

**NAPLES GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2023**

- **ANNUAL REPORT**

**It has been my pleasure to work with my board and all of you during our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The Naples Garden Club has literally weathered a pandemic and a hurricane to come out on the other side. In spite of these setbacks we have been creatively moving forward over the past three years with our programs and activities.**

**The minutes of the April 4, 2022 Annual Meeting have been posted on our website. Are there any corrections. If not, may I have a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor/opposed. *Approved.***

**In this annual report I would like to recognize the accomplishments of my hard working and talented board plus Linda LaRue Brown who has orchestrated all the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs.**

**Carole Whittemore, President-Elect, not only was a partner supporting me, but took on as a special project: the redesign of the public and member home pages of our Naples Garden Club Website. In conjunction with Bold Solutions, she was able to create a more user-friendly format. This has great enhanced the use of the website for all of us from signing up for events to paying our dues.**

**Connie Wilson, VP of Programs and Education, brought us a variety of speakers for our 5 general meetings who inspired all of us in floral design, environmental concerns, horticulture and recognizing the beauty of the Everglades. Connie and her committee also planned 5 months of weekly workshops and trips to enrich our lives. Raynelle Perkins treated us to wonderful treats after each meeting and planned the Christmas luncheon.**

**Sondra Quinn, stepped up last April to become Chairman of the House and Garden Tour with the support of the Past President's Council. She recruited Raynelle Perkins to be her co-chair. They located four wonderful houses and started planning the event. Then along came Ian! Two houses**

fell to the storm but were quickly replaced with the help of our membership. Sponsorships included The Wallflower Society, Decade Sponsors, gift bags and our presenting sponsor Bo Maher. With the houses decked out in beautiful floral designs, the tent decorated to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, ticketing and buses running smoothly, our visitors and members had a great experience.

Melinda Earle, VP of the Flower Show “Just Imagine”, inspired all of us to present our very best horticulture and creative designs. What a colorful show it was! We had thousands of visitors over two days to enjoy our efforts. Melinda and her committee with the help of the botanical garden staff made us proud.

Our showcase Idea Garden was led this year by Sandy Lasch. The garden was not only greatly impacted by the hurricane but an early cold spell followed by a drought. Mother nature was making life challenging for this committee. It all resulted in a garden that visitors say is more beautiful than ever! The committee also provided Pop-up Presentations for Botanical Garden visitors every Wednesday from December through March.

Our club is exceptionally healthy when it comes to membership. Under the diligent chairmanship of Ann Hunter, 24 Provisionals have completed their requirements and will become active members today. Waiting in the wings is next year’s class of 25 new Provisionals. We are so lucky to have such community wide interest in our organization. Ann’s Membership Credential Committee staffed check-in at meetings and her Membership Social Committee planned the Orientation program for the new Provisionals.

None of these previously mentioned activities would be possible without the support of other board members. Dara Foundyller, Treasurer for the past two years, reports that the Naples Garden Club is in a good financial position. Because of this, we are able to provide our members with programs and services that they have come to expect and enjoy.

**Our Secretary, Martha Phillips, has accurately recorded minutes for both our board meetings and General Meetings. She sends the Consent agendas to the board and compiled responses for the board meetings.**

**Our immediate past president, Sally Lutz, has not only provided counsel to the board but served as Chair of the Governance committee. She will introduce you to our board members for 2023-2024 later in this meeting.**

**Holly Lonsdale, Communications Chairman, created Trowel prints to keep the club informed of club activities. Theresa Boyle works behind the scenes to make sure that our office is always in tip top shape.**

**Also serving on the board are the VP Elect for House and Garden, Gigi Stewart; VP Elect for Flower Show, Polly Galliker; and VP Elect for Programs and Education, Shelley Marcus. Liz Chehayl was our President's Council Representative.**

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**I want to express my sincere gratitude to the board for their hard work and dedication to ensuring the success of the Naples Garden Club. Their creativity and attention to detail have truly made this year unforgettable. The garden club has flourished under their leadership. I would now like to introduce you to all of them so you can reward them with your applause.**

***Change Slide to Board***

***Change Slide to Governance Sally Lutz (Welcome 2023-24 Board)***

***Change Slide to Membership Ann Hunter (Welcome New Provisionals and the 2022-2023 Provisionals as Active NGC Members)***

***Change Slide to Carole Whittemore, President Elect 2023-24***

- **INTRODUCTION OF CAROLE**

**I am honored to be here today to celebrate the inauguration of our friend Carole Whittemore as the President of the Naples Garden Club for 2023-2024. This is truly a special time and I am privileged to be part of it. Carole and I have volunteered together for decades so I know we have a true leader as our new president. Over this past year I have benefitted from**

her sage advice and know that she has a great vision for us all during her year as President.

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the power of friendship and the joy that comes from sharing a passion. Carole has demonstrated her love and commitment to the Naples Garden Club. We are thrilled that she has been elected to lead us.

Through her leadership, we will see the Garden Club flourish and grow, with new initiatives and activities that will bring us all closer together. The club will continue to be a welcoming and inclusive organization for all of us.

So, let us raise our trowels in a toast to our new president and the future of the Naples Garden Club. Congratulations Carole. You have earned this honor and we are proud of you!

***Present flowers***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Terry Aufranc, NGC President 2022-2023