New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

Thank you to our Presidents who served as leaders and guided us.

NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
STATE PRESIDENT LIST

1950 – 1951	Mrs. John McKnight (Dora Sanders) – Roswell
1951 – 1953	Mrs. Earl Powell – Ft. Sumner
1953 – 1955	Mrs. Harold Edwards (Mrs. Victor Berchtold) – Santa Fe
1955 – 1957	Mrs. Walter Denison – Santa Fe
1957 – 1959	Mrs. Horace Bounds (Ruth) – San Lorenzo
1959 – 1961	Mrs. C. F. McWilliams (Tura) – Carlsbad
1961 – 1963	Mrs. Jeff Good (Myrl) – Ft. Sumner
1963 – 1965	Mrs. Rebecca Vidal – Albuquerque
1965 – 1967	Mrs. Harvey Israel (Lillian) – Los Alamos
1967 – 1969	Mrs. Thomas K. Todson (Margaret) – Las Cruces
1969 – 1971	Mrs. John Burroughs – Portales
1971 – 1973	Mrs. Edward S. Lewis (Mary Frances) – Albuquerque
1973 – 1975	Mrs. Edward Johnson (Margaret “Peggy”) – Santa Fe
1975 – 1977	Mrs. Haskel Smith – Las Cruces
1977 – 1979	Mrs. Alfred Long (Charlotte) – Roswell
1979 – 1981	Mrs. S. E. Neff (Ginny) – Clovis
1981 – 1983	Mrs. Thomas P Johnston (Betty) Albuquerque
1983 – 1985	Mrs. George Boyce (Oleta) – Santa Fe
1985 – 1987	Mrs. James Knauf (Nita) – Artesia
1987 – 1989	Mrs. Walt Eastland (Betty) – Santa Rosa
1989 – 1991	June Wood (Mrs. Don) – Albuquerque
1991 – 1993	Sue Graves (Mrs. Glen) – Los Alamos
1993 – 1995	Lequita Lett (Mrs. James) – Silver City
1995 – 1997	Elane McIlroy (Mrs. James) – Hobbs
1997 – 1999	Mary Ann Moreno (Mrs. James) – Albuquerque
1999 – 2001	Sally Warner (Mrs. Larry) – Los Alamos
2001 – 2003	Donna Betty Turney (Mrs. John) – Alamogordo
2003 – 2005	Elizabeth O’Brien (Mrs. William) – Cloudcroft
2005 – 2007	Sally Warner (Mrs. Larry) – Los Alamos
2007 – 2009	Colleen Hinker (Mrs. Fred) – Santa Rosa
2009 – 2011	Shirley Tetreault (Mrs. Al) – Albuquerque
2011 – 2013	Shirley Tetreault (Mrs. Al) – Albuquerque
2013 – 2015	Isabel Olsen (Mrs. A. J.) – Roswell
2015 – 2017	Suzy Andrego – (Mrs. Tomas) – Albuquerque
2017 – 2019	Barbara Vance – (Mrs. Donald) – Santa Fe
2019 – 2021	Christine Longthorp – Albuquerque
2021 – 2023	Christine Longthorp – Albuquerque

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OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: Debra Sorrell

New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. had a busy 1st year of my term. I attended the National convention in May which was held at the Greenbrier Hotel in West Virginia. Back at home, I have spent a great deal of time traveling the state to visit clubs, present some programs, attend county fair flower shows (and judge many of them) and participate in garden club related community events around the Land of Enchantment. Engaging with so many members is the greatest privilege of being president.

The theme for my term is "Grow Through What You Go Through" with an emphasis on planting trees in burn scarred areas across New Mexico. My President's project is 500 "Penny Pines" plantations. In our first year, we have collected enough for a little over 100 of them.

The executive committee recommended, from our first meeting in October, 2023, that NMGC consider redistricting. The rationale was to provide more members (manpower) in each district by combining District II with III and District IV with V. This proposal was not well received in Districts IV and V, due to the travel distances that would be incurred. At the Spring Executive Board meeting, the decision was made to withdraw the recommendation and have further discussions on the matter. Currently, we have Directors in four Districts with the District III position left vacant.

District II members hosted the 2024 Spring Convention in Santa Fe. The General meeting was held at the NM Governor's Mansion where we were welcomed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. The organizing committee did a phenomenal job with tours, speakers, meals and accommodations!

I am very excited to see what the next year has in store for all of us in garden club. Hopefully, it will included growth in all parts of the state.

First Vice President's Report: Johnese Turri

What an incredible convention we had in Santa Fe! I am so grateful for the opportunity to connect with our wonderful members from across the state. District II went above and beyond, and it paid off.

I went on a field trip in June with the Angel Fire group to Nannie's Plants in El Prado. She gave us a guided tour of her garden and seeding/growing spaces. All her plants are grown from seed without pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, or any other chemicals.

Here in northern New Mexico, we are witnessing a bounty of wildflowers this year. Just love seeing fields of yellow & purple!!

Second Vice President: Laurie Hixson

Membership Report

June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024

This report contains the status of our organization's membership from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

1. Paid Dues:

420 paid members and $3496 income. Artesia Garden Club paid additional $136 for 2024-25 dues
There are 2 youth clubs and 3 honorary members

2. Outstanding Dues:

All clubs have paid their dues!

3. Clubs in Good Standing:

All clubs are in good standing!

4. Overall membership is slightly down from last year (423 vs 442 members). Not including the youth clubs, we are down 19 members or 4% from last year. Lincoln Garden Club has had the most growth from last year with an increase of 38%.

5. Action Items: None

FY 2024 Membership

District	District Count	Club Name	Registration 2023-24	Youth Regis. 2023-24	Registration 2022-23	Membership Change	Percentage Difference
I		El Jardin Encanto	23		26	-3	-12%
I		High Desert Design	28		34	-6	-18%
I		Moriarty	17		14	3	21%
I		New Mexico Floral Artists	12		12	0	0%
I		Petal Pushers	23		20	3	15%
I		Uptown	38		32	6	19%
I		Organic Planet (Y)		20		20	2000%
I		Valley Gardeners	33		37	-4	-11%
Total D I	***8***		***174***	***20***	***175***	***19***	***-1%***
II		Floral Designers	11		10	1	10%
II		Los Alamos	31		28	3	11%
II		Summit	25		21	4	19%
Total D II	***3***		***67***	***0***	***59***	***8***	***14%***
III		Angel Fire	37		45	-8	-18%
III		Santa Rosa	11		13	-2	-15%
Total D III	***2***		***48***	***0***	***58***	***-10***	***-17%***
IV		Mesilla Valley	15		16	-1	-6%
IV		Socorro	8		8	0	0%
IV		Sunshine Valley	10		31	-21	-68%
Total D IV	***3***		***33***	***0***	***55***	***-22***	***-40%***
V		Artesia	17		15	2	13%
V		Home	16		23	-7	-30%
V		Lincoln	44		32	12	38%
V		Ruidoso High School GC (Y)		10		20	1000%
V		Morning	24		25	-1	-4%
Total D V	***5***		***101***	***10***	***95***	***26***	***6%***
Total NMGC	***21***		***423***	***30***	***442***	***21***	***-4%***

NMGC, Inc. Recording Secretary Annual Report: Jennifer Moreno

The Fall Board meeting of the Executive Board of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Incorporated (NMGC, Inc.) occurred on October 16 th, 2023 at El Pinto Restaurant in Albuquerque, NM. The President of NMGC, Inc., Debra Sorrell, the Officers, and Chairmen presented their reports. Of note, several Blue Star Memorials were "in the works" around the state, Penny Pines raised money for 45 plantations in 2022 with a goal for 500 more during the 2023-2025 term, and NMGC, Inc. is offering pins with the funds going towards the scholarship fund. A motion was passed regarding redistricting NMGC, Inc. from 5 Districts down to 3 due to the shrinking clubs/officers, with the motion to be presented to the General Membership at the Annual Convention in April, 2024. Notable announcements included; the scholarship for South Central Region is now being offered once per year instead of every other year during the 2023-2025 term, and the NMGC State Convention will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Santa Fe from April 10-11, 2024. The NMGC, Inc. State Convention occurred on April 10-11, 2024 at the Courtyard Marriott in Santa Fe, NM. At the Executive Board Meeting, President Debra Sorrell called the meeting to order and the Officers and Chairmen who didn't defer to the General Meeting presented their reports. Notable reports included; NM Garden Clubs has 420 adult paid members, and all club are in good standing. Lincoln Garden Club in District 5 had the largest membership increase (38%) for this last year. In regards to re- districting NM Garden clubs, Christine Longthorp made a motion to postpone this decision indefinitely. Ariel Season seconded the Motion, and the Motion carried. President Sorrell presented a new proposal where NM Garden Clubs would not have District Directors but District Representatives. it was decided that the proposal would go back to the clubs and return comments would need to be back to President Sorrell by August 1, 2024. And that this would be further discussed with club input at the Fall Executive Board meeting. President Sorrell presented NGC's pathway proposal to purchase a state large paver at a cost of $500, which would support NGG and connect NGC to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. A Motion was made by Christine Longthorp, was seconded, and the Motion carried. Doris Jackson was nominated as an "Honorary Member of NM Garden Clubs". A paper ballot was taken, and Doris Jackson will be honored as one of NM Garden Clubs Honorary Members. The NMGC Nominating Committee for the 2025-2027 term will be the following: For District 1 – MaryAnn Moreno; District 2 – Kersti Rock; District 3 - Colleen Hinker; District 4 – Becky Fuller; and District 5 – Peggy Voigt.

The 74 th Annual Meeting of NMGC, Inc. was held at the Governor's Mansion on April 11 th, 2024, and was presided over by 1st Vice President, Johnese

Turri. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham was introduced and President Debra Sorrell presented her with a certificate stating that a Penny Pines Plantation will be planted in the Santa Fe National Forest in her honor. The President of NMGC, Inc., Debra Sorrell, the Officers, and Chairmen presented their reports. Of note, there are 24 Blue Star Memorials, with the most in District IV. Three more will be installed in the Spring and Summer of 2024. A $2500 scholarship was award to Nakoma (last name omitted) by the Scholarship Committee. A recommendation was made for NMGC, Inc. to purchase a state paver from National Garden Clubs at a cost of $500.00 in support of their Pathway to Success program, and the recommendation was passed. President Debra Sorrell gave Lily bulbs to all members in attendance for the first time at the Convention. Notable announcements included; the 2025 Convention committee and friends presented The 2025 Convention Invitation. The 2025 Annual Convention will be held April 14 & 15, 2025 at the Embassy Suites on Lomas Blvd., Albuquerque, NM immediately followed by the South-Central Region Convention April 16 & 17, 2025 at the same location.

TREASURER: Debby Hasse
No report submitted.

HISTORIAN: Ariel Seaman
No report submitted.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Joyce Zaugg
The 2023-2024 Annual Report is to be distributed at the 2024 Fall Board Meeting in Albuquerque. Officers, District Directors and Chairpersons were responsible for submitting reports covering the period June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, which were incorporated into the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Suzy Andrego

I attended all meetings required and requested by President Sorrell to advise on parliamentary procedure. I attended the Annual NM Parliamentarian State conference and attended several NM Parliamentarian monthly meetings to further my knowledge as the NMGC Parliamentarian.

I answered all questions regarding parliamentary procedure for NM garden club members and club presidents. I submitted articles in each quarterly NM Gardner on Parliamentary Tips.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Christine Longthorp
No report submitted.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR – Debi Harrington
No report submitted.

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR: Kersti Rock
District II hosted the 2024 NMGC State Convention in April and that was the focus for much of the preceding year. In addition, the district held its Fall Board meeting in late September 2023 and its Spring meeting in March of 2024. District II currently has 67 members in three garden clubs: Los Alamos Garden Club (31 members), Summit Garden Club (25 members) and Floral Designers Club (11 members). A couple of District II members are in multiple clubs. We have officers and chairpersons on State, Regional and National Boards. Some of our members participate in National Garden Club Schools and some are accredited Flower Show Judges. Members contribute and enhance their communities in many ways - through setting up registered wildlife habitats, contributing to local scholarships, sharing awareness about environmental issues and supporting community beautification and development projects such as the Memorial Rose Garden in Los Alamos, the White Rock Community Garden and three gardens at Bandelier National Monument. Our clubs create social environments in which to pool and share knowledge about plants and wildlife. Our clubs also provide many learning opportunities on topics ranging from rose and tree pruning and many other aspects of gardening to ways of supporting our natural environment to learning about the intricacies of floral design.
District II held their 2023 Fall Board meeting at the Crossroads Bible Church on September 29, 2023. Honored guests were New Mexico Garden Club's President Debra Sorrell and NMGC 1st Vice President Johnese Turri. President Sorrell spoke about her president's project of working with garden clubs all over the state to contribute to the Penny Pines program with the goal of funding a total of 500 Penny Pines plantations during her two year term. She also stated that, to be part of NMGC, each club must have a president, secretary and treasurer. NMGC Penny Pines Chairman Susan Schultz provided an excellent report on the Penny Pines program and its importance to the recovery of the areas of New Mexico that were severely burned in 2022. New Mexico Judges Council Chair Suzy Andrego announced plans for the NMGC Fall Board meeting in October. In addition to district officer reports, each club president or representative provided a report and 2024 State Convention Chair Laurie Hixson reported on progress on preparing for the convention. The District II Spring Meeting was held on March 8, 2024 at the United Church in Los Alamos. About 23 people attended. We were delighted to have New Mexico Garden Clubs State President Debra Sorrell and NMGC Past

President Christine Longthorp attend the meeting. Debra Sorrell presented Los Alamos Garden Club member Helen Carpenter with the Rose Award for her great work in supporting the District in addition to everything she does for her garden club. Helen contributes to garden club projects with energy, organization and a great sense of humor! It is much appreciated. Following the Executive Board and General Meetings, attendees enjoyed a lunch catered with food from Smith's Deli and El Parasol as well as some delicious goodies baked by some of the garden club members. Local Penstemon expert Larry Deaven gave a fascinating presentation on the many varieties of penstemons that grow in New Mexico with a focus on the gorgeous Penstemon gardens developed by Larry at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center in Los Alamos.

In April, District II hosted the New Mexico Garden Clubs 2024 State Convention in Santa Fe at the Courtyard Marriott. District II Convention Chair Laurie Hixson coordinated with the District II clubs and NMGC officers and chairs to produce a very enjoyable and successful convention. The Pre-Convention Day, April 10, included the NMGC Executive Board Meeting and the Judges Council Meeting, Banquet and Program. This year the program was a viewing of the movie "Greenfingers", a delightful British comedy about a prison inmate who competes in a national gardening competition.
On Convention Day, April 11, the General Meeting was held at the Governor's Residence at the invitation of Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham. The Santa Fe High School NJROTC presented the colors for the meeting in a very professional and moving ceremony. The Governor spoke to the attendees about ongoing work to landscape the areas around the Residence to be representative of plants and trees that grow well in different parts of the state. NMGC President Debra Sorrell presented Governor Lujan- Grisham with a framed Penny Pines certificate for trees donated on her behalf by NMGC. South Central Region Director Sarah McReynolds drove through the night to make the meeting after her flight from Dallas was seriously delayed. She gave a delightful extemporaneous speech as her notes were at the airport along with her luggage. Attendees enjoyed hearing from all the state officers as well and the meeting concluded with a brief walk around the landscaping projects outside the Residence. Everyone returned to the hotel for lunch and enjoyed an excellent talk by George Duda, retired New Mexico State Forester. The talk, titled "Trees are Killing Our Forests", discussed the state of our forests and forest management. The Silent Auction and Ways and Means raffle wrapped up after dinner and were followed by the Awards presentation.
The two days of the Convention included three tours. There was a tour of Rancho de Las Golondrinas on the morning of April 10. A tour of the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens followed the lunch program on April 11. The final tour on the morning of April 12 was a visit to the Allan Houser (Haozous) Sculpture

Garden. Each tour included a knowledgeable guide. The weather was good and attendees had a great time. The three District II clubs had a busy year in addition to preparing for the State Convention.

Los Alamos Garden Club held a program or workshop every month from September through May with the exception for December when the club held its holiday luncheon. The club also had a special luncheon in September when the regular monthly meetings resume following the summer and in April when club officers are installed for the coming year. The club enjoyed a delightful visit to Ghost Ranch in June learning about its history and admiring the stark beauty of the area. Special programs are also planned for July and August. LAGC worked hard in the Memorial Rose Garden to repair the damage done by the local deer over the winter. Nearly all the rose plants are now protected by chicken wire cages and there are many blossoms now that the deer have been prevented from eating them. Passersby are starting to compliment the garden. The Deer Fence Committee is making steady progress toward working with the County to construct an attractive deer fence around the garden so that the wire cages can eventually be removed. Approval for the project has been obtained from the local Historic Preservation Advisory Board and the club is awaiting approval from the state Historic Preservation Division.

Summit Garden Club held several social events as well as standard programs. A particularly notable program appreciated by many was on the eradication of bindweed by Del Jimenez, an agricultural specialist with New Mexico State University. Summit maintains three gardens at Bandelier National Monument and the White Rock Community Garden. Members also participate in care and design of several church and public gardens.

Floral Designers Club explores the elements and principles of design with each member bringing a design based on a pre-selected theme. The pros and cons of each design are constructively discussed. Some of the themes included Designs with Two Vases, Spatial Thrust and Abstract Designs. It has been an interesting and successful year. District II looks forward to the coming year of building our knowledge of gardening and sharing our love of community.

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR: Position vacant

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR: Linda Brandis

No report submitted.

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR: Julie Foster

No report submitted.

CHAIRPERSON REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Becky Fuller
No report submitted.

AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE: Norma Tech
Nothing to report.

AWARDS : Ginny Longbotham
No report submitted.

BEES, BIRDS, BUTTERFLY GARDENING: Vicki Burress
No report submitted.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR MARKERS/MEMORIAL GARDENS: Shirley Tetreault

Blue Star Dedications:
June 10, 2023 – Cloudcroft, NM

Gold Star Dedications:

April 27, 2024, Veterans Memorial Park – Albuquerque, NM
June 8, 2024 – Clovis Veterans Park – Clovis, NM
August 3, 2024, Vietnam Memorial Park – Angel Fire, NM

The above dates are the dedications that have taken place in our state in the last year. It is impressive and a lot of thought goes into making these sites special. It is important for all to see, lest we forget, those who help to keep us free and to give honor, hope and healing to our Gold Star Families.

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT – Maple Levine
No report received.

Environmental Schools: Suzy Andrego

No schools or refreshers were held in NM during this time period. I advertised several schools being held via ZOOM around the US. I kept records for all Environmental consultants.

Landscape Design Schools: Suzy Andrego

No schools or refreshers were held in NM during this time period. I advertised several schools being held via ZOOM around the US. I kept records for all Landscape Design consultants.

FOOD/HERB GARDENING: Julie Foster
No report submitted

HORTICULTURE - Ellen Reed
No report submitted.

LITTER CONTROL & RECYCLING – Julie Foster
No report submitted.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK: Ginny Longbotham
Nothing to report

NEW MEXICO GARDENER: Suzy Andrego, Editor
I have put together, edited and electronically distributed 4 issues of the NM Gardener. We continue to have 24 returned emails during this period for the distribution list for all NMGC members.

I applied for a SCR Regional award for our publication.

PENNY PINES: Susan Schultz

National Garden Club Penny Pines:
Sandra Denis, National Coordinator
Michelle Smith, National Project Manager
Contributions from June 1 st to Present: See info below
Total - 67 plantations
Angel Fire Garden Club - 20 plantations
**Amor De La Tierra Garden Club - 25 plantations
High Desert Garden Club - 1 plantations
Lincoln County Garden Club - 1 plantation
Los Alamos Garden Club - 1 plantation
Mesilla Garden Club - 2 plantations
New Mexico Garden Clubs - 3 plantations
Peddle Pushers Garden Club - 10 plantations
Socorro Garden Club - 1 plantation
Sunshine Garden Club - 1 plantation

Uptown Garden Club - 2 plantations

**Amor De La Tierra Garden Club voted to use funds that were left after their club

PERSONNEL: Kathleen Flanders
No report submitted

PHOTOGRAPHY: Ariel Seaman
No report submitted

PROTOCOL: Linda Hoffman
Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS: Ellie Nordegren
No report submitted.

SCHOLARSHIP/LIFE MEMBER: Christine Longthorp
No report submitted.

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL: Jennifer Moreno
Nothing to report.

TREES & SHRUBS : Dodie Suhr
No report submitted.

WATER CONSERVATION: Dorothy Duff
No report submitted.

WAYS & MEANS: Mary Ann Moreno
No report submitted..

WEBSITE – Cindy Hills
Nothing new to report.

WILDFLOWERS/NATIVE PLANTS: Millie Sigman
No report submitted.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES ANNUAL REPORT: Lynnette Walker
This year the youth activities has encouraging news to report.
1. We have two new youth clubs in our state. One in Ruidoso sponsored by the Ruidoso garden club and one in Albuquerque sponsored by Uptown Garden Club. The

clubs were going strong and participating in many activities. I have not heard how the fires will affect the club activities in Ruidoso at this writing.
2. There were no awards given this year due to no entries being collected in any category.
3. We did have a larger amount of youth participation at the two youth shows at the 2023 State Fair and about a dozen entries at the council garden show in June.

I would love any and all suggestions to help improve our participation from the youth in NMGC.

CLUB PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: Ginny Longbotham

PETAL PUSHERS GARDEN CLUB

June 6, Petal Pushers took a field trip to Albuquerque Botanical Gardens to learn and enjoy our city's beautiful garden.

July 18, Petal Pushers took the train from the Rail Runner to the Santa Fe Market and had lunch a Tomasita's.

August 22, our very own member, Joan Karrie gave her talk on "Diamonds in the Desert!" She also gave this talk to the State Convention Last spring and to Oasis.

September 22 and 23, Petal Pushers rented a booth for $75.00, and sold decorated pumpkins made out of dryer vent hose.

September 26, Speaker Claud Vallieres of our local Wild Birds Unlimited store and the Rio Grande Nature Center gave a spirited "our feather friends" talk.

Octover 16, Am event planned, "Bee There" by Ellie Nordstrom had to be canceled.

November 28, "Clouds, Atmospheric Optics, and the Snow Hole" by Deirdre Kann was a wonderful program enjoyed by all members.

December 12, Christmas Lunch was held at Les Combes Winery. We also collected items and donated to Barrett House.

January 23 "Buying, Planting, and Growing Daylilies" by Margo Murdock

February 27, "The Beauty of African Violets" by Sharon Shannon

March 26, Club made nesting wreaths for their yards and birds to make nests.

April 23, Officer Installation by Mary Noskin followed by potluck, decorations, and food. The club provided meat and cheese trays. New Officers: Susan Head, President, Ginny Longbotham, Vice President, Pam Walker, Secretary, Biola Johnson, Treasurer, Caryl McCoy, Parlimentarian.

May 28, Shirley Tetrault taught us about Blue Star and Gold Star national Programs.

We also met twice to make Linus Blankets and gave 16 blanketsto the Linus Society.

Petal Pushers also volunteered for council events, Glow 'n Stroll, Rummage Sale, and Holiday Fair.