

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

Sheraton Hotel, Seattle, Washington

May 24 – 26, 2013

Call to Order                   The President, Shirley S. Nicolai, called the meeting of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. to order at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel, Seattle, Washington and welcomed those in attendance.

The Recording Secretary, Gay L. Austin, was present.

Opening Exercises           The colors were presented by the Seattle Fire Department Honor Guard.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Robin Pokorski, Photo Archiving Chairman.

Angela Raitano, NGC Chaplain, Infrastructure Committee Chairman, gave an inspirational reading.

Jean Goddan, Seattle City Council Member, brought greetings from the City of Seattle.

Debbie Hinchey, Pacific Region Director, gave the welcome on behalf of the Pacific Region.

Judith Juno, President of Washington Federation of Garden Clubs, welcomed all to the state of Washington.

Donna Marsheck, President of Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., gave the response.

Preliminary  
Credentials Report           Sally Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following Preliminary Credentials Report as of 8:00 a.m. May 24, 2013 with a voting strength of 243 and moved its adoption.

NGC President	1
NGC Honorary President	0
NGC Elected Officers	5
NGC Appointed Officers	4
Regional Directors	8
Advisory Committee	4
PH&E Trustees	5
State Presidents	35
Representatives of State Presidents	1
NGC Chairmen	109
NGC Standing Committee Members	66
Delegates	<u>55</u>
Subtotal	293
Less duplications	<u>45</u>
Total Voting Strength	243

**ADOPTED**

Quorum                       The Chair declared a quorum present.

Standing Rules of the 2013  
Convention               Joan Corbisiero, Parliamentarian, read the Standing Rules of the 2013 Convention for adoption.

**ADOPTED BY 2/3 VOTE**

Convention Program Jeannette Pruin, 2013 Convention Chairman, moved the adoption of the convention program as corrected.

**ADOPTED**

Preliminary Registration Report Shirley Baker, 2013 Convention Registration Committee Chairman, gave the registration report as of 12:30 p.m. May 24, 2013 for information only.

Voting Strength	243
Non-Voting Members	176
Spouses	51
Guests	<u>79</u>
Total Registration	549

Committee to Approve Minutes President Nicolai appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of the 2011 Convention Meeting:

Sandra H. Robinson, Second Vice-President as Chairman  
Nancy L. Hargroves, Third Vice-President  
Poss Tarpley, Corresponding Secretary

Timekeepers President Nicolai appointed the following to serve as timekeepers:  
Jennifer Moreno, Special Education Activities Chairman  
Suzanne Potts, Nominating Committee (Central Region),  
Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest Chairman

Tellers President Nicolai appointed the following to serve as tellers:  
Darleen Newell, Plant Society Liaison, Head Teller  
Susan Robinson, Container Gardening Chairman  
Elaine Gunderson, Strategic Planning Committee

Pages President Nicolai acknowledged the pages present:  
Mary Ann Moreno, Page to the President  
Joan Craig, Page to the President-Elect  
Marilyn Topp and Dorothy Munroe, General Convention Pages

Welcome The President welcomed the former NGC Presidents: Kitty Larkin (2005-2007); Barbara D. May, (2007-2009); and Renee D. Blaschke, Immediate Past-President (2009-2011).

President Nicolai recognized the Regional Directors:  
Joyce A. Kimball, New England; Jeanne T. Nelson, Central Atlantic; Mary Dixon, South Atlantic; Sara Lanier, Deep South; Florence Smith, Central; Judy Grotts, South Central; Terry Kroke, Rocky Mountain; Debbie Hinchey, Pacific

President Nicolai presented the PH&E Trustees:  
Gerry St. Peters and Les Westgard, Kitty Larkin, Barbara May and Renee D. Blaschke, Director.

Report of the Committee to Approve the Minutes Sandra H. Robinson, Chairman of the committee to approve the minutes of the May 2012 Convention meeting in Buffalo, New York reported that the minutes were approved and circulated.

Reports of Officers The following officers reported (copies on file):  
Shirley S. Nicolai, President  
Linda Nelson, President-Elect, Liaison to State Garden Club Presidents and Regional Directors, Membership Chairman  
Sandra H. Robinson, Second Vice-President, Finance Committee  
Chairman, Internal Audit Committee Chairman  
Nancy L. Hargroves, Third Vice-President, Organization Study and Award

of Excellence Committee Chairman  
 Gay L. Austin, Recording Secretary  
 Betty Grimes, Treasurer and Budget Committee Chairman  
 Poss Tarpley, Corresponding Secretary  
 Pamela C. Hebert, Historian  
 Joan H. Corbisiero, Parliamentarian  
 Renee D. Blaschke, PH&E Trustees Director

Adjourn                           The opening business session adjourned at 3:15 p.m. to meet again at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

Call to Order                    President Shirley S. Nicolai called the business meeting of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order at 9:03 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

Invocation                      June B. Ashworth, School Gardens/Pollinators Chairman, gave the invocation.

Interim Credentials Report    Sally Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following Interim Credentials Report as of 8:00 a.m. May 25, 2013 with a voting strength of 313 and moved its adoption.

NGC President	1
NGC Honorary President	0
NGC Elected Officers	5
NGC Appointed Officers	4
Regional Directors	8
Advisory Committee	4
PH&E Trustees	5
State Presidents	46
Representatives of State Presidents	2
NGC Chairmen	130
NGC Standing Committee Members	80
Delegates	<u>104</u>
Subtotal	368
Less duplications	<u>55</u>
Total Voting Strength	313

**ADOPTED**

Interim Registration Report    Shirley Baker, 2013 Convention Registration Chairman, gave the registration report as of 9:00 a.m. May 25, 2013 for information only.

Voting Strength	313
Non-Voting Members	237
Spouses	51
Guests	<u>51</u>
Total Registration	652

Nominating Committee Report    Gay L. Austin, Recording Secretary, read the bylaws pertinent to the election of officers.

Arabella Dane, Nominating Committee Vice-Chairman, introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and submitted the slate of officers for 2013 – 2015 as nominated by the committee:

Sandra H. Robinson, First Vice-President  
 Nancy L. Hargroves, Second Vice-President  
 Gay L. Austin, Third Vice-President  
 Carol L. Hall, Recording Secretary  
 Betty Grimes, Treasurer

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.

Linda Nelson, President-Elect will serve as President.

Report of the Board of Directors

Gay L. Austin, Recording Secretary, reported that the Board of Directors had met two times since the 2012 Annual Convention in Buffalo, New York – at the 2012 Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas and prior to the 2013 Convention in Seattle, Washington on May 24. Informational sheets reflecting actions taken were distributed to the board members and delegates.

Amendments to Bylaws

On behalf of the Organization Study Committee, Nancy L. Hargroves, Third Vice-President and Organization Study Committee Chairman moved the following bylaw amendments for adoption.

1. **PAGE 4, Article VI, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP**, first paragraph currently reads: “Non-voting membership shall consist of six classes: Honorary Life Members, who are not members of a Garden Club; Life Members who are not delegates; Affiliates; National Affiliates; International Affiliates; and all categories of Youth Gardeners.”

**STRIKE:** “six”

**INSERT:** “five”

**STRIKE:** “Affiliates”

To read: “Non-voting membership shall consist of five classes: Honorary Life Members, who are not members of a Garden Club; Life Members, who are not delegates; National Affiliates; International Affiliates; and all categories of Youth Gardeners.”

2. **PAGE 4, Article VI, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP, C.** currently reads: “All NGC Life Members shall receive a subscription to *The National Gardener*, if requested.”

**STRIKE:** letter “C” and renumber D and E.

(Formatting error) This sentence belongs with “B”

3. **PAGE 4, Article VI, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP, D.** Affiliates, National Affiliates and International Affiliates currently reads:

“Any organization, within the United States or its territories or possessions, or any such organization in a foreign country, expressing a desire to further the objectives and purposes of NGC shall be eligible for the applicable affiliate membership as listed below:

1. Affiliate Membership—Organizations within the United States or its territories or possessions which are local or regional in scope;
2. National Affiliate Membership—Organizations within the United States or its territories or possessions which are national in scope;
3. International Affiliate Membership—Organizations in a foreign country.

Affiliate Membership may be accorded to such organizations upon recommendation in writing to the NGC Affiliates, National Affiliates or International Affiliates Chairman from a state garden club, a member garden club, or an affiliate organization, by submitting an application and required dues.”

**DELETE** “Affiliates,” from title.

**DELETE #1.** “Affiliate membership within the United States or its territories or possessions which are local or regional in scope.

**IN #2. DELETE:** “which are national in scope” to now read:

“National Affiliate Membership--Organizations within the United States or its territories or possessions.”

**RENUMBER**

**SUBSTITUTE:** “Affiliate Membership may be accorded to such organizations by the submission of an application and required dues to NGC Headquarters.”

To read: PAGE 4, Article VI, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP, C. “National Affiliates and International Affiliates Any organization within the United States or its territories or possessions, or any such organization in a foreign country, expressing a desire to further the objectives and purposes of NGC shall be eligible for the applicable affiliate membership listed below:

1. National Affiliate Membership – Organizations within the United States or its territories or possessions
2. International Affiliate Membership – Organizations in a foreign country.

Affiliate Membership may be accorded to such organizations by the submission of an application and required dues to NGC Headquarters.”

**#1 - #3 ADOPTED**

4. **PAGE 17, Article XVI- COMMITTEES Section 2. Advisory Committee A.** currently reads: “The Advisory Committee Shall Consist of the past presidents of NGC.”

**STRIKE** “Past” before “Presidents” and insert the word “former”.

To read: “The Advisory Committee shall consist of the former presidents of NGC.”

**CHANGE** the word “Past” to “former” president in all places where applicable in bylaws.

**ADOPTED**

5. **PAGE 21, Article XVII, FINANCES, Section 2. Finance Committee, C. Funds, a) PH&E Fund 2)** currently reads:

“A percentage, ... of cash and investments of this fund as of May 31 shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) investment fees, audit fees and legal fees of this fund;

**STRIKE:** “and legal fees” and insert “and” between words “fees, audit”

To read: 2) “A percentage...of cash and investments of this fund as of May 31 shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) investment fees and audit fees of this fund.”

(b) through (e) remain unchanged.

6. **PAGE 21, Article XVII, FINANCES, Section 2. Finance Committee, C. Funds b) Scholarship Fund 2)** currently reads: “A percentage, ...of cash and investments of this fund as of May 31 shall be available for use during succeeding years for:

- (a) scholarships;
- (b) one-half (1/2) of the subscription fees to *The National Gardener* for NGC Life Members;
- (c) Expenses incurred by the Scholarship Chairman;
- (d) Transfers to the General Fund for one half (1/2) of the NGC Life Membership Committee expense.

**INSERT:** New (c) “investment fees and audit fees of this fund;”

**INSERT:** New (d) “payroll expenses associated with scholarships;”

(a) and (b) remain unchanged. Renumber remaining

To read: 2) “A percentage...of cash and investments of this fund as of May 31 shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) scholarships; (b) one-half (1/2) of the subscription fees to *The National Gardener* for NGC Life Members; (c) Investment fees and audit fees of this fund; (d) Payroll expenses associated with scholarship; (e) Expenses incurred by the Scholarship Chairman; (f) Transfers to the General Fund for one half (1/2) of the NGC Life Membership Committee expense.”

7. **PAGE 23, Article XVII, FINANCES, Section 2. Finance Committee, C Funds, c) Operation Wildflower Fund 2)** currently reads: "A percentage shall be available for use during succeeding years for:"  
**ADD:** New (c) "Investment fees and audit fees of this fund."  
 (a) and (b) remain unchanged  
 To read: 2) "A percentage ... shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) Promotion of the objects and purposes of the organization; (b) Transfers to the Scholarship Fund by a majority vote of the Finance Committee; (c) Investment fees and audit fees of this fund."
8. **PAGE 23, Article XVII, FINANCES, Section 2. Finance Committee, C Funds d) NGC Endowment Fund 2)** currently reads: "A percentage... shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) investment fees, audit fees and legal fees of this fund;"  
**STRIKE:** "and legal fees" and insert "and" between words "fees, audit"  
 To read: "A percentage ... shall be available for use during succeeding years for: (a) Investment fees and audit fees of this fund;" (b) and (c) remain unchanged.

**#5 - #8 ADOPTED**

**Budgets**

Betty Grimes, Treasurer, presented the 2013-2014 annual budgets of the General Fund, the Scholarship Fund and the Operation Wildflower Fund for adoption.

**ADOPTED**

The 2013-2014 annual budget for the PH&E Fund, adopted by the Board of Directors, was presented for information only.

**Reports of Regional Directors and State Presidents**

The following State Presidents (or their representatives) reported (copies on file):

Pacific Region – Debbie Hinchey, Director  
 Becky Hassebroek Alaska Garden Clubs  
 Carol Parrott Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Julie West California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Ann Swider Hawaii Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Robyn McCarthy Idaho Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Vicki Yuen Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Garnet Ascher The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Judith A. Juno Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

South Central Region – Judy Grotts, Director  
 Nancy Keisman Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Shirley Tetreault New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Donna Marsheck Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 Kathryn Cox Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Recess**

The business session recessed at 10:20 a.m. to reconvene after luncheon at 2:00 p.m.

**Call to Order**

President Shirley S. Nicolai called the business meeting of the 84th Annual Convention to order at 2:01 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

**Reports of Regional Directors and State Presidents**

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

Central Atlantic Region – Jeanne T. Nelson, Director  
 Regina I. Brown The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

Jackie Handley	President Elect, The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
Vivian Morrison	The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.
Gail McGee	President Elect, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.
Mickey Marquis	President Elect, The Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.
Vickie Godwin	National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.
Gail S. Corle	The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

South Atlantic Region – Mary Dixon, Director

Diane Caines	The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.
Judy Barnes	The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
Maida Owen Dantzer	The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
Judy B. Binns	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Brenda Moore	West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.

Central Region – Florence Smith, Director

Susan P. Cooney	The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
Rosemary P. Springer	The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.
Sandy Wales	President Elect, Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
Nancy Stark	Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Barbara Halverson	Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc.
Judy Sheets	The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.
Marian H. Books	Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

Memorial Service      Angela Raitano, Chaplain, conducted the Memorial Service of NGC members lost during the past year. (Copy on file)

Adjourn      The business session adjourned at 3:07 p.m. to meet again on Sunday May 26, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

Call to Order      President Shirley S. Nicolai called the business meeting of the 84th Annual Convention to order at 9:31 a.m. on Sunday, May 26, 2013.

Invocation      Elaine Gunderson, Strategic Planning Committee Member, gave the invocation.

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

Deep South Region – Sara Lanier, Director

Jo Ann Wade	The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.
Jan Sillik	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Carol R. Silcox	The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Mary Jacobs	Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
Nancy Moore	The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.
Valerie C. Tipps	Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Rocky Mountain Region – Terry Kroke, Director

Trudi Lake	President Elect, Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Floranna Crowley	Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.
Phyllis White	Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Linda Shaw	Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska
Lena Bellemare	North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs
Darlene Pearson	South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Roberta Bolton	Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Darla Anderson	The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

New England Region – Joyce A. Kimball, Director

Bronwyn Schoelzel	The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.
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Kathleen Marty	The Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc.
Heidi Kost-Gross	The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
Virginia Urdi	New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Judy Hager	Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Gay Gaston	Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.

Reports of Chairmen

- The following chairmen reported: (Copies on file.)
1. Bonnie Borne, Scholarship Chairman
  2. Patricia Cargnoni, Habitat for Humanity Gardens Chairman
  3. Mary Sue Colvin, Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems, Chairman
  4. Adrienne Langan, Natural Disasters Grants, Chairman
  5. Art Loesch, Penny Pines Chairman
  6. Marian McNabb, Butterfly Chairman
  7. Greg Pokorski, Gardening Study Chairman, ES, GS, LD Schools Coordinator
  8. Idalia Aguilar, International Affiliates Schools Liaison, IA Gardening Study Schools Liaison, Translator for the President
  9. Kathy Thomas, Webmaster (JUNE 1, 2013)  
Member side – USER NAME – member  
PASSWORD - world
  10. Jan Warshauer, Vision Of Beauty Calendar Chairman

Future Conventions

Anne Bucher, Conventions Coordinator, and Phyllis B. Steele, Vice-Coordinator, reported on future convention locations:  
 2015 - Crowne Plaza, Louisville, Kentucky – April 30 – May 3, 2014  
 2016 – Michigan - TBA  
 2017 – Virginia – TBA  
 2018 – Wisconsin – TBA

Invitation to 2012 Convention Meeting

Donna Marsheck, 2014 Convention Chairman, extended an invitation to the 85<sup>th</sup> annual Convention in Norman, Oklahoma, April 30 – May 3, 2014.

Final Credentials Report

Sally Warner, Credentials Chairman, gave the following Final Credentials Report as of 8:00 a.m. May 26, 2013 with a voting strength of 349 and moved its adoption.

NGC President	1
NGC Honorary President	0
NGC Elected Officers	5
NGC Appointed Officers	4
Regional Directors	8
Advisory Committee	4
PH&E Trustees	5
State Presidents	47
Representatives of State Presidents	2
NGC Chairmen	130
NGC Standing Committee Members	80
Delegates	<u>118</u>
Subtotal	404
Less duplications	<u>55</u>
Total Voting Strength	349

**ADOPTED**

Final Registration Report

Shirley Baker, 2013 Convention Registration Committee Chairman, gave the registration report as of 9:00 a.m. May 26, 2013 for information only.

Voting Strength .....	349
Non-Voting Members .....	199
Spouses .....	53
Guests.....	<u>52</u>



Total Registration 653

- Adjourn The President adjourned the business session at 11:15 a.m. to reconvene at the Installation Banquet.
- Call to Order Shirley S. Nicolai, President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, 2013.
- Courtesy Resolution Pamela C. Hebert, Historian, read the Courtesy Resolution prepared by Nancy Donaldson, Resolutions Chairman.
- Benediction Angela Raitano, Chaplain, gave the benediction.
- Adjourn Sine Die President Shirley S. Nicolai adjourned the 84th Annual Convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. at 8:55 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, 2013 Sine Die.

**ADOPTED**

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Gay L. Austin, Recording Secretary 8-26-2013  
Date

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Shirley S. Nicolai, President 8-26-2013  
Date

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Sandra H. Robinson, Second Vice-President 8-26-2013  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy L. Hargroves, Third Vice-President 8-26-2013  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Poss Tarpley, Corresponding Secretary 8-26-2013  
Date