From the Liaison to State Presidents

As we begin the 2015-2017 term of office together, I want to congratulate each of you on being selected as the leader of your state. President-Elect Sandra Robinson will be appointing me to be the Liaison to the newly elected State Presidents. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with you.

The theme for the 2015-2017 administration will be "Leap Into Action". The projects that President-Elect Robinson has chosen to emphasize her theme are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Our first time together will be at the 2015 Annual NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I hope you will plan to attend the whole convention. I know you probably have questions now so here are some answers and items of information to help clarify things for you:

When do I become a member of the NGC Board of Directors?

A State President becomes a member of the NGC Board of Directors after the installation of the NGC President. Your first Board of Directors Meeting is the Post-Convention Board Breakfast on Monday morning. You have a vote at all meetings of the 2015-2017 NGC Board of Directors.

Am I installed as a State President at the NGC Convention?

No, you are not installed at the NGC Convention. You are installed as President in your state at its annual meeting.
Which meetings should I plan to attend at this upcoming NGC Convention in addition to the business meetings?

2. Incoming State Presidents Meeting – Saturday, May 16, 4:15 – 6:00 pm
3. NGC 2015-2017 Board of Directors Breakfast – Monday, May 18, 7:30 – 9:30 am, $50

NOTE: Please notice the time of the meeting on Monday, May 18 and do not book your plane reservation too early in the day, as this meeting is the first meeting of the 2015-2017 Board of Directors, of which you are a member.

How do I register for the two meetings that have a cost?

These two functions are not included in the meal package plan, and thus have an additional cost. They are listed under “MEALS” on the Convention Registration Form. The REGISTRATION DEADLINE is April 15, 2015.

- You may register online from the NGC website [http://www.gardencolub.org/about-us/convention-registration-2015.aspx](http://www.gardencolub.org/about-us/convention-registration-2015.aspx) with a credit card or mail your registration form and check to the convention registrar listed on the form.

Do I attend the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday morning listed in the convention schedule?

No, this is a meeting of the 2013-2015 NGC Board of Directors. You will become a member of the 2015-2017 Board of Directors. However if you wish to attend so that you can observe what goes on at an NGC Board Meeting, the NGC President has given permission for you attend. As a guest, you may not take part in discussion or in voting.

I hope these answer your immediate questions. At our meeting in Louisville, I will be giving you more information. Please feel free to call (804) 784-0109 or email me (inbleum@comcast.net) at any time. I will always get back to you if you leave a message.

My congratulations to you all. I look forward to our time together, as we “Leap Into Action.”

Nancy Hargroves
Liaison to State Presidents
NGC President's Special Project

The NGC President picks a special project that emphasizes the theme for the administration. State garden clubs are encouraged to participate in one or all aspects of the project. Not only is this a resource for new projects in your state, but it can also be a source of income from the monetary awards offered.

The President's Special Project for the 2015-2017 administration is "Service in Action". Its purpose is to promote the protection of bees, butterflies, and frogs through conservation, education, backyard habitats, roadside plantings, and publications.

There are four segments of this project:

**CROWN BEES**

The partnership with Crown Bees will be continued for 2015-2017. BeeGap will remain as part of the President's Special Project. For more information on this project, visit this webpage of the NGC website: [http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/presidents-projects/themason-bee-project.aspx](http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/presidents-projects/themason-bee-project.aspx)

**MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

The Monarch Watch program will continue and Monarch Way Stations will be adopted as a national project with emphasis on education and planting milkweed and other host plants for endemic butterfly species. Establishing backyard habitats will also be encouraged for the homeowner participation in the conservation efforts. For more information, visit [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

**THE FRIGHTENED FROG**

The Children's Project for 2015-2017 is a book for early readers titled, *The Frightened Frog – An Environmental Tale*, which will be available for use by clubs and schools. The book written by NGC members Brenda Moore and Jean Ohlmann, with illustrations by Emily Lackey, is a cross between Bernstein Bears and Dr. Seuss. Bulletin board kits and lesson plans that meet national standards will be available for use by educators in the classroom.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The Leadership Development project will be implemented by a newly appointed NGC Committee. It's purpose is to assemble material for leadership development of local club and state officers, local leadership development workshops, and information for club members. All materials will be available to members on the NGC website.

There are monetary awards for the President's Special Project. The list of these awards will be available in the new NGC Directory, the Fall issue of *The National Gardener*, and on the NGC website.