



PRESIDENT REPORT - FALL 2024

1. **NGC Path of Success** - Every club, every state and every district is able to purchase a paver for this new pathway connecting NGC headquarters and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Congratulations to Vermont for being one of the almost 30 states who have purchased a paver.
2. The U. S. Forestry Service has renamed the Penny for Pines program. It is now **Plant-A-Tree**. Everything else about the program remains the same. Continue to use the current form when submitting the \$68 donations. A project to start in your club and many thanks for those clubs who continue to support this program.
3. In 2023 the **Vermont legislature passed a new law (H-217**, also called Act-76), which changes the unemployment insurance requirements for small non-profit organizations that have paid employees. Beginning July 1, 2024, all nonprofits with paid employees are required to register with the Vermont Department of Labor to be part of the unemployment insurance program. Any non-profit with employees must, (1) report employees wages every quarter, (2) report hiring new employees, and (3) pay unemployment claims if their employees lose their jobs and are eligible for unemployment benefits. The Unemployment Business Registration form can be found on the Vermont Department of Labor's website. All Vermont Garden Clubs with non-for-profit status must complete this form. The Labor Department is requesting all nonprofit organizations complete a form to validate you do or do not have paid employees.
4. The **FGCV's Photography Series Fall 2024** contest is now underway. The theme is "Autumn Crisp Surprises". The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2024. Take photos of brilliant changing fall colors and/or a bountiful harvest and email them to President Van Mullen.
5. **Scholarship** - Remember FGCV offers an annual scholarship to a college student. The amount of the 2025 scholarship will be \$2,000. The application form can be found on the FGCV website. Share this good news with family and friends.

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6. **Life Membership** - A significant way to recognize a worthy club member is to purchase a FGCV or NGC Life Membership in their honor. The FGCV Life Membership costs \$50. This one-time payment supports FGCV's scholarship fund. The NGC Life Membership costs \$200. This payment is also one-time and supports the national scholarship fund and permanent home endowment fund.

7. **Canva Zoom Meeting** - The upcoming free zoom meeting will demonstrate the capabilities of CANVA, a publishing software program. You will learn how clubs can use the program for various communications. The moderator will be Victoria Schmidt, President of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. October 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. eastern time.

8. **Vermont Flower Show** will be held March 7-9, 2025. FGCV will be hosting a small standard NGC flower show at this event, with the theme, "A Story of Gardening" Additional displays and offerings will be: the Grand Garden Display; plants and gardening books for sale; vendors; seminars; a family room with crafts; and a photography display. All VT club members - please step up & assist.

In closing - remember as club members - we wear all kinds of hats in our clubs. We are all leaders - work to infuse energy in our organizations. We must listen and set small & large goals to accomplish. We will be amazed at our success. Always stay calm, pause and reflect. Seek feedback. Reflect on your performance and the performance of other club members. Explore new techniques. Set personal goals. Iterate and adapt.

