will be installed at the NGC Convention in the odd numbered year following their election in the previous year.
 - (4) The Region Director and Alternate Director shall assume their duties of office for a two-year term at the close of the DSGC Convention in the odd numbered year or until their successors are elected.
 - (5) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Region Director, the Alternate Director shall become Region Director.
- c. **Nomination and Election Procedures to be followed upon Florida’s turn in the rotation list:**

- (1) At the direction of the FFGC President, the Corresponding Secretary shall send letters of solicitations to Eligible FFGC members including:
 - (a) Listing of qualifications; and
 - (b) Request for response letter of interest to serve by March 1st that includes a list of qualifications and background information.
- (2) A listing of Candidates will be published in the CALL for Pre-Convention Meeting in the even numbered year.
- (3) At the Pre-Convention meeting in the even numbered year, two (2) separate elections will be held for the DSGC Region Director and Alternate Director.
- (4) Following the election, the President shall send the name of those elected to NGC.

22. MEMORIALS/EULOGIES POLICIES

- a. Due to space limitation, eulogies or memorials printed in *The Florida Gardener* magazine shall be limited to former National Presidents; former FFGC Presidents; former FFGC Officers and current FFGC Board members, who have given a number of years of devoted service; or, to people who have been special benefactors to FFGC. The FFGC Executive Committee is responsible to decide those persons for inclusion.
- b. A memorial of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be given in the name of FFGC, Inc. to a chosen FFGC project in the event of the death of an active FFGC Board member.

23. GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

- a. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) solicits and accepts gifts for purposes that will further and fulfill its mission. FFGC urges all prospective donors to seek the assistance of personal legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts, including the resulting tax and estate planning. This Agreement is subject to the Corporation's authority to vary the terms of the gift as stated in ARTICLE V, Section 4, b. of the Corporation's Bylaws. The Corporation shall attempt to notify the donor of any decision made to exercise Variance Power.
- b. Gifts from non FFGC sources, with a value of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or more, presented to a member of the FFGC Board of Directors, when representing FFGC, become the property of FFGC and must be disclosed in writing to the Finance Committee. This would not include amenities associated with FFGC events such as Flower Show participation at EPCOT for participants as designer or host/hostess.
- c. Hotel/Air/Car/Van Rental points, accrued by the FFGC President during said administration, are the property of FFGC and are to be transferred to the incoming President at the beginning of each administration.
- d. The Board of Directors reserves the privilege to accept or reject gifts to FFGC.

24. REQUEST TO BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Requests should be received at least two weeks prior to the Board of Directors or Convention meeting. All requests will be addressed as soon as possible with emergency requests taking precedence. A response to the person/committee making the request will be made by email/telephone or in person to indicate action taken or continued review. Persons acquainted with the subject matter may be asked for input.

25. CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Conflict of Interest Policy is intended to protect the Corporation's interests, is designed to help directors, officers and employees of FFGC identify situations that present potential conflicts of interest and provides the FFGC with a procedure that, if observed, will allow a transaction to be treated as valid and binding even though a director, officer or employee

has of may have a conflict of interest with respect to the transaction.

- a. **Definition of Conflicts of Interest** - A conflict of interest arises when a person in position of authority over the Corporation may benefit **financially** from a decision he or she could make in that capacity, including indirect benefits such as to family members or businesses with which the person is closely associated. This policy is focused upon material financial interest of, or benefit to, such persons.
- b. **Persons of Authority** - Only one family (defined as parent, child, sibling, spouse) may serve as an FFGC Officer during the same period of time. Effective with term of office beginning April 2019.
- c. **Individuals Covered** - Persons covered by this policy are the Corporation's Officers, Board of Directors and employed office staff.
- d. **Facilitation of Disclosure** - Persons covered by this policy will annually disclose or update their interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest (such as list of family members, substantial business or investment holdings and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members. This disclosure should be in writing to the FFGC President: Headquarters & Endowment Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee. In the solicitation of bids, it is mandatory that any relationships to those persons/companies submitting bids be disclosed.
- e. **Procedures to Manage Conflicts** - Interests disclosed to the FFGC President; Headquarters & Endowment Chairman and Chairman of Finance Committee will be reviewed and a determination made whether to (a) take no action; (b) **assure** full disclosure to the Board of Directors and other individuals covered by this policy; (c) ask the person to recuse oneself from participation in related discussions or decisions within the Corporation; or (d) ask the person to resign from the position in the Corporation or, if the person refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal. The Corporation's President, Chairman of Headquarters & Endowment and Chairman of the Finance Committee will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions for conflicts of interest.

26. **TRANSFER OF CONVENTION HOTEL POINTS EACH ADMINISTRATION**

The hotel points accrued each administration from the annual conventions shall be transferred from administration to administration. It is the responsibility of the Incumbent President to alert the President-Elect in October (even year) prior to installation that hotel accounts need to be established to receive hotel points for use by the incoming administration for tour use. The account numbers of both parties will be kept at Headquarters along with the passwords for each account. Passwords should include some identification form of name and term years.

27. **AMENDING THE STANDING RULES**

The Bylaws of FFGC govern the structure and operation of the Corporation. FFGC Standing Rules amplify the Bylaws, clarifying procedures and practices followed in carrying out the Corporation's activities. Standing Rules are more flexible and can be created, amended or stricken after presentation by the Bylaws Committee to the Board of Directors followed by a majority vote of the FFGC Board of Directors.

Revised: 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2022; Jan. 2023, April 2023