

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
**86<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky May 15– 17, 2015  
 Call to Order President Linda G. Nelson called the meeting of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. to order at 2:26 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky and welcomed those in attendance.

The Recording Secretary, Carol L. Hall was present.

Opening Exercises Valerie C. Tipps, Vice - Chaplain, gave the invocation.

The colors were presented by the American Revolution Dr. V. Edward Master Memorial Color Guard.

The “*Battle Hymn of the Republic*” was sung by Keith Dean.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Lynn Ehnert, Youth Awards Chairman.

A Proclamation from Louisville Mayor Hon. Greg Fischer was read.

Greetings were received from Nicole Caslaneda, Crowne Plaza Meetings Manager.

Martha Morgan, South Atlantic Region Director, gave the welcome to the Region.

Joanna D. Kirby, President Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. welcomed all to the state of Kentucky.

Deannie Picciott, President, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., Inc. gave the response.

Preliminary Credentials Report Sally K. Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following Preliminary Credentials Report as of 2:00 p.m. May 2, 2014 with a voting strength of 393 and moved its adoption.

NGC President	1
NGC Honorary President	1
NGC Elected Officers	5
NGC Appointed Officers	4
Region Directors	8
Advisory Committee	6
PH&E Trustees	5
State Presidents	49
Representatives of State Presidents	1
NGC Chairmen	145
NGC Standing Committee Members	85
Delegates	<u>119</u>
Subtotal	429
Less duplications	<u>36</u>
Total Voting Strength	393

**ADOPTED**

Quorum The Chair declared a quorum present.

Standing Rules of the 2014 Convention Joan H. Corbisiero, Parliamentarian, read the Standing Rules of the 2015 Convention for adoption.

**ADOPTED BY 2/3 VOTE**

Ann M. Fiel, 2015 Convention Chairman, moved the adoption of the convention

Convention Program

agenda as corrected.

**ADOPTED**

Preliminary Registration Report

Kay Fisher, 2015 Convention Registration Committee Chairman, gave the Registration Report as of 2:00 p.m. May 15, 2015 for information only.

Registration	393
Spouses	37
Guests	17
Non-voting Garden Club members	<u>161</u>
Total Registration	608

Committee to Approve Minutes

The President appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of the 2014 Convention Meeting:

Nancy L. Hargroves, Second Vice-President, as Chairman  
Gay Austin, Third Vice-President  
Robin Pokorski, Corresponding Secretary

Timekeepers

The President appointed the following to serve as timekeepers:

Andrea Little, Blue Star Memorial Markers Chairman  
Barbara Baker, Organization Study Committee Member

Tellers

The President appointed the following to serve as tellers:

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Finance Committee, as Head Teller  
Joan Craig, Golden Circle  
Betty Cookendorfer, Bylaws Chairman  
Bonni L. Dinneen, GSS Accrediting Chairman (C,SC)

Pages

The President acknowledged the pages present:

Paula Hyatt, Page to the President  
Teresa Walker, Page to the President-Elect

Award of Excellence Award

President Nelson presented Brian Vogt of Denver Botanic Gardens with the NGC Award of Excellence #23.

Welcome

The President welcomed Deen Day Sanders, Honorary NGC Life President and former NGC President (1999-2001) and former NGC Presidents Lois Dupre' Schuster (2001-2003), Kitty Larkin (2005-2007), Renee D. Blaschke, (2009-2011), and Shirley S. Nicolai, Immediate Past-President (2011-2013).

The President recognized the Region Directors:

Maria Nahom, New England; Mary Warshauer, Central Atlantic; Martha Morgan, South Atlantic; Gloria Blake, Deep South; Gerry Ford, Central; Nancy C. Voyles, South Central; Beverly Heidelberger, Rocky Mountain; Elaine Gunderson, Pacific

The President recognized the PH&E Trustees:

Marge McGoff, Jeanette Pruin, Les Westgard, Renee D. Blaschke and Shirley S. Nicolai, Director.

Report of the Committee To Approve the Minutes

Nancy L. Hargroves, Chairman of the committee to approve the minutes of the May 2014 Convention meeting in Norman, Oklahoma reported that the minutes were approved and circulated.

Reports of Officers

The following officers reported (copies on file):

Linda G. Nelson, President  
Sandra H. Robinson, President-Elect, Liaison to State Garden Club  
Presidents and Region Directors, Membership Chairman  
Nancy L. Hargroves, Second Vice-President, Finance Committee, and  
Internal Audit Committee Chairman  
Gay Austin, Third Vice-President, Organization Study and

Award of Excellence Committee Chairman  
 Carol L. Hall, Recording Secretary  
 Betty Grimes, Treasurer and Budget Committee Chairman  
 Robin Pokorski, Corresponding Secretary  
 Pamela C. Hebert, Historian  
 Joan H. Corbisiero, Parliamentarian  
 Shirley S. Nicolai, PH&E Trustees Director

Memorial Service Valerie C. Tipps, Vice-Chaplain conducted the Memorial Service in remembrance of departed garden club members.

*“Amazing Grace”* was sung by Keith Dean.

Adjourn The opening business session adjourned at 3:50 p.m. to reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Call to Order The President reconvened the business meeting at 9:31 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Invocation Alexis Slafer, Landscape Design Schools Accrediting Chairman (SA,DS,C), gave the invocation.

Interim Credentials Report Sally K. Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following interim Credentials Report as of 9:00 a.m. May 16, 2015 with a voting strength of 421 and moved its adoption.

NGC President	1
NGC Honorary President	1
NGC Elected Officers	5
NGC Appointed Officers	4
Region Directors	8
Advisory Committee	6
PH&E Trustees	5
State Presidents	49
Representatives of State Presidents	1
NGC Chairmen	148
NGC Standing Committee Members	88
Delegates	<u>141</u>
Subtotal	457
Less duplications	<u>36</u>
Total Voting Strength	421

**ADOPTED**

Interim Registration Report Kay Fisher, 2015 Convention Registration Chairman, gave the interim Registration Report as of 9:00 a.m. May 16, 2015 for information only.

Voting Strength	421
Spouses	39
Guests	31
Non-voting Garden Club members	<u>165</u>
Total Registration	656

Nominating Committee Report Carol L. Hall, Recording Secretary, read the bylaws pertinent to the election of officers.  
 Wanda S. Davis, Nominating Committee Chairman, introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and submitted the slate of officers for 2015 – 2017 as nominated by the committee:

Nancy L. Hargroves, First Vice-President  
 Gay L. Austin, Second Vice-President

Mary Warshauer, Third Vice-President  
Shirley Tetreault, Recording Secretary  
Treasurer, Betty Grimes

Election of Officers As there were no other nominations from the floor, the election was held by voice vote and all of the above were elected.

Sandra H. Robinson, President-Elect, will serve as President.

Report of the Board of Directors Carol L. Hall, Recording Secretary, reported that the Board of Directors had met two times since the last convention in Norman, Oklahoma – at the 2014 Fall Board Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, and prior to the 2015 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on May 15. Informational sheets reflecting actions taken were distributed to the board members and delegates.

Budgets Betty Grimes, Treasurer, presented the 2015-2016 annual budgets of the General Fund, the Scholarship Fund and the Operation Wildflower Fund for adoption.

**ADOPTED**

The 2014-2015 annual budget for the PH&E Fund, adopted by the Board of Directors, was presented for information only.

Gold Star Families Gold Star Families President Patti Smith addressed the convention and expressed appreciation that NGC was expanding the Blue Star Memorial Markers Program allowing Gold Star Families to sponsor Gold Star Markers.

International Affiliates Sara Lambarri, IA Activities Chairman and Sylvia Wray, IA FSS Chairman reported. (copy on file)

Reports of Region Directors and State Presidents The following Region Directors and State Presidents or their representatives reported. (copies on file)

South Atlantic Region – Martha Morgan, Director

Joanna D. Kirby	The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.
Jenene Smith	The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
Yvonne Morris	The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
Marilyn J. Mason	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Judy Guye, President-Elect	West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.

Central Region – Gerry Ford, Director

Carol Yee	The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
Sarah Nahmias	The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.
Sandra R. Wales	Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
Deannie Picciotti	Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Rene Lynch	Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc.
Joyce Lewis	Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.
Sylvia Lowell	Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

New England Region – Maria Nahom, Director

Jacqueline L. Connell	The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.
Kathleen J. Marty	The Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc.
Marisa G. McCoy	The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
Michelle Mensinger	New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Kathleen Moore, President-Elect	Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Rita B. Langlais	Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.

Recess The business session recessed at 11:13 a.m. to reconvene after luncheon.

Call to Order The President called the business meeting of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order at 2:46 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Report of Special Committee to Study Alternate Revenue Sources Les Westgard, Chairman of special committee appointed at the Fall 2014 Board Meeting to study alternative sources of revenue reported for the committee.

Amendments to Bylaws Nancy L. Hargroves, Second Vice-President and Chairman of the Finance Committee moved the following bylaw amendments for adoption:

**PAGE 18, ARTICLE XVI – COMMITTEES, Section 4. INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**INSERT new 4.** Have the authority and responsibility to proceed to final draft of the audit with the external auditors.

**ADOPTED BY 2/3 VOTE**

**PAGE 5, ARTICLE VII – DUES, FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS Section 1. DUES, A.** Currently reads:

A. Annual dues of each State Garden Club shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per capita on all categories of members, including NGC Life Members

**STRIKE** “fifty cents (\$.50)” **and INSERT** “one dollar (\$1.00)

**Proviso: Effective June 1, 2016**

**ADOPTED BY 2/3 VOTE**

Motion for unanimous consent for additional Proviso that, effective June 1, 2018, dues would be \$2.00 per capita was objected to.

Reports of the Region Directors and State Presidents The following Region Directors and State Presidents or their representatives reported (copies on file):

Central Atlantic Region – Mary Warshauer, Director  
 Dottie E. Howatt The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs  
 Jacquelyn A. Handley The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.  
 David S. Healy National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Barbara Mullin The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.  
 Patricia Wania Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.  
 Mickie Marquis The Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.  
 Sharon Brown, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, Inc.  
 President-Elect

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m to reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on May 17, 2015.

Call to order The President called the business meeting of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order at 10:00 a. m. on Sunday May 17, 2015.

invocation Lana Finegold, Multiple Refreshers Chairman gave the invocation.

Reports of Region Directors and State Presidents The following Region Directors and State Presidents or their representatives reported. (copies on file)

Pacific Region – Elaine Gunderson, Director  
 Becky Hassebroek Alaska Garden Clubs  
 Carol Mossholder Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Rita Desilets California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Ann M. Swider Hawaii Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Janet Petersen Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.  
 Vicki Yuen Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Peggy Olin The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Brynn Tavasci Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

South Central Region – Nancy C. Voyles, Director  
 Liz Howell Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Isabel Olsen New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Roberta Burns Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Sarah E. McReynolds Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

Rocky Mountain Region – Beverly Heidelberger, Director  
 Trudie Layton Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Jackie Watts, Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 President-Elect  
 Denise A. Fink Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Donna R. Rouch Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska  
 Angie Maetzold North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs  
 Mary K. Lerssen South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Doug Olson Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Darla Anderson The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Region – Gloria Blake, Director  
 Trece Chancellor The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.  
 Arlene Rand Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 President-Elect  
 Martha Price The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.  
 Yvette Hebert Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc  
 Mary Lynn Powers The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.  
 Ann McCormick Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Reports of Chairmen The following Committee Chairmen reported (copies on file).  
 Elaine Gunderson, Ames Liaison, Garden Tools 4 Garden Projects Chairman  
 Andrea Little, Blue Star Memorial Markers Chairman  
 Debbie Skow, NGC Native Bees/BeeGAP/Crown Bees Chairman  
 Report read by the Corresponding Secretary  
 Marion McNabb, Butterflies Chairman  
 Jan Warshauer, *Vision of Beauty* Calendar Chairman  
 SAGE and ROSES – Winners of Blue Star Markers  
 Linda Jean Smith, Massachusetts  
 Judy Sheets, Missouri

Future Conventions Anne Bucher, Conventions Coordinator, and Phyllis B. Steele, Vice - Coordinator,  
 reported on future convention locations:  
 2016 Grand Rapids, Michigan – Amway Grand Plaza Hotel - May 3-6  
 2017 Richmond, Virginia – Marriott Hotel; May 18-20 (Installation year)  
 2018 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania dates – Lowes Hotel; May 21-24  
 2019 Biloxi, Mississippi – Beau Rivage Hotel; April 30-May 4  
 (Installation year)

Invitation to 2016 Marge McGoff, 2016 Convention Chairman, extended an invitation to the 87<sup>th</sup>  
 Convention Meeting Annual Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 3 – 6, 2016 at the Amway  
 Grand Plaza Hotel.

Motion Les Westgard moved to establish an ongoing fund using funds collected at the 2015  
 Convention and future donations to this fund to “Fill the GAP” (Give And Prosper)  
 in the General Fund. All donations are to be deposited in the General Fund.

**ADOPTED**

\$10,000.00 was collected from the Convention Business session for “Fill the Gap  
 Fund”.

Sally K. Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following final Credentials Report

Final Credentials Report	as of 9:00 a.m. May 17, 2015 with a voting strength of 427 and moved its adoption.																														
	<table> <tr><td>NGC President</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>NGC Honorary President</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>NGC Elected Officers</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>NGC Appointed Officers</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Region Directors</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Advisory Committee</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>PH&amp;E Trustees</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>State Presidents</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr><td>Representatives of State Presidents</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>NGC Chairmen</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>NGC Standing Committee Members</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Delegates</td><td><u>145</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Subtotal</td><td>465</td></tr> <tr><td>Less duplications</td><td><u>38</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Voting Strength</td><td>427</td></tr> </table>	NGC President	1	NGC Honorary President	1	NGC Elected Officers	5	NGC Appointed Officers	4	Region Directors	8	Advisory Committee	6	PH&E Trustees	5	State Presidents	49	Representatives of State Presidents	1	NGC Chairmen	150	NGC Standing Committee Members	90	Delegates	<u>145</u>	Subtotal	465	Less duplications	<u>38</u>	Total Voting Strength	427
NGC President	1																														
NGC Honorary President	1																														
NGC Elected Officers	5																														
NGC Appointed Officers	4																														
Region Directors	8																														
Advisory Committee	6																														
PH&E Trustees	5																														
State Presidents	49																														
Representatives of State Presidents	1																														
NGC Chairmen	150																														
NGC Standing Committee Members	90																														
Delegates	<u>145</u>																														
Subtotal	465																														
Less duplications	<u>38</u>																														
Total Voting Strength	427																														

**ADOPTED**

Final Registration report	Kay Fisher, Convention Registration Chairman, gave the final Registration Report as of 10:00 a.m. May 17, 2015 for information only.										
	<table> <tr><td>Voting Strength</td><td>427</td></tr> <tr><td>Spouses</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>Guest &amp; Speakers</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-voting Garden Club members</td><td><u>192</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>689</td></tr> </table>	Voting Strength	427	Spouses	39	Guest & Speakers	31	Non-voting Garden Club members	<u>192</u>	Total	689
Voting Strength	427										
Spouses	39										
Guest & Speakers	31										
Non-voting Garden Club members	<u>192</u>										
Total	689										

Adjournment The President adjourned the business session at 12:08 p.m. to reconvene at the Installation Banquet.

Call to Order The President, called the meeting to order at 9:54 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2015

Courtesy Resolution Angela L. Raitano, Resolutions Chairman, read the Courtesy Resolution and moved its adoption.

**ADOPTED**

Benediction Valerie C. Tipps, Vice-Chaplain, gave the benediction.

Adjourn Sine Die The President adjourned the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. at 10:09 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2015 sine die.

Carol L. Hall 7-31-15  
 Carol L. Hall, Recording Secretary Date

Linda G. Nelson 7-31-15  
 Linda G. Nelson, President Date

Nancy L. Hargrove 7-31-15  
 Nancy L. Hargroves , Second Vice-President Date

Gay Austin 7-31-15  
 Gay Austin, Third Vice-President Date

Robin Pokorski 7-31-15

Robin Pokorski, Corresponding Secretary

Date