

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Minutes of 96th FFGC Annual Convention General Meeting
April 19, 2023
Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista, Kissimmee, FL

Call to Order:

The 96th Annual Convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was called to order at 08:30 AM, April 19,2023, by President Marge Hendon. President Hendon extended a warm welcome to all members.

The chairman declared a quorum present. The FFGC chaplain, Pat Strawn, gave the invocation. The colors were presented by the Cypress Creek High School ROTC team. Dennis Hale, General Manager of the Embassy Suites gave the welcome. Susie Berryhill Convention Co-Chairman also gave a welcome and Jenny Weber, 2024 Convention Chairman, gave the response.

FFGC Chaplain, Pat Strawn, conducted a memorial service for all who have left us in the past year. Members were invited to take rose petals in remembrance from a bowl in the front of the room. The names of the deceased members were shown on the screen during a convention meal.

Introductions

Deep South Board Members

Carol Hall, Deep South Director

NGC Board Members

Former NGC Presidents: Lois Shuster and Barbara May (not present)

The chair declared a quorum present.

Appointments

Committee to approve the minutes of this meeting: Andrea Finn Chairman, Barbara Jacobson and Helen Purvis

Tellers: Carolyn Stevens, Margaret Kirkpatrick and Lorene Junkin

Timekeeper: Inger Jones

Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee as of 4/18/23 was read by Jana Walling, FFGC Treasurer:

Total number of Delegates	84
Total number of alternatives	2
Total number of members	49
Total number of Guests	6
Total registration	141
Voting Strength	84

The preliminary credentials report was adopted.

The preliminary registration report was given by Skip Lamoureux, Convention Registrar. Total registration was 141. The report is for information only and will be filed with the minutes.

Carolyn Lowry-Nation read the convention rules.

Linda Feifarek-Johnson moved to adopt the convention rules as read They were adopted unanimously.

The convention program was presented by Kelley Wood, Co-Chairman of the 2023 Convention. The program was adopted unanimously.

Kalia Baillene, Chairman of the Committee to approve the minutes of the 2022 Convention, reported that the minutes were approved as corrected.

The pages for this convention are:

Emilie Palmieri – for Marge Hendon

Kat Spieker – for Tina Tuttle

Rosita Aristoff – for Cissy Richardson, Susie Berryhill and Kelley Wood

Joanne Mulinare & Becky Lindhorst - Pages at large

Judi Jodoin -- Pages Chairman

Officer Reports: all reports were received and will be filed with the minutes and can be found on the FFGC website.

Marge Hendon, President

Tina Tuttle, President-Elect

Christy Linke, Second VP

Mary Whisler, Third VP

Sue Roberts, Recording Secretary

Linda Feifarek-Johnson, Corresponding Secretary

Jana Walling, Treasurer

Jana presented two reports, first from June – December 2022 and the second from January - March 2023. Reports will be filed.

Carolyn Lowry-Nation, Parliamentarian

Report of the Nominating committee by Helen Purvis, Chairman

Helen read the report, announcing the slate of officers and then thanked the members of the Nominating Committee.

Tina Tuttle, as President-Elect was not on the ballot.

Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary are appointed officers. Carolyn Lowry-Nation was appointed parliamentarian and Linda Feifarek-Johnson was appointed Corresponding Secretary.

Christy Linke was nominated by the Nominating Committee as First Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Mary Whisler was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Second Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Leticia Gunn was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Third Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Jennifer Barber was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Recording Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

Jana Walling was nominated by the Nominating Committee as Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor.

Since there was only one person nominated for each office, the election was by voice.

Christy Linke was elected First Vice-President.

Mary Whisler was elected Second Vice-President.

Letitia Gunn was elected Third Vice-President.

Jennifer Barber was elected Recording Secretary.

Jana Walling was elected Treasurer.

The newly elected Executive Board was introduced and recognized.

Thanks to Helen Purvis and the Nominating Committee for their service.

Bylaws, Cissy Richardson

FFGC BYLAWS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT THE APRIL 2023 FFGC CONVENTION:

ART III, IV and XI ESTABLISHING ONLINE (E) CLUB

ART III MEMBERS Sec 1 Voting Membership

a. Eligibility, Admission INSERT: (4) ONLINE (E) CLUB

(4) An Online (E) Club shall have a membership of not less than ten (10). Application for membership shall be submitted to the FFGC Board of Directors through the FFGC 3rd Vice President. The application shall be accompanied by per capita dues and an alphabetical list of names, District number, mailing address and email address of all members. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall elect the club which shall immediately be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of membership. Ratification shall follow at the next Board of Directors meeting.

DATE: 4/19/23

ADOPTED: YES

LOST:

COMMITTEE:

ART IV DUES AND FEES

Sec 1 INSERT: ONLINE (e) CLUB If adopted, this will read: The annual dues of each Garden Club, Online (E) Club and each Garden Club organized.....

d. INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs

If adopted, this will read: Annual FFGC dues of member belonging to two or more Garden Clubs including Online (E) Clubs and Garden Clubs organized...

ART XI REPRESENTATION Sec 1 b. Garden Clubs INSERT: including Online (E) Clubs

RATIONALE: Formation of Online (E) Clubs are being considered within FFGC structure. An Online Club existed many years ago but was never formally adopted as an FFGC Club. The Bylaws listed above will include this new club designation for FFGC.

DATE: 4/19/23 ADOPTED: YES LOST: COMMITTEE:

ART IV Dues and Fees Sec 1 e.

STRIKE: e and (1) in entirety. e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by June 1. Dues of members enrolled after June 1 shall be payable immediately.

(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by June 30, and a notice shall be sent.

If not received by November 1, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstated.

INSERT: e. Dues shall be payable to FFGC and shall be remitted to Headquarters by May 1. Dues of members enrolled after May 1 shall be payable immediately.

(1) Dues shall be delinquent if not received by May 1 and a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 1, a notice shall be sent. If not received by June 30, membership and all privileges shall be forfeited unless and until reinstatement.

PROVISO: Effective date – January 1, 2024.

RATIONALE: Addresses the issues: (1) Club members/Officers leaving for the summer without having paid dues for upcoming year.

(2) Timely submission of updated information for the Book of Information which is compiled over the summer for fall distribution including current contact information for Officers and members.

(3) NGC dues are payable June 1, and delinquent Oct 31. The current FFGC Bylaw for dues collection has a delinquent date of Nov 1 which is after the delinquent date for FFGC to pay NGC dues. Therefore, FFGC dues are delinquent and does not allow FFGC dues/membership numbers reported to NGC to be accurate.

PROCEDURE: The FFGC Membership Chairman would send Dues Notice out the middle of March. With Bylaw revision, the dues would be delinquent June 1 and a notice sent.

Dues not received by June 30, would result in forfeit of membership privileges. Revision proposed allows for collection of FFGC dues prior to the summer hiatus that many clubs observe.

DATE: 4/19/23 ADOPTED: YES LOST: COMMITTEE:

ART V FINANCES Sec 3 General Funds (after sentence – The General Fund of FFGC shall be derived.....)

INSERT: A reserve shall be established within the General Fund to support the Penal Garden Therapy Program at the Avon Park Correctional Institution. The source of funding shall be specific donations and

specific fund raisers therefore, and the use of the funds shall be exclusively for support of Avon Park Correctional Institution Penal Garden Therapy Program.

RATIONALE: The Avon Park Correctional Institutional Penal Garden Therapy program was an established FFGC project.

District IX coordinated this program. This is an FFGC project and should be included in the FFGC Bylaws including all funding detail.

DATE: 4/19/23 **ADOPTED:** YES **LOST:** **COMMITTEE:**

ART XXI DISTRICTS Sec 1 Structure **STRIKE: a.**

INSERT: a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.

If adopted, this will read: a. (1) Districts form an integral part of the overall FFGC organizational structure.
(2) Districts shall be established with boundaries defined by the FFGC Board of Directors.

d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the Board of Directors, provided such transfer is approved by the Directors of the respective Districts.

INSERT: FFGC STRIKE: is **INSERT: was previously** **INSERT: and their District Board of Directors.**

If adopted, this will read d. Transfer of a member Club from one District to another may be granted by the FFGC Board of Directors, provided such transfer was previously approved by the FFGC Directors of the respective Districts and their District Board of Directors.

INSERT: e. Bylaws for Districts are generally not required. Policies and Procedures are usually adequate. However, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures must conform to FFGC Bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation and/or District Bylaws must be reviewed by the FFGC Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee prior to District approval.

INSERT: Sec 4 Finances Districts are required to obtain individual TIN number in order to become unique organizations for IRS tax filing purposes. A 501 (c)(3) is not required in most instances.

RATIONALE: FFGC is clarifying current FI Sales Tax Laws that affect Districts.

DATE: 4/19/23 **ADOPTED:** YES **LOST:** **COMMITTEE:**

Presented for consideration of adoption: 2021-2023 Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee – Cissy Richardson, Marjorie Hendon, Arlene Rand, Tina Tuttle, Rosita Aristoff, Margaret Chodosh, Judi Jodoin and Carolyn Nations, Parliamentarian.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS -- All reports are filed and will be included with minutes and will be on the FFGC website.

DISTRICT 1 – Joyce Waters-Smith

DISTRICT 2 – Sue Schmitz

DISTRICT 3 – Marilyn Larsen
DISTRICT 4 – Connie Gladding

Lunch– Laura Perdomo presented “Growing Plants from Start to Finish”.

District II ,III, and IV were honored.

Break out sessions began at 10:45 and then again at 2:15.

At dinner Districts VI, X, and XI were honored and Josh Henderson, CEO of Bonnet Springs Park was the guest speaker.

President Marge Hendon recessed the business meeting at 10:26 AM Wednesday to reconvene Thursday at 8:30 AM.

The business meeting reconvened at 8:30 am.

FFGC Treasurer, Jana Walling

Interim Credentials Report 4/19/2023 was read by Jana Walling, Treasurer.

Total Delegates 146

Total Alternates 4

Total Members 118

Total Guests 11

Total Registration 279

Voting Strength 146

The credentials report was adopted.

Convention Registrar, Skip Lamoureux

Registration report, see detail on credentials report

Continuation of District Director Reports

District V – Donna Thomas

District VI – Suzi Bailey

District VII – Charlotte White

H&E Committee, Sue Roberts, Chairman

Finance Committee – Tina Tuttle

Strategic Planning – Gina Jogan

Wekiva Youth Camp Committee – Mary Whisler

FFSJ – Parke Finold

Tropical Short Course – Michele Maguire

Awards – Gwen Carter

Short Course North – Tina Tuttle

Centennial Celebration – Tina Tuttle

Roadside Beautification – Brenda Luedeman

Trees & Reforestation – Kat Spieker

NGC Environmental Studies Schools – Lydia Barbour

Continuation of District Reports

District VIII – Phyllis Weber reporting for Kitty Wallace

District IX – Dale DeFeo

District X – Michele Maguire

District XI – Sharon Bogard

District XII – Leticia Gunn

Tri-council – Pat Caren

FFGC Matching Grants – Gina Jogan

Note: all reports can be found in the ‘reports’ books that will be on the website (ffgc.org) along with these minutes once approved.

Invitation to Next Year’s convention

Jenny Weber and team presented a skit to invite us to the 97th FFGC Convention – “CELEBRATING 100 YEARS” at Southbank Marriot Hotel in Jacksonville FL.

No New Business

President Hendon recessed the business meeting at 10:35am.

Thursday breakout sessions were at 10:45 and 2:45. Installation Rehearsal at 3:45.

Districts honored at lunch were VII, IX, and XII. Kevin Brown spoke about sea turtles at the luncheon.

Districts honored at dinner are I, V, VIII. The dinner program was the installation of new officers.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 pm Thursday.

President Hendon introduced the head table and honored guests.

BLESSING: Carolyn Lowry Nation gave the blessing

After dinner, several awards were announced.

Report of the Credentials Committee: Jana Walling, Treasurer, gave the Final Report of the Credentials Committee.

Total delegates 154

Total alternates	4
Total Members	151
Total Guests	14
Total Registration	323
Voting Strength	154

Jana moved the adoption of the final credentials report. It was adopted. The registration report was also read just for information. The report will be filed with the minutes. All three credentials reports are included at the end of these minutes.

The 2023 96th FFGC Convention was adjourned at 9:30 PM to be followed by the installation of the new officers and district directors.

Susan Roberts

FFGC Recording Secretary

Marjorie Hendon

FFGC President

Committee to approve the minutes: Andrea Finn, Barbara Jacobson, Helen Purvis

Couple corrections:

Andrea Finn:

1. Page 3- line 7: Jennifer Barber was nominated by nominating committee as **recording secretary** (not 2nd v.p.)

2. Page 5 - line 10: if adopted ... 2. (1) Districts form **an** integral...

Page 10 and 11 Registration report:

page 10 - 4-19-23 4:35 p.m. District IV has 14 members.

page 11 - 4-20-23 5:00 p.m. District IV has 0 members ??? How can that be? Where did they all go?

That's all I've found.

I have attached my *suggested* edits for your consideration. They are highlighted in yellow.

This is a WORD document but I can convert it back to a PDF if you have trouble opening it.

I did not review the Bylaws - I assumed you inserted the wording provided by the Committee.

Regards,

Barb Jacobson

I have read the minutes and agree with the corrections and did not notice any other corrections.

Thanks helen

CREDENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
FFGC CONVENTION
(dates/place)

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time) 4/18/23 4pm

PRELIMINARY: INTERIM: _____ FINAL: _____

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>84</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>2</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>49</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>6</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	141

VOTING STRENGTH: 84

REGISTRATION REPORT:


FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>1</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>49</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>6</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>57</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>51</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>28</u>	First time Attendee	<u>14</u>
Delegates	<u>84</u>	Alternates	<u>2</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : 141

DISTRICT REPORT

District I	<u>14</u>	District V	<u>25</u>	District IX	<u>13</u>
District II	<u>4</u>	District VI	<u>14</u>	District X	<u>9</u>
District III	<u>11</u>	District VII	<u>8</u>	District XI	<u>10</u>
District IV	<u>4</u>	District VIII	<u>25</u>	District XII	<u>4</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.


 _____ Signature/Title/Date

CREDENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
FFGC CONVENTION
(dates/place)

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time) 4/19 4:35

PRELIMINARY: _____ INTERIM: ✓ FINAL: _____

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>146</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>4</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>118</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>11</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	<u>279</u>

VOTING STRENGTH: 146

REGISTRATION REPORT:

FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>2</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>118</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>11</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>68</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>70</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>74</u>	First time Attendee	<u>62</u>
Delegates	<u>146</u>	Alternates	<u>4</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : _____

DISTRICT REPORT

District I	<u>18</u>	District V	<u>46</u>	District IX	<u>25</u>
District II	<u>9</u>	District VI	<u>28</u>	District X	<u>31</u>
District III	<u>13</u>	District VII	<u>22</u>	District XI	<u>12</u>
District IV	<u>14</u>	District VIII	<u>48</u>	District XII	<u>12</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

_____ Signature/Title/Date

CREENTIAL/REGISTRATION REPORT
 FFGC CONVENTION
 (dates/place)

4-20 5:00

REPORTS SUBMITTED – (Dates and Time)

PRELIMINARY: _____ INTERIM: _____ FINAL: ✓

CREDENTIALS

Total Number of Delegates (registered at least 10 days prior to meeting)	<u>154</u>
Total Number of Alternates	<u>4</u>
Total Number members (not registered as Delegates or Alternates)	<u>151</u>
Total Number of Guests/Companion/Spouses	<u>14</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	<u>323</u>

VOTING STRENGTH: 154

REGISTRATION REPORT:

FFG Officers	<u>8</u>	NGC/DS Guests	<u>15</u>
FFGC District Directors	<u>12</u>	Members (not previously counted)	<u>151</u>
FFGC Former Presidents	<u>5</u>	Guest/Spouse	<u>14</u>
FFGC Board of Directors	<u>75</u>	FFGC Life Members	<u>80</u>
Club/Circle/Council Presidents	<u>80</u>	First time Attendee	<u>82</u>
Delegates	<u>154</u>	Alternates	<u>4</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION : _____

DISTRICT REPORT			
District I	<u>19</u>	District V	<u>54</u>
District II	<u>11</u>	District VI	<u>29</u>
District III	<u>14</u>	District VII	<u>31</u>
District IV	<u> </u>	District VIII	<u>54</u>
		District IX	<u>29</u>
		District X	<u>37</u>
		District XI	<u>12</u>
		District XII	<u>18</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (circle one), I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

 _____ Signature/Title/Date

