

A Message from President Sally Harrison

I look forward to seeing many of you at our **Spring Piedmont District Meeting on March 21.** We are excited about some of the changes we have made:

- <u>New Venue</u>: We will have more room to socially distance and for vendors at the newly renovated **Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian** as well as exciting menu choices.
- <u>New Price</u>: Everything is costing more these days, and our meeting is no exception- we have raised the cost by a modest \$5 – to \$35
- <u>Entrée Choices:</u> While the cost will increase, Diane Burgess, our Hospitality Chair, has worked with the Doubletree to offer us entrée choices. For the Spring Meeting, attendees will have the choice of Beef Tips or Salmon or a Vegan, Gluten Free option. See Diane's description on page 3.
- <u>Program</u>: JoAnn McNabb, our Program Chair, has planned a wonderful program after lunch featuring Al Brockwell! See JoAnn's program preview on page 3.
- <u>Registration</u>: The form is included on the last page X of this newsletter, or it can be downloaded. Please note: Johanna Gilbert, our Registrar must have your completed Registration Form and Club check by MARCH 10, 2022.

JoAnn McNabb and Diane Burgess are also Co-Chairs of the **VFGC Convention** to be held at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond on **May 1-3, 2022**. After the Covid-related cancellation of the 2020 convention in Roanoke, they are working hard to plan a wonderful opportunity to gather, to learn, to shop and enjoy. See their article on page 6.

As part of this year's convention, an **NGC Design Specialty Flower Show** will be staged at the convention hotel. The schedule will be published soon and will be posted on the VFGC website.

Note that the **convention registration deadline is April 10.** The registration form is included at the back of this newsletter issue – please note that you can attend the entire convention at a package price. Or – you can attend part of the convention: for example, on Monday, May 2, you could attend the luncheon and design program and stop by the flower show, stopping at a few vendors along the way.

I am always eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. Let me know what you are thinking! Again, thank you for all that you are doing to support your Garden Club and the Piedmont District! I encourage all our clubs to start brainstorming now about how we can celebrate **NGC "National Garden Week" (June 5-11)** in our Piedmont District communities!

Sally

Sally.c.harrison@gmail.com H: 804-784-2851

"Hope Is a Daffodil"

Pam Mann, District Chaplain

Remember January 3, 2022? It brough us a wet, weighty snow that played havoc with precious plants and trees. Yet, hope springs eternal—they say.

And so it was on that day, a garden club friend chanced upon a brilliant, yellow daffodil. Surrounded by sleek green, icicle-draped leaves, it stood alone amidst the snow.



Photo by Bridgette Swepston, Powhattan GC

In general, the daffodil symbolizes hope, rebirth, new beginnings, and prosperity. Across the pond, it is the Lenten lily.

In 1802, the English poet Wordsworth and his sister, Dorothy, strolled around a lake. Before them stretched a vision of daffodils that she later described in her diary.

...we saw a few daffodils close to the water and fancied that the lake had floated the seeds ashore. And that the little colony had so sprung up. But as we walked, we saw they had formed a long belt along the shore.... Some rested their heads on mossy stones as on a pillow for weariness & the rest tossed & reeled & danced... ever changing.... (it) seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them. Let us pray:

God, Grant us hope and faith and love And no matter how discouraged we may be, Let us accept what the new year brings with joy and charity.

Lord, help us grow in strength and grace. To celebrate the daffodil. And clearly see Your face.

The Song of Solomon (2:12) For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, The flowers appear on the earth, The time of the singing of birds is come, And the voice of the turtle(dove) is heard in our land.



NGC's "Plant America" Daffodil Double Corona Cultivar © G Goodrich Harwood 2021

You Are Invited to Enjoy a Great Day at the Spring Meeting

Diane Burgess, Hospitality Chair



All members ...and guests, too, are invited to enjoy a lovely day out at the Piedmont District Spring Meeting:

visiting, shopping, celebrating district awards, luncheon, and an extraordinary design program!



The new location will offer all that we could possibly hope for: easy accessibility with ample parking,

excellent food prepared by an executive chef, freshly renovated spaces, excellent health/ safety measures, competent staff, and competitive pricing. There will be ample social distancing both at the luncheon as well as during vendor shopping. Face masks will be required.



The luncheon offerings are amazing. Your choice of:

Grilled Salmon with lemon beurre Blanc sauce,

- Or *Tri tip of Beef* with wild mushroom demi-glace Both entrees served with roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, mixed green salad, and Tiramisu for dessert
- Or A special meal to meet specific dietary needs: Vegan, Vegetarian, Gluten Free

WHEN: Monday March 21, 2022

WHERE: Double Tree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian 1021 Kroger Center Blvd Richmond, VA 23235

SCHEDULE:

8:30– Registration begins / vendors open 10:00– General Meeting 12:00 – Luncheon followed by program

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Reports should be emailed to Susan Delsordo, Recording Secretary, Mary Wiblin, Historian; and Sally Harrison, President; or bring three copies to the meeting.

REGISTRATION FORM: see p 11 off this newsletter

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 10

Piedmont District Spring Meeting Design Program

JoAnn McNabb, Program Chair

"Spring Fling" by Al Brockwell



We are delighted to announce that Al Brockwell is our featured presenter at the March 21 Piedmont District Spring Meeting!

Al is a distinguished floral designer and member of the prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers. He has been in the floral business for over 40 years owning his own business for much of that time.

A design instructor at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and J. Sargent Reynolds Community College, AI is currently employed by Flowers Make Scents in Midlothian. Many of our members have enjoyed AI's designs and sense of humor at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's "Dueling Designers" programs.

Al's fabulous designs will be raffled off, so be sure to get to the meeting early to buy plenty of opportunity tickets!

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

CALENDAR

Feb 15 Feb 28-Mar 3	Piedmont District Grant Deadline VFGC Flower Show School II
Mar 20-22	SAR Convention
Mar 21	Piedmont District Spring Meeting
Apr 4-6	VFGC Symposium, Richmond
Apr 23-30	Virginia Historic Garden Week
May 1-3	VFGC Convention & Flower Show
May 1	Footprints Deadline, Summer
May 17-20	NGC Convention, Orlando
Jun 5-11	NGC "National Garden Week"



Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Pat Merson - Chair

Piedmont District was fortunate to have two garden clubs – Salisbury and Sleepy Hollow Garden Clubs - submit one poster for each grade level (grades one through five) in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest. Winning posters will be announced at the Piedmont District Spring Meeting on March 21^{st.} Congratulations to Salisbury and Sleepy Hollow Garden Clubs for submitting posters this year!

Behind the Scenes

Lynn Bell, Policy and Procedure Chair

Piedmont District – like all formal organizations – operates consistent with a set of bylaws and policies.

We have recently completed a review and update of our bylaws and Standing Rules. For example, our bylaws will be altered to reflect that in extenuating circumstances such as a pandemic, meetings can be held virtually using Zoom or other technology. Overall, the changes conform to current practice.

According to our bylaws, changes must be adopted by the membership or their representatives. Voting will take place at the March 21 Piedmont District Meeting. Designated representatives, those with voting credentials, will be asked to adopt the changes. In advance of the meeting, proposed changes will be provided to district board members and club presidents.

VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Everyone needs a Life Membership into the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Please consider giving one to several garden club

members or to yourself. The cost is \$50.00. You'll receive a lovely ceramic pin (shown) If you want to make it a surprise, the pin can be sent to whomever you designate



on the form. A presentation can be given at a District Meeting (arrangements must be made in advance) or at a garden club meeting. The \$50 is a tax-deductible donation to the VFGC scholarship fund. You may also receive or give a Book of Honor award. You won't receive a pin, but you will receive a card. Go to

http://www.virginiagardenclubs.org/VFGC/Life_Me mberships.html for the applicable form/s. Or call or email Jane Denton, Life Membership Chairman at 804-435-6877; email: <u>denton@va.metrocast.net</u>.

VFGC Projects

Kathy Ward VFGC 2nd Vice President



Order Your VFGC Logo Decals Display Them Proudly!

To order your decals, contact Barbara Hollister (<u>bedhollister@gmail.com</u>) or Mary Owen (<u>rxowen@aol.com</u>). Decals are \$3, two for \$5

Proceeds from the decals will be used to purchase a Blue Star Memorial to be placed at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Bonus! \$100 will be awarded to the club with the most participation.

Cleaning Up Our Planet



Clubs are encouraged to participate in VFGC's Trex[®] plastic film recycling program that

allows community groups to earn a beautiful Trex® bench with the collection of 500 lbs. of plastic film.

Each club that wishes to participate must go to <u>www.trex.com</u> and register.

The program we are participating in is the Community and University Challenge Programs. For questions or more information, contact Carolyn Nichols (<u>CLNichols@centurylink.net</u>) or Mary Owen (<u>rxowen@aol.com</u>).

Nationall Garden Week Celebration

NGC "National Garden Week" is set for June 5-11. How will your club celebrate? Some ideas from the NGC website:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden, or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a wonderful time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

VFGC Clubs -Let's display our pride and spread the word during National Garden Week!



Go to the National Garden Clubs website to download this colorful *fillable format* poster. <u>www.gardenclubs.org</u>

Add your garden club name and community, print 11 x 14 or larger posters, and display them throughout your community: in local store windows, churches, parks – and even mount them on sticks and post in member yards, HOA rules permitting. Let's celebrate National Garden Week in all our communities across the state!

VFGC Convention 2022

Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb, Chairs



May 1-3, 2022 Short Pump Hilton Hotel & Spa 12042 West Broad Street Richmond

Hotel Reservations

Richmond Hilton Hotel & Spa / Short Pump Hotel Reservations: 804- 364-3600 – ask for "Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Block" Special block rate per night: \$129 + tax Hotel reservation **deadline: April 8, 2022**

Register to attend all or part of the Convention For full program and schedule details, see the Spring issue of ODG or visit the VFGC website: <u>www.virginiagardenclubs.org/convention</u>

The Convention Registration form is on pp 12-13 of this issue of *Footprints*.

Deadline for Registration: Envelopes Must Be Postmarked by April 10 Convention Program Highlights

May 1 Workshop

Kathy Ward – "Thinking inside the Box – Big Box (hardware) Stores" – using PVC pipe and other fun things in designs,



May 1 Dinner Program



Gregory Britt Design Gregory Britt, former designer for the worldrenowned Inn at Little Washington, will share his design secrets

May 2 Luncheon Design Program



Mary Arakelian and Lili Aram-Bost, both NGC Master Flower Show Judges will present "Mother/Daughter Dynamic Designs." All designs will be raffled off.

May 2 Workshop

Brenda McManaway will lead a hands-on workshop blending craft and floral design, using a book for design structure.



May 2 Workshop

Captain Mike Ostrander will present a fascinating program on the return of the Bald Eagle to the James River.



May 2 Dinner Program



Gregory Benarcik, horticulturalist from the famed Chanticleer Garden will present

"Combinations – Finding the Right Mix" of garden plantings.

Silent Auction: Calling All Sellers and Buyers!

Jane Earle, Convention Auction Chair

Dust off that "prized" (but seldom if ever used) high-end or unique design container, sculpture, or accessory – and sell it in our **Convention Silent Auction**. Auction proceeds will be spilt



50-50 between the item owner and VFGC – a winwin! Members who are registered for any part of the convention are eligible to participate.

The silent auction will be held on **Monday, May 2** at the convention venue, the Short Pump Hilton.

Those wishing to sell - register your item between 8:00 and 9:00 am on May 2. Establish a starting bid. Check back at the end of the day to either collect your 50% of the proceeds or retrieve your unsold item(s).

Those wishing to buy - visit the auction and place as many bids as you like in \$5 increments. Check back at the close of the auction, write a check to VFGC, and pick up your winning bid item(s).

Should you have questions about the silent auction, or should you need to register your item on Sunday, please contact Jane Earle, Auction Chair at 804-310-6808.

Auction Hours: 9:30 am - 5:15 pm

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems: The Role of Oysters

Rebecca Elston, Chairman

Of all the players in the business of protecting aquatic ecosystems, the most basic is probably the oyster. An adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. They remove suspended solids and package them into bundles released and used as food by other organisms.

A Google report indicates that "the oysters in the Chesapeake Bay could once filter a volume of water equal to that of the entire Bay (about 19 trillion gallons) in a week. Today it would take the remaining Bay oysters more than a year."

There are not as many oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, (and throughout the world) as there used to be. These benign bivalves, which can live up to 30 years, but most commonly 5 years, have been dated to the Cambrian period (250 million years ago)¹ The species common to the Chesapeake Bay is *Crassostrea virginica*, which first appeared about 10,000 B.C.¹

There is a symbiotic relationship between oysters and the rivers, estuaries, and bays in which they dwell. The continued survival of oysters is largely dependent on water quality. While oysters are filtering water on a small scale, oysters growing in the Chesapeake Bay and environs benefit from the efforts of the *Chesapeake Bay Foundation*, the largest independent organization dedicated solely to saving the Bay.

Since its founding in 1967, the foundation has led the way in promoting science-based means of pollution reduction throughout the Chesapeake's six state, 64000-square-mile watershed.² Hopefully, through their efforts and an environmentally aware population, oysters will survive for thousands of years.

1 Kurlansky, Mark. The Big Oyster

² Publication of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Creating a Pollinator Garden

Jan Pingel, Butterfly & Pollinator Education Chair

As gardeners, we can increase the number of pollinators in our yards by making conscious choices to include plants, bushes and trees that provide an inviting habitat for bees, butterflies, moths, beetles,



hummingbirds, and other pollinators. To be successful, these habitats need three essential parts: food, water, and shelter.

FOOD: Flowers attract pollinators and provide nectar, which is a source of sugar and necessary amino acids. They also produce pollen which provides protein for pollinators. Fruit fermenting on the ground provides nutrients for bees, beetles, and butterflies. Certain host plants are eaten by the larvae of butterflies and other pollinators.

Plant flowers in groups to help the pollinators locate the food source and increase pollination efficiency. Choose plants with different bloom times to provide food from early spring to late fall. Support a variety of pollinators by planting flowers of assorted colors, fragrances, and heights. Pollinator friendly plants do not need to be in a specific garden space to be attractive to many different pollinators. The plants, bushes, and trees can be included in your landscape in several places and effectively attract pollinators. It is most important to minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides

There are many different plants that attract pollinators. Do your own research and read plant labels.

 Coreopsis is an excellent choice for early season blooms.

- Flowering quince and English hyacinths attract spring pollinators.
- Azalea bushes provide nectar in late spring.
- Mid-summer bloomers are gaillardia, echinacea, bee balm, and tall phlox. Lantana is always a pollinator favorite from mid-summer to late fall.
- Remember to plant annual flowers like zinnias and marigolds.
- Be sure to include asters and chrysanthemums for late fall flowers.
- Butterfly bushes, especially dwarf varieties, attract pollinators of all types.
- Caterpillar host plants such as fennel, dill, parsley, and milkweed can be tucked into your garden as background plants.

SHELTER: Plant evergreen and deciduous shrubs in your yard to provide shelter and protection for the pollinators during severe weather, to roost at night, and to hide from predators. Place bee boxes near your garden to encourage solitary, nonaggressive bees to nest. In the fall and winter, dried leaves are shelter for many pollinators in your garden beds. Some butterflies winter over in the chrysalis stage by hanging on dried plant stems. Be careful when you cut back spent plants.

WATER: A clean, reliable source of water is essential to pollinators. Water features such as running water, ponds, fountains, and bird baths provide drinking and bathing sites for pollinators. The water source needs to have a shallow, sloping side so the pollinators can reach the water safely. Add rocks or a platform for the pollinators to land on to drink.

Most likely, your yard already attracts some pollinators. Survey your landscape to determine how many of the pollinators needs you have been providing and determine what improvements you could make to encourage other pollinators to visit your garden. Keep in mind that pollinators will come if you provide for their needs.

Landscape Plants Can Impact Fire Safety

Donna Cottingham, Native Trees and Heritage Plants

In Virginia, we have been fortunate that the devastating wildfires we see in western states have not impacted us. However, weather conditions that create extreme heat and drought can spur wildfires anywhere, including rural areas of Virginia. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, landscape maintenance and plant selection in two key areas can help homeowners reduce fire risk.

First, the area within five feet of a home's exterior is important because it can be vulnerable to embers if there is a fire. This area should be free of combustible materials. Many evergreen trees and shrubs are more flammable and burn with higher intensity than do deciduous trees and shrubs. Dead branches or shrubs, leaf piles, pine needles and other dead plant material can add fuel to a fire and should be removed from the five-foot zone. Plants adjacent to your home should be pruned, with taller plants kept to eight feet tall. Well-spaced plants are important because tightly packed plants can help spread fire.

Secondly, the area up to 30 feet from your home is considered survivable space, a key buffer zone that could help slow a fire, according to safety experts. This area too should be kept maintained, clean and clear of dead wood, firewood stacks and debris. Plant selection is important in both zones.

No plant is fireproof, but some are safer than others. Plants adjacent to your home, nearby privacy hedges and ground covers should all be chosen with caution. Waxy slender leaves and resinous wood make some plants highly flammable, plants such as junipers, arborvitaes, pines, cedars, cypresses, and many hollies. Grasses such as maiden grass and pampas grass are also highly flammable. Japanese honeysuckle, bamboo, wax myrtle, Algerian ivy, rosemary, and broom are other plants to keep away from your home. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service recommends the use of less flammable landscape plants such as most viburnums, hydrangeas, camellias, winterberries, and rhododendrons.

As gardeners we have learned about the benefits of selecting native plants and noninvasive plants. Now we should consider taking fire safety into consideration when choosing what plants to purchase and where to plant them in our landscapes.

Garden Clubbing in the Piedmont

Hilliard Park Garden Club made excellent use of their 2021 Piedmont District Grant Award by completing a



two-section courtyard at Christ Lutheran Church. The long-neglected courtyard is now an inviting Mediterranean style garden with great visual appeal.

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club has been engaged in a year-long celebration of its 60th anniversary. The look-back celebration will culminate with the planting of a pollinator garden in May, the month of the club's founding in 1962.

"MOTHER EARTH AWAKENING"

An NGC Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by the River Road Garden Club

April 8, 2022

1:00-4:00 pm

River Road Presbyterian Church Kemp Hall 8960 River Rd, Richmond, VA 23229 804-740-7083

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. South Atlantic Region Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Piedmont District

Free and Open to the Public



Piedmont District 2021-2023 Officers

President Director of Hospitality Director of Programs Treasurer Recording Secretary VFGC Nominating Comm Rep Alternate Sally Harrison Diane Burgess JoAnn McNabb Linda Nau Susan DelSordo Diane Burgess Janet Minock

Footprints & ODG

Send articles and photos in separate files to: Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org PHONE: 804-317-8091 Articles are due <u>before</u> the following deadlines: AUGUST 1 – FALL NOVEMBER 1 – WINTER FEBRUARY 1 – SPRING MAY 1 -- SUMMER

Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due dates. Electronic transmission preferred, photos and graphics encouraged. Please submit photos in jpeg format as separate files, not embedded in text. Submit text in Word format, non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, special events, announcements about upcoming events.

Mark the subject of your e-mail submission "Footprints" or "ODG" – ordinarily the same article will not appear in both publications, but some announcements and some parts of articles may appear in both.

Footprints masthead art: Black-eyed Susan and Bordered Patch butterfly © 2021 G Goodrich Harwood

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Piedmont District Meeting Registration

Monday March 21, 2022

Doubletree by Hilton 1021 Kroger Center Blvd Richmond, VA 23235 Registration Deadline: March 10

Registration Process Steps – please review before registering

1) **Via email**: Club Contact sends registration info to the Registrar via email. Include: club name, club contact, number of seats requested (*no registrations by telephone*)

2) **Via mail:** Club contact submits the completed registration form and one check covering all registrations. Make check payable to VFGC/ Piedmont District

3) Registrar will confirm registration(s) via email once the form and check are received

4) Table assignments will be made in the order in which checks are received

5) Refunds cannot be made. Club contact is responsible for managing substitutes

Club Contact Information

Club Name

Contact Name

Email address

Phone

Registrant Information			
Name (print neatly please)	$\sqrt{ m Voting}$ Status if applicable *	Circle Choice: Beef Tips, Salmon, Vega/GF	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO C FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
	CP VD DO DC FDP	Beef Sal Veg	
*Voting Status Codes: CP= Club President VD= Voting Delegate (up to two delegates per club) DO= District Officer DC = District Committee Chair FDP = Former District President			

 Total # of Registrations @ \$35:
 Total Check Amount:
 (one check)

 Mail form and check payable to VFGC/Piedmont District to Registrar Johanna Gilbert:
 8423 Shannon Green Court Henrico, VA 23228-1876 email: omagilbert@aol.com

88th Annual Convention Registration Form May 1-3, 2022 • "Let's Dig into Action *Together!"*

Registration: Please complete form; make check payable to "VFGC 2022 Convention" and mail both to Claudia H.

Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-3923 cosbych1205@gmail.com • Postmark by Apr 10 Phone (____) _____ Name Address City_____State____Zip____ E-mail address _____ District Club Check ALL that apply:

) National Officer/Chm
 () District President
 () NGC Life Member

) Regional Officer/Chm
 () District Director
 () SAR Life Member

) Former VFGC President
 () Club President
 () VFGC Life Member

) State Officer/Chm
 () Club Member
 () Visitor/Guest

 (() VFGC Life Member/ Book of Honor since 5/1/21 () First-time attendee Select Your Attendance Plan: Full Convention (Package Plan - \$20 savings) \$ 215.00 Full convention includes: Sunday Dinner, Monday Lunch and Dinner, Tuesday Brunch and Registration Fee if postmarked by April 10 Partial Attendance Options: Sunday Evening Dinner and Program \$ 65.00 _____ \$ 45.00 _____ Monday Lunch and Design Program \$ 65.00 _____ Monday Dinner and Program \$ 35.00 _____ Tuesday Brunch and Awards Program Registration Fee *if postmarked by Apr 10* \$ 25.00 \$ 30.00 _____ Registration Fee *if postmarked after Apr 10* One-event Registration Fee \$ 10.00 _____ \$____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Late fee must be included for all envelopes postmarked after 4/10/22. Any registrations postmarked after 4/22/22 will not be processed or accepted. No Walk-In registrations. No refunds after 4/17/22. *Refunds requested by* 4/10/2022 are subject to retention of registration fee.

____Please check for any dietary requirements and list details

See next page for Convention Credentials Form

VFGC 2022 Convention Credentials Form

All designated delegates and alternates, including VFGC Officers and members of the Board of Directors, must complete this form and include it with your Registration Form.

Name	
District	Garden Club
Check one that applies:	
() VFGC Officer/Board of Directors	() Club Delegate
() Club President	() Club Alternate

Eligibility shall be in accordance with VFGC Bylaws - number of Delegates and Alternates in accordance with size of club as follows:

1-25 members	President or appointee – 1 Alternate
26-50 members	President or appointee plus 1 Delegate – 2 Alternates
51-100 members	President or appointee plus 2 Delegates – 3 Alternates
100+ members	President or appointee plus 3 Delegates – 4 Alternates

Delegates have the right to vote, alternates fill in the delegate if he/she is unable to attend the Convention.