



Nurture Nature

Monday Memo

November 13, 2023

Hello Everyone,

The Executive Team finally completed our Road Show of visits to the various districts and I have to say, it has been a wonderful experience. Each district meeting was different and each one helped us all learn more about the clubs, the dynamic Presidents and Treasurers we have out there running them. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and look forward to a more personal encounter at one of your meetings in the future. You are all doing such amazing activities. I treasure the newsletters I receive and I hope you will continue to send them to me. I feel a bit more connected to you all when I read them because some of the clubs are not in my backyard. Reading them enables me to get an inside glimpse into what you are doing and I am always impressed. I have started to look through all of your yearbooks and have reached out to some of the Presidents already about what I have discovered. So many great things are happening across the state. You should all be truly proud of how well everyone is performing and the contributions you are making to your hometowns. Thank you for all that you do!

I received notification from the Sewah Studios, the company where we usually order Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers. They sent me a Price List change which I think everyone considering replacing or purchasing memorial markers should keep in their list of documents for reference. It is effective January 1, 2024. I have asked Betsy Howard to post it on our Blue & Gold Star website page as soon as she is able. You may find it by using a Button labeled [Marker Price List](#).

Speaking of the GCFM website, we had a long website committee meeting this past week and the website will be undergoing surgery in the upcoming months. It started out as cosmetic but then as we probed, it is now starting to look like minor surgery. I truly hope it's minor for Betsy's sake. We are trying to make the site as user friendly as possible and the major change will be our **Resource Page**. We will alphabetize everything for convenience and actually turn it into a one stop shopping page. The Treasurer's Resource section, however, will remain untouched. Otherwise, everything you could possibly need to find on the website will be listed there in a GCFM INDEX list and those links will lead you to where you would logically look for it otherwise. I have heard a few comments that people struggle to find what they are looking for on the site. Hopefully, these changes will help you get where you need to go quickly.

The Zoom Award presentation from Lisa Murray last week got great reviews and members were pleased that she did it. It is in the process of becoming a YouTube video for better viewing and you will find it on the GCFM website under GCFM Recordings in the near future. [HERE](#) is the slide show presentation. Betsy will post this on the awards page as soon as she can.

For all of you who are doing food or cash donations this time of year, please be sure to fill out the **Plant America-Feed America Donation form** with your club name and with the weight of your vegetables or the estimated weight of your donations if already packaged, or estimated value of donations (gift cards) to local food banks, soup kitchens, schools, senior centers, etc. Contributions can be recorded on the [Donation Form](#). Since National is tracking this, we would like Massachusetts to get credit for our generosity.

It is with a heavy heart that we must inform you that former NGC President, Eleanor Yates, passed away on November 5, 2023 in Bradenton, FL. Eleanor served as President of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) from 1993-1995 with a theme of "We Love to Garden, And it Shows." It was in North Carolina where Eleanor began her decades-long association with NGC becoming State President of North Carolina from 1977-1979, South Atlantic Regional Director from 1983-1985, and ultimately National President. She was a longtime and dedicated member of NGC and many lives have been enriched by her friendship. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her daughter, Allyson Hogan at 3035 Elk Run Dr., Park City, UT 84098.

Enjoy each day.



Marjorie Dienhart
GCFM President

I have to walk where the only sounds I hear are the rustling of the leaves in the breeze. - unknown