

Garden Guild Membership Meeting

February 18, 2025

Minutes

Home of Jan Alswager

Call to Order:

President Alswager called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Guest Introduction:

Sheila Britton and Tricia Maynard were introduced as guests of Merelyn Shore and Di Anne Mazcko respectively.

President's Comments:

President Alswager thanked Jo Lapinski for the fruit; Gayle Mcgraw for the additional food items and Di Anne Maczko for the floral arrangement.

President Alswager gave a summary from the February 6 Board Workshop:

1. Focus on planning for the year
2. Board and General meeting dates
3. Discussion about programs for the year
4. Reviewed Board member duties as listed on website
5. Reviewed By-Laws taken from Jan's previous work during 2024
6. Reviewed member survey sent to all members via email for the February meeting
7. Brainstormed goals for the year (education, project, social) *
8. Website review to be done at next Board meeting
9. Discussion about archiving historical documents

***Goals for the Garden Guild 2025:**

Education: The Garden Guild will provide programs that include hands on activities and outings to provide experience and knowledge of floral design and gardening

Project: 1. The Garden Guild will plan and execute a successful flower show that will include the involvement and enjoyment of all members. 2. The Garden Guild will implement a meaningful Community Project.

Social: The Garden Guild will encourage the development of social relationships among members.

Action/Outcomes:

For 2025, Board Meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month (except Jan. 8, 2026) and General Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except Nov. 13, 2025) Board Minutes will be posted on the website for all members to review.

Members are requested to contact Jan with the name(s) of competent web designers.

Members are asked to contact Jan with any items for discussion at the March 6 Board workshop.

Vice President Comments: (Susan Cole Bainbridge)

Vice-President Susan Cole Bainbridge suggested that we begin each meeting with a “good-news” session where members share positive information about themselves or others in the Guild. This idea was received positively by members.

Susan complemented President Alswager on the work she had previously done revising the By-laws and expressed how much she has enjoyed working as vice-president with such competent presidents (Bonnie and Jan)

Action/Outcomes:

Future Garden Guild meetings will begin with a short “good news” session.

Recording Secretary:

Sue Williams called the roll. Present at the meeting were 21 members, 5 members were absent. There were 2 guests.

Present: Jan Alswager, Mary Bragg, Vickie Christensen, Susan Cole Bainbridge, Liz Durham, Beth Fluke, Norma Hall, Celina Haramis, Carrie Hemphill, Lucille Johnstone, Janine Kirkland, Jo Lapinski, Leslie Martin, Di Anne Mazcko, Gayle McGraw, Bonnie Newman, Margaret Quinn, Merelyn Shore, Sue Williams, Allegra Willis

Zoom: Linda Rudisell-Hines

Moved by Mary Bragg and seconded by Allegra Willis that the minutes from the January General Members’ Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Birthdays for February-March 19:

Linda Rudisell-Hines: February 2

Norma Hall: March 6

Gayle McGraw: March 16

Treasurer’s Report: (Janine Kirkland)

Janine Kirkland presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2025.

General Account:	306,070.98
Graffiti Account:	3,244.69
Cash on Hand:	2,711.62
January Income:	0
January Expenses:	192.00
Christmas Luncheon:	1,818.38
Poster Stands:	2,010.38
Total	312,027.29

Margaret Quinn moved to approve, seconded by Carrie Hemphill. Motion carried.

Membership: Allegra Willis

With the resignation of Daphine Mullins, the Garden Guild currently has 26 members. This year's goal is to increase membership to pre-pandemic levels of 35 plus.

Action/Outcomes:

Members are encouraged to refer potential members to Allegra.

Sunshine: Lucille Johnstone

Linda Hines is recuperating slowly.

Programs: Carrie Hemphill

Gayle McGraw will present a program on Leaf Manipulation at the February meeting. Shelley Pierce is a potential presenter on Ikebana Design for the March meeting. Another potential program could be on tool sharpening.

Action/Outcomes:

Send suggestions for programs to Carrie.

Carrie will form a sub-committee to plan programs for the remainder of the year.

Floral Design Show: Gayle McGraw

The floral design show will take place at the end of January 2026 from 2-5 pm at a private home at the corner of Juan Alvarez and Constitucion. The cost will be \$500 pesos, and the number of tickets and the title of the show are to be determined.

Action/Outcomes:

Gayle will discuss possible dates with the hosts, focusing on Friday and Saturday of the last 2 weekends in January.

The Board will discuss possible dates at the next meeting,

Members will no longer be required to purchase a personal ticket for the flower show.

When more information is available, members will vote on details for the show.

Community Project: Mary Bragg

Jan and Susan CB met with Mary Bragg to discuss the community project, and the current proposal is that we continue with the computer project for another worthy school. Mary outlined the criteria to be considered when selecting the project.

Action/Outcomes:

Mary will contact the Rotary Club about their possible involvement in the computer project.

Members are asked to contact Mary with different ideas for the community project which she will bring to the Board for consideration.

When the project is finalized, the proposal will be brought to the membership for approval.

Webmaster/Publicity: Linda Rudisell-Hines and Carrie Hemphill

Linda reported that the website is completely up to date. There are still a few issues regarding access to the password-protected areas.

Action/Outcomes:

Linda and Carrie will work on resolving any remaining issues with the website

Hospitality: Vickie Christensen

Vickie passed around the sign-up sheet for hospitality which includes addresses for hosts and prospective restaurants. She also noted that, in response to the member survey, the luncheon can be an opportunity for more member interaction.

Action/Outcomes:

Vickie will research possible luncheon options for the March meeting that are closer to the meeting than the proposed Rincon de Frida including Monte Coaxala in San Juan Cosala.

At lunch, members are requested to sit with someone they don't know or haven't usually interacted with.

Old Business:

Member Survey: The board reviewed the summary of the members' survey assembled by Allegra Willis. Key interests were:

- educational opportunities including floral design and gardening topics with an emphasis on floral design including hands-on learning at meetings
- socialization with and support from members
- working in groups
- selling arrangements for charity fundraisers
- field trips
- eliminating food from meetings

Action/Outcomes:

Survey results will be sent to all members for discussion at the next meeting

Form subcommittees to increase member involvement

New Business:

1. Allegra Willis moved to approve the goals for the Garden Guild; seconded by Janine Kirkland. Motion carried.
2. Merelyn Shore moved to approve male membership in the Guild; seconded by Bonnie Newman. Motion carried
3. Changes to the By-laws were reviewed. The issue of part-time members was discussed. Currently there are 5 part-time members which is the current limit. There is no precise definition of what constitutes a part-time member
4. Refreshments – members generally enjoyed having refreshments at meetings but appreciated the addition of something savoury to the pastries.
5. Trips – As chair of field trips, Susan Cole Bainbridge would like to have a committee to assist in developing these.
6. Beth Fluke invited members to join her in Philadelphia (approximate dates: April 30 to May 7). Members would stay at her friend's house. She passed out a description of gardens and museums that are worthwhile places to visit.
7. Jan invited members to join her in watching the Big Flower Fight TV series.

Action/Outcomes:

1. The goals for the Garden Guild will be implemented.
2. Male membership of the Garden Guild will be instituted
3. Changes to the By-Laws will be discussed and voted on at the March meeting

The Board will discuss the definition of part-time member and discuss the possibility of making a change to the by-laws. A report will be shared on the discussion at the March membership meeting.

4. Refreshments will be served at meetings with the addition of a savoury item to the pastries.
5. Merelyn Shore, Janine Kirkland and Liz Durham will assist Susan Cole Bainbridge with the development and implementation of field trips.
6. Interested members should contact Beth Fluke regarding the proposed Philadelphia visit.
7. Jan will survey members for interest in viewing the Big Flower Fight series and she will organize it.

Executive Committee Comments:

There needs to be a discussion of the Guild's involvement in the graffiti project.

Motion to Adjourn:

Lucille Johnstone presented a motion to adjourn; seconded by Celina Haramis. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a program on Leaf Manipulation by Gayle McGraw.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Williams

Recording Secretary

