



the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia www.rockspringgardenclub.com

Volume 55, Number 1

September 2016

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Connie Richards

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

SECRETARY

Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER

Ann Lunson

GARDENZETTE

EDITOR

Joan Hession

ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 10:00 AM LITTLE FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mary Pat Rowan, Landscape Architect

An expert in the use of native plants in our gardens who will focus on the flowering plants and bushes that thrive in our neighborhoods.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Richards, President

I've had a lovely summer and flowers have played a big part in my activities. I was on an eleven-day bike ride in Germany and saw so many lovely things blooming in the wild, in window boxes, and in gardens. I went to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens to see the water lilies, and they were spectacular! I did the flowers for my niece's wedding and they were almost as beautiful as the bride. Well, that is an exaggeration, but they looked very nice. Now I'm enjoying the dahlias, my favorite flower, in my yard. When they bloom, I know that the fall is not far off. While it's a little sad that summer goes by so fast now, I'm looking forward to the fall and the special things that it brings. I know that Rock Spring Garden Club is going to have a great year. We have wonderful programs planned and will have time at meetings to really enjoy viewing the horticulture and floral designs, shop at Ways and Means, and spend time sharing our experiences and ideas. Since we will not be having our Holiday Design Event, our only income at this point will be from Ways and Means. Please support this committee by bringing in things that you no longer need at home, plants, and if you are baking, maybe you could make an extra batch and bring that in. We will try to make our business meeting as short as possible and will start promptly at 10am. Bring your specimens and floral designs by 9:45 and be sure to have your cards filled out before you come. I'm truly looking forward to seeing all of you.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JUNE 1, 2016–AUGUST 31, 2016

Ann Lunson, Treasurer

BEG BAL JUNE 1, 2016	\$20,155.40
Total Receipts	515.20
Total Disbursements	<u>(1,892.90)</u>
CLOS BAL AUGUST 31, 2016	\$18,777.70

BUDGET

Ann Lunson, Treasurer

At the end of this newsletter is a copy of the proposed budget for 2016–2017. The budget will be presented to the membership for adoption at our September 15 meeting. If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please contact me (703 536-9292 or AnnandJimL@aol.com).

You may want to print a copy and bring it with you to the meeting for use during the discussion.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Mary Lunger, Hospitality Co-Chair

October 6 at 10:00

Home of Ann Marie Fay

SHOW

Anita Brown, Show Chair

Design of the Month - Designer's Choice



A Traditional or Creative design of your choice following descriptions listed on pages 182-183 (Traditional) and 196-213 (Creative) of the Handbook.

PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD

Thea McGinnis, Awards Chair

National Capital Area Garden Club's District III recognized Johanna Bernie Donaldson at the June 17, 2016 President's Coffee at Meadowlark Gardens.



As long time member of Rock Spring Garden Club, Bernie received a Perennial Bloom Award from the District for her long time commitment and work in our club. Although Bernie is a sustaining member, she attends meetings and keeps a beautiful garden. At our spring Flower Show, she had four entries of which each won a ribbon: 2 firsts, 1 second, and 1 third.



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Her African violet, 'Alabama', also won the Growers Choice Award. Gardening is definitely a lifelong passion for Bernie. Congratulations!

AWARDS

Thea McGinnis - Awards Chair

Keeping Up the Good Works

In addition to the Awards for 2015 that our Club received this past spring, Rock Spring Garden Club also received the following NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB awards, as part of our membership with Virginia Federated Garden Clubs. These awards were presented at the NGC Convention this past May in Kentucky:

NGC Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit for The Gardenzette (Editor: Carol Cochran)

NGC Certificate of Merit and \$100 as the Overall Winner for Video/CD Award for 2015 Garden of the Year (Photographer: Mary Cottrell)

These awards are HUGE! To receive an award at the National level is very challenging.

In addition, at the June 2016 District III meeting, Rock Spring Garden was recognized by Director, Jane Smith, for our April Flower Show.

Here's a recap of all Awards received for 2015:

National Capital Area Garden Clubs District III:

Certificates of Achievement for our Club Yearbook and Club Newsletter;
Outstanding Garden Club Achievement

National Capital Area Garden Clubs State Awards:

#18 Citation for Outstanding Garden Club Achievement 60 or more members
#20 Yearbook Certificate of Merit 70-99 members (Mary Cottrell, Editor)

#21 B2 Outstanding Club Electronic Newsletter (Carol Cochran, Editor)
Citations for Contributions to #24 Rae Kimmel Scholarship, #26 Arbor House, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Fern Valley, and The Nature Conservancy

National Capital Area Garden Clubs Central Atlantic Region:

Yearbook Award 70-99 members, 3rd Place
(Mary Cottrell, Editor)

Virginia Federated Garden Club Piedmont District:

PD 10 - Membership Award - 3rd Place
PD 14 - Special Achievement Award - Holiday Design Event - White Rosette (Anne Collins, Sharon DeAngelis, co-Chairs and committee)
PD 14 - Special Achievement Award - Garden of The Year - 2nd Place (Barry Wood, Chair and committee)
PD 20 - Club Newsletter - 1st Place (Carol Cochran, Editor) Blue Ribbon plus \$20
PD 21 - Club Yearbook - 2nd Place (Mary Cottrell, Editor)

Virginia Federated Garden Clubs State Awards

S-35iii Special Achievement - Holiday Design Event - 1st Place White Rosette (Anne Collins, Sharon DeAngelis, co-Chairs)
S-43Biii Club Newsletter - 1st Place Blue Ribbon plus \$20 (Carol Cochran, Editor)

HORTICULTURE

Louise Rhoads – Horticulture Chair

More than anything, I must have flowers, always, alwaysClaude Monet

The September calendar promises that fall and hopefully its welcoming cooler days will be soon be here. The weather has that particular tang in the air signaling it is headed towards cold and falling leaves. I personally love the season as I remember as a young girl finding "bright-orange

berries sitting in tiny red cups on dark brown branches at the edge of woods or in a neighbor's yard." There it was - Bittersweet. Yes, I know, it is invasive so probably not an intelligent plant for our small gardens unless you can contain it, but how lucky to have a wooded property with mature trees that would allow it to flourish without doing harm. In case you do want to grow it, you will need both a male and female plant. The female produce the berries but only if there is a male plant nearby to fertilize the flowers. The vine grows quickly covering trellises, arbors, fences and walls. It can also be used as a ground cover.



Celastrus scandens - American Bittersweet

American bittersweet, not Oriental bittersweet, is the one type I am writing about this month. It is a vigorous deciduous perennial vine that grows 15 - 20 feet tall and is native to central and eastern North America. They produce scentless yellowish-green flowers that bloom in spring but it is the berries that follow that are the spectacular colorful show.

In late fall and winter, the capsules open at the ends to display the bright red berries inside. The berries remain on the plant well into winter, brightening winter landscapes and attracting birds and other wildlife. Berries are poisonous to humans.

It was given the name bittersweet by Colonizers in the 18th Century because the fruits resembled the appearance of the fruits of Common nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*) which was also called bittersweet.

If you want to decorate with Bittersweet, and you are not interested in hiking a woodland to find the vine, you can buy small and usually expensive sprigs available at local farmers' markets. Yes, you can also find the "fake" ones at Michael's but that would not satisfy us, would it?

REMINDER: When bringing in your horticulture specimens, remember the following:

- The specimen stem needs to be in water, so fill up your green bottle and use a cotton ball or small bubble wrap to support the stem.
- Specimens need to be at peak, clean, no dead leaves.

The judges are very particular. Please have your specimen at the Hort Table by 9:45 a.m. in order for the committee members to inspect and make sure your specimen is ready. Your 3x5 card needs to be completed BEFORE you come to the meeting. Yes, the committee can help but it is helpful if you do your homework.

It was noted at our committee meeting earlier this month that not all members have gardens. If you are in this category, remember you can plant bulbs in a container this fall and you will have some beautiful specimens next spring for the Hort Table.

Gardening Know How:

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celastrus_scandens

WAYS AND MEANS

Sherry Foster - Ways and Means Co-Chair

This year the Ways and Means tables will be run by a three person team -- Sherry Foster, Diane Pollack and Julie Wadsworth. Julie will continue to run the Tools of the Trade effort and she has promised to continue to knit and sew all of the creative, functional and beautiful items she has in the past. Diane and Sherry will take charge of collecting items to sell at our tables that pertain to gardening and other hobbies and activities. In order to be successful and raise money for the

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RSGC, we need each and every one of you to clean out those garages, attics, closets and bring those underused treasures to the Ways and Means team. We will price them and hopefully find a good home for them. You can drop your items off at Sherry's or Diane's or call them and they will come and pick your items up. Please help us break the current record of raising money at the Ways and Means tables!!!

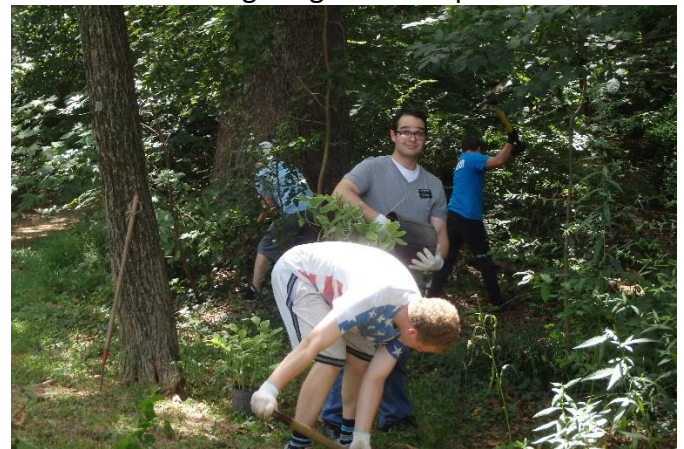
At our first RSGC meeting of the 2016/2017 year we would really like members to bring plants they have separated and dug up. Additionally home cooked treats always sell out. If you have the time to make something, we would really appreciate it.

Remember one person's trash is another person's treasure!!!

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

Barry Wood Civic Development Chair

We had a very successful work day at Rock Spring Park last month fighting invasive species.



Despite the heat, eight members of Rock Spring Garden Club came to help and were assisted by missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Club members: Barry Wood, Connie Richards, Diane Simmons, Jo Ella Samp, Julie Wadsworth, Joan Hession, Carol Cochran, Tillie Smithers, and Kate Abrahams.

Missionaries:

Elders: Pingel, Meldrum, Smith, Harding, Straun, and Hart

Sisters: Tankersley, Snow, Tindey and Woolston

We removed sixteen large trash bags of invasive weeds such as Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), burdock (*Arctium lappa*), wild grape (*Vitis vulpina*) and our ongoing nemesis, the mugwort or false Chrysanthemum (*Artemisia vulgaris*). In addition, the elders took the grub axe to several tenacious specimens of Amur bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), which will trouble the Park no more. Our weed removal effort made it possible for the black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) to show themselves off to best advantage. (See Gardenzette Title) Tillie Smithers donated some attractive Solomon's seal. We feel fortunate to have removed most of the stilt grass before it could go to seed, but we did not get it all. Club members are encouraged to remove the remaining stilt grass any time they have a free moment, as one plant can produce up to 3000 seeds!



Julie was very effective against the weeds with her Zenbori Garden knife. She promises to have the knives available at the Ways and Means table.

Stay tuned for the scheduling of another cleanup/planting day.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Thea McGinnis – Website, Social Media
Navigating NCAGC/District III and VFGC/Piedmont Garden Clubs News and How to Get It

District III's first meeting will be Friday, September 16, 2016, beginning at 9:30 AM. Delicious

refreshments will be served. Come meet other garden club members from Northern Virginia and find out what is going on in other clubs. Our guest speaker is Alonso Abugattas, Naturalist for Arlington County. Come visit District III on Facebook.

Piedmont District's fall meeting will be Monday, October 10, 2016 beginning at 10 AM at the Doubletree in Richmond. Here's a link to Piedmont District's fall newsletter for more information. <http://nebula.wsimg.com/bd8acdbeecfe4ca2211f6d373dfb1dd7?AccessKeyId=77116CD06FBA3850ADE1&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

National Capital Area Garden Club's first meeting is Monday, October 17, 2016 at 10 AM at the National Arboretum. David Powers, floral designer, is their guest speaker. For more information on NCAGC goings on, here's the link to the Fall Capital Gardener newsletter: http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/Fall_CG-2016.pdf

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Piedmont District, National Capital Area Garden Clubs and District III and many individual clubs such as ours are utilizing social media to share news and extoll the benefits of garden club membership. Join us on Facebook. Visit or share our websites. Our website includes up to date information on programs, committee activities and all sorts of good information. NCAGC's website is the place you can find information about NGC School(s) schedules in our region. Piedmont and VFGC websites also offer a tremendous amount of information so there's little new to scramble to find the information you need. And National Garden Clubs (NGC) website is a wonderful overview of our organization and has their online store. Click links below or copy and paste into your growers:

RSGC's FB

page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148155358579274/>

District III FB

page: <https://www.facebook.com/DistrictIIINCAGC/?fref=ts>

National Capital Area GC FB

page: https://www.facebook.com/National-Capital-Area-Garden-Clubs-Inc-184614411614341/?fref=ts&ref=br_tf&qsefr=1

RSGC website: www.rockspringgardenclub.com

National Capital Area Garden Club's website:

www.ncagardenclubs.org

National Garden Club

website: <http://www.gardenclub.org>

Piedmont District of

VFGC: <http://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org>

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs VFGC

website: <http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org>

And last but not least, visit the NCAGC blogspot - RSGC member Thea McGinnis is its blog mistress! And RSGC club members Christine Wegman and Jenny Sullivan are guest bloggers. We've got a lot of good going on! Stop by at: <http://ncagardenclubs.blogspot.com>

LIAISON

Anne Collins – Liaison Chair

NCA/VFGC EVENTS

September 16 10-2

NCA District III Meeting

Meadowlark Gardens Court

Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna

September 21-10am

NCA Horticulture Workshop

Potomac Community Center

11315 Fall Road, Potomac, MD

Registration Deadline-9/14

ncagardenclubs.org/d2clubs.html#RedHillGardenClub

September 28-29 8:30am

VFGC Landscape Design School IV

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

Registration Deadline- 9/14

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See-viriniagardenclubs.org for more information

October 20

VFGC Piedmont District Meeting- Fall Sensation
DoubleTree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center,
Richmond

Registration Deadline-9/26

Visit www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org for more details and to find recent issues of Footprints

October 26-27 Central Atlantic Region Annual
Conference- Historic Treasures of New York
Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs, NY
Registration Deadline-9/25 www.ngacar.org

FLOWER SHOWS/PLANT SALES

September 13- 1-4:30pm

Midlothian Garden Club- A Standard Flower Show-
Where The Walk Ends

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

2341 Winterfield Rd, Midlothian , VA

September 17 – 1-4pm- Rain date September 18
Native Plant Sale

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S Carlin Spring
Road, Arlington

October 8- 10

National Capitol Orchid Society's 69th Annual
Orchid Show and Plant Sale

Behnke Nursery, Beltsville, MD

For More information see www.ncos.us

PROGRAMS/LECTURES

Weekends through September

Merrifield Garden Centers various locations

See www.merrifieldgardencenters.com/events for a full listing

September 10- 7:30-8:30am

Ten Unusual Garden Beauties Tour led by

Horticulturalist Carol Miranda

Meadowlark Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens
Court, Vienna

Preregistration is required-

www.novaparks.com/parks/meadowlark-botanical-gardens/events

National Arboretum

Several Programs during September See website

October 1- 10-11:30

Perennials That Drink Responsibly- Stephanie Cohen

Registration required

www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events

October 4 and October 11 – 2:30-3:30

Hillwood Estate Museum and Garden

Gardener's Focus- Fall Seasonal Design

Brian Barr, Director of Horticulture

Registration Required www.HillwoodMuseum.org

October 20-23

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Fine arts and Flowers- A museum wide exhibition featuring works from VMFA interpreted through spectacular floral designs by members of The Garden Club of Virginia, VFGC and Gardens Clubs of Virginia

Exhibition is free and open to the public

Related special events require tickets -

www.vistorservices@vmfa.museum

Save the Date! September 30, October 1 & 2, 2016



Photo Credit – Andrew Hearne

Colonial District **Rose Fest** Hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation

- **Horticulture competition** over 70 categories. Bring lots of fragrance for public voting in two fragrance categories and to support “Roses for Noses Seminar”.
- **Photography competition** – Take photos this spring and summer in five categories: exhibition form, sprays, open bloom stamens showing, gardens and roses with critters.
- **Design competition**- Fulfill your artistic sensibilities by preparing your design base the night before and pop your roses in during prep time.
- **Photo Ops** with a wall of roses that we all will build with our extra roses, so bring lots
- **Seminars, workshops, and demonstrations** in our educational room and on terrace.
- **Silent Auction, Raffle, Vendors and Banquet**
- Held at the **Hyatt Regency** in Fairfax, VA. Room rates \$85.00 plus tax. Reservation at 888-421-1442 before September 15th, refer to Colonial District **Rose Fest** room block.
- Co-chairpersons: Bill Toth, btoth1000@aol.com ; Pam Powers, pam1powers@aol.com

Invite your friends to join you for your Rose Fest weekend

PHOTO GALLERY

June 9, 2016 – RSGC Meeting:

The new officers were sworn in:



Left to Right: Jenny Sullivan – Secretary, Ann Lunson – Treasurer, Kate Abraham - Vice-President, Connie Richardson – President, Jane Oliver - NCAGC District III Director



Louise Rhoads and Margie Melnick, Horticulture Co-chairs, recognize Anita Brown and Arlene Kigin as the members with the highest number of Horticulture entries brought in this year.



Anita Brown, Show Co-chair,
recognizes Ann Marie Fay as the
member who provided the largest
number of floral designs this year.

June Horticultural Entries:

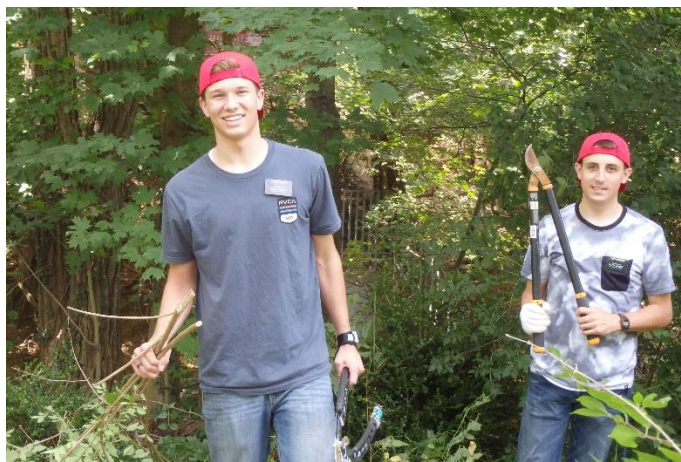
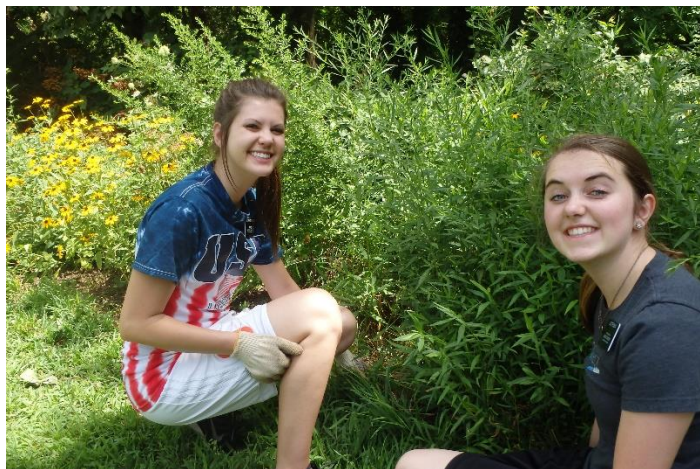




June Floral Designs: Transparency Design



Rock Spring Park Work Day on August 19th



**ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB
PROPOSED BUDGET
FOR CLUB YEAR
JULY 1, 2016–JUNE 30,
2017**

FUNDS ON HAND JULY 1, 2016 **\$19,129.89**

Includes: Holiday Design Event (net profit) – \$6,258.45
Ways & Means (net profit) – \$1,242.05
Membership Renewals (81 @ \$50 each) – \$4,050.00
Subscribers (1 @ \$30, 1 @ \$20) – \$50.00
Member/Memorial Donations – \$95.00

	2015–2016	2015– 2016	Proposed 2016– 2017
<u>COMMITTEE/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Disbursmts.</u>	<u>Budget</u>
1. President			
Discretionary Fund	\$200.00	52.74	\$ 100.00
Meetings & Conventions	500.00	30.00	250.00
2. Vice President			
VP Duties (gift/outgoing president)	50.00	0.00	50.00
Membership Chair Duties ¹	250.00	371.85	250.00
3. Secretary	20.00	0.00	20.00
4. Treasurer (includes PO box - \$86)	150.00	138.25	150.00
New Checks	0.00	159.60	0.00
5. Awards	250.00	100.65	100.00
6. Civic Development	250.00	39.00	100.00
7. Conservation (includes Penny Pines)	200.00	68.00	100.00
8. Flower Show	1,500.00	2,594.49	0.00
9. Garden of the Year	500.00	423.22	0.00
10. Garden Therapy	200.00	101.25	150.00
11. Holiday Design Event	1,000.00	2,813.05	0.00
12. Horticulture	20.00	0.00	20.00
13. Hospitality ²	400.00	202.77	350.00
14. Information Mgmt. (incl. ISP fee/2 yrs.)	200.00	0.00	150.00
15. Invitational Arrangements	250.00	236.65	250.00
16. Meeting Expenses			
Room & AV Equipment Rental ³	1,600.00	1,050.00	1,500.00

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Ros ⁴	400.00	400.00	420.00
17. NCAGC/VFGC Dues ⁵			
NCAGC (\$8 per club member)	700.00	648.00	700.00
VFGC (\$5 per club member)	320.00	405.00	435.00
Piedmont Dist., VFGC (\$20 per club)	10.00	20.00	20.00
18. Outreach & Education			
Charitable Contributions	500.00	850.00	500.00
Member Tuition			
Reimbursement ⁶	500.00	300.00	500.00
Scholarships/Outdoor Lab			
Camp	2,500.00	1,288.00	2,500.00
Camper Supplies	0.00	62.55	100.00
19. Program	1,500.00	685.00	1,500.00
20. Publications			
Gardenzette	200.00	279.86	300.00
Yearbook			
⁷	400.00	382.43	450.00
21. Publicity	40.00	0.00	20.00
22. Requiem Contributions	100.00	50.00	100.00
23. Show	150.00	0.00	150.00
24. Ways & Means	0.00	0.00	300.00
			\$
25. Youth Activities	350.00	306.20	350.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$15,210.00	14,058.56	\$11,885.00

ESTIMATED BALANCE JUNE 30, 2017

\$7,244.89

Ann Lunson

Treasurer

#####

Footnotes apply to the proposed budget:

1. Membership Chair Duties – Includes funds for a new member tea.
2. Hospitality – Includes expenses for District III/NCAGC hostess duties.
3. Meeting Room Rental – 7 meetings @ \$200 each plus \$100 for AV rental.
4. Ros – 7 meetings @ \$60 each. Given as two thank-you gifts for his assistance with room set-up and dishwashing.
5. NCAGC/VFGC Dues – Reflects a goal of a net increase in membership during 2016-2017 of 6 new members.

Piedmont District, VFGC Dues – Increased to \$20 per club in spring 2016.

6. Member Tuition Reimbursement – \$50 tuition reimbursement for any member attending an NCAGC/VFGC school.
7. Yearbook – \$338.95 was actual cost to print 2016-2017 yearbook .