

WACONIAH

Washington • Arizona • California • Oregon • Nevada • Idaho • Alaska • Hawaii

Vol. 46 No. 4 Director's Theme: "Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly; Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening"



2017 – 2019
Pacific Region
Director
Peggy Olin

Director's Message

These past two years have been a wonderful and rewarding experience for me. **BIG**

THANKS to Alaska Garden Clubs and California Garden Clubs for giving us two memorable Conventions to remember. April 2018 we "Whooped it up" at the 75th Convention at the Chena Hot Springs Resort, in Alaska, with a wonderful welcome and tour from the owner Bernie Karl, who showed us the Hydroponic Greenhouses, Geothermal Power Plant and served Appletinis in the Aurora Ice Museum in a glass made of ice, walked on the ice to take a dip in the hot springs, toured the dog kennels, where they all have their own personal dog houses, went on dog sled rides. Some got to see the Northern Lights. Thanks to all the Alaska Garden Clubs for giving us a wonderful convention.

April 2019 we were "Soaring to New Heights" at the 76th Pacific Region Convention at the Airtel Plaza Hotel Van Nuys, California with two fantastic tours. Descanso Gardens is an urban retreat of year-round natural beauty. Afterward, we had dinner at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.

The Getty Center features several gardens, including the Central Garden - an evolving work of art, a cactus garden that overlooks Los Angeles, and sculpture gardens. All of the foliage and material of the garden are selected to accentuate the interplay of light, color and reflection. More than 500 varieties of plant material are used in the landscaping.

The Pacific Region Fundraiser Dinner was hosted by California Garden Clubs, Inc. at the beautiful heartwarming home of Gail & Hank Vanderhorst, with another beautiful garden.

I have visited 7 out of the 8 states: Arizona, Blue Star Marker Dedication, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Nevada and California State Conventions. Every State Convention has its own agenda - some were one day, some 3 days, some 4 days. All Pacific Region Garden Clubs have a lot in common - all working toward the same goals of increasing membership, scholarship programs, educational schools, building new websites, Blue Star Marker Dedications, educating our youth, and helping to Plant America with native and pollinator plants in butterfly gardens, memory gardens and healing gardens.

Many Thanks to all of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs for all of your support. I have enjoyed being your Director 2017-2019.

Take care and enjoy your summer

Peggy



2017 – 2019 Director Peggy Olin is a **GEM!** for all you do to honor veterans. Thank you for all of your endeavors.
~ Lavon Ostrick



Peggy Olin is a **GEM!** WSFGC thanks Peggy for her service and leadership.
~ Terry Critchlow

State Presidents' Reports

This term, the state presidents are writing their reports based on a common assignment. **This issue's theme is: How is the venue selected for your meetings and what is the general schedule.** If your state isn't featured it's because nothing was submitted!

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Krystal Migliore, President

Theme: "Plant America – California Style"



The venue sets the tone for the entire meeting. The city in which the meeting is held, the size of the venue, the hotel room rates, ease of travel and many other factors contribute to the decision.

The best place to start is to know what is needed - since the year 2000, CGCI has maintained a spreadsheet documenting the important financial details such as negotiated price per night for lodging, pricing for each meal, parking, as well as number of lodging rooms used per night, number served at each meal, number attending tour(s), etc. This historic detail is invaluable when planning future events. When carefully considered, this will provide the formula needed so events are financially successful to our host district (or club) and to our organization.

CGCI's process - A district (or a club) invites CGCI to hold a meeting hosted in their district. This is on a voluntary basis and there is no pre-determined rotation. CGCI holds three board meetings per year: Fall Board Meeting, Winter Board Meeting and Convention.

Location - Since the state of California is nearly 1000 miles long from the northern to the southern border, alternating meeting locations between northern, central and southern locations is an important consideration.

Weather - When possible warmer locations are preferred for our winter board meetings.

Ease of travel - How easy is it to travel to the city in which the meeting will be held? Is it in close proximity to major highways, airports or train? Once you have arrived in the city, how easy is it to get to the hotel? What are the transportation options from the airport or train station?

Venue - Have we held a meeting at the same location and venue in the past? The preference would be to use a different venue when possible, but sometimes there is only one venue available that meets our requirements.

Space - Is there adequate hotel accommodations and meeting space available in *one* facility to meet our needs? Will we be a small group, lost in a sea of meetings in a huge facility, or will our group be "the" group of focus for the hotel staff?

Mobility - How easy is the walk between the hotel rooms and meeting rooms via ramps and elevators?

Food - Does the catering department meet our meal service needs? Is the department flexible and willing to make adjustments to the menu to satisfy gluten-free and vegetarian requirements?

Hotel room rates - We've found that the rate for lodging can be the tipping point when a member is not sure if they will attend or not. During the 2017-19 term the hotel room rates have ranged from a low of \$85 to a high of \$119 per night. Attendance has been very good for all meetings.

Hotel and customer service - Of course, the hotel says they are happy to be under consideration but does their pricing, terms and actions reflect or contradict what they say?

One of the most important considerations - Is the hotel management and staff truly eager to be of service and are they willing to be flexible to meet our needs?

This term, without making a conscious decision to do so, local or regional hotels were selected instead of large chain hotels. They proved to be more flexible, accommodating and welcoming. At several of the venues we received exceptional customer service and, at one venue, the service was so remarkable the host district did not receive one complaint during the meeting.



Peggy Olin is a **GEM** because she dedicated two years as Director for the Pacific Region.

~ Nevada Garden Clubs Members

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
Joyce Lounsberry, President

Theme: "Garden Therapy: Calming the Inner Storms"



Washington schedules four events and Board of Directors meetings each year. The first event/meeting for each term is the fall Board of Directors Meeting, set in the Eastern Washington area. The meeting is set as near to the first of September as possible. Our second annual event is our

November Holiday Show and Flower Show presented in various holiday themes. The Board of Directors meeting is in conjunction with the Holiday Show. In the spring we hold an event called GALA. This event presents a luncheon with a Master Designer, usually from out of the state. The BOD meeting is set to immediately follow the event. Our final year's event is the Annual Convention preceding the Annual Meeting. The incoming Board of Directors are installed on the uneven years immediately following the Annual Meeting.

The WSFGC president is responsible for obtaining a venue that will accommodate each event. The first

consideration is to meet the requirements listed in our Standing Rules. The venue size with a safe location and easy access from a freeway is a major consideration. Room size and number of rooms for events and meetings varies with each event/meeting. Proposed venue locations are requested to present diagrams and size of the meeting rooms. Guest rooms must be able to meet the number of expected registrants for the meetings. Do they offer meals at the location or is outside catering required? Menu prices and meals offered need to be acceptable.

Another major consideration is the price of each venue and the minimum required food and beverage amount. Do they hire enough staff to service guests?

The president is responsible for negotiating and signing the venue contract. Any discrepancy in the contract is the president's responsibility to correct prior to presenting the bill to the treasurer.

Selecting a venue is a very time-involving process. Prices have risen with both hotel room prices and meal prices. Members state they cannot afford the costs to attend all of the meetings even if considerable consideration has been given to obtain venues that offer WSFGC their best prices. It takes considerable time and negotiating skills to keep prices reasonable with venues that meet our needs.



Joyce Lounsberry is a **GEM** because she has led WSFGC for the last two years with grace.

~ Terry Critchlow

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Claudia Hambacker, President

Theme: "Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Moths and Bats: Create a Living Habitat for Them"



Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. has two board meetings each year. Our Board is composed of the Executive Committee, the District Directors and the member club presidents. Although this total number is only 24, to meet requires travel of about 300 miles one way for each District.

Conventions are held each year in June and rotate by District. Our attendance is usually between 30 to 50 people, including board members. There is always concern about cost (lodging, food, and driving expenses). The convention committee works to keep expenses low, but that is difficult. The second Board Meeting is the first Monday in October, less than four months after the Annual Convention. Attendance at the October meeting is about half of the Board. This past year the program was changed to include education, was publicized, and we had a much better attendance.

The convention allows for more socialization and begins on Monday morning. Most of the participants arrive Sunday evening, and because of travel distance, ends by noon on Tuesday so members can return home by dark. The October meeting is one day, 9:30-2:30, leaving very little time except for business, lunch and education. Lots of travel for such little time together.

Two retreats were added this year in an effort to bring the voices of the organization together to set goals, hear opinions, and plan. The initial retreat was done in July and was effective. The second was held in January. Attendance at the January meeting was by ZOOM. This past year GCII purchased ZOOM, a video conferencing tool. Education was provided for members at the October meeting to teach members how to use Zoom. There was greater attendance of Board members at the January Retreat than there was at the October Board meeting.

It would be helpful to spread the meetings further apart instead of having three within a four-month period. This will be addressed at the Summer Retreat. Another concern is that the GCII President attends six major meetings within a six-month period: one Region, two NGC and three State, and there are usually at least two District meetings within that time so actually eight total. This is overload for one individual and, although the majority of expenses are paid, the individual still needs to assist with cost because it is well over the amount allowed in the President's Travel Budget.

So there will be discussion this year about what meetings are necessary and how often should they be attended and by whom. One recommendation would be that one meeting would be for the Executive Committee only. The Zoom meetings are a one-time fee for the product. A community room has been available and at no cost to the organization. We recently voted to purchase a projector and a small camera. Both were used during the recent retreat with success. It appears that we will now be able to have educational programs that will enable groups to connect to one computer and see an educational program from another part of the state. This will be a great asset. This would mean we could attend both retreats and the Fall Board meeting with no travel, stretching the timing out with no worry about weather. The cost for lunches, overnight stays and travel would be eliminated. The Annual Convention would, of course, continue.

Meetings are important but the question has been posed, if this is really how we want to spend GCII and member's money and time. The answer is a resounding NO. The GCII President would continue to visit the Districts at least once each year. Region and NGC meetings are important to maintain a relationship, but they can be expensive. It will be up to the Board to determine what is best for the organization regarding attendance at these three meetings.

By Stan Chiotti, Air Quality Chairman



There are some major consequences when trying to deal with both Mother Nature and the fine details of our conservation pledge. Our pledge sounds noble when we say we will protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet and educate people to take care of our air, water, forests, land and wildlife.

Air quality took a big hit in our region in 2018 when wildfires destroyed almost 5 million acres of land and forests. Six of the ten worst hit states were in our region, with California, Nevada, and Oregon ranking one, two, and three with over 3.7 million acres affected. People in northern California and southern Oregon lived for weeks in air conditions that were off the DEQ charts. Of the more than 8,000 fires that did this damage, only a few were caused by man. Lightning strikes are still the biggest cause.

Air quality should improve with the decommissioning of coal-fired plants and the use of more solar panels and wind-powered generators. What happens to the land and wildlife when thousands of acres are covered in solar panels? What happens to birds of prey when they encounter hundreds of rotating blades in huge wind farms? Consequences abound. Plastics are what DDT was back in the 1970s, "the best thing since sliced bread" until we see the full effects on nature. A paper bag will decompose in a landfill in one month, a cardboard box in two months, a plastic bottle takes almost 500 years, and a plastic bag can be around for 1,000 years.

Since China has stopped taking our plastic waste, it is ending up in our landfills. Some people are burning it, which is causing more air problems than coal plants. We need to work with our federal, state, and local officials to address these complicated issues now. All solutions will have consequences, but some will be better than others. Everyone can do their part by recycling, reducing, or reusing materials that affect our environment.



Brynn Tavasci is a **GEM** because we love to see our Design Diva in action! From your WSFGC friends.

~ Terry Critchlow

By Sally Thompson, Horticulture Chairman

Blueberry plants are native to eastern North America. Coville and White first harvested **blueberries** in New Jersey. They used the American wild **blueberry** and developed highbush **blueberries** 'vaccinium corymbosum.' The Southern highbush berries may also be grown in southern California.



They can be planted in large containers, such as half wine barrels or in garden soil, both with an acidic mix. Plants need to be kept moist, but not water-logged. Organic mulches can be spread around each plant, but the easiest and

least expensive mulch is to purchase gerbil shavings. It is not only inexpensive, but easier to apply. The shavings are lightweight, but wind does not blow them away.

January to March is the major pruning time for most of our Pacific Region states. Cut out short shoots, and one or two old canes and twiggy looking wood. If the shrubs are close to your house, cut back any branches that will rub or mar any siding or trim. They are the elongated or floppy looking branches.

Birds love **blueberries**. They need the juice as it is their nesting time. Large plants can be covered with lightweight netting available at most garden centers. Netting does not deter the berry growth, as berries continue to grow over a period of several weeks.

Blueberries can be stored in containers and stored for more than a year. The favorite usage is right off the bush, at the spur of the moment eating.

Advice From a Bee

- Create a buzz
- Sip life's sweet moments
- Mind your own beeswax
- Work together
- Always find your way home
- Stick close to your honey
- Bee yourself



By Joyce Lounsberry, Garden Therapy Chairman

Gardening: the fine art of soil to soul. – Jan Bills

It is known that gardening is good for the body and therapeutic for the soul. Originating as far back as the nineteenth century, people believed gardening had a calming effect on people with disabilities. Garden Therapy uses plants and nature to enable people to participate in their own healing. For 2017-2019 I encouraged Garden Therapy as a club and district project as it uses garden-related activities in aiding rehabilitation to those challenged with physical and mental disabilities. The richness of nature can provide a sense of hope and renewal.

As our clubs and districts begin another new term, I encourage each of us to select a project or program of sharing your gardening knowledge and skills. *The National Gardener*, June 2016 issue, defines garden-related as: *The growing of plants; the artistic use of plants and other natural materials; study of birds, butterflies, nature, and conservation; and exhibiting of knowledge, interests, and skills in these areas.* (Bonnie Borne) You might like to select a Garden Therapy project to benefit seniors or children or both.

Garden club work has many facets to benefit so many people in so many ways. It is social. It is spiritual. It is educational. It is scientific. It is a way of life.



Judi McClanahan is a **GEM** because she has been an inspiration and wonderful supporter of the Bogachiel GC and OPD!

~ Kris Ayers

In Memoriam



Our region lost two of our friends since the last issue: **Marjorie Johnson**, Amenities and Protocol & Blue Star Memorial Markers Chairman for many years, and **June Willard**, former state president of Washington and Region Recording Secretary.

They will be missed but never forgotten.



Rita Desilets is a **GEM** because she is a real diamond in the rough! Outstanding floral designer at Pacific Region.

~ Shane Looper

By Diane Franchini, Director's Special Project Chairman

When Peggy asked me if I would be the chairman for her 2017-2019 Director's Project I didn't really know what was in store for me. The project seemed simple enough – one that every garden club in eight states could be a participant. That thought was a bit daunting – how would I manage and record every garden club's planting project that included pollinator and native plants for their area?

Those fears were ultimately unfounded. As the deadline approached I thought this can't be right. We are a gardening organization that must be planting beautiful community gardens – so where are the reports? In the end four of the eight states responded, with three reports from Washington, one from Arizona, one from California, and 86 from Oregon. They really love Peggy in Oregon!!

I was pleasantly surprised at how much I learned about the native plants in each of the eight states while doing the research for the *WACONIAH* articles. While I do not profess to be an expert on each area, I did enjoy finding out a little about each of the states and the native plants that thrive there. That was an unexpected bonus of being this chairman.

Now a little bit about each report: **In Washington** the three projects varied from one club planting one tree, to another planting 20 trees, and the third planting a garden with children as well as their own home gardens. **Arizona's club** worked with a Girl Scout Troop to plant native plants in a Children's Garden, and the **California club** added native and pollinator plants to an existing pollinator garden. Finally **in Oregon**, President Gaye Stewart embraced Peggy's Project by challenging every club to plant at least one garden with pollen-producing plants in public as well as home gardens. At the time of my report they had planted 85 gardens with a goal of adding 65 more by June 2019.

Thank you to all who participated in Peggy's Project and a huge thank you to those who took the time to report on their efforts!

Washington: Queens of Spades Garden Club, Northend Garden Club, and Rosalia Garden Club.

Arizona: MGM Garden Club

California: Southern California Garden Club

Oregon: Each of the 14 Districts (with Garden Clubs listed on the certificates)

Do You Know... ?



...how many countries celebrate Mother's Day?

Answer on page 11.

Reconnecting with Wildlife in Your Garden

By Kathy Itomura, 2019-21 Wildlife Gardening Chairman



Most of us can remember a time when we were young and saw wild creatures in the garden every day, such fellows as the horned toad, a salamander, so many different varieties of butterflies, birds, and even different lizard species – all in our backyards. It is the unusual garden today that is visited by any toad, much less the now rare horned “toad,” but we can change that. The first step towards reconnecting with wildlife is to ban all herbicides, pesticides, and chemical fertilizers from our gardens. We’re going organic in our kitchens, so let’s invite our fellow creatures back by going natural in the garden. Worried your garden cannot survive without poisons? After a period of adjustment, your garden will become a *living system*, sustained by all the plants and creatures in it with just small tweaks from your hand. Begin this process by taking all poisons off your garden shopping and chores lists!



Carol Norquist is a **GEM** because she is dependable, hardworking and extremely knowledgeable and dedicated about garden club and shares her knowledge freely.

~ Chris Wood

“Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region” Director’s Special Project

By Diane Franchini, Director’s Special Project Chairman

“Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region” 2019-2021 Pacific Region Director’s Project

SHOW YOUR PRIDE – JOIN THE CHALLENGE

During the next two years Pacific Region states are being challenged to add **Blue Star** Markers.

Director Robin Pokorski has issued the following challenge:

Each state* is challenged to add or refurbish **TWO Blue Star** markers **each year** for the next two years.

*EXCEPT California, who is being challenged to add or refurbish **FIVE** per year.



That would be a total of 38 added **Blue Star** Markers in TWO years!!

As added incentive there will be “rewarding prizes” given out in 2021!!

Blue Star Marker Grants Available

By Robin Pokorski, Director

Exciting news!! The 2019–20 Region budget adopted at the 2019 Convention included \$2,000 in grant money for the “**Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region**” special project. Grants of **\$250** and **\$500** will be available to Pacific Region clubs and districts to help install or refurbish **Blue Star** Markers.

For information, contact Robin Pokorski, Director, at PRGCDirector@gmail.com or Diane Franchini, Director’s Special Project Chairman, FranchiniSD@gmail.com

“Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region” Director’s Special Project – POP QUIZ

By Diane Franchini, Director’s Special Project Chairman

1. What year marked the beginning of a National Garden Clubs program to honor our nation’s service men and women?
2. What was planted along the first **Blue Star** Highway?
3. What year was the **Blue Star** Memorial Highway Program adopted?
4. In 1951 wording was changed on the **Blue Star** Memorial Highway Markers to include who?
5. In 1981 a second type of marker was adopted. What is it called and where can it be placed?
6. A 3rd marker was adopted in 1996. What is it called and where can it be placed?
7. What is the cost of the **Blue Star** Highway Marker?
8. What is the cost of the smaller markers?
9. How many **Blue Star** Markers have been placed in the Pacific Region?
10. What is the focus of Robin’s Project for the next two years?

Answers on page 11

Just Imagine!



Imagine if trees gave free WiFi, we’d all be planting like crazy. It’s a pity they only give us the oxygen we breathe!



Gail & Hank Vanderhorst are **GEMs** for hosting a fantastic dinner.

~ Jeanette Pruin

Thanks to You

and other gardeners just like you, in only three years 1,040,000 gardens were registered with the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC). Some are tiny yards, and others public gardens, but together they have amounted to approximately five million acres of enhanced or new pollinator habitat across the globe.

Think What a Difference This has Made!

With 40% of all invertebrate pollinator species – particularly bees and butterflies – at risk of extinction (National Research Council, 2007), “Together, through collaborative conservation, we are restoring pollinator populations that provide the foundation of our ecosystems and our food supply” said Collin O’Mara, President and CEO of National Wildlife Federation. “When we save wildlife, we save ourselves.”

You Have...

- Planted pollinator friendly plants,
- Shared the need with your friends and neighbors,
- Purchased pollinator-friendly plants from your garden centers/greenhouses, and they have increased their supply, and the education to go with it, to the public.
- You now practice more sustainable gardening practices that support habitat.
- You should be so proud of yourself and those who are standing beside you!

So, What’s Next?

To ensure that our Pollinators will thrive, we need to plant at least three different pollinator-friendly plants that bloom in three different seasons (spring, summer and fall) to help ensure a consistent food supply.

“Let’s encourage the 35 million Americans who garden with flowers to each put in one new pollinator friendly plant per season each year. Imagine the transformation!”

For more information, visit

www.millionpollinatorgardens.org/news/

**You have made such a difference
in our world!**

Congratulations!

We have so much more we can do!

*Icaricia icarioides
fenderi*



The Fender’s **blue** butterfly was listed as endangered in 2000. This butterfly lives in prairie habitats in the Oregon Willamette Valley.

The Fender’s **blue** is a small butterfly with a wingspan of about an inch. The upper wings of the males are brilliant **blue** with a blackish wing margin and a white fringe of scales. The upper wings of the female are brown with a white fringe of scales.

The life cycle of this butterfly begins in late spring to early summer when an adult female deposits an egg on the underside of a Kincaid’s lupine leaflet. The egg soon hatches and the larva feeds on lupine leaflets. The larva may pass through one molt before dropping to the ground around mid-June where it goes into hibernation for the fall and winter. In the following March or so the larva begins to feed on fresh leaflets again. After 3 or 4 additional molts, it becomes a butterfly and the cycle begins again! Whew! That is a lot of work.

The Fender’s **blue** butterfly is endangered because native prairies have been converted to agriculture, subjected to fire suppression and invaded by non-native plants. Without burning it allows tree and shrub species to invade and shade out slow growing lupine and species upon which the butterfly depends. Aggressive, non-native plants overtake open spaces and crowd out our native species.

Fundraising & FUN-raising Booklet

A new booklet, *Fundraising & FUN-raising*, is available. With ideas submitted from YOU in the Pacific Region, the booklet is now available for only **\$5**. Contact Robin at PRGCDirector@gmail.com for your copy (add \$4 to mail). Robin will bring copies with her when she visits your state but, to ensure she brings enough copies, place your order sooner than later. Copies will be available on the Sales & Treasures table at the 2020 Convention.



Gail & Hank Vanderhorst are **GEMs**

because they are incredibly generous with their time and talents to garden club at every level. Thank you for opening your home to us for our PRGC fundraiser and everything else you do!

~ Becky Hassebroek

"Let's Bring 'em Back In" Director's Special Project

By Carol Vallens, Director's Special Project Chairman

Clubs are the  of our organization. The Director's Special Project "Let's Bring 'em Back In" will focus on reconnecting with clubs that have left our state federations.

Let's work TOGETHER to identify clubs and obtain contact information for these groups that have left us.

We'll attack this problem on multiple fronts – online (social media); digital (PowerPoint); and hard copy information.

To get started contact Carol Vallens, CVallens57@gmail.com

Photo Phundraiser – Special Event

By Karen & Paul Ramsey, Contest Chairmen



Support the Pacific Region AND show off your photographic talent!

Our first Photo Phundraiser will culminate at the 2020 Pacific Region Convention in Silverton, Oregon in April.

Enter your pictures in one of ten categories (5 categories in color and black/white):

1. Landscapes / gardens
2. Animals
3. Insect and birds
4. Single bloom
5. Director's choice – **MOOSE**



\$5 per entry or 5 entries for \$20 – all phunds raised go to the Region. Cash prize to BEST IN SHOW! And to the club with the most per capita entries!

The entry form will be on our website soon!

To enter contact Karen or Paul Ramsey, 541-479-5513 SierraKR@aol.com

2020 Post-Convention Tour

By Bob Gordon, 2019-21 Tours Chairman

Post-Convention Fundraiser Tour April 30 – May 2, 2020

Day 1 – Thursday, April 30 –

Tour The Oregon Garden or wander around Silverton, a charming Oregon town

Day 2 – Friday, May 1 – McMinnville, Oregon

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum; lunch with McMinnville Garden Club; Mason-Rivera Sculpture Garden & Art Gallery

Day 3 – Saturday, May 2 – Corvallis, Oregon

Chintimini Wildlife Center; brunch on your own; Hudson Victorian home tour; tea; Victorian floral design demonstration

Space is limited. JOIN US FOR THE FUN!!

Details: Cost: \$225 per person

\$25 refundable deposit – due to Becky Hassebroek, PRGC Treasurer, 518 Slater Dr, Fairbanks, AK 99701 by February 15, 2020.

Make checks payable to PRGC. Balance due March 15, 2020.



Convention Business Recap

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- Meetings of the State Presidents, Finance, Organization Study and Executive Committees were held on April 7. The Board of Directors meeting was held on April 8 and the Convention sessions took place on April 8 and 9.
- Unrestricted net assets of \$16,206.10 (not including convention revenue or the scholarship account) were reported.
- The 2019-2020 budget and 2020 convention budget were adopted.
- Housekeeping revisions to Bylaws and Standing Rules were adopted to clarify signers on accounts for banking purposes and to reflect that, because Hawaii has passed on providing the 2021-2023 Region Director, Washington shall provide the Director and Alternate Director for that term.
- Life Memberships and Scholarship Boosters were promoted – more than \$1,118 was raised for the Scholarship account.
- Gems were purchased, raising general funds for the region.
- The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. extended the invitation to the 2020 Annual Convention at The Oregon Garden in Silverton, April 27-30, 2020.
- Officers, State Presidents and Chairmen reported.
- Total convention registration: 159. Voting strength: 50.
- 2007-2009 Region Director Beverly Brune installed the 2019-2021 officers.
- The 2019-2021 Executive Committee met on April 9. The 2019-2021 Organizational Meeting (with voting strength of 70) and a meeting of the new State Presidents kicked off the new administration on April 10.
- The new board ratified all 2019-2021 appointments, agreed to hold a 2020 Post-convention fundraiser tour, and voted to produce a booklet about increasing membership and a digital history of the Pacific Region.

Chairmanships Inter-Relate

By Lynn Chiotti, Native Plants, Wildflowers & Legislation Chairman

This report is a combined report of two inter-related chairmanships. Three years ago, Oregon began a project that involved planting wildflowers across the state, similar to what Texas did several years prior. Working with the Oregon Roadside Council, wildflower seeds were purchased and planted, with Department of Transportation approval. The idea was to create a Tapestry of Color across the state. Now in its fourth year, that project has evolved into one to name a State wildflower.

This project can be adapted to all the states in the Pacific Region, but it takes the united efforts of several entities including the Garden Clubs, Affiliates, nurseries, and the Departments of Transportation. Plus, it does take the cooperation of Mother Nature and adequate rainfall and moderate temperatures. We found out the hard way that drought is not conducive to growing native plants and wildflowers. So, we switched to perennial wildflower seed that grows in specific regions of the state. This year we are beginning to see progress with the sprouting of the perennials, including milkweed.

But about one year ago, we realized that our state did not have a state wildflower. And here is where the Legislative report begins. In fact, only eight States in the U.S. have a State Wildflower. Our investigation began by finding out the process to get this accomplished. Meeting with a key state legislator gave us some guidance. First, we had to find one or two State legislators interested in pursuing the idea. After meeting with a key Senator, we realized it would be a several session process. First, we had to show her that there was sufficient interest so it would be worth the effort. Then we needed to get co-sponsors and have a bill drafted after presenting the legislative concept to Legislative Council, who then drafts the bill. It must then be assigned to the appropriate committee for its initial hearing. It then begins the time-consuming process of working its way through both Legislative Houses for approval and then gets the Governor's signature.

Oregon is still in the early stages, gathering signatures of interest to present to our key Senator. It is our goal to have enough signatures by our June Convention to proceed. This is not the same as an Initiative Petition, which Oregon does allow. It is only an informational signature gathering. After we have the signatures, we will approach our Senator about the next step, sponsoring the idea. If she buys into naming the wildflower we have chosen, the concept will then be drafted into a Legislative Concept and begin the final process.

This is where the letter-writing, e-mailing, and testifying starts in the assigned committee. It is now up to us to sell the idea to the Legislature. It is a process that every garden club member can use and how most laws are

created. It is Democracy in Action. It can be a tough "sell", and begins at the grassroots level, our members.

As for Native Plants, we have been able to locate a local grower for "milkweed," a major plant for many pollinators on whom we rely for our food crops. We have found that starting milkweed from seed is very difficult, but by using two-year old plants, the success rate goes up much higher. So take time to locate a milkweed grower and purchase established native plants. It will help our pollinators, the wildflowers, and our roadsides.

Parliamentary Tidbits – To Table or Not to Table

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



At the end of the parliamentary workshop at our recent convention a question was raised about how and when to "table a motion." "Tabling" a motion is really a misnomer for the

motion to "Lay on the Table," which is a commonly misused motion rarely needed in ordinary societies and therefore it is seldom in order. This motion is used to enable the assembly to lay the pending question aside temporarily when something else of immediate urgency has arisen (for example, your speaker has arrived and must present the program now, or your scholarship recipient has arrived and cannot stay for your entire meeting). This motion is not debatable or amendable and is brought back to consideration by a motion to Take from the Table (which needs to be made during the same session or at the next regular session, if within a quarterly interval, or the motion dies).

What this is often confused with is the motion to Postpone to a Certain Time. To consider a main motion later in the meeting, or at another meeting (because you want more information, or for any number of other reasons), this should be proposed by moving to Postpone to a Certain Time, also called the motion to Postpone Definitely, or simply to Postpone. This motion CAN BE debated and amended. A postponed question becomes an order of the day for the time to which it is postponed.



Rita Desilets is a **GEM** because, among many other services she provides untiringly to garden club at all levels, she provided the most beautiful table centerpieces throughout our PRGC convention. Thank you, Rita.

~ Becky Hassebroek

Thank you to our new and renewing Pacific Region Boosters! You make the difference in our Region's ability to offer scholarships.

Milly Benson, Lana Finegold, Sandra Ford, Becky Hassebroek, Robyn McCarthy, Dorothy Munroe, Greg Pokorski, Robin Pokorski, Jeanette Pruin, Alexis Slafer, Judy Stebbins, Anne Sullivan, Tanja Swanson, Brynn Tavasci.

Youth Essay Contest

By Ann Wallace, 2019-21 Youth Essay Contest Chairman

Title: "MY FAVORITE GARDEN"

What kind of garden is it? Does it have flowers? Vegetables? Butterflies? Did you plant it?

What makes it special to you?

What did you learn from it?

Section A: Grades 1 - 3 (30 to 50 words)

Section B: Grades 4 - 6 (100 to 200 words)

For application and information contact: Ann Wallace, Youth Essay Chairman AnnRWallace12@aol.com

Original essay using one side of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. Winning essays will be published in *WACONIAH*.

Just a Little Charcoal Will do the Trick

By Susan Nash, 2019-21 Indoor Gardening Chairman

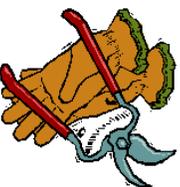


Many plants, such as spider plants or pothos vines, readily root in a glass of water and can then be transferred to pots. Others resist rooting in water and require a rooting media—potting soil or a soilless mix—and

perhaps rooting hormone and a warming pad to stimulate root growth.

Place a small piece of charcoal in your container to prevent water from stagnating when you are rooting plants in water.

Gardener's Tip



Keep a small spray bottle of full-strength distilled white vinegar with you outside whenever you garden. If you get an insect bite, scratch, scrape, nick or gash, spritz it with vinegar and cover with a bandage until you can go indoors and clean and dress it properly.

The Pacific Region Garden Clubs Official Calendar will be on the PRGC website and published in *WACONIAH*. It will contain dates for:

Pacific Region: conventions, special events, and tours and Pacific Region Director's travel schedule.

States within the Pacific Region: conventions, board meetings, special events including fundraisers, tours, schools, symposiums, and school refreshers.

NGC: conventions, board meeting, and special events.

Email dates to the Official Calendar Chairman Sally Priebe at PRGCOfficialCalendar@gmail.com.

Puzzle Mania

By Robin Pokorski, Director



With so many new people on the Region board of directors, one way to **Reconnect to YOUR Pacific Region** will be through learning something about our past, our traditions, our member states. So we are introducing Puzzle Mania – a crossword puzzle will be included with this and all subsequent issues and once a month on our website. **The first person to correctly complete the puzzle and return to me will receive 10 points. Everyone who returns the puzzle will receive 2 points (and a bonus of 5 points if complete).** The person with the most points at next year's convention will be honored and feted most royally!

Pacific Region States' Websites

PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

Washington: WAGardenClubs.com
 Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com
 California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.com
 Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org
 Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org
 Idaho: GCII.org
 Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org
 Hawaii: [None](#)



Becky Hassebroek is a **GEM** because she is a dependable, capable, articulate woman very dedicated to garden clubs and helpful to anyone who asks.

~ Chris Wood

**I dusted once. It came back.
I'm not falling for that again!**

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

May 15-17, Course I, Las Vegas, NV
Jean Engelmann, 702-456-3126
WJEngelmann@gmail.com

June 15-17, Course I, Anchorage, AK
Carol Norquist, 907-248-9563 Norquist@alaska.net

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIA

May 20, Renton, WA
Betty Burkhart, 253-852-2935
paul-burkhart@msn.com

June 13-14, Anchorage, AK
Carol Norquist, 907-248-9563 Norquist@alaska.net

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS

July 15-16, Course 3, Chula Vista, CA
Michael Biedenbinder, papa2j2@cox.net

July 17-18, Course 4, Chula Vista, CA
Michael Biedenbinder, papa2j2@cox.net

Director's Calendar/Travel Events

May 14-17 Flower Show School (**AND** the Director is bringing two friends who are taking the course), Las Vegas, Nevada

Jun 3-7 California's Convention

Jun 10-13 Oregon's Convention

July 15-18 Environmental School, Chula Vista, California

Oct 5 Nevada's Fall Conference

Hopefully the Director will be attending some **Blue Star** Dedications.....

Calendar of Events

Jun 3-7 California's Convention

Jun 10-13 Oregon's Convention

2020

Apr 24 National Arbor Day

Apr 27-30 Pacific Region Convention, Silverton, OR

May 1-2 Post-Convention Fundraiser Tour – McMinnville and Corvallis – JOIN US!

Issue Deadlines and Issue Focus

The deadline for the August 2019 issue is 6-30-19. The issue focus is: **Youth and gardening in your state.**

Over 50 countries celebrate Mother's Day but not all in the month of May - some celebrate at other times during the year. An AT&T survey estimated that 122.5 million phone calls to Mom are made on Mother's Day. Other Mother's Day findings revealed that 11% of people never call their mothers, and 3% of the 68% planning to ring Mom up called her collect.

Directory Changes

Please update your Directory with the following:

Add-ins

Artful Gardening – Gardening / Horticulture Team
Laura Bravinder – July 7
3008 Serramonte Ave, Denair, CA 95316-9424
559-901-3636 LBravinder@gmail.com

Poet Laureate – Internal Organization Team
Cher Habriel – October 2
1650 Ginny Ln, Paradise, CA 95969-2321
530-877-3435 TheHabs@sbcglobal.net

Changes:

Jean Engelmann's email is WJEngelmann@gmail.com
Vicki Yuen's home phone number is: 702-259-9888

Answers to Blue Stars Pop Quiz

1. First inspired in 1944
2. 1000 flowering Dogwoods
3. 1946 – Marker was designed in 1947
4. All men and women who had served, were serving, or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States
5. **Blue Star** By-Way marker – parks, civic and historic grounds
6. **Blue Star** memorial marker – National Cemeteries or Veterans Administration Centers/Hospitals.
7. \$1530
8. \$510
9. 404 California-203, Oregon-90, Washington-51
10. Increase the number of **Blue Star** Markers in the Pacific Region

Introducing... Abby Arborvitae

The entire editorial staff (which means Robin & Greg) of WACONIAH is pleased to introduce "Dear Abby Arborvitae," a column to answer your gardening questions. There's a lot of gardening knowledge in our Region – let's share what we know!



Ode to a Robin

By Cher Habriel, 2019 -21 Poet Laureate

Statuesque and full of grace
With a smile upon her face
Always up for lots of fun
But yet - can a meeting run.

She excels at filling posts
Look in her eyes and you are toast!

She'll lead us until twenty-one
Hang on tight for a two-year run.

Our gal is a real club treasure
Her worth is beyond all measure

And along with Robin comes
Greg - our parliamentarian.

Her mind's awchirl with lots of plans
Needing all our helping hands

So be a part of this great legion
Connecting to your Pacific Region!



Robin Pokorski is a **GEM** because of her enthusiasm and friendly inclusion of all in the Pacific Region.

~ Nevada Garden Clubs

Editorial

By Robin Pokorski, Editor



Eighteen years ago, when I accepted the position of *WACONIAH* editor, I thought it was just another newsletter to edit. Little did I know the joy and friendships it would bring into my life! But now it's time for a new page for me and *WACONIAH*. I look

forward to the next chapter! Please welcome and support Vicki Yuen as she carries this newsletter through the next term.



Robin Pokorski is a **GEM!** WSFGC welcomes Robin as the 2019-2021 PRGC Director.

~ Terry Critchlow

Were You Part of the Pacific Region Challenge?

By Alexis Slafer, 2017 -19 Life Membership Chairman

What? You have ten trowels! We saw the Pacific Region Challenge go beyond all expectations at the Life Membership Dinner -- held on the first night of Convention. Some did not know how the Challenge (read that as *Family Feud*) was played, but that just added to the fun. Perhaps we spend more time in the outdoors than watching TV. A big "**Thank you!**" goes out to everyone who returned the survey. We could truthfully say "...we surveyed 100 Pacific Region Garden Club members..." with interesting answers: **If you saw cannabis growing in your garden you'd "look at my husband differently!"**

In this issue of *WACONIAH* we report that our *Life Membership Bouquet* is complete with 19 new blooms representing Alaska (8), Oregon (6), Washington (1), and California (4). We created the special bouquet (you had to see it to believe it) during one of the Challenge Commercial Breaks. Let's keep welcoming new Life Members. There isn't a better way to celebrate your members' support, guidance and commitment to strengthening your club, state organization, and/or region.

We welcome and congratulate our newest Pacific Region Life Members:

- Denise Bates, Gwenn Davies Guy, Barbara Horner-Miller, Liz Masi, Jan Menaker, Joan Robson, Amanda Ross & Ruth Knapman from Alaska
- Lavon Ostrick, Mike Stewart, Jaye Weiss, Tiffany K. Olley, Winnie J. West & Cheryl R. Drumheller from Oregon
- Lois Brayton, Mary Brooks, Carol Vallens & Jennifer Culp from California
- Anne B. Sullivan from Washington

At the 2019 Convention, the incoming Pacific Region Life Membership Chairman Marlene Kinney was introduced and began accepting new membership applications. She received several...and those honorees are not included in the list above. Look for the updated forms (with her contact information) on the Pacific Region website. Be sure to follow your own state's procedures.

Individuals, organizations or districts may purchase a Life Membership *or* individuals may purchase their own. These donations support the Region's scholarship program and are fully tax deductible. The application forms can be found on the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. website. Print a copy of the application to mail with your check. New Life Members will receive a lovely Pacific Region Life Membership pin and certificate, along with a welcome letter. Please make your check payable to: **Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Thank you for adding 58 new Pacific Region Life Members to our cadre of honorees during my time as Chairman. It has been an honor and great fun!

Membership Matters

By Gaye Stewart, 2019-2021 Membership Chairman

Today is the beginning of a new opportunity for all members of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs to be part of the creative, energetic and successful Membership Team! Yes, YOU!!! It will take each of us to "GROW" our membership!



In order to understand the words, "Membership Matters" one needs only to review our Pacific Region membership census over the past 10 years (2008-2018). During that time each state has lost members and collectively we are down 3,200 members.

Our Region, one of eight, makes up the National Garden Clubs, and the membership of the national organization overall is declining as well. That's where we come in...all of us, members of the Membership Team! We all know people. We can invite them to a Club meeting and we can encourage those who may have departed to come back and see what's new.

The challenge for each state is to set goals:

1. To increase your state Club's membership by at least 10% for each of the next two years, 2019-2021.
2. Appoint a State membership chair who will form a team of 4 to 6 people representing the geographic areas of your state.
3. That appointed State Membership Chair will become part of the Pacific Region's Membership Team working with Gaye Stewart (Oregon, 503-510-4370; RosesRemembered@aol.com).
4. Develop a work plan to energize your members through their involvement in promoting great meetings filled with fun, new things to see, hear, do and learn. Schedule a meeting exchange with another Club to make new friends, share a special speaker, learn new ideas or share ideas that have worked for your Club.
5. Start a new Club in your community (or a nearby community) that perhaps meets at a different time of day than your Club. If you meet in the daytime, perhaps a new Club that would meet at 6:30 p.m. would be an enticement to those who have other obligations during the day. We did just that in Dallas, Oregon, and not only do we have a successful club, we also have a number of men as members.
6. Refer to the list of "100 Ways to Recruit New Members" written by Chris Offer for the ClubRunner Newsletter. Your state president has the list and will hopefully place it in your state newsletter, or better

yet, let's place it on the Pacific Region website and/or in *WACONIAH*.



**Membership
Matters
Join Us**

If each current member will accept the challenge to invite one new person to each meeting we can double our membership in short order! When we are proud of what our Club is doing, it will be natural to want to share it with others...and they in turn will want to join us.

We can Do this folks! We can "reconnect" Pacific Region – To each other, and to our entire Garden Club organization. It starts with you and it starts with me and if the fun of the Garden Club is to resonate with others, it needs to be intentionally nurtured and actively shared with those who don't yet know what fun they are missing.

Thank you for being a valued member of the entire membership team!

Convention Color

By Lana Finegold, 2019-2021 Correspondent

The 76th Annual Convention of Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. took place April 7-10, 2019 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California. The theme was "Soaring to New Heights" and we certainly soared with airplane viewings and butterflies. Hosted by California Garden Clubs, Inc. the preconvention activities included tours to Descanso Gardens led by a camellia grower and I



learned that tea grows on a camellia bush. You probably knew that, but one of my favorite things about garden club is that I am constantly learning or reinforcing learning about plants.

My husband Al and I also went on the tour to the wonderful Getty Museum and gardens. Our docent shared garden and architecture information. I had seen the garden before, but also learning about the architecture and how it all fit together was a bonus. And

I even had time to see the Iris painting by Van Gogh along with other museum exhibits.

There were two additional special functions preceding the convention: Dinner at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant and the PRGC Fundraiser Dinner at the Vanderhorst home in Van Nuys. The stunning Vanderhorst garden was where we ate dinner. What a treat and the warm hospitality was enjoyed by all, including those who participated in the creative hat decorating and hat style show.

This fun-filled convention was attended by 69 full time and 61 part time attendees with a voting strength of 50. A new addition to the convention program was a Fair where attendees could select many different activities such as making a small floral design in a tea cup or coffee mug, making seed mud balls, pressing fresh flowers, and more. The activities were fun and the station leaders were knowledgeable and enthusiastic. When we completed 8 activities we earned a free raffle ticket.



We enjoyed speakers on honey bees and Gardening Trivia. Workshops included Starting Your Own Beehive, A Journey with Tea, Kids Growing Strong, Making Rose Water, Clivia from Seeds to Plants and Greg Pokorski explained how Parliamentary Procedure can be your friend.

Nancy Ebsen led a beautiful Memorial Service. Alexis Slafer with the help of Robin Pokorski, moderated the Family Feud Region Challenge at the Life Member Banquet.

Another memorable aspect of this convention was the Designing Divas, each producing a Challenge Design selected from identical plant materials in identical structures. Divas included Shane Looper of California, Phyllis Olson of Oregon and Brynn Tavasci of Washington. They really knew how to have FUN with FLOWERS.

This was an installation year so we thanked Peggy Olin of Oregon for a job well done as Pacific Region Director. And you should have seen all the butterflies, Peggy's theme, in the centerpieces and gifts. 2005-2007 PRGC

Director Beverly Brune was the installing officer and we welcomed our new Pacific Region Garden Clubs Director Robin Pokorski.



Let's Not Stop Now

By Marlene Kinney, 2019-2021 Life Membership Chairman

I challenge all eight State Presidents, Districts, and Garden Clubs within each state to double the Life Membership purchases. Last year the total of Life Memberships purchased was 28. The ideal would be each state to double their purchase from last year.

Last year Life Memberships purchased by State are as follows:

Washington:	1	Nevada:	0
Arizona:	1	Idaho:	0
California:	8	Alaska:	9
Oregon:	9	Hawaii:	0

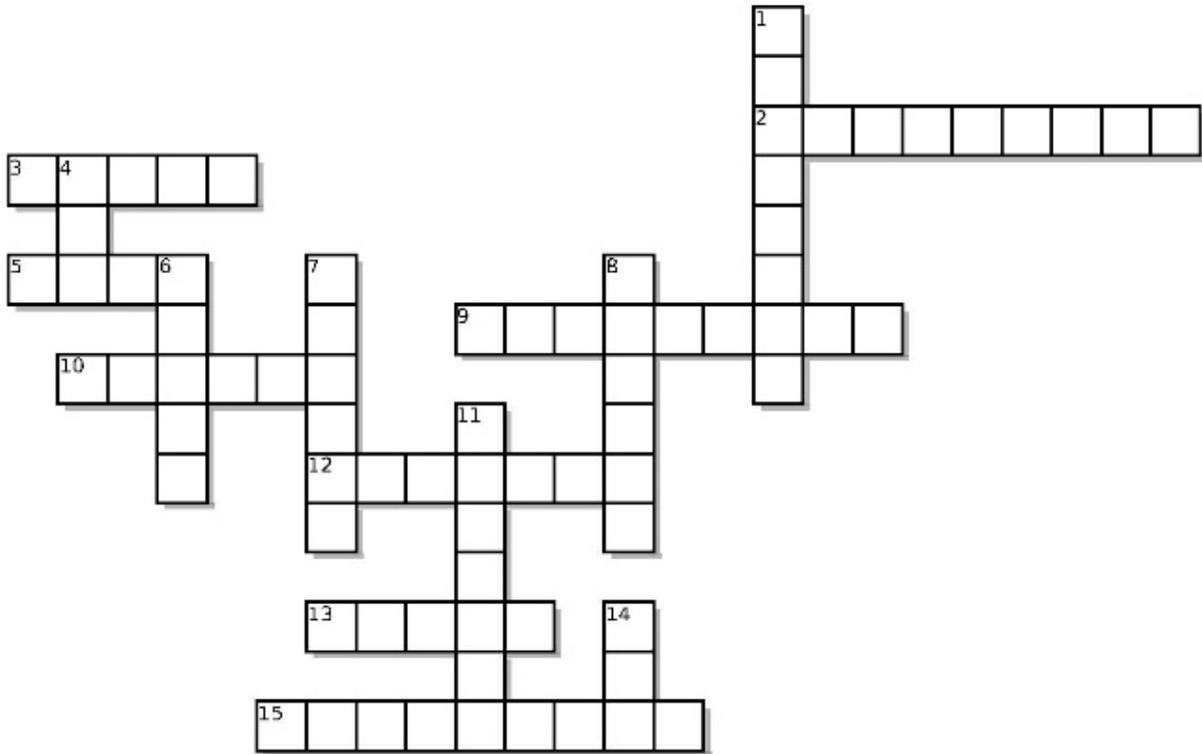
To date, I have a total of seven new life member applications. For the states with no purchases, I challenge each of you to have at least one Life Membership purchase. More will be fabulous. We are on our way to this challenge. Let's not stop now. There will be a surprise to the top winner. This is a work in progress.

Remember your donations support the Region's scholarship program and are fully tax deductible. The more purchases we have the more scholarships we can give.

WACONIAH Staff

Editor	Robin Pokorski	CGCIRobin@gmail.com 818-361-7873 512 Newton St, San Fernando CA 91340
Ass't Editor	Greg Pokorski	GregPokorski@earthlink.net
Circulation	Terry Critchlow	tcritchlow@aol.com 509-945-5465 PO Box 1046, Naches, WA 98937-1046

WACONIAH May 2019



ACROSS

- 2 Robin's favorite holiday
- 3 California's pretty orange one
- 5 Not red star
- 9 Focus of one special project
- 10 Pacific
- 12 What we do after every report
- 13 UNofficial region mascot
- 15 Get back in touch with

DOWN

- 1 Best newsletter EVER
- 4 Official region bird
- 6 The number we are
- 7 State capital of one of us
- 8 The Silver State
- 11 Founding chief
- 14 Was our parent