NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
75th ANNUAL CONVENTION
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
April 15, 2025
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Debra Sorrel, President of NM Garden Clubs, Inc., presided over the Opening of NM Garden Clubs, Inc., 75TH Annual Convention held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Albuquerque, NM

Invocation was given by Jennifer Moreno, Recording Secretary and Smokey Bear Chairman.

The Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was presided over/led by Shirley Tetrealt, NMGC Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman.

NM Garden Clubs members were welcomed to Albuquerque and District I of NMGC by Past NMGC President, current Ways and Means Chairman, and all around Matriarch of NMGC: Mary Ann Moreno.

President Debra Sorrell called the business meeting to order at 9:13 am.

President Sorrell introduced the District Directors and State Officers at the head table. They were as follows:

District 5, Julie Foster; District 4, Ellie Nordgren (incoming District 4 Director Mary Gillard stood in for Ellie); District 2 Kersti Rock (Allison Grieggs stood in for Kersti); and District I, Kathleen Flanders, incoming District 1 Director.

Joyce Zaugg, Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer Debby Hasse; Johnese Turri, President Elect; Jennifer Moreno, Recording Secretary' Ariel Seamon, Historian; Laurie Hixson, 2nd Vice President; and Suzy Andrego, Parliamentarian

President Sorrell, then introduced our NGC South-Central Region Director; Sarah McReynolds, and Past Presidents; Christine Longthorp, Shirley Tetrault, and Suzy Andrego.

Laurie Hixson, 2nd Vice President, gave the preliminary credentials and registration report for the 2025 Annual meeting:

CREDENTIALS	
NGC President	0
NGC Chairman	5
NGCCommittee Members	4
NGC Life Member	16
SCR Director	2
Past SCR Director	3
SCR Officer	3
SCR Chair	8
SCR Committee Member	4
SCR Life Member	15
State President	2
Former State President	9
State Officer	9
State Life Member	18
State Chair	14
State District Director	6
Club President	8
Club Member	47
Flower Show Judge	14
Environmental Consultant	12
Garden Consultant	12
LandscapeDesign Consultant	8
Guest	2

ATTENDEES	
Full Time Attendees	48
Part Time Attendees	6
Guests	2
TOTAL Attendees	56
Less Guests	8
TOTAL VOTING Strength	48

The Preliminary Credentials and registration reports were adopted with a voting strength of 48.

Parliamentarian, Suzy Andrego declared a quorum present.

Suzy Andrego read the standing and general rules for the business meeting. The standing and general rules for the business meeting were adopted.

Without objection, the following appointments were made:

Johnese Turri, NMGC President Elect, Laurie Hixson, 2nd Vice President and Ariel Sorrell, Historian to approve the meeting minutes for the 2025 annual meeting.

Mary Gillard as Timekeeper.

Kathleen Flanders, Convention Committee, presented the program booklet without corrections. The Program booklet which includes the agenda for this annual meeting was adopted.

Jennifer Moreno, Recording Secretary read the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, which were approved and distributed electronically.

Debby Hasse, Treasurer, gave the treasurers report. The current general account balance is $10,739.41, plus a CD of $42,680.04 gives total assets of 53,419.45. Debby presented the NMGC Budget for the period of June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025. *See attached.*

State Officers reports were given.

President Debra Sorrell report is attached.

1st Vice President report -Johnese Turri – verbal report given

2nd Vice President report – Laurie Hixson – *See attached.*

Adult Members of 426, Youth Members of 10, for a total NM Garden Clubs membership of 436, which is down 20 members or 7%.

Recording Secretary – Jennifer Moreno – *see attached*

Historian Report – Ariel Seamon - verbal report given

Corresponding Secretary report – Joyce Zaugg - verbal report given

Parliamentarian, Suzy Andrego, verbal report given

District Directors reports were presented.

District 5 – Director Julie Foster gave a verbal report

District 4 – Ellie Nordgren-Mary Gillard filled in and gave a verbal report

District 3 – No one representing this District. No report.
District 2 report – Director Kersti Rock – Allison Grieggs filled in and gave a verbal report

District 1 report – Incoming Director, Kathleen Flanders, gave a verbal report

South-Central Regional Director Sarah McReynolds gave a verbal report on the region. Her theme for her term is "Pollinating South Central Region".

Jennifer Moreno, Recording Secretary, read the following recommendations from the Executive Committee:

Recommendation 1.

That NMGC give one scholarship in the amount of $1500 per Presidential term in the odd year. All in favor, none opposed: ***Recommendation passed.***

Recommendation 2.

That NMGC submit a letter of support to SCR and NGC to hold the 2029 NGC Convention in Albuquerque, with full support of SCR. Note: 2029 is the NGC 100th Birthday and Suzy Andrego will be installed as the NGC President. All in favor, none opposed: ***Recommendation passed.***

Chairman reports:

Blue Star Chairman – Shirley Tetreault gave a verbal report. There are 24 Blue star markers in NM with district 4 having the most. Three Gold star memorial markers are being installed this spring/summer.

Ways and Means – Mary Ann Moreno gave a verbal report. See items on display for raffle and purchase tickets for $1 a ticket or 6 tickets for $5.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl - Jennifer Moreno –*see attached*

Nominating Committee – Nominated the following to serve during the 2025-2027 term: NMGC President, Johnese Turri; 1st Vice President, Laurie Hixson; 2nd Vice President Kersti Rock; Recording Secretary, Jennifer Moreno; Treasurer Ginny Longbotham, Historian, Ariel Seamon; Corresponding Secretary, Mark Noskin; and Parliamentarian, Suzy Andrego. All in favor, none opposed: ***Nominations passed***

Plant A Tree – Johnese Turri presented a quilt made by Shirla Harris for raffle to support Plant a Tree

Archives – Becky Fuller asked that all items to be archived be brought to her at the banquet or in the am

Unfinished Business: None.

President Sorrell gave out Elephant Ear bulbs to all members attending the annual meeting for the first time.

Announcements:

- Directions for the Garden Center Tour will be given out at Lunch
- Ways and Means drawing this evening after the Installation of Officers, please see Mary Ann Moreno, Ways and Means Chairman, if you would like to buy tickets
- Silent Auction will close immediately following the close of the convention.
- All district directors and club presidents meet in the convention hallway at 6:15pm with Suzy Andrego for the President's parade line up.
- Barbara Thorn reminded everyone to sunscreen at the GC reception
- Becky Fuller announced that Mesilla Valley GC is celebrating their 95th birthday

Meeting was recessed at 10:59am.

Meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Mary Noskin, Convention Registrar, gave the Memorial Service

Ginny Longbotham, NMGC Awards Chairman, and NMGC President, Debra Sorrell, presented the 2024 Awards to the recipients

NMGC President, Debra Sorrell, installed the Officers for the 2025-2027 term

Mary Ann Moreno, Ways and Means Chairman, drew the raffle tickets winners

Convention Registrar, Mary Noskin, gave the final registration report for the 2025 Annual meeting. No changes

Laurie Hixson, 2nd Vice President, gave the final credentials report for the 2025 Annual meeting: No changes

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The final credentials and final registration reports were adopted with a voting strength of 48.

The 2026 Convention Invitation was presented by the Mesilla Valley GC President and District 5 representative, Becky Fuller. The 2026 Annual Convention will be held April 7 & 8, 2026, in Las Cruses, NM

Courtesy resolutions were given by NMGC 1st Vice President, Johnese Turri and Recording Secretary, Jennifer Moreno. The Resolutions were adopted.

Announcements:

- Tour is Wednesday and the bus will be here at 8am

- The person wearing the most buttons at each table wins the Centerpiece

Benediction was given by former NMGC president, Christine Longthorp.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.