



# Keeping in Touch



SEPT. 2021



With Region Directors, State Presidents & Club Presidents

## Mary's Musings

The long warm days of the musical sounds of birds and bees humming, while enjoying the nectar of blooming flowers, have been a blessing.

Like the butterflies first flight, we have gracefully emerged out of 2020 and into a hopeful 2021. As quickly as the butterfly takes to its wings, so has summer flown by.

With careful consideration, the 2021 NGC Fall Board meeting has changed from in-person to virtual.

NGC's virtual resources are valuable to the organization and to the continuity of all that we do. From educational programs, schools, meetings, and gatherings online, virtual platforms have proven to be a true asset. The Virtual Resources Committee stands ready to assist state presidents, board members, and garden clubs as needed.

I look forward to seeing our talented and dedicated State Presidents and Region Directors at the virtual FBM Friday, September 24, 2021 12:00 noon EDT.~ Mary Warshauer, NGC President.

[MWarshauer@gardenclub.org](mailto:MWarshauer@gardenclub.org)

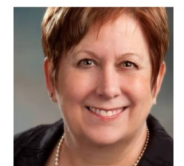


## Brenda's Blog

### Living in a Covid World

Covid seems to be surging again and it's taking a toll on many club and state memberships. Now is the time to embrace the virtual world and use online resources. NGC and most states now have their magazines online—does yours? It not only sends an environmental message of using less resources but it saves money. It allows flexibility in who receives it. Online magazines don't have to be passed down. They can be e-mailed to anyone. It's a wonderful way to attract younger members. It's so important to keep your state members connected and show that you care for their health during this time. Virtual meetings and programs can only help your state stay connected. NGC has a Virtual Resources Committee that was set up to assist you. "A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn." - Helen Keller. Let's make sure we're making the turn. State Presidents and Region Directors, I look forward to seeing each of you at our virtual meeting on September 23rd.

~Brenda Moore, [BMoore@gardenclub.org](mailto:BMoore@gardenclub.org)



## Robin's Tweets



Are you still gathering a board together? Are you having trouble getting commitments from people? Maybe you need to clearly define what your vision is for the job you're trying to talk them into taking. My mom always said it was easier for someone to say "no" if they didn't understand what was expected of them, than to take the job and find themselves in over their head. Explain YOUR vision and goals for the term, your theme, and special projects – get them excited to be a part of your team. Outline the minimum you expect from each job that you want filled, and then communicate that to your prospective board member. Let them know they can make the job their own, but here is a list of what you expect/need to have happen. Ask them how they see the job, what would they be interested in accomplishing. Then listen to them, deciphering what their assets are and making that successful match of assets and interests! And always make that personal call. It's easy-peasy to say "no" to an e-mail, but on the telephone it's a good deal harder to turn someone down. Be sure they feel you are right behind them, supporting them, encouraging them. It takes a village.....

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

## SURVEY

The Photography Committee is interested in seeing how clubs have included photography in their flower shows and what types of photography programs/competitions they have conducted in their clubs. On your next correspondence with club presidents, could you ask them to submit to the photography committee any photos or information on this topic. We are going to try and feature this idea somewhere in social media, probably our newsletter or maybe a Power Point.

E-mail answers to Carol English, Photography Committee Chairman [overbrook@comcast.net](mailto:overbrook@comcast.net)

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!

- **Member Services: Take advantage of NGC's Youth Books in Member Services.** The latest, *Network with Nature*, is a perfect gift for grandchildren. Grandparents and parents can encourage their grandchildren to put down their electronic devices and *Network with Nature*.

[Our Store | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) **10% off sale on all Member Service merchandise Sept. 20-30, 2021.**

- **State Dues Deadline** for submitting NGC dues to NGC Headquarters is October 31

- **Share Your News!**

A quick and easy way to share what is going on in your gardening world, club, or state, is by writing a blog article. Blog articles are short, 300 to 1500 words. They are posted on the National Garden Clubs (NGC) website once a week [here](#). Articles can be shared instantly to your Facebook gardening club or region/state site. Topics are related to NGC's goals and objectives, such as nature, plants, gardening, environmental issues, floral design, landscape design, climate change, and pollinators. To learn more, visit [Member Resources](#) on the NGC website and under "Blog Article Submissions" you will see the [Blog Guidelines](#) and a place to submit blog articles online. Feel free to contact me for more information at [blog@gardenclub.org](mailto:blog@gardenclub.org). Peggy Riccio, NGC Blog Administrator

It is now possible for people to subscribe to the NGC blog. All you have to do is enter your e-mail at <https://www.gardenclub.org/ngc-blog>. You will receive an e-mail when a new blog article has been posted. This free service is for members as well as nonmembers.

- **4 and 5 Star Forms**

A new 4/5 star application form was set up on the NGC website, whereby applicants can fill in the application form and send it automatically to both the chairman and headquarters by-passing the need of the state president's signature. This information is then double checked with the data processing system and the certificate is issued. <https://gardenclub.org/four-and-five-star-membership>  
Kitty Larkin, 4 and 5 Star Chairman [Kittysltr@wi.rr.com](mailto:Kittysltr@wi.rr.com)

- **Connections, Communication, Tech Skills, Pivot!**

-The NGC Virtual Resources Team can help you build these core organization "muscles."

-Learn about the great program opportunities beyond your backyard.

-NGC's Virtual Resource team is ready and able to support you with training and workshops.

-Small groups to Statewide sessions, and if you don't have a big ZOOM account, NGC does, and will host your meetings.

-Current buzz is hybrid (connecting to others who are not physically together), which is a tool that will pay off in increased membership and retention.

To reach the team: [Virtualteam@gardenclub.org](mailto:Virtualteam@gardenclub.org) or text Cherie @ 203-400-3668 or e-mail [Clejeune@gardenclub.org](mailto:Clejeune@gardenclub.org)

- **Virtual Fall Board Meeting Schedule that State Presidents and/or Region Directors should attend.** Please feel free to invite your **State 1st Vice President** to the Thursday meetings. **Zoom links will be sent out closer to the date.**

Thursday, September 23:

11:00 am—1:00 pm EDT—Executive Committee meeting (includes REGION DIRECTORS)

11:00 am—12:15 pm EDT—Play date #1: "How to Make Your State Shine: Scholarships, Sponsors, Youth & Each One Plant One." Attendance is optional. Geared towards STATE PRESIDENTS, but open to all.

12:30 pm—1:45 pm EDT—Play date #2: "Leadership" Robin Pokorski, NGC Motivational Speaker

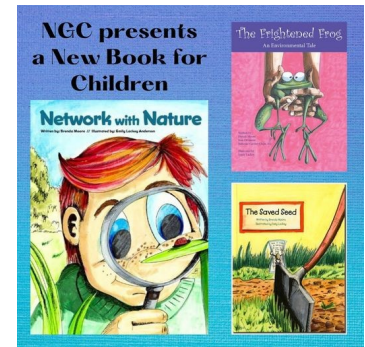
Attendance is optional. Geared towards STATE PRESIDENTS, but open to all.

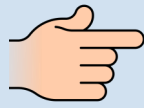
2:00 pm—3:15 pm EDT—Play date #3: "The Wonders of NGC's New Website/Constant Contact" Phyllis White Media Coordinator & Jane Waugh, Website Chair Attendance is optional. Geared towards STATE PRESIDENTS, but open to all.

3:30 pm—4:30 pm EDT—STATE PRESIDENTS, & REGION DIRECTORS' Meeting. State First Vice Presidents welcome.

Friday, September 24:

12:00 noon— 3:00 pm EDT—Board of Directors' Meeting which includes STATE PRESIDENTS & REGION DIRECTORS  
REGION DIRECTORS





## Elva's Protocol Pointers

- >The **Pledge** to the flag is said at the **BEGINNING** of the Opening Business Session **only**.
  - >The American flag is displayed to the **RIGHT** of the dais (and the Presiding Officer). It can be either on the same raised platform as the Officer or on the floor as the Assembly. The flag is seen on the left side of the seated Assembly facing the dais.
  - > **Introductions:** The Presiding Officer starts with those seated "to my **LEFT**" and moves to the Center podium; then turns and states: "to my **RIGHT**" and moves to the Center of the dais/head table ending with the Presiding Officer.
  - > Never state "I'd like to introduce the head table." **State** "I'd like to introduce those seated at the head table."
  - > **Order of rank:** Usually **ONE** distinguished guest is invited to attend a Convention but if you should choose to invite more than one: The Order of Introduction and seating would be Region Director, other NGC elected Officer, NGC President. If the other NGC Officer is appointed, the Officer is introduced first, then Region Director and last NGC President.
- Elva Davison is the NGC Protocol Chairman. If you have any protocol questions please e-mail her [elvadavid@aol.com](mailto:elvadavid@aol.com)

### Membership Matters!



Membership – the body of members of an organization or group associated by some common tie – for us, it is the garden clubs. Active, vibrant and connected members are the life blood of each club, district, state, region and, ultimately, the National Garden Clubs. It all begins with each local club!

The past year has been difficult for many clubs to meet due to Covid-19, meeting facilities closed, social distancing, and safety mandates. Many of us sought comfort in the caring of our personal garden sanctuaries.

With the Delta variant now present we must not falter, but rise to the opportunity to preserve the unity and blessings of each garden club, wherever the location. How??? You may ask! Here are some proven, successful ideas and activities for your club's tool box:

1. Stay in contact with all of your club members. One club's executive committee divided their membership among themselves and vowed to call, e-mail, or send a "Thinking of You" card bi-weekly.
2. Hold gathering events outside in a large parking lot or other open space.
3. Your club may have a newsletter, but if not, develop one to keep your members engaged. Ask members to provide pictures of their special plants, favorite recipes for the coming holidays or for using seasonal fruits or vegetables, plant propagation tips, plants to attract pollinators, fall vegetables to plant now, people articles featuring your club members. Garden club contests should be an important part of your information sharing as well. Send your newsy, newsletter monthly by e-mail to all members, visitors and other club presidents. Share what you are doing to help your club stay connected. You will inspire others!

Our collective goal has not changed and our on-going challenge, as leaders, is to provide our clubs with safe, meaningful activities that will engage, inform and continue to remind our members that their "Membership Matters" to them personally, to their club and to the communities they call home. Together, we can succeed! Gaye Stewart, Chair, NGC Membership Committee [rosesremembered@aol.com](mailto:rosesremembered@aol.com)



### Patty's Parliamentary Procedure Helps Where Do We Begin?

Parliamentary procedure can be both simple and complex. There are many rules and procedures to learn, and it takes a great deal of time and commitment to learn them all.

Now, in the words of Julie Andrews, from *The Sound of Music*, "Let's start at the very beginning."

What is Parliamentary procedure? In a most basic explanation, it is a process to conduct meaningful and orderly business in any organization. It defines order and prevents chaos in meetings. It is only **one** of the sets of rules that govern an organization, and should be used only when the other rules, which take precedence over parliamentary rules, do not address or conflict with the higher-ranking rules. All the rules of an organization, in order of importance, are as follows:

- Federal and State laws governing corporations, tax-exempt organizations, public legislative bodies, etc.
- Articles of Incorporation – applicable to corporations
- Governing documents of parent organizations – applicable to chapters, affiliates, etc. of larger organizations
- Local Constitution and Bylaws which define the organization's basic structure and fundamental rules
- Standing Rules, or operating procedures, of the organization, working with all the above
- Parliamentary Rules of Order, or parliamentary authority, **which is superseded by any of the above rules on record for the organization.** Our ultimate reference for all things dealing with Parliamentary procedure is *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, or *RONR*, as it is commonly referred. The Twelfth, and most recent edition, was published just a year ago, in September 2020. This book contains 633 pages of text, tables, and charts. The supplement to this new edition is *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in Brief*. This supplement answers, in more understandable terms, some basics of *RONR*. However, it covers only the essentials, which is a good beginning for those just learning about Parliamentary procedure.

Well, that is "the beginning." In addition to answering questions, I hope to touch on all the basic principles and procedures of Parliamentary procedure. Happy reading! Patty Arndt, NGC Parliamentarian If you have any parliamentary questions e-mail [jpjardnt@comcast.net](mailto:jpjardnt@comcast.net)