



Keeping in Touch



JUNE 2022



With Region Directors, State Presidents & Club Presidents

MARY'S MUSINGS



This first year as NGC president has truly flown by. We began the 2021-2023 term with virtual meetings and presentations, and we are now able to reconnect, be together and meet in person. It has been gratifying to be able to attend meetings around the country in the second half of this term. It, also, has been a joy to renew old friendships in person and begin new ones.

NGC's state, local leaders and members have clearly been busy with their clubs. I am inspired by their determination to stay connected and remain dedicated to their business and projects. Their passion is rooted in their work which supports NGC's mission.

After two years, our first in-person national convention was held at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando, Florida. Thanks to all of our members whose commitment and support made the 91st NGC convention a wonderful success.

As the days get longer and the air warmer, enjoy the summer days and sunshine that invite us to plant our gardens, Plant America, and play outdoors!

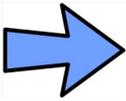
Mary Warshauer, NGC President.
MWarshauer@gardenclub.org



Brenda's Blog

*I encourage you to follow our NGC President's lead and find some time to "Play Outdoors." Oftentimes, as leaders, we spend way too much time on the business of our organization—answering e-mails, taking phone calls, working on our computers instead of following the mission statement of National Garden Clubs, Inc.— "National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. " So go outside and promote what we love by acting upon it - gardening, picking up litter, or entering a flower show. **We lead by example!***

*Brenda Moore, NGC President-Elect
Liaison to State Presidents and
Region Directors
BMoore@gardenclub.org*



LOOKING AHEAD

- Please e-mail me the name & contact information for the incoming president for your State Garden Club. That includes mailing address, home & cell numbers and e-mail address. These will be shared with Donna Rouch, future Liaison to State Presidents and Region Directors.

NGC Fall Board Meeting Tentative Schedule September 20—22, 2022 St. Louis Airport Marriott
 STATE PRESIDENTS AND REGION DIRECTORS should plan to attend the following meetings/activities at the convention: STATE PRESIDENTS' and REGION DIRECTORS' MEETING September 21st, 4-5 p.m.; BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING September 22nd, 9-12:00 noon;
 REGION DIRECTORS ONLY should attend the SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, Tuesday, September 20th, 9-11:00 a.m. and the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Wednesday, September 21st, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-5:00 p.m. All times are CDT.



LOOKING BACK—a review of the 2022 Convention State Presidents' and RD's meeting

Mary's current travel schedule for a half-year (covid has probably made it busier): March 7-10 Deep South Region Natchez, MS.>home to NJ>March 20-25 NGC tour of Charleston, SC.>FL>April 3-5 Huntsville, Alabama; GC of Alabama Inc.>FL>April 12-13 Macon, Georgia; GC of Georgia, Inc.>NJ>April 18-22 South Central Region, Galveston, Texas>April 24-26 Lisle, Illinois: GC of Illinois Inc.>April 26-28 Pacific Region, Las Vegas, Nevada>NJ>Back to TX May 3-5 Austin, Texas; Texas Garden Clubs Inc.>NJ>May 15- 21 NGC Convention Orlando, Florida.>May 24-25 Manchester, New Hampshire; New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.>NJ>Back to Las Vegas June 3- 4 Las Vegas, Nevada; Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.>June 6-7 Ludlow, Vermont; Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Inc.>June 9-11 Wichita, Kansas: Kansas Associated Garden Clubs Inc.>June 12-13, Poughkeepsie, NY; Federated Garden Clubs of New York, State, Inc.>NJ>June 17-19 Casper, Wyoming; Wyoming Federation for Garden Clubs, Inc. >NJ>August 25-27 Park City, Utah; The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc.>NJ>September 19-24 NGC FBM St Louis, MO.

We tossed a ball of yarn back and forth to demonstrate the back and forth of this schedule.

We discussed suggestions on how can we alleviate this type of schedule and be more considerate and better stewards of the President's time and NGC's money.

- 1) Be flexible and consider the President's travel. Just because you always held your convention at a specific time, doesn't mean it can't change. If the dates are in your bylaws, consider changing them. Set your convention around the President's schedule and surrounding States' meetings schedules.
- 2) If your convention is only a day, consider encouraging your members to meet the President at a Region meeting, perhaps piggy backing onto one of their State meetings, since NGC doesn't pay for flights or hotels for Region meeting. Another alternative is to invite the NGC President to speak virtually to those attending your State convention.
- 3) If your State is hosting a Region meeting, consider holding your State convention right before or after the Region meeting.
- 4) Consider working with and/or to piggy back your State convention with neighboring States' conventions
- 5) Please, realize we have life outside of garden club. We'd love to accommodate as many States as possible, but to do that you need to work with us.

Make sure a President's visit will benefit your State. Don't ever feel obligated to invite the president.

The next Care to Share will be July 12th at 2:00 pm EDT and we'll make this a time for whatever you'd like to discuss on "Open Mic Care to Share". Remember to invite your VPs too.



Elva's Protocol Pointers

If you are to introduce a speaker or a guest, make sure you have done your homework. Make sure you have the correct spelling of the name and know how to pronounce it. Ask the person directly how to pronounce his/her name and write it phonetically if you need to, as one of the most embarrassing things to do is pronounce the name incorrectly. Introductions must be kept short and try to find something else about the speaker or guest that was not previously published in a State publication or Convention Program. Sometimes you can get interesting/funny information about them from their friends or someone who knows them.

Remember, you will **introduce someone who is NOT known to your group and present someone who is KNOWN.**

The link to the latest NGC Protocol Manual— [PROTOCOL \(gardenclub.org\)](http://PROTOCOL.gardenclub.org)

Elva Davidson, Protocol Chair elvadavid@aol.com



Robin's Tweets

Why Bother to Go to Convention – May 2022

Why bother? Because there is plenty that can help YOU as a state president. You can sit back and criticize (that's the easy part), OR you can put effort into gleaning new methods to increase membership, fresh ideas for fundraising, and interesting programs that could motivate or inspire your members. You can garner new perspectives on old programs or projects. The networking at convention is an undervalued asset that is available to everyone who attends. Our organization is really quite amazing, and focusing on aspects that aren't working as well as might be hoped, doesn't move our train down the track and that's our ultimate goal.....moving this garden club train down the track. Instead, we need to concentrate on what is working well and develop ideas for what will work better. Then we can cultivate how we can take advantage of the experience and knowledge that abounds at an NGC convention to improve our states and regions. So next year, make an effort to attend....I hope I see YOU at the Greenbrier in West Virginia.
~ Robin Pokorski, President's Project Chairman cgcirobin@gmail.com

Feedback wanted: Is the Region breakfast at conventions worth the cost, especially if we cease assigned seating at other meals? Cost seems to be an issue for many, although this breakfast was optional. Your opinion will assist with future planning.

We're waiting on nominating committee representatives to be selected from Maine and Vermont, New England Region; Maryland and New Jersey, Central Atlantic Region; Michigan, Central Region; Utah, Rocky Mountain Region; Nevada and Alaska, Pacific Region. The following States/Regions have submitted their representatives: Virginia and North Carolina, South Atlantic Region; Mississippi and Louisiana, Deep South Region; Illinois, Central Region; Texas and Arkansas, South Central Region; North Dakota, Rocky Mountain Region. THANK YOU!

If your state needs to pass, please let me know so I can inform the next state in the rotation. Note that a nominating committee representative may serve in another position on the NGC BOD.