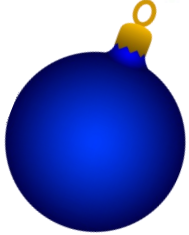
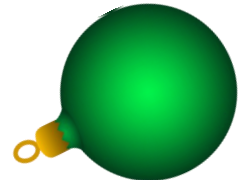




# Keeping in Touch



DECEMBER 2021



With Region Directors, State Presidents & Club Presidents

## MARY'S MUSINGS

Our garden clubs have been quite busy this fall offering workshops, programs, and holding productive meetings. Clubs have honored veterans with Blue Star and Gold Star dedications, and many states have held NGC Schools.



While our gardens rest during winter, clubs will continue to find ways to cultivate membership and continue to grow.

NGC has been busy too. The virtual gatherings have been valuable for us all to share, learn and work together. I am so pleased with the participation and interest. Check your e-mail for future program offerings.

As these next few weeks move into the holiday season, we are grateful that family and friends are able to join together to celebrate with each other this year.

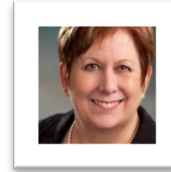
“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”—

Marcel Proust

Wishing you a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Mary Warshauer, NGC President. [MWarshauer@gardenclub.org](mailto:MWarshauer@gardenclub.org)

## Brenda's Blog



*Membership and leadership go hand in hand and deserve equal attention. Leadership affects membership. Membership affects leadership.*

I can't say enough about the Membership Mondays virtual meetings put on by the NGC membership committee. If you haven't participated in these meetings, do so. They are insightful and energizing.

Thinking of leadership, now is the time to vote to endorse potential candidates from your state and send to the NGC Nominating committee. Also, now is the time to start thinking about whether you want to continue serving on the new Board of Directors.

~Brenda Moore, NGC 1st VP/ Liaison to State Presidents & RDs. [BMoore@gardenclub.org](mailto:BMoore@gardenclub.org)

## Robin's Tweets Set up for Success



How about a word about mentoring and setting up the next guy for success? I've heard comments such as "I want to leave a legacy" or "I want to be remembered" or "she (a successor) undid all my projects." We volunteer for these jobs to help the organization – it isn't about any of us personally – it's about what's best for the organization we serve. So how to bridge this gap? TALK to your successor and your team – get their input and start helping pave the way for THEIR plans and ideas – a smooth transition is best for our clubs, districts and states. If your ideas are good, then they will stand the test of time – get your team on board – but accept input and consider their ideas. "A lot of problems in the world would be solved if we talked TO each other instead of ABOUT each other."— [Nicky Gumbel](#)

~ Robin Pokorski [cgcirobin@gmail.com](mailto:cgcirobin@gmail.com)

## Reminders

**Awards of Excellence Applications** are due by **January 1, 2022** and should be sent to Donna Donnelly - [DMDonnely@gardenclub.org](mailto:DMDonnely@gardenclub.org)

**Award Applications**, which should be sent in by your State Awards' Chairman, are due into NGC by **January 15th, 2022**. [dianejharbin@comcast.net](mailto:dianejharbin@comcast.net), NGC Awards' Chairman

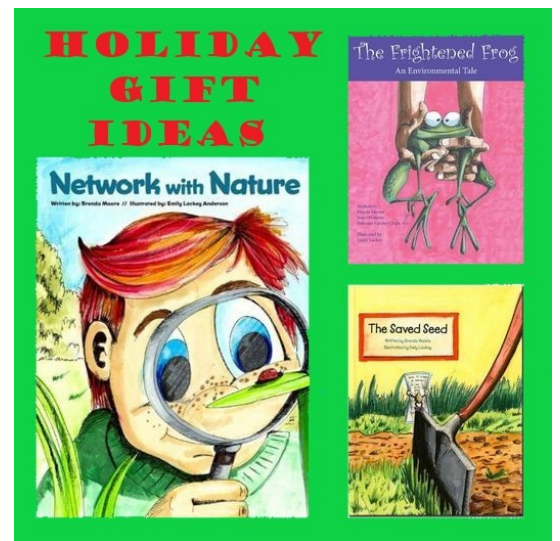
The new **2022 Vision of Beauty Calendar** is out and available on the NGC website: <https://gardenclub.org> (Go to Member Resources/Publication/Explore Here/ VOB calendar) The calendar showcases numerous designs from Traditional to Creative to Botanical Arts, as well as Small Pocket Gardens. It is a great teaching tool to inspire and educate designers on new trends. It is also a wonderful gift to give out to members, family, and friends. Please consider going online and ordering one or more copies of the 2022 Vision of Beauty Calendar. Sales to our members are an important part of your support and the continued success of this beautiful publication. [florence leysse@gmail.com](mailto:florence.leysse@gmail.com)

Remember to purchase great holiday gifts from our NGC Store  
[Our Store | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

Thank you to the State Presidents who turned in the Schools' survey. I'm compiling the information into a chart that will be looked at by the President, VPs, Schools' Chairmen, and be e-mailed to you.

I'm still waiting for the name and contact information, if you have it, for the next president of your state. I realize some states might not have that information yet.

I'm happy to report that all States membership dues were paid by the October 31st deadline! Thank you.



**The next scheduled Care to Share zoom meeting for Presidents and Region Directors will be Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, at 2:00 PM EST**

**These meetings will not be recorded to allow participants to feel they can share freely.**

### Next One Up! by Gaye Stewart

People, flowers, bouquets and more; Field trips, friends and fun galore  
Design and landscape classes to make you smart. Delightful training to warm your heart  
Civic projects to make you proud. Exciting ideas shared out loud  
Meetings, events, workshops so fine. Bringing you new friendships divine  
Leadership offers may be in sight. New opportunities to share your light  
Step out in faith – confidence do show. People are watching and seeing you grow  
You may volunteer, or wait to be asked. Either way is fine – be up to the task  
Garden Club work, enriches your life; Always interesting and without strife  
Bring your “game face” on for the fun. You’ll be proud of yourself when it’s done  
Time’s a wasting, so don’t delay. Others will help you along the way  
My tiny poem is nearly complete. To see you in Garden Club work will be sweet.

- KIT is a pass-along newsletter, so e-mail it to your state officers and your club presidents.



## Elva's Protocol Pointers

The NGC Protocol Committee is busy rewriting the Protocol Manual that many use as a reference when putting together business meetings and conventions. One issue that may cause confusion is the difference between a prayer and an inspirational thought, and when is the proper time to use these.

A prayer is a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship.

An inspirational thought is a quote that motivates a person emotionally or mentally making one feel hopeful or encouraged.

Some types of prayers are:

Invocation – prayers asking for God's help

Blessing – giving thanks for gifts or nourishment

Benediction – a farewell blessing at the end of a meeting

Collect – a short prayer adapted to a particular occasion

An inspirational thought may be more appropriate at the beginning of a business meeting.

With the diversity of current and new members joining garden clubs, we should respect everyone's beliefs when doing any of the above.

Please try to be as nondenominational as possible.

Elva Davidson, NGC Protocol Chair [elvadavid@aol.com](mailto:elvadavid@aol.com)

### Membership Matters!



**MEMBERSHIP MONDAYS - The 3Rs Workshop Series, a new benefit of your NGC membership**

What's better than your local garden club meeting? How about a meeting with club members ALL ACROSS THE AMERICAS?

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and we can all benefit when we help each other. The purpose of **The 3Rs Workshop Series on Membership Mondays** is to allow club members from all over the Americas to share success stories, resolve commonly encountered issues, brainstorm solutions, and simply dialogue with one another.

Join us on the 2nd Monday of each month. Share ideas, mentor each other, sharpen your skills. LEARN. GROW. CONNECT. SERVE. TOGETHER.

Our first meeting, **RECRUITMENT**, was attended by 419 members from all regions and explored great ideas on opening our clubs to all potential members, welcoming each new member and constantly maintaining a mindset of sharing our good work through simple and affordable advertising.

Future meetings will explore **RETENTION, REVITALIZATION, FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP**, and other relevant topics that we've been asked to present. If you have a specific topic for exploration, please share it with [MEMBERSHIP@GARDENCLUB.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@GARDENCLUB.ORG)

Our December Meeting, 12/13/21 2:00 PM Eastern Time, will be a special presentation in collaboration with our NGC Virtual Resources Team: Home for the Holidays – Garden Club Style, is a program featuring special visits with members across the Americas as they share their homes, holiday traditions and special garden club skills.

-Trish Bender, Membership Committee Chairman

### Patty's Parliamentary Procedure Helps



#### Topic: What Exactly are Meeting Minutes?

What exactly are "minutes" and what is their purpose?

Minutes are the legal record of the business performed within a business meeting, any organized meeting or gathering. They don't become the legal record until approved by the members of the particular assembly, usually at their next regular meeting. Minutes are only drafts until approved.

Here's what minutes are NOT—they are not a newsletter.

Secretaries frequently add items that do not relate to actual business, opinions, or conversations of members (i.e., "the pot luck dinner was enjoyed by all," or, "we talked about holding a special meeting sometime in the fall," etc.)

Minutes should contain the following:

1. First Paragraph—the kind of meeting; name of organization or assembly; date, time, place; presence of President and Secretary, or names of substitutes; whether minutes of previous meeting were read and approved, or if they were approved as corrected.
2. Body—names of persons giving reports and their subject only; main motions only (secondary motions when main motion is carried over to another meeting); votes, notices of motions, points of order, and appeals;
3. Last Paragraph—time of adjournment (do not list the motion or mover for adjournment).
4. Signature of secretary and, if desired, president. Do not include "respectfully submitted."

For more detailed information on preparing meeting minutes, please refer to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief. It will give clear instructions that are easy to read and understand, even for brand new secretaries.

Patty Arndt, NGC Parliamentarian [jpjardnt@comcast.net](mailto:jpjardnt@comcast.net)