

Plum beach Garden Club Meeting

October 8, 2019

Marion Bartkiewicz welcomed members and thanked our hostesses, Sheila Skiffington, Brenda Johnston, Judith Bitting, Sharon Pickering, and Diana Geisler. The succulent filled pumpkin, made by Sheila Skiffington and Brenda Johnston will be raffled off. Guests were introduced, Paula Childs, Carol Semonian, and Meredith Moody.

Joan Peet made a motion to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Kathy Romeo.

Marion passed around the collection box for the Federation's Penny Pines fundraiser.

Treasurer, Ellen Abell, reported we have \$21,768.64 in the bank. She asked that those members who need to pay for nametags or daffodils to please pay Marion.

1st VP, Kathy Romeo, reported from the last Federation meeting:

- Betty Ann Taylor, long time active member, passed away
- Every Garden Club will be given a tree for Arbor Day
- There are currently 12 Blue Star memorials in the state, the Federation is encouraging more Clubs to get involved
- Annual meeting is April 23
- Education Day is November 20 at Roger Williams Park Casino. Many workshops are offered, you can bring your lunch or pay \$10 to purchase lunch.
- Annual Holiday Luncheon is December 5th at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Please let Kathy know if you are interested in attending any of these events.
- Next Federation meeting is October 24

Kathy reminded members of the referendum scheduled for November 5th pertaining to the renovation of the Old Town Hall. She felt it is important to educate ourselves and get out and vote.

Elaine Lemieux, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for 2020/2021, to be voted on at the November meeting.

- President- Kathy Romeo
- 1st VP- Darlene Vincent
- 2nd VP/ Program Chair-Elaine Lemieux
- Treasurer- Barbara Dawson
- Recording Secretary- Diane Devine
- Corresponding Secretary-Judith Bitting
- Members at Large- Jane Brockway and Marsha King

2nd VP, Linda Hughes, reported that John Campanini, from the RI Tree Council would be joining us around 10:30. Our November speaker had to cancel so she is working on a hands on

project. She asked if members would be willing to pay a minimal materials fee. Members agreed that would be okay.

Judith Bitting, Corresponding Secretary, read a thank you note from Diane Devine for the orchid she received after surgery. She also read a note from Kathy Romeo thanking members for their support and donations to the Club in memory of her sister, Nancy Davey. Sue Colby shared that Carol Gjelsvik's husband had a serious fall and she felt Carol would welcome hearing from members.

Committee Reports

Barbara Dawson, Awards, reported that she is struggling to identify another program for an award since most had received previous awards. She will apply again for recognition of our website and the Meals on Wheels Program was mentioned as a possibility. Barbara would be in touch with Betsy Ray, Chair of the Design Committee, for information.

Nancy Beck, Birds and Conservation, shared some facts about dragonflies. Dragonflies are prehistoric and range in size from 2 inches to 2 feet. They have 4 sets of wings and can fly in any direction and hover in place. They mate in midair and fly across the Indian Ocean, approximately 11,000 miles. Their primary source of food is mosquitoes and can consume as many as 3,200 per day.

Linda Sollitto, Civic Beautification, thanked Barbara Dawson and Sheila Skiffington for helping to plant 100 Vinca plants at the NK police station. The police department paid for the plants and some mulch. She reminded members of the monthly cleanup at OLP on Friday, unless it is raining. She also thanked Barbara Halavik and Kathy Shippee for help at the Ann Wallau Garden.

Betsy Coghlin, Horticulture, thanked Kathy Romeo, Brenda Johnston, Donnalee Fronce, and Martha Parks for helping at the Gilbert Stuart Garden. She would like to do a major over-haul of these gardens in the spring.

Sharon Pickering, Membership, reported that there are 48 active members, 2 associate, 5 honorary, and 1 on the wait list.

Diana Geisler, Nursing Home Project, gave an overview of the project and reported that on Oct 3, the team did a workshop at South County Rehabilitation. On October 24th they will be at Roberts Nursing Home.

Karen Pizzaruso, Publicity, reported we are very popular with our community, we receive many kudos and much applause on our Facebook page.

Kathy Barrette, Webmaster, said that she is now posting our approved minutes on our website.

Gail Stokes, Yearbook, asked for help with the Word program they use for the yearbook. Jan Lewis and Sue Colby said they had some knowledge and experience with different programs and were willing to help. She also agreed to offer a workshop at her home for 5-6 people. The first one is scheduled for October 23rd at 1:30. A second one will be held on November 6th at 1:30. Members let Gail know they were interested. She also encouraged us to use the member's forum on the website.

Donnalee Fronce, Youth Education, reported they conducted the pollinator unit at the last of the 5 NK schools in May. There were 45 students that enjoyed a classroom lesson and then helped plant milkweed plants.

Cynthia Corbridge for Carol Gjelsvik, Pollinator Project, handed out a flyer about a URI study by Steve Alms on the decline of bumble bees in RI. He is looking for individuals to send him dead bees for studying.

Barbara Halavik, Daffodil Project, announced that 3,000 daffodils have arrived and she had the daffodils that members ordered with her. They can pick them up after the meeting and to please pay Marion.

Marion reminded members to bring their checks for donation to the NK Food Pantry to the November meeting. As usual, the Club will match up to \$500.

Marion expressed concern and disappointment about the turn out to last month's program at the Roger Williams Botanical Gardens. While 15 had registered only 9 showed up. It is important to let the Program Director know about any changes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Devine, Recording Secretary