Minutes of the New England Region Luncheon
May 17th, 2015 Louisville, Kentucky

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm Sunday, May 17th by Director Maria Nahom, who welcomed members. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of Elaine Dates, who died in late 2014.

The blessing was given by Jacqueline Connell, Federated Garden Clubs of CT. President. Lunch was served.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Jeanne Marie Parkes, Director 1997-1999.

The Director declared a quorum present.

Secretary Susan Hinkel reported that the minutes of the 2014 Region Meeting were approved and posted on the NER website in June 2014.

Helga Frazzette gave the Treasurer's Report which was accepted and filed for audit.

The following committee reports were given:

Caroline Frey, a member of the NGC Nominating Committee encouraged members to nominate NER members for offices. At present there is not a NER member on the NGC Executive Board.

Rita Langlais, Federated Garden Clubs of VT President, reported on the 2014 Symposium held in Burlington in Oct. 2014.

Jacqueline Connell, NGC 4/5 Star Chairman, announced that members are able to attend two schools at once now.

Kathleen Marty, President of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, announced that Maine will be giving its first Landscape Design School in Nov.

Becky Linney, Chair of the NGC Fall meeting in Portland, ME, announced that the National Flower Arrangers will be joining NGC at that meeting.

NGC President Linda Nelson arrived to thank members for their hard work during her term 2013-2015.

Michelle Mensinger, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President, gave an invitation to the Fall NER meeting, which will be held Oct. 21-22, 2015, in Portsmouth, NH. Joyce Kimball will be chair of this meeting.

Maria Nahom gave the Publicity Press Book Chairman, Joyce Kimball's report in her absence, as well as the Essay, Poetry, and Sculpture Chairman's report.

Director Nahom announced that she wished to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to update the By-Laws and Handbook. It includes Bonni Dineen, Chair, Andrea Little, Vera Bowen, Joyce Kimball and herself. There was no objection and the Ad Hoc committee was appointed.

Director Nahom announced that a new Award, #27, called the Maria J. Nahom Table Design Award will be introduced.

At that time Director Maria Nahom announced the NER Director and Alternate for the 2015-2017 term. She presented Vera Bowen NER Director and Lynne Merrill (who was absent) as Alternate. She then passed the gavel and pinned Director Bowen, who spoke briefly about her next two year term.

Bonni Dineen, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman and Education Chairman, then introduced the speaker, Kathy Felton. Kathy had a wonderful talk about NER nurseries that we should visit, talking about the virtues of each. She passed out many coupons to these spots as well as quite a few raffle gifts of plants and coupons.

Director Nahom adjourned the meeting at 2:25 when there was no further business to come before the members.

Respectively submitted,

Susan Hinkel, Secretary