**JANUARY 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTOR’s MEETING**

 **OFFICER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

**President’s Address**

**Board Meeting January 13, 14, 2021 ZOOM**

**FFGC continues to be challenged by the current status of Covid-19. I had hoped that by now conditions would have improved since we last met in September. Unfortunately, we are not in a better place, but we are resilient, and we have done exemplary work in carrying out our mission. It is amazing how resourceful our members are, and there is no doubt we have been able to function very well. In spite of the inability to meet face-to-face we have learned how to carry on using technology, and we are in a better place because of our willingness to explore alternatives to live meetings. We are very thankful to have a team of members who have shown us how to use our computers to meet with one another by ZOOM. Some day soon we will be able to meet together at Headquarters as we have in the past once conditions improve to the level of safety we demand. We will beat the Covid Pandemic and we will get back to a level of normalcy.**

**As this Administration is rapidly ending, reflections of what has transpired for FFGC over the last two years came as a surprise. No one could have predicted that a Pandemic would challenge us as it did. If the need to accommodate the effect of the Pandemic were not enough, we were confronted by legal issues possibly affecting the future of FFGC.**

**The Board of Directors was given information in September about the City of Winter Park’s wish to renegotiate a new lease with our Organization which included provisions severely impacting our future. We are in the 61st year of a 99-year lease with the City which is beneficial to FFGC with a rent of $10.00 per year. Unfortunately, the lease includes a statement that seems to indicate that we must obtain permission from the City of Winter Park for approval prior to holding any event on FFGC’s property in perpetuity. According to our Attorney the Code Compliance Order as written is extremely broad and may be interpreted in a way so as to require FFGC to obtain City Manager approval for every event FFGC intends to hold. Our position is that neither the Florida Statutes, nor the City of Winter Par Code provides the Code Compliance Board with the authority to impose such a requirement on FFGC, and that by doing so, the Code Compliance Board with the authority to impose such a requirement on FFGC, and that by doing so, the Code Compliance Board exceeded the scope of its authority. As set forth, ore fully in the initial Brief, the requirement to impose a restriction requiring City Manager approval prior to holding events is not a penalty the Code Compliance has the authority to impose.**

**On December 16, 2020, our Attorney filed the initial brief on behalf of FFGC. The City’s current deadline to file its Answer Brief in the appeal case is due January 15, 2021. The issue on appeal, is whether the City possesses the authority to require FFGC to obtain City Manager approval prior to holding any event on FFGC’s property in perpetuity.**

**Our Attorney had a phone conversation with the city Counsel on December 9, 2020, and it was clear that the City did not sincerely desire to resolve the issue on appeal. It is our Attorney’s opinion that the City’s real desire and preferred outcome is to enter into a new lease favorable to the City, and that the City ultimate goal is to obtain our building.**

**We will not know the outcome of our appeal until the City Responds and the Court acts. The Chair will apprise the Board of the outcome as soon as suitable information is determined.**

**That is the bad news. Now for some incredibly good news. Many of you know Troy and Ann Todd, long time Wekiva Volunteers. We are currently working out details of a very generous donation from the Todds for Wekiva Youth Camp. You will be surprised about the amount they intend to donate, and I am deferring to Tina Tuttle, Current Chairman of Camp and Christy Linke, incoming Camp Chairman to give you more information during their report. Do not miss it!**

**In closing let me assure you that unless there is a lawful mandate to the contrary, we plan to hold the 94th Annual State Convention at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach April 11-13. The information is on our website and Kathleen Terlizzo, Convention Chairman will give you additional information during her report. I can assure you that we will follow all requirements to make it a safe and enjoyable venue. Make your plans to attend.**

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

 1st VP Report

 Marjorie H. Hendon

 January 13, 2021

Even with a vaccine being out for over a month, most FFGC members are still without the shot, so we are still meeting by Zoom. This way of meeting has saved money and the Earth’s resources. This VP has attended numerous meetings on- line. Many smaller meetings have been in person. Also, meetings have been cancelled.

Meeting on-line has been a tremendous savings to our Board members and NGC Schools participants. The gas, time, hotel rooms, and food cost to attend a meeting is just not there anymore. The average cost to attend a Board meeting was $150-$200. To many of our elderly members that was a lot to ask. Our schools have been attended by twice the numbers as before. Florida Federation of Show Judges’ meetings have successfully shown designs and pictures of horticulture, up close and in detail. This on-line way of meeting may continue in the future for a few meetings.

Small meetings have been conducted in person. A design class and Garden club meeting was held at this VP’s home outside. A sizeable donation to Wekiva Youth Camp was donated by Troy and Ann Todd. Some of us on the Board met with them at Wekiva to plan on how best to use these funds. Tri-Council, FFSJ, Finance, By-Laws, Headquarters and Endowment, all have changed to Zoom due to members numbers.

Cancelled events were Flower shows, Blue Star marker dedications, and garden club meetings. Even though Deep South and National Conventions have been cancelled, Florida is still uncertain of its convention taking place.

 Thank you,

 Marjorie H. Hendon

Summary: Zoom meetings have saved members money, and the Earth resources. The fate of the April 2021 convention is still up in the air.

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

FFGC 2VP Report

Tina V. Tuttle

13 January 2021

16-17 September 2020 So sorry to have missed attending the Zoom BOD meeting due to Hurricane Sally, no power. Watched all of the Fall BOD meeting via Zoom on 28 September.

27 September Gave a timely Powerpoint program on “*Stormscaping”* based on book by Pamela Crawford.

27-28 September Sent Virtual Tour information to the other officers for a final chop before putting it on the website for all to see and use.

4 October Submitted “Fifth Decade” article for *The Florida Gardener.*

6 October Drove to headquarters to drop off and pick up various items (Wekiva Song Books, Opportunity Drawing winner for D-III, painted mailbox for Claudia, financials to destroy from 7 years ago, etc.). Was able to get into the floor safe. Took photos of items kept in the safe (jewelry and moulds, time capsule, notebook of important papers, etc.). Took the stock certificates to Treasurer in Tallahassee to liquidate as voted on by the Finance Committee.

7 October Final update to the Virtual Officers Tour. Added information about the new Matching Grants Program. Emailed the file to officers, District Directors, the Zoom team and Headquarters (it is listed under Photos).

9 October Went through old (2007-2010) financial files from Wekiva Youth Camp before disposal. Added new information to Wekiva inventory and shared with treasurer and next WYC Chairman.

14 October Attended D-5 Zoom District meeting and presented the Virtual Officer’s Tour Powerpoint.

17 October Attended a D-1 Practice Zoom meeting for the upcoming district meeting.

19 October Attended D-12 Zoom district meeting and presented the Virtual Officer’s Tour Powerpoint.

20 October Attended D-6 Zoom district meeting and presented the Virtual Officer’s Tour. Attended D-1 Zoom district meeting and presented the invocation, memorial and Virtual Officer’s Tour Powerpoint.

22 October Attended the 50th anniversary of Pick N Poke Garden Club at the Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Garden Center.

25 October Gave Powerpoint presentation on William Bartram informing club of joining Bartram Trail Conference as an affiliate member.

1 November Signed a release with NGC to provide two 20-minute horticulture programs on Zoom in the new year. (Robin Pokorski, Garden Club of California, is coordinating)

6 November Completed schedule and plans for a NGC Small Standard Flower Show to be held in conjunction with Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas luncheon on 8 December, giving student judges a chance to earn blue ribbons.

7 November Updated Excel spreadsheet on clubs by district with input from district directors.

17 November “Attended” webinar “Garden Talk with Shelly” on upcoming FFGC tours. Signed up to attend tour to Amsterdam in 2022!!

1 December “Attended” Strategic Planning Committee Zoom meeting and took notes, typed them up and submitted them to Chairman. Gave Kelley Wood copy of the Clubs, zip codes etc. Excel spreadsheet to see if he can link it to the website “find a club in your area”. Gave 100th information to Valerie Seinfeld, Social Media Chairman, and she has created a one-page information sheet and posted it on the FFGC Facebook Page, plus she sent a letter to her district clubs asking for their financial support!

3 December “Attended” Zoom for Awards #2, 3, 4 and 5. Typed up comments for Christy. Sent typed minutes of Strategic Planning Committee to chairman for distribution. Added 100th anniversary information to “Donations” page on the FFGC website. Set up Wekiva donation meeting for 16 December at 11am with Todds and VPs. Scanned signed contracts to Jacksonville Tourist Development Council for 2024 and 2025 conventions.

7 December Held the Wekiva Youth Camp Committee Zoom meeting 6pm CST. Had a full agenda of items to discuss.

14 December “Attended” FFSJ meeting on Zoom

14 December Judged awards for Blanche Covington, Garden Club of the Year, Mentoring, Special Membership Incentive to prepare for Zoom meeting with other officers.

16 December Wekiva donation meeting with Ann and Troy Todd and their daughter Cindy/Peter Zimmermann, Candace Marshall from Wells Fargo, Robert Brooks and the 3 VPs with president Al. Presented ideas for a multi-purpose classroom space. Retrieved old staff health files to destroy. Dropped off new Track Cards for nature and Schaag plaque for installation on Tequesta. Measured Euchee shower door size for replacement.

17 December Began first steps to get new building for WYC started with conceptual drawings, timeline and cost estimates. 

December 18 Worked with Devon V-Dabbs on more ideas for WYC donation including a sports complex that incorporates the duplex classroom building, storage. Also, the idea of dining hall expansion and Primitive’s pole barns, and dock with bat house! Working with the Make Design Studio architects in Orlando, Matt Kelly and Zach Hovarth. Contacted Gustavo at Roma Casting in Miami for Blanche Covington pins and past president pins. Contacted C. Sanders in CA for 100th ornaments, WYC ornaments and award #6 pins. Contacted Levy Company in Tampa about Award #6 pins as well. Worked with Barbara May to revise Tri-Council Bylaws. Received and reviewed 4 District Director meeting Scripts from Libby Curnow.

December 30 “Attended” a Zoom meeting on Awards #1, 8, 9, 10, plus DSGC Medal of Honor and Mentoring Award with Al, Marge, and Christy.

3 January Completed paperwork applications for NGC award # MP-4-7-C-iv (Membership and Promotion Video) with a CD provided by the Wekiva Webmaster. Wrote and submitted 3 BOD reports. Rewrote motion for new Standing Rule regarding Officers’ official business reimbursement.

5 January “Attended” Tri-Council Zoom meeting and made the motion to accept the new *Rules and Policies* which will basically eliminate the 3 specific school groups and make one Tri-Council with one treasury.

7 January “Attended” FFGC Nominating Committee Meeting for interview for 1VP in next administration.

11 January “Attended” FFGC Finance Committee Meeting.

13-14 January “Attended” FFGC Board of Directors Meeting.

Tina V. Tuttle

FFGC 2VP

Summary: During the past few months, this vice president performed a wide variety of duties related to the office and other duties undertaken or assigned.

## 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

 FFGC 3rd Vice President

Christy Linke

January 6, 2021

This 3rd Vice President has been attending meetings in person and via ZOOM. Being a member on Finance as well as serving as Secretary, serving on the Password Protection Committee for the web site, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, responsible for the sales in the FFGC gift shop, and Wekiva Volunteer Training weekend.

This 3rd Vice President was honored to attend 6 out of the 12 ZOOM District meetings. It was wonderful to see all the members of clubs and find out what they were doing in the times of COVID in their garden club.

With the help of Jenn the new Office Manager we updated the gift shop items on the web site. This is still a work in progress.

February 5-7th, 2021 we will be having Wekiva Volunteer Training and to date have 25 attending. With COVID still upon us there will be challenges that we are overcoming. Hand sanitizing stations as well as temperatures being taken are a priority. No more buffet style dining instead pre-plated food will be served, social distancing is always in the front of our minds as well as masks.

This 3rd Vice President received 16 Year book awards to judge, award #11, from garden clubs. Yes the numbers were down this year from the past years but a lot of clubs are not meeting or have not had the opportunity to have their yearbook completed in time for the deadline.

**Summary: Even with COVID we are all finding ways to still keep in contact, keep meeting via ZOOM, and until we can all be together in person stay safe and healthy.**

## RECORDING SECRETARY

 RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

 Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Chairman

January 13-14, 2021

The September Zoom meeting was quite a learning experience for me, trying to figure out what I needed to do and organize my thoughts and job! President Al Latina is doing a wonderful job. The only advice I offer is to make sure a summary is added at the end of the report as that is required and what I use to do the minutes. Otherwise, I have to read the report and try to summarize the contents and this takes quite a bit of time. I am loving my job and hope everyone is pleased with the work I am doing.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DISTRICT 1

District I Winter Activity Report

Kathy “Kat” Spieker, Director

spkfreedom@embarqmail.com

FFGC Board of Directors Meeting Jan. 13-14, 2021

District I has been busy, busy, busy since our last report to the Board. Clubs and circles in our district have been holding meetings via Zoom, holding outdoor meetings, and carrying on with the business of the district despite restrictions caused by the pandemic.

At the Fall District meeting District I elected a new Director for 2021-2023. We are proud to announce Joyce Waters Smith, a member of Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc and Valparaiso Garden Club was elected to the position.

Clubs continued sponsoring programs near and dear to their hearts. Valparaiso Garden Club vetted applicants for their scholarship program and awarded a most worthy candidate a $3000 scholarship to further her goal of a degree in Plant Sciences with minors in Greenhouse Management and Landscaping. Club members taught a program on photosynthesis to children at the local museum’s day camp, held a plant sale at Saturday In The Park, and participated in Yule of Yesteryear in December. These events helped the club publicize their pollinator garden, Paradise Gardens on the museum campus. The club will also host a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, April 24, 2021.

Navarre Garden Club held design workshops, Arbor Day ceremonies, planted a native garden at a local park, and established their permanent nursery site where plants are propagated and sold.

Garnier Beach Garden Club had a plant share with members, and was instrumental in helping the city with clean-up after Hurricane Sally. They are holding birdwatching events and native plant outings in order to maintain safety for their members.

Milton Garden Club dedicated a new Blue Star Memorial marker, raised money for the club through a members plant sale, became a proud founding supporter of the Panhandle Butterfly House which is now located in Milton after having to be moved from the Navarre area. The club began a weekly newsletter published via e-mail by the club president to keep members up to date on club activities.

Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs hosted a Christmas luncheon on December 8 and also held a Small Standard Flower Show which provided judging opportunities as well as opportunities for flower show school students to earn ribbons for designs and horticulture entries.

The Wonderful Ones in District I will continue to further the goals of FFGC in the future with innovative programs and ideas in this new year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy “Kat” Spieker

District I Director

## DISTRICT 2

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WINTER MEETING**

**JANUARY 13-14, 2021**

**DISTRICT II REPORT**

**CHIPLEY GARDEN CLUB**

In September, the club resumed meetings outdoors with masks required.

Thus, regular meetings have been held from September-December.

Due to Covid-19, the Chipley Garden Club has sharply curtailed its projects.

With the school situation so uncertain, no youth activities have been scheduled.  With a limited Scarecrow Fest, members decorated the downtown area with scarecrows, and held a virtual scarecrow contest, where individuals and businesses could submit their entries online.  Entries were judged and prizes awarded on October 31. As the vaccine has begun to be avail, and members are hopeful that in the next few months, the Club will be able to resume its usual activities.

 **LYNN HAVEN GARDEN CLUB**

The Lynn Haven Garden Club has been having monthly meetings since September.  The Club is fortunate to have a meeting space that is large enough to allow social distancing, and most members wear masks while in attendance.

In September, Randy Fleming from the Dragon's Mead Day Lily farm discussed Propagation of Daylilies, and he brought daylilies to share with the club members.

In October, Jason Leebo from Southern Grace Lavender Farm discussed the challenges of growing lavender. He shared a new product being developed for sale in their store in Southport.

In November, LHGC partnered with the Lynn Haven Rotary Club and students from Gulf Coast State College's social services program to do a beautification project at Rutherford High School in Panama City. Over the course of three consecutive Saturdays the group weeded, cleaned, planted, and mulched several areas on the campus.

In December the Club participated in the City of Lynn Haven's Christmas parade. A flatbed trailer pulled by a tractor was the base of the float. Several members made decorations, and several brought things from home. A lot of fun was had in planning, decorating, parading and undecorating afterward. Likewise, in December members had the usual Christmas potluck luncheon with a "dirty Santa" gift swap and a plant swap. Lynn Haven City Manager, Vickie Gainer, was guest of honor as the Club recognized her ongoing support for LHGC.

Marianna

**MARIANNA GARDEN CLUB**

Marianna Garden Club is on stand-by following their zoom meeting in September.

**PANAMA CITY GARDEN CLUB**

Since September, Panama City Garden Club has conducted monthly meetings and board meetings by Zoom. In September, Julie McConnell, County Extension Horticulturist, presented a program on Butterfly Gardens. Master Gardner Jody Wood-Putnam gave a beautiful program on Camellias in October.

Jeffrey Johnson, Florida Forestry Service Senior Forester for Bay and Gulf Counties,

presented the November program: Yard Trees - Restoration, Propagation.

The traditional Christmas Luncheon was held with each member bringing her lunch and beverage, and everyone eating and visiting via Zoom.

In cooperation with Wreaths across America, wreaths were placed at the Memorial Wall in Bay Memorial Park which surrounds the Garden Club building.

**PORT ST. JOE GARDEN CLUB**

The Port St. Joe Garden Club has been quite busy since the District II in October. Even with Covid restrictions, small workshops and zoom meetings have kept the group in touch, and against even these odds the club continues to grow.

Christmas in the Garden, the Club’s annual fundraiser, featuring baked goods, crafts, and plants was a huge success this year. To ensure the safety of membership and shoppers the entire event was held outdoors. With tents scattered on the Garden Club lawn, masks were worn, and all attending had a fun time. Some members remarked that they think the shoppers stayed longer and enjoyed being outdoors. Christmas photos in the beautifully decorated gazebo were done for free by a local photographer. The 2020 commemorative ornament featuring a scallop shell with a heart shaped silver charm engraved with SJ Bay 2020 was a sell out with profits donated to the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve.

Restoration of the Garden club grounds destroyed by Hurricane Michael plantings has begun. All plants in the landscaping plan were chosen carefully as Florida friendly. The restoration plan will take several years to complete.

Continued support of the reduced mowing in Gulf County has inspired the club to work with county officials to add more designated roads to the program and to develop a committee to check that the mowing is being done correctly.

This year’s PSJ parade float was titled FLOWER POWER and included a red convertible vintage Volkswagen bug named Lizzy. Members appropriately attired in white go-go boots, flowers in our hair and fringed vest handed out love beads to the crowd. Members had lots of fun making huge tissue paper flowers and peace signs to decorate the float. After 2 years of winning 3rd place, the Garden Club float moved up to 2nd place this year.

Operation Angel Tree is an annual project in which members provide Christmas gifts to the local assisted living center. Usually, the residence provides a wish list, but with Covid issues preventing interaction, more generic gifts were selected. The membership provided over two SUV loads of gifts for the residents of Crossroads. Treats of home baked items were also provided for the staff.

Plans for the annual plant sale scheduled for April 10 have begun. The membership hopes to soon meet in the beautiful garden center for programs and fellowship. Meetings will continue by Zoom until the membership feels that it is safe to share inside space.

**SNEADS CARLISE ROSE GARDEN CLUB**

Because of its large meeting space, Sneads Carlise Rose Garden Club has continued to hold regular monthly meetings. At the September meeting, Lee Garner, newly appointed City Manager, Town of Sneads discussed Ways the Town and Garden Club can work together as a team. In October, Edwin Duke, Professor of Horticulture at Florida A&M University spoke on the Importance of Native Plants. The November meeting was a Thanksgiving luncheon, and the December meeting was a Christmas luncheon.

Despite setbacks due to Covid -19 including several members being temporarily quarantined the Club managed to continue most projects in the fall. However, the format for the annual Founder’s Day luncheon for City Workers was changed to a take-out lunches. Also in October, the Club provided and distributed drink boxes for drive-by Halloween Trick or Treat Event hosted by the Sneads American Legion Post. In November, a work day at City Welcome signs was held to prepare for spring re-planting. Members built and entered a float in the annual town Christmas Parade. The Club cancelled the scheduled family Christmas dinner, opting for a club member only Christmas luncheon as part of the regular December meeting. The Club continues its ongoing membership drive and to date have four new members.

**WAUSAU GARDEN CLUB**

Wausau Garden Club’s September meeting was cancelled due to a Hurricane Sally.  In October, Judy Corbus, from Washington County Agriculture Extension Services discussed fall vegetables and provided recipes for greens, root vegetables, and green beans which surprisingly can be a “fall vegetable” in this area.   The weekend before Veteran’s Day the Club placed flags at the graves of veterans in the Wausau cemetery and the Moss Hill graveyard. On Veteran’s Day, members held a ceremony at the site of the relocated Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, with local veterans and council members participating.  The November meeting followed with members making seed treats for birds and yarn trees with looped yarn.  At the December meeting, one of the 90+ members shared her memories as a teenager, living on the East Coast during WWII. She stimulated the briefer memories of members who were children and toddlers during that time.  A gift exchange and lunch followed the program.

## DISTRICT 3



## DISTRICT 4

## DISTRICT 5

 District Director Report

 District V Director

 Jeanice Gage

 BOD January 13,14 2021

The fourteen garden clubs in Fantastic Five have all reported that they

 have have had a difficult time this past year finding a place to have safe

 indoor meetings They have been able to meet outside and have

 continued to perform their community projects and maintain gardens.

 Brooksville collects for Penny Pines ($86) and for Project Heartfelt,

 maintain a garden at an elementary school, Adopt-A-Highway, and

 landscape for Habitat homes.

 Citrus Garden Club’s President has been thinking “outside the box”..they

 had a plant exchange from their car trunks! They maintain four gardens.

 They join the UF IFAS Extension’s zoom lectures. They added two new

 members. Contributed $174. to Penny Pines.

 Crystal River Garden Club had their Board members decorate aprons

 which were raffled off..$300 for Penny Pines! Their community projects

 include sending campers to Wekiva and SEEK scholarships, and

 donations to the food bank. Great programs are planned for 2021!

 Floral City Garden Club has been busy with community projects: pack

 weekend food for elementary school and fund two children for the year,

 Adopt-A-Highway (31 years!), two campers to Wekiva, two participants

 to SEEK each year. Maintain gardens in parks and on trails.

 A new project for 2021 is to put more “floral” in Floral City! *We are invited*

 *to the District V Spring Meeting “Friends in the Garden” on May 19.*

 Penny Pines was $120.

 Four Seasons Garden Club’s November meeting was a tour of the

 A Nan Buddhist Statue Park in Gainesville. It has a temple, Buddhist

 statues, and many gazebos for individual use. This park has won awards

 from Gainesville Beautification Board. “I know that outdoor yard work has

 been a priority for most of our members”. President Peggy

 1

 Gainesville Garden Club is using Zoom and YouTube for their

 meetings. Having much free time, members designed and installed

 a new Celebration Garden on their grounds, planted two medians with

 wildflower seeds maintained gardens. Members continued to be as active

 in the community as possible. Many members participated in the District

 V photo contest and walked away with most of the winners.

 Contribution to Penny Pines was $408.

 Homosassa River Garden Club honored one of their members with a

 Pillar of Pride award for her outstanding leadership and her dedication to

 the club and the community. They donated $68 to Penny Pines.They are

 preparing to bag and distribute 500 Redbud tree saplings for Arbor Day.

 Congratulations on your 40 year anniversary!

 Inverness Garden Club was able to hold their fall Hospice workshop.They

 provided 100 small floral bouquets for Hospice patients in theircommunity

 Priscilla Arnold is the new President for the club. Many thanks to Janet

 Peters, previous President, for her service.

 Lake City Garden Club had difficulty meeting this past year. They did

 have a program with six of their members showing ways to decorate

 their homes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Detailed minutes were sent

 so members will stay informed about the meetings. $107.74 Penny Pines.

 Newberry Garden Club’s main project was to Newberry Elementary and

 Oak View Middle School. Local businesses donated rose bushes and

 Lady Palms for the gardens at both schools. Ten members donated 24

 hours to cleaning and planting the school’s gardens. Oak View had a

 “Thank You, Newberry Garden Club” on their school sign.$68 Penny Pines.

 Pioneer Garden Club was awarded the National Garden Club Plant

 America Grant for its 2019/2021 project at the Historic Tuscawilla Park.

 They are on target for a February/March 2021 completion of all NGC

 Grant requirements. *Congratulations,*

 2

 Riverhaven Garden Club has 44 members, one less than last year.

 Even though they met only once, their charity work has continued.

 Donations were made to Habitat and landscaping was done for three

 homes since October. $400 in donations provided 37 dinners for CASA

 Spousal Abuse Center. Donated many bags of pet food to two agencies.

 I would like to thank the members of District V Board of Directors:

 Donna Thomas, Assistant Director and Director Elect

 Carol Wood, Secretary

 Susie Berryhill, Treasurer

 and Ingrid Velez, Parliamentarian

 our new Assistant Director will be Carol Stevens

 The President of each club in District V

 The Committee Chairs of District V

 All the members of District V and I thank you for your many

 hours of service to your garden club, District V, FFGC, Deep South GC

 and NGC.

 Thank you to all the clubs for your generous support of Penny Pines.

 We collected $1,331.74!

 Photo Contest-

 Thanks Sandra Arnold and your committee for this fantastic

 idea! Loved seeing the photos at our District V Meeting via Zoom.

 I hope we’ll do it again.

 Thanks for being Awards Chair for District V.

 Congratulations to every one who won an award this year!

 Congratulations to our new officers for District V.

 Donna Thomas, Director, Carol Stevens, Assistant Director, Carol Wood,

 Secretary, Susie Berryhill, Treasurer, and Ingrid Velez, Parliamentarian

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## DISTRICT 6

 REPORT

 District VI Director

 Judi Jodoin

 January 13-14, 2021

This District VI Director continues to be extremely proud of the accomplishments and creativity that have been accomplished by the Garden Club’s in Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties.

Membership is growing in District VI in many of the Garden Clubs.

As programs were scheduled in advance, before the Pandemic, presenters were also forced to be creative. Like our members they adapted programs accordingly.

District VI submitted numerous awards that were judged in December, 2020. Melbourne Garden Club submitted an application for NGC “Plant America”. They were notified, in December, that they were Awarded NGC Plant America which is a $1,000.00 grant. New Smyrna Beach Garden Club submitted a grant application to FFGC for a matching $200.00 grant to defer the costs of startup of a Junior Garden Club. They are awaiting confirmation.

Melbourne Garden Club collected in November and December non-perishable food items for S. Brevard Sharing Center to assist the many community needs. They delivered a truck & car trunk full of care. They are working with the City of Melbourne to have their Blue Star Marker reinstalled in the original location on US 1. Updating their website, FB page, and creating a brochure as a hand out at up-coming events.

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club organized a Jr. Garden Club. Meeting for the third Tuesday 4:00P-5:00P January-April, 2021. This District Director will serve as Chairman. NSBGC continues to install new members and hold meetings from 9:00A-11:00A on the first Wednesday of the month with social distancing and limited attendance. Monthly BOD Meetings are via Zoom on the Wednesday prior to the first Wednesday’s meeting. They continue to collect non-perishable food items, checks and Winn Dixie $25.00 gift cards monthly to donate to a local food pantry. They have been doing this since 2005. Also, proud to support the local Habitat for Humanity Organization by having members of the Garden Club attend new home dedications and give each family gardening gifts: 50 foot garden hose, a hose nozzle, a fan water sprayer, two books about gardening in Central Florida, hand tools and gloves. They also present the home owner with a letter of congratulations from the Garden Club. NSBGC has been supporting Habitat since 2003.

The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. Continues to hold safe outside Activities. Many fundraisers and opportunities for Garden Clubs members through April are planned in a safe outdoor environment. They are also installing new members.

The Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. planted 700 plants in 77 pots and pedestals that line Woodland Blvd. their main street. Jan. 26th & 27th they will host NGC Gardening School Course #4 on line via Zoom. Members continue to meet on line through Zoom for their monthly meetings.

The FFGC 95th Annual State Convention “By the Sea” will be hosted by District VI at the beautiful Oceanfront Hilton Hotel in Daytona on April 12-14, 2021. Chairman Kathleen Terlizzo, Andrea Finn, Gloria Blake and team members faced additional obstacles. The Pandemic didn’t and can’t stop their efforts. Registration is on line. Please support their efforts, register, book hotel, and remember to say THANK YOU to a well deserved adaptable Convention Committee working through this Pandemic.

District VI new District Director, Suzi Bailey, will be installed at Convention along with our FFGC President Marge Hendon. Lots of celebrations are planned.

SUMMARY: District VI continues to have “Diversity in the Garden” serving local communities, increasing membership, learning Zoom, applying for Grants, hosting the 95th Annual State Convention “By The Sea” in extremely creative imaginative and fun ways.

## DISTRICT 7

 District VII Director

 Gwen Carter

 January 13, 2021

District VII activities and events continue to look differently from pre COVID-19, but our clubs are thinking outside the box. We are planning activities and events to help our neighbors who have suffered, due to the Pandemic.

Working to give back to the community is always a priority for District VII. Members are visiting facilities to give residents a special gift, offer them hope during this trying time, plus show appreciation for their’ life’s service. Ruth Squire, 102 years young, an original member of Camellia Garden Club, had fun painting flowerpots with club members. Jo Fleming, long time member of Clermont Garden Club, was serenaded by club members celebrating Jo’s 96th birthday on January 2, 2021. The celebration took place at Crane’s View Assisted Living Secret Garden where Jo took on the responsibility of rehabilitating the garden. We collected socks and undergarments for local elementary school students and delivered Christmas arrangements to local Assisted Living Centers. Clubs are taking funds usually geared for horticulture projects and reallocating the funds to families that have been hit hardest by Covid 19. Members decorated public Christmas trees and trimmed lampposts in neighborhoods with wreaths and bows. Members even took the time to judge neighbor’s decorations for Christmas and Hanukkah and presented a trophy to the winner

District VII clubs have put the spotlight on gardening by entering contests sponsored by local city governments. We are not just entering contests; we are winning the contests. We won First Place in a local Scarecrow Stroll Contest and “The Most Themed Tree” in The Holiday Enchanted Tree Forest Contest.

Clubs are having all kinds of get-togethers on Zoom, Pop Social, holiday parties, and meetings galore. Members are also meeting outside while following Social Distancing Guidelines at pavilions, parks, and gardens. Whether on Zoom or outside in the open, District VII Clubs have found alternative ways to fundraise for our various charities.

Finally, Mr. President, 2020 has been a year like most Americans have never witnessed, however, District VII’s seventeen (17) individual clubs, one (1) advanced club, and one (1) district club will make 2021 a better year with more community exposure promoting our theme “A Melting Pot Garden Sprouts Creativity and Depth.”

Thank you.

## DISTRICT 8

 Barbara Rao

District Director VIII

January 2021

 **We have entered the new year of 2021. May it bring us a renewed sense of hope to welcome a new normal! Our Garden Clubs have been inventive, creative, and determined not to lose sight of the needs of our members. Some clubs have curtailed activities until there is a more certain sense of safety for their members. That does not mean they have abandoned their members, Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails, newsletters have substituted for the normal in person meetings. Other clubs have brought chairs outside and used microphones to communicate with members. Still others have had field trips to Garden areas and have worked on community projects. Refurbishing clubhouses and top to bottom cleaning was enjoyed by many clubs. In the fall, I had the opportunity to visit many plant sales and Garden events and share their winning awards from the cancelled Convention. Joyful clubs welcomed these awards and proudly displayed them via email, Zoom and any way possible!**

**APOLLO BEACH- Kept working on their community gardens which has increased their membership to need a waiting list! Most meetings are held outside with topics such as plant grafting and plant sale in February. A busy group excited to learn more about their Food Forest.**

**CLEARWATER GC- Porch projects for members enjoyment and knowledge. Meetings held on Zoom and field trips to keep the interest and enthusiasm going. Members treated to delightful monthly newsletters.**

**DADE CITY GC- Pioneer Florida Museum and Village was festooned by the members of the six circles in time for Christmas. An annual project that brings joy to the community and special moments to the club members.**

**DAVIS ISLAND GC-Has had only one in person meeting so far, mostly zooming and meeting out of doors. Will be hosting the Spring District Installation meeting in May.**

**DUNEDIN GC Has been meeting in the gardens with a microphone system and entertaining their members with a well-kept Facebook page.**

**GARDEN GATE GC- Created Favors for Meals on Wheels. Meet monthly, outside, but half present due illnesses. Tree City so they are involved in planting for Florida Arbor Day.**

**GARDENERS OUT EAST GC Spent time caring for a beautiful butterfly garden that is enjoyed by neighbors and members. Plants are being pruned to allow for an easier walkway. Members take much pleasure in the garden.**

**GREEN GC AT HUNTERS - Members have been trying to meet via Zoom, container gardening is next month’s topic. Small but mighty group whose president is keeping them together.**

**GC AT TAMPA BAY GOLF &CC Enjoyed a lovely Christmas event with plant exchange and next month will have a container garden program. Community minded folks.**

**GC OF TARPON SPRINGS Provides school programs with its members and education.**

**LAKEWOOD RANCH GC Has been meeting at the Gazebo and is having zoom meetings with its members. Lots of future planning taking place. A small club with enthusiastic members and president.**

**LEMON BAY GC -Outside meetings with designing women. Communication is going well. New floors being refurbished in clubhouse. Garden Work always keeps them busy.**

**MANATEE RIVER GC Not meeting in person till next fall. Keeping in touch with members via email.**

**NEW PORT RICHEY GC- Not holding in person meetings currently. Horticulture meets weekly outside to propagate plants and learn new techniques. Held plant sale and earned $500, donated to Metropolitan Ministries.**

**PALM HARBOR GC- Program theme of A Little bit of Everything keeps the members involved.**

**PLANT CITY GC Meetings are being held and they are having Steed farms come to talk about Community sponsored agriculture that connects the producer to the community.**

**SARASOTA GC- hort study group meets monthly and programs are held. Looking forward to The Gardens in Paradise Tour in March. Flower Show will be held next October.**

**ST. PETERSBURG GC Zoom meetings in progress and small circle meetings in person. Have had time to clean and renovate the building. City to spruce the outside, ready to embrace 2021! Waiting for our members to come back. Boutique redone too.**

**SUNSET PARK GC meeting at club house with some members. Planning to hold Flower Show in March. A small, but mighty club.**

**TAMPA GC Are meeting in small group within their circles. Full member meetings also take place.**

 **TEMPLE TERRACE Members enjoy wonderful newsletter and have won awards. Club Working on Plant Projects and great winner of the District VIII Grant.**

**VENICE AREA GC Monthly meetings outdoors till Spring, Garden Tour will take place in March. Art in Bloom with floral designs at the Art Center is an upcoming event.**

**VALRICO GC Provides education for its members and the community.**

**Even though many events and activities that our clubs normally hold in the months from January to May are on hold till next year, we will follow the advice of our FFGC Membership chairs and Plan on Purpose. Such a great idea with a real focus to the future. Planning gives us hope and keeps us focused on the future. In many cases we are the glue that binds many of our members lives with activities and a reason to participate in creative and interesting events.**

**District VIII has tried to overcome some isolation the virus brought by bringing joy to its members while keeping in touch and looking forward to the future. Club members, presidents, Board of Directors have worked so hard to keep spirits up and positive attitudes going. I have been blessed to have been District Director for these past two years with all these remarkable people. It was a memorable time filled with some disappointments like the convention cancelled; but other glorious activities like traveling to the clubs to hand deliver the awards and meet with members at Garden and Plant sales. Talking with Club Presidents and sharing their energy and enthusiasm was the highlight of this administration. Our Zoom District Meeting was unique, fun, and entertaining. Looking forward to an in-person Spring District Meeting where I can turn over the District to Kitty Wallace who will be fantastic and keep District VIII Great!**

**Barbara Rao**

## DISTRICT 9

Director’s Report

District IX

January 13, 2021

President Latina, Board members, and attendees:

This director can attest to the fact that even idle time such as quarantine due to the corona virus can keep clubs busy and creative as they reinvent the wheel with new ways to get the job done. Let’s not even mention how many zoom meetings can be scheduled to take care of business.

Arcadia Garden club has devised a way to handle physically meeting at their clubhouse with social distancing and restricted lunch guidelines. They are planning a plant sale for the 29th, a sip and paint (painting on canvas) and a pot people session where they will personalize clay pots. Proceeds from these projects are used to make up for losses in rentals. I’m sure they are not the only club impacted by this.

Punta Gorda GC found that they could still have a floral demo by Claudia Chopp outdoors in a pavilion. They could also have their dedication of a garden bench to Elise Hayman in their park.

Port Charlotte is busy making plans to contribute to the city’s centennial celebration in March with educational workshops and sales from plants and yard art. Of course this will be held in a county park.

Lake Placid GC has scheduled meetings in Stuart Park as a way to maintain social distancing. They have maintained thir work with Ridge Rangers, garden therapy and city rose garden beautification – all done outside. The held their annual Holiday Home Tour which this director was fortunate to attend. More emphasis on the exterior spaces made it easier to follow covid guidelines and they were able to support their tradition of scholarship programs. They sold Christmas themed masks at their porchside gift shop.

Estero Garden Club is keeping open spaces in mind as they plan outdoor trips to the Ft Meyers Beach library open space, an orchid nursery and education regarding pollution solutions and native plants.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral managed to dedicate a Blue Star marker at the Eco Park Pavillion and hold a Holly Days gathering at Rotary park. Adjustments were made for the pandemic guidelines and it turned into a very happy event.

The Garden Club of Lakeland has had the usual amount of rearranging due to the virus restrictions. Large gathering for the entire 150 member club have been tabled due to spacing restrictions. President Janette devised a house-number painting project for an outdoor fundraiser and residents are waiting in a queue. 350 arrangements were made at various homes, garages and gardens for the Viste Meals on wheels Christmas dinners.

Winter Haven Garden clubs were honored by the City at a Tea as they turned the management over to the city in trade for a lease. Bouquet GC continued their Project with the donation of Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas hams and a monetary donation.

Avon Park Correctional Institute, after a total lockdown and many corona virus cases, now has allowed trustees back into the nursery. Former manager Tommy Sauls is again volunteering and teaching FNGLA coursework. They are hopeful that the sprin plant sale can resume in May.

This director is very proud of the solutions members are making to get through this challenging time and much credit needs to go to those who are finding methods to cope. I would also like to welcome Dale DeFeo to this position for the 2021-2023 term. She will do a great job.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Montwid, Director, District IX

## DISTRICT 10

## DISTRICT 11

District XI Report

January 13, 2021

Happy New Year, were all looking to getting vaccinated and being able to meet in person.

Most of our clubs are still meeting virtually, with one of our clubs meeting in person with approximately 20 members.

Our Pompano Beach Garden Club have been meeting in person, small meetings with approximately 20 members. Our members presented the program in November and December. We have birthday lunches outdoors with 12-15 people. We contributed plants to the reading garden at Habitat for Humanity's Reading garden in Pompano Beach. One-two members make a floral design to contribute to the Broward Children's center once a week. We prepared with new soil, then replanted and re- mulched the kitchen garden at Sample-McDougald House. This labor was performed by 3 groups of 3-4 very dedicated members. We are having a gift drive for the Broward Children’s center.

Garden Club of Lighthouse point will be having all meetings via ZOOM until further notice.

Meeting presentation on “FL NATIVE TREES -Best for our birds, bees and bugs”, Mona Johnston

Meeting presentation ‘DIET’ is not just a 4-letter word -Dr. Marlene Wolf

Holiday Lunch presentation “POINSETTIA’S - what to do with them after the holidays.

Our Moringa circle speakers for each meeting are Moringa members (a first). We could not get any "outsider" to present via Zoom. Some of our programs were Winning the Blue Grow for the show, Compost: Toil for Healthy Soil, And Celebrate the Season. Our youth groups have been on hold.

Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club

 As with most garden clubs, FLGC has only met virtually since commencing our “season” in October. Our Board has agreed to conduct its business via zoom into

the new year and most likely beyond. We held our first general club meeting in October via zoom with the intent that it would be a “learning session” for our members. Although it might have been initially intimidating, those that have joined

the zoom meetings have had few issues and are becoming more comfortable with the arrangement each month.

Our biggest challenge for our meetings has been the scheduled speakers who have mostly declined to present their programs via zoom. Some of our members have graciously filled in as speakers and have done a wonderful job. We are all looking forward to Janet Black’s design presentation, “Designs to Inspire”, in January via zoom.

FLGC was featured in an article in a local publication, “Neighbors of Victoria Park and the Isles.” The article appeared in the December issue much to our delight!

Our club’s activities have continued as much as social distancing will permit. Our

hugely talented and committed Grounds committee have been working steadily in

our gardens around our garden center. They have never looked more beautiful and have been a great source of interest for visitors coming to Birch State Park. Our Shade house committee decided to set up monthly plant sales that are open to park visitors and have sold all plants that were made available.

We will continue to be involved with our Youth programs in several of the Ft. Lauderdale schools. We will be providing plants, seeds, growing material and instructions to the students in January. Their nurturing efforts will be showcased at our annual Youth Flower show that will hopefully be scheduled in the spring if permissible.

Our two largest projects and fundraisers, our annual Standard Flower Show and the Secret Garden Tour, have both been postponed until February, 2022. It was discouraging to conclude that postponing was the safest and most responsible option for our members and for the public.

Our club’s most valuable asset is our extraordinary membership. We have a core of determined and dedicated volunteers who commit their time and expertise in many capacities to ensure the continued vitality of our organization.

And the Garden Club of Coral Springs has completed the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial during the towns Veterans Memorial along with planting a native butterfly and bee garden in the park, 60 % of our members participated.

We successfully completed our online auction helping to raise funds for scholarships. Our awards committee submitted application for two awards Blue Star and New-letter.

Our club this year has started a Patrons membership called “ Bouquet of Giving” this has enabled us to pay for Blue Star Memorial and garden, money for scholarships as well as business expenses.

We are currently hand building succulent pots and filling with succulent from members gardens to be given out on Valentines Day to a local Assisted Living Facility.

We also have started the Golden Bee Award. Each month a member who has gone above and beyond receive a certificate of appreciation along with a handmade honey milk bee soap, and wooden carved bee both made by our members.

We continue to meet by zoom and have presentation on Sea Turtles, Orchids, and Edible Gardens.

Coral Springs Garden Club also continues to host the Environmental School by zoom.

## DISTRICT 12

 District 12

 District XII Report

 Jean Hawa, District Director

 January 13, 2021

Good afternoon! As you all know, COVID-19 put great stress on all of our lives and garden clubs. Because each garden club president had something to say about COVID, and in order to keep within the time limit, that word will not be spoken in this report.

The **Coral Gables Garden Club** is doing well by having all meetings via Zoom. Programs are given as PowerPoint presentations and workshops are videotaped and posted on the club website.

Their effort to increase the urban forest, Project Canopy, literally took root, when three large oaks and three Cassia bakerianas were planted at two Coral Gables’ public schools.  A native garden will be planted at a third school, and two more schools are making plans for their trees later this year.  A plea for donations for this project, had an immediate and generous response, including the donation of a whole tree. This “first ever virtual fund-raiser” was very successful.  Their new website made this possible, as well as giving a platform for environmental blogs and videos of floral designs.

Working with the City, they will establish a pollinator plant demonstration garden at a newly purchased vacant lot, destined to become a park.  They look forward to keeping a “Little Free Library” well stocked with books at the Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park.  Progress is being made on the Lamar Louise Curry Park, using a bequest from long-time member, Miss Curry.

Many of their events in the next four months may be cancelled, but they are finding other ways to engage members and the public in the joys of gardening!

**Coral Pines Garden Club** successfully conducted three Zoom club meetings with interesting topics and speakers. Most members completed the Survey Monkey and started to form a partnership with the Deering Estate that will increase the visibility of the club, create engagement opportunities and help with recruitment. Sadly, two members Delma Jean Rumenick and Barbara Lape have passed on to the eternal garden.

A $1,000.00 National Garden Club “Plant America” grant was awarded to Coral Pines Garden Club to support its partnership with the Deering Estate's Brook Trail Restoration Project.

**Ken Pines Garden Club** has not met since March.  The president sent emails and tried to arrange get togethers but no one was interested.  They are planning a February meeting with a speaker.

**Marathon Garden Club** will continue to have board meetings at its Garden Club, but General Meetings are questionable. They hope to install the new officers, have a butterfly garden certification of up to 15 members, go into the community to help establish and certify a few gardens, and continue to offer scholarships to graduating seniors. They also maintain their gardens and work in the nursery and gift shop.

**Miami Beach Garden Club** is continuing monthly meetings at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden virtually and in-person. The annual flower show and membership luncheon have been cancelled. In March the club is planning the annual home garden tour adding a botanical art display in several locations.

Since the **South Dade Garden Club** couldn’t meet at the Fruit and Spice Park, they began having Zoom meetings.  They created a new YouTube channel, which will be launched officially later in the year. Their Facebook page has gained popularity and helped bring in new members. The new WhatsApp page really united the members and helped them to interact on a daily basis.

In November, their first fundraising event, “Thanks-Growing”, was selling strawberry plants at the Fruit and Spice Park, which proved to be a big success and introduced new members to the club. Their first in-person meeting was in December at the catered Holiday Party, with gift swag packages for everyone.

The first meeting of 2021 will be on the “Art of Bonsai”, followed by a field trip to the Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens. They will have a class on making light weight Hypertufa pots, restarted the monthly Blooming Artists painting classes, and plan on various hands-on workshops such as “Plant Propagation and Grafting” and “Making Your Own Beauty Products” with ingredients from a garden. Plans also include the annual Garden Tour. Despite all, it proved to be a wonderful year and the club members are very excited about what lies ahead!

The **South Miami Garden Club** has a hybrid format with in-person and Zoom meetings. The December monthly meeting focused on a mini fundraiser, a **Make, Bake or Grow Auction.** They had outstanding auction items contributed by members as well as FUN!

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, members placed wreaths at the South Miami **Blue Star Memorial** **Highway Marker**. They decorated the gargantuan **Christmas tree at the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks’ Lodge,** their new home away from home.

President Masztal stated: “As 2020 ends I think about December of 2019 when we had “no clue” about what was in front of us. Fortunately, we are resilient. We can learn and we have learned. People have tapped into their ingenuity, their generosity, and their adaptability. The pandemic has forced us to change the way we do some things. As a result, we have managed to be creative in our thinking and often more efficient. I am optimistic the positive changes will follow us into the future… Quoting Maria Shriver of *The Sunday Paper*, “There is light ahead. There is new energy coming our way.