

LAS BRISAS

Costa Verde District Newsletter

Fall 2023 CVD Newsletter – Director’s Message



Being elected as the Costa Verde District Director is a great honor for me. I have been a member of the District for over 40 years and look forward to serving in this new capacity. **Your District: A Great Place to Grow** is a dream for our future. After being somewhat dark during the pandemic, let’s take advantage of each and every opportunity to enhance and enrich your District.

The halcyon days of summer are disappearing and it is time to say “Hello!” to our upcoming activity-filled year of Costa Verde District activities. Our board has been active revising our bylaws and host guidelines, as well as preparing an educational and fun schedule of activities that you see described in this issue of *Las Brisas*. One activity that is a new experience for us is *Welcoming the San Fernando Valley District* members to our home on their bus trip to the South Coast Botanic Garden. What a wonderful chance to meet and

get to know other garden club members.

I wish you a wonderful end to your summer and welcome you back to Costa Verde District... **A Great Place To Grow.**

Alexis Slafer

CVD District Meeting Thursday September 28

10 a.m. to noon

Host: San Pedro Garden Club

BYO Beverage

Program:

The Bee Lady, Alysa Kimiko

Alysa will speak on the inner workings of a hive, the importance of pollinators to our food chain, and how we can support pollinators.

Cost: \$5 per person



New policy at the SCBG means we are no longer able to make coffee on site. Be sure to bring your own coffee, tea, or beverage of choice.



bring your own cup

June 2023 Meeting

Your District:

A Great Place To Grow

The Costa Verde District has planted the seeds to renew our growth, and our first meeting was June 27 at the South Coast Botanic Garden. It was well attended and a chance to renew our District friendships.

New Officers were installed.



L to R: Marilyn Rubin, Cindy Kovacs, Alexis Slafer, Robin Pokorski, Ellyn Meikle
Not pictured: Karen Czup



District Director Alexis addressing the District.



Grace Coffel and Audra Platz from the South Coast Botanic Garden.

Grace shared how to “give back” to the Garden. See page 3 for more information on volunteering at SCBG.



Alexis and Ellyn prepare for the raffle.



Alexis presenting Gudrun Kimmel with the CGCI President’s Appreciation Award. Well done, Gudy!.

CGCI President’s Project 2023-2025

President’s Project: “Building CGCI’s Scholarship Fund” is to

support her theme: “Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow, Today.” The goal is to increase the dollar amount and the quantity of scholarships awarded during her term.

When planning your club budget, be sure and make an annual donation to show our support for the project.

Leadership Workshop Thursday November 9 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Leader: Robin Pokorski

Robin will draw on her vast experience as CGCI President, and PRGC Region Director. This dynamic presentation is important for new and existing club officers, as well as all club members. Leadership comes not just from the top, it shines throughout. Every member provides leadership - experience and ideas that influence the entire program. Workshop topics may include parliamentary procedure, leadership, how to take minutes, motivating participation and team building.



**Robin Pokorski
Instructor for Leadership
Workshop**

Sign up for this workshop at the September District Meeting, or email Cindy Kovacs at ackovacs@gmail.com. A flyer will be prepared and be emailed to all clubs.

It is important that you RSVP so there will be supplies ready for you. A substantial sandwich lunch from Sprouts is included plus valuable resource materials you will take home with you.

**Cost: \$20 per CVD Member
\$25 all others.**



San Pedro Garden Club

is back in the park. Tuesday, Sept 12th, our Officers & “Chair people” met, officially launching our Club activities. It was awesome to see everyone, discussing our plans thru December, already. And, as always, it ended up in a nice relaxing lunch.

This year, our plan is to revive some of our programs that have been shelved due to the pandemic. In addition, our goal is to involve more members to be more active, i.e., taking someone under one’s wings to prepare especially new members to be future leaders in the Club.

Finally, there are trips in the planning stage, we are seriously making the best of our new relationship with the City, thru Peck Park.

Myrna Cabanban
SPGC, President

Messages from Alexis



Yearbooks:

Each club should include 15 yearbooks for CVD. They will be distributed to each member of the Executive Committee and each president (including co-presidents) of the CVD member clubs.

Awards:

CGCI Blue Ribbon Club and CGCI Club Yearbook Award Guidelines and Evaluation Forms were distributed to Club Presidents. It would be wonderful for every CVD Club to be a CGCI Blue Ribbon Club.



Newsletter:

Each club president is to write an article to be included in *Las Brisas*. For this next issue, the first of the term, please include your President’s theme, why it was selected and your plans to see it reflected in your activities. In addition, a little information about your club would be nice and a few pictures would be perfect.

Volunteer at CVD:

We are looking for a few new CVD Chairmen. Please let Alexis know if you are interested in filling one of these positions.

Hostess Coordinator

— This person will be reminding the club that it is their turn and what they should be doing, make sure the “Guidelines” are followed, and answer questions that the host club(s) might have prior to

the meeting. Alexis is preparing a FAQ sheet to help with this.

Raffle Chairman — Coordinate our raffle efforts. Who will bring the raffle items for each meeting, the number of items, setting up and ticket deposit containers, and select committee members to help with the raffle at the meetings — including selling tickets and drawing the winners.

Nominating Committee — These people will be elected at the September meeting...the committee will elect their chairman. From the CVD bylaws: “A nominating committee comprised of representatives from three member clubs shall be elected at the first meeting of each two-year term.” Approval must be obtained from the nominees prior to their nomination, ensuring that they are interested and willing to serve on the Nominating Committee. They should be in attendance at the September meeting.

**Give Back to the Garden
Volunteer at
South Coast
Botanic Garden**



**SOUTH COAST
BOTANIC GARDEN**

Help Us Plant the Future!
Our active volunteers play a large role in the ongoing success at South Coast Botanic Garden. As a volunteer, you represent our

institution and forward our mission by connecting all to the wonders of nature. Through outreach and horticulture, you help create wonderful experiences for our visitors that inspire stewardship and sustainability.

How to volunteer:

- Step 1: Create a VolunteerHub account online.
- Step 2: Complete Basic Training.
- Step 3: Sign up for the Job you want.

More information at <https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/volunteering/>

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Hort Support: These volunteers assist the Garden’s Horticulture Specialists with planting and maintaining special sections of the Garden curated especially for exhibits and programming.

Green Team: Want to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty? This group assists our gardening staff with watering, weeding, pruning, and planting in various locations throughout the Garden.

Discovery Station: Volunteers greet incoming guests, provide information on must-see plants that are currently in bloom, assist with wayfinding and answer general questions.

Dog Walking Hours Volunteer: Assist the Garden in running our monthly dog walking hours. Help guests through wayfinding, answering questions and making sure dogs stay out of our “Dog-Free Zones.”

Special Event Volunteer Opportunities

The Garden occasionally hosts special events where event volunteers are needed to help.

Questions? Contact us at learning@southcoastbotanicgarden.org

CVD Newsletter Back in Print!

The CVD Newsletter is prepared and distributed prior to District Meetings. It will be emailed to Club Presidents for distribution to members. If you would like a direct email copy, send a note to Cindy Kovacs ackovacs@gmail.com



MEETING MINUTES

Costa Verde District
General Membership Meeting
June 27, 2023
South Coast Botanical Garden

District Director Alexis Slafer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Without objection Robin Pokorski was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem in the absence of Recording Secretary Karen Czap. The Director welcomed everyone and announced her theme – “Your District – A Great Place to Grow.” No Minutes were available from the last meeting. Treasurer Cindy Kovacs presented the Treasurer’s Report. The report was filed. The Director reported the relevant business from the CGCI Convention to members including:

Acceptance with regret of the resignation of Vicki Garcia
Approval of Alexis Slafer to serve concurrently as Costa Verde District Director and as a CGCI Chairman (in multiple capacities)
Liability Insurance rates for the coming year
New CGCI state projects – Black Point Historic Garden & Conejo Valley Botanic Garden
Nominating Committee members from Costa Verde District (Alexis Slafer and Robin Pokorski)
Two representatives from the South Coast Botanic Garden spoke and welcomed us to join and volunteer at the Garden. The Director reminded district clubs to submit their Contact Information Form on the CGCI website and to enter for a Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement.
The Director presented two certificates given at the Convention to Gudy Kimmel and Alexis Slafer.
An upcoming Environmental School was announced. Plans for a Landscape Design School were announced.
The Director gave several options for donations to clubs for their budget planning.
The Director announced that a joint meeting with San Fernando Valley District was in the planning stage.
Cindy Kovacs announced club information needed for the Costa Verde District yearbook – deadline July 10, 2023.
Judy Unrine announced that South Coast Floral Designers would be re-starting.

Cindy Kovacs announced a Leadership Workshop presented by Robin Pokorski will be scheduled for October. The Director announced the dates for the next meetings – September 22, 2023, for the Board Meeting and September 28, 2023, for the General Membership Meeting. After a brief recess, the installation of officers for the 2023-2025 term was conducted by Robin Pokorski, after which lunch was served and raffles winners drawn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Robin Pokorski,
Secretary Pro-Tem

Las Brisas Editors,
Cindy Kovacs and
Myrna Cabanban

