

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

**Wyndham Garden State College  
Boalsburg, PA  
June 3-4, 2019  
Board of Directors' Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Garden Club of Federation (GCFP) Board of Directors was called to order by **President Joyce Milberg** on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 2:03 p.m., at the Wyndham Garden State College Hotel, Boalsburg PA.

Present were:

Vivian Abel	Barbara Dempsey	Judy Jackson	Judith Shaffer
Barbara Andrus	Maryann Desanto	Lynn Jackson	Mary Jo Schlomann
Leslie Anthony	Georgieann Dettinburn	Kay John	Marjorie Stillwell Sears
Lois Armstrong	Sandy Eldridge	Joy Kempf	Susan Semple
Corinne Babson	Karen Faust	Lou Ann Lauger	Lois Shuster
Marilyn Backus	Jo Anne Fogelman	Claire Leichliter	Betsy Smith
Kay Bair	Nancy Lambert Fulk	Sue McDowell	Deb Stumpf
Barbara Brand	Mary Jo Gardill	<b>Joyce Milberg, President</b>	Judy Vehse
Sharon Brown	Carol Hall	Rosalie Miller	Judy Warn
Connie Burnley	Vivian Hall	Paula Mohler	Haddie Weber
Barbara Campbell	Sandra Hendricks	Linda Morrison	Barbara White
Iris Cisarik	Deeann Hertzler	Lori Pancione	Betty Wist
Mary Lou Colussy	Mary Hetrick	Elizabeth Pinkham	Pat Wolanski
Gail Corle	Joyce Hoek	Linda Pinto	Margaret Wolff
Joyce Crider	Eileen Hoover	Angela Raitano	Karen Wychock
Kathryn Crossman	Jane Howe	Sharon Richardson	Dorothy Yard
Sheila Croushore	Diane Hughes	Rosemary Romboski	Tonya Young
Marcy Cunkelman	Ann Hulse	Vina McLoed Rudolph	
Janice Davis	Tom Huston	Leeanna Ryba	

**Chaplain Vina McLoed Rudolph** gave the invocation.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sheila Croushore** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President Milberg** made several introductions: the elected officers, appointed officers, Advisory Committee members, and the new Headquarters Secretary, Elizabeth Pinkham. She also reminded everyone of the change of address and email for the new headquarters office:

- Mailing address: GCFP, P. O. Box 205, Lampeter PA 17537-0205
- Email address: gcfp205@gmail.com
- Telephone 717-737-8219 (NO CHANGE)

**President Milberg** declared a quorum.

Timekeepers were appointed: Claire Leichliter and Lori Pancione. District Directors are allowed 3 minutes, committee chairmen are allowed 2 minutes.

**President Milberg** announced that she had appointed a Committee to Approve the Minutes: Linda Morrison and Nancy Fulk.

There are several changes to the Board roster. We will not print a new roster; this information will be updated on the website, and will be sent out in an email:

- The chairmen of two committees have switched positions:
  - Book Review – Sharon Richardson
  - Horticulture/Trees/Liaison to PA Forestry Council – Judy Warn
- District X has a new Assistant Director, Mardell Page. Her information will be sent out in an email
- Elizabeth Pinkham's email was reiterated: gcfp205@gmail.com

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**President Milberg** began her report by explaining that past president Chris Leskosky would normally be offering part of this report relating to happenings at the NGC Convention in May. She must be disappointed not be present today, and she sends her best regards. At the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) annual meeting in Biloxi MS, the regular business meetings had a voting strength of over 300 and GCFP was represented by fourteen members. The Board voted to begin a strategic study to transfer The National Gardener magazine (TNG) from print and website to website only. She reminded everyone of the username and password for access to NGC information for Board members and club members, and reiterated that this information may only be passed along verbally, not in print or email. President Milberg then presented the NGC awards received by GCFP clubs, assisted by 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President Croushore. Clubs and individuals in six Districts were recognized for their accomplishments; the full list of awards and recipients will be posted on the website. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, she drove to Lancaster to meet Joyce Crider and Sheila Croushore in order to take care of financial paperwork. They met at Elizabeth's home to view the new home for the headquarters office. The following day, she drove to the Welcome Center on I-81 for the dedication of a Blue Star Marker installed by Green Thumb Garden Club of Red Lion. She closed her report by thanking everyone for trusting her in this job, and expressed the wish that together we will have an exciting and challenging two years, "Growing our Legacy."

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sheila Croushore** deferred her report until after her first meeting with District Directors tomorrow morning.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Leeanna Ryba** In February she and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Croushore met Steven Romig at this hotel to investigate moving the GCFP Board meetings here. She welcomed everyone to the new venue with its spectacular news of nature out every window. She reminded everyone to contact Linda Morrison, Corresponding Secretary to be sure you are receiving the Call for meetings. Also, she asked that everyone make an effort to follow the deadline dates for meal reservations.

**Recording Secretary Barbara Brand** read the minutes from the post-convention mini-meeting that was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> following the GCFP Convention in Altoona PA. The meeting's purpose was to ratify the appointment of non-elected officer and members of the Board.

**Treasurer Joyce Crider** agreed to defer her report until the presentation of the 2019/2021 budget later in the meeting.

**Financial Secretary Nancy Lambert Fulk** reported the following balance in the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank checking account:

Beginning balance as of April 8, 2019		\$0
Receipts: Deposits from club dues	\$10,080	
Total		\$10,080
Disbursements::Transfer to Treasurer	(\$9,980)	
Total disbursements		(\$9,980)
Balance in checking account as of June 5, 2019		\$100

**Corresponding Secretary Linda Morrison** read a thank you note from past president Chris Leskosky, thanking us for the "bling" that was added to her GCFP Past President's pin, and also expressing thanks for all the support she received from the Board during her tenure. President Milberg reported that she got a phone call from Betty Lewis, expressing thanks for the cards she received.

**Parliamentarian Angie Raitano** had no report.

**Treasurer Joyce Crider** submitted the proposed GCFP budget for the year 2019-2020. She read the full proposal, making note of these minor corrections to the budget as it was distributed at the meeting:

Under Income:		
Transfer from Stifel for Scholarship:	\$8,800	
		Total Income: \$126,864.18
Under Expenses / Scholarships, Awards, Donations:		
Constance B. Smith Scholarship:	\$1,800	
		Total Expenses: \$126,864.18

The Investment/Finance and Executive Committees recommend the approval of the 2019/2020 GCFP budget as corrected  
**Approved**

A full copy of the 2019-2020 Budget as approved will be posted in the GCFP Minutes Book.

**President Milberg** asked the Recording Secretary to read the recommendations forwarded from the Executive Committee.

- Recommend the establishment of an online Newsletter, to be called *KG Online*, which will be posted on the GCFP website 3 times annually.

The online publication will not be expensive, and will include the same kind of information currently in the KG, as well as selected Board reports. Marie Mueller has been asked to create this newsletter which will be sent to all District Directors for distribution to club presidents.

**Approved**

- Recommend that the *Keystone Gardener* be printed 3 times per administration: the Directory Issue and 2 Winter Issues containing information about the upcoming convention.

With declining readership and rising costs, a print publication like the KG is becoming a burden to many organizations. The Directory Issue and the Convention Issues will continue to be printed and mailed. This step will save GCFP approximately \$5,000 per year.

**Approved**

- Recommend the ratification of a new telephone / internet contract for a period of 3 years with Comcast at a cost of \$171.00 / month plus tax, with an installation fee of \$30.

This contract is similar to the one for the Camp Hill office, and it comes with a promotional \$500 gift card (Visa) which will be used for GCFP purposes such as supplies or equipment.

**Approved**

- Recommend that GCFP shall NOT move unused furnishings from the Camp Hill office and that GCFP shall NOT rent storage space in Lancaster for such items.

The unused furnishings could be sold or donated, rather than spend the funds for moving and storing them in Lancaster.

**Approved**

**President Milberg** reported that the Executive Committee approved the nomination of Diane Hughes as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

## **DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

**Sharon Richardson, District I Director**, reported a very busy spring: Villanova Garden Club elected its first male president, Four Seasons is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Country Gardens is celebrating 70 years. Kay Leto was honored for 50 years and Mary Jo Schlomann was awarded the GCFP Gold Seal Award. One club has hired a Floral Design Instructor to do a full-day workshop on "Foliage Manipulation" in anticipation of their 6-club flower show to be held at Longwood Gardens this September. She shared some ideas from the Uwchlan Garden Club's recent plant sale: partner with another club to purchase flats wholesale; ask for donations from local nurseries; create an "educational station" and a "doctor's office." District I will host Course II of the Environmental School in August and Course I of the Gardening School in October.

**Barbara Campbell, District II-III Director**, reported that District II-III's spring calendar was full: in March, Parkland Garden Club hosted the District meeting; the Philadelphia Area Judges Council held a meeting and flower show, "Flowers of Fiction." In April, Pottstown Garden Club held a Spring Luncheon, "Hoppin' into spring"; at the GCFP Convention in Altoona, Betsy Hassler received the District's Forget-me-not Award; The Northeast Area Judges Council held a small Standard Flower Show, "Summer at the Seashore." She is proud to report that Allentown Garden Club is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Milford Garden Club is marking 86 years. Bethlehem Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Marker, three clubs recently held flower shows, and several clubs are planning garden tours over the summer.

**Georgieann Dettinburn, District IV Director**, reported that 8 clubs in District IV were represented at the GCFP Convention in Altoona, where they received 19 awards, including a Forget-me-not Award for Melanie Markowski of Green Thumb Garden Club. Recently, Gettysburg Garden Club received an NGC "Plant America" Grant for \$1,000. Clubs in District IV have presented a number of interesting programs and have gone on several tours and field trips. This spring saw 2 flower shows: Chambersburg Garden Club and Tuscarora Daffodil Society's Daffodil Show "Around our Town," and a Standard Flower Show held by Garden Club of Harrisburg. On the same day in May, Green Thumb and Chambersburg Garden Clubs dedicated Blue Star Markers at opposite ends of our District. In other club news, Hanover Garden Club is working on receiving Pollinator Certification for 2 public gardens in their care, and 2 members of Green Thumb Garden Club completed Gardening School.

**Barbara Andrus, District V Director**, stated that her recent travels included attending Penn State Landscape Architecture Department's Awards Banquet, where Kyle Turner received the District V scholarship as well as a Design Excellence Award. At the GCFP Convention in Altoona, Vivian Hall received the District's Forget-me-not Award. Duboistown Garden Club held a spring luncheon, "Island Escape" to honor their new president. This club will also be holding a Standard Flower Show in June, "Salute the USA." At our June District meeting, 6 clubs will be receiving GCFP award certificates. The District V Executive Committee is drafting changes and revisions to the District Bylaws.

**Marcy Cunkelman, District VI Director**, expressed her hope that everyone enjoyed the 89<sup>th</sup> GCFP Convention, "Seasons in Bloom," in Altoona. Our District members did all they could to make your stay enjoyable. Congratulations to all award winners, and to Weeders and Seeders' co-president, Angela McDonnell for receiving the District's Forget-me-not Award. The 9 clubs in the District have been busy preparing their community gardens; in addition, they are choosing scholarships for deserving students, and many clubs have held plant sales. Two clubs will be presenting Standard Flower Shows this summer: Garden Club of Johnstown, "Wandering the Garden Path" on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and Patton Garden Club, "Around the World in 80 Days" on August 12<sup>th</sup>. She will be hosting a District VI Get-together in July at her very special habitat. Indiana Garden Club will host the District Annual Meeting on September 6, with Barbara Hague doing a program on Japanese Gardens.

**Margaret Wolff, District VII Director**, reported that on October 21, 2018, the Murrysville Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial at the entrance to the new Westmoreland Heritage Trail in the heart of Murrysville. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, District VII held its Annual Tea Get-Together. Also in March, 4 District VII members attend Environmental School, Course 1, and 1 member attended Gardening Study, Course IV. At the convention in Altoona, 8 clubs from District VII received a total of 23 awards, and Joyce Peterson received the District's Forget-Me-Not Award for her many accomplishments. In May, 4 District VII clubs held plant sales. Murrysville Garden Club has a Flower Show scheduled at Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2019. Greensburg Garden Center will be having a Garden Tour of 7 gardens on Saturday, June 15, 2019. The Garden Club of Forest Hills has a Flower Show scheduled on August 23, 2019.

**Mary Hetrick, District VIII Director**, stated that the 13 clubs of District VIII were proud to support our new GCFP president, Joyce Milberg, at her installation, and honored her with a champagne reception. At our March meeting, club presidents reviewed their beautification efforts, including the design and care of over 34 gardens in our District, with 6 new projects in the works. She was pleased to announce that District VIII will dedicate of Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Welcome Center on I-90. Our District has 9 Blue Star Markers, and there is a new Blue Star By-Way Marker being placed by Presque Isle Garden Club in mid June. Our annual meeting in September will have a unique program: the District will host a "Horticulture Specialty Flower Show," to be judged by members of the Erie Area Judges Council.

**Rose Romboski, District IX Director** was proud to report that at the GCFP Convention in Altoona, Shaler Garden Club received the (new) Governor's Trophy. Since this is the first time a club has been allowed to keep the trophy, plans are to display it at the Shaler-North Hills Library. She also reported that several clubs are celebrating 15, 50, 85 and 90 years. Also in 2020, GCFP will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> year, and District IX is hosting the convention. This spring our District Clubs have been busy hosting plant sales, planning garden tours and planting community gardens. Clubs have been working to expand their outreach into their communities -- passing out business cards, hosting social media pages and participating in various community sponsored programs.

**Kay Bair, District X Director**: On behalf of the members of Town & Country Garden Club of Rices Landing, she is returning the Governor's Trophy to GCFP. Club members were proud to host the trophy for the final time, as there is no more space to engrave the names of the recipients. Spring activities in the District ranged from plant sales to scholarship awards, flower show plans to garden tours, and more. At the spring meeting, Mardell Page became the new Assistant Director for District X. For the District X Fundraiser on June 20<sup>th</sup> Haddie Weber, Program Chair and Wanda Sherry and Katie Jaros of Great Meadows Garden Club will present the program, "*Wedding Fashions thru the years*".

**Mary Wychock, District XI Director**, reported that a number of District XI clubs held plant sales and plant exchanges -- although the rainy weather did force some rescheduling! Community gardens, planters and window boxes are thriving throughout the District. Old York Road Garden Club again continues to install planters at the Jenkintown-Wynkote Train Station, bringing a lovely burst of color. 3 District clubs have held or are planning flower shows. Norristown Garden Club's flower show, "Wedding Blossoms" on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, featured photography in the schedule. The Outdoor Gardeners' show, "The Magical Land of Oz," is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Trevoise Horticultural Society, which recently launched a website, is in the midst of planning an upcoming show, "Birds of a Feather," in August.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

**501 c 3/990 Reporting, Mary Jo Gardill**, reported that the 990 tax forms were emailed to club treasurers on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with a May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. At the deadline, 3 dozen club forms had not been received. With the very able assistance of the District Directors, reminders were sent out and almost immediately more than half of the remaining forms were received, but a dozen clubs still need to send their forms.

**Laurel Highlands Judges Council, Mary Jo Gardill**, reported that the Council has a total of 17 judges. They were very busy at the GCFP Convention in Altoona, and look forward to a joint flower show with the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council in October. There will be a flower show in Johnstown on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and in Patton on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Awards, Marilyn Backus**, thanked Chris Gresh and Susan Ritko for their hard work over the last 2 years. She will be reviewing and updating information on the GCFP website to make sure that it is current. She will also be working closely with the chairmen of the other awards chairmen. She asked District Directors to be sure all club presidents have copies of the GCFP Awards Manual; she also asked that they encourage clubs to apply for appropriate awards.

**Bee Gap, Bonita Herman**, reported that in her first foray as chairman, she took past chairman Iris Cisarik's posters as well as books and photographs to her club's flower fair, and discovered we have a lot of work to do educating the public; some were surprised to learn there are other bees than honey bees, and she spent much time explaining the difference between honey bees and solitary bees, how they pollinate, and their houses, food and life span. She was invited to give a program on native solitary bees to a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**Blue Star Marker, Corinne Babson**, said she hoped everyone enjoyed the Blue Star displays at the Convention, created by assistant chairmen Karen Faust and Jane Howe. She announced the locations where Blue Star Markers are still needed across the state. There are 2 sources of funding available to help pay for Blue Star Markers: GCFP offers \$100 (apply to President Joyce Milberg), and \$100 is also available from Sandra Manthorpe, Blue Star Assistant for the Eastern District. She announced that Presque Isle Garden Club will dedicate a Marker on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Park.

**Blue Star Marker (Central), Jane Howe**, outlined her goals for 2019-2021 as Central District assistant. She reported the dedication of 2 markers on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Armed Forces Day: Green Thumb Garden Club sponsored a marker at the Shrewsbury Welcome Center on I-83; and Chambersburg Garden Club placed their marker in downtown Chambersburg, at the intersection of U.S. Routes 30 and 11.

**Blue Star Marker (Western), Karen Faust**, reported that her posters on the Blue Star Markers are currently on display at Longwood Gardens. After the 2020 Convention, they are available for garden clubs and districts to borrow.

**Book of Recognition, Ann Hulse**, stated that since the Convention, GCFP received 1 donation, a gift in memory of Ruth Reed Liddle by the South Schuylkill Garden Club. She hopes that more clubs will find the Book of Recognition a valuable way to recognize a past or present member.

**CAR-SGC Director, Gail Corle**, announced that she is officially the Regional Director – installed at the NGC Convention in Biloxi, with Angie Raitano as the Alternate Director. The new Regional Board is in place, and listed on the website, which is [www.car-sgc.org](http://www.car-sgc.org). The 2019-2021 Regional Project is an Outreach-Leadership Project. You will hear more about this over the next few months. This fall's Annual Conference will be held in Arlington, Virginia on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Flower Show Symposium. The theme is "A Capital Harvest." Registration and information is on the website. She stressed that the Region and its Chairmen are here to help you as members, and as chairmen. Please contact your counterpart Regional chairperson – they can answer questions and get you information.

**Book Review, Judy Warn**, gave a review of the book, *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*, by Victoria Johnson. David Hosack was a highly regarded doctor in New York City in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. His interest in plants evolved in part because plants seemed to be a source of effective medicines at a time when knowledge about diseases and the treatment was primitive. The search for new plants with medicinal properties in a county largely unexplored provided an exciting and challenging adventure for Hosack and many others.

**Civic Development, Marjorie Sears**, reported on a number of interesting Seed Money projects. Several clubs did amazing things with children, reading the book, *The Saved Seed*, planting seeds, and celebrating success. Biglerville Garden Club (IV) installed a rain garden at a local museum. Indiana Garden Club (VI) made stepping stones for a new raised bed. Four Lanes End Garden Club (XI) purchased window boxes and urns for their town center, joining the 28 hanging baskets along the main road. Glendale Area Garden Club (VI) created garden beds in from the Coalport Borough complex. Wildflower Garden Club (VIII) is establishing a raised bed garden at the new YMCA in Clarion County.

**Seed Money, Marjorie Sears**, announced that \$2500 is available for Seed Money. This year, 53 clubs received a check; this is up from 43 clubs last year, and 32 the year before. The Executive Committee has allowed the Seed Money Committee to use their discretion in awarding these grants. Not everyone has to get something, not everyone will get what they ask for – and those projects deemed best representative of the GCFP's goals may receive more money than others. She also announced a new Seed Money initiative: she contacted Burpee Seed Company to provide free seeds to the 112 garden clubs in Pennsylvania. Details will be made available as this project is finalized.

**Native Plants/Wildflower, Tonya Young**, was pleased to report that the field trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve on May 15<sup>th</sup> was a success. 27 people attended the tour, which was guided by a naturalist. The day included lunch at Bowman's Hill Tavern and a stroll through the town of Hew Hope. Cost to GCFP was \$189.00.

**Flower Show Symposium, Tonya Young**, reported that the Symposium sponsored by GCFP and the Central Area Judges Council will take place at the Nittany Lion Inn beginning tomorrow June 4<sup>th</sup>, and concluding on June 6<sup>th</sup>. There are 65 registrants from Pennsylvania and nearby states, and also from Connecticut, Florida and Mississippi.

**Club Programs/illustrated Lectures, Sandy Eldridge**, stated that her goal is to gather information on the variety of programs and activities offered by clubs across the state. With input from District Directors, programs will be made available on the GCFP website for other clubs to consider when planning their schedules. She looks forward to featuring some outstanding club programs in future reports.

**Conservation/Birds and Butterflies, Marcy Cunkelman**, reported another cold and wet spring, but the birds made it through migration. Nests were probably lost because of high winds and huge hail. Hummingbirds should appear in your gardens soon, so keep your feeders clean. She encouraged using homemade nectar, not the commercial mixes. Butterflies continue to move north. Plant host plants as well as milkweed for butterflies to visit your yard. Bring them close to the house with containers filled with blossoms such as daisies and zinnias, lantana, verbena and others. Native flowers, trees and shrubs will attract butterflies, birds, bees and other critters. Offer food, water, a place to nest, and DON'T use chemicals of any kind.

**Convention 2019, Sheila Croushore**, announced that the 2019 Convention, "Seasons in Bloom," is now a memory. She praised the committee for working seamlessly to host the 282 of 288 registrants. There were 10 workshops, 2 speakers and a Tri-Refresher which included a tour of Penn State's green roof, greenhouse and arboretum. As soon as 1 check clears, the Convention Treasurer will send a check to GCFP for \$8,047.70.

**Laurel Highlands Design Council, Sheila Croushore**, stated that members of the Council met on May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Children's Peace Garden. The Council has contacted the new manager of the site; they have proposed some design changes, adding new shrubs and perennials and removing spent plants. They are considering installing an arch with signage to explain who is responsible for maintaining the garden. The next maintenance date is June 19<sup>th</sup>, Johnstown Garden Club is taking over for June, Somerset Garden Club in July, and Bedford Garden Club in August.

**Convention 2020, Sue Semple**, District IX is excited to host the 2020 GCFP Convention, April 17-19, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Cranberry Township PA. The theme is "Celebrating our Legacy – 90 Years" and the party theme will be consistent throughout. As a fundraiser, District IX is selling a glass Christmas ornament to commemorate GCFP's anniversary, with the GCFP logo on one side and the Convention theme on the other. The cost is \$10, and District Directors will get order forms to distribute to their clubs. The first orders will be delivered at the District Annual Meetings and at the October Board meeting.

**President Milberg** announced that the Nominating Committee will meet after this meeting is recessed, as well as the Advisory Committee. The meeting was recessed at 4:23 p.m.

**President Milberg** reconvened the Board of Directors' Meeting at 7:22 p.m. She reminded everyone to look at the Board of Directors Manual, and to review their job descriptions.

**Convention 2021, Joyce Crider**, stated that District IV is busy planting seedlings for the 2021 GCFP Convention, "Petals and Patchwork," to be held April 18-20, 2021 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Lancaster, PA. She thanked 2019 Convention Chairman Sheila Croushore for passing on the Convention Book – it will be of great help as we move forward.

**Convention Coordinator, Judy Shafer**, reported that the Convention Planning Committees meet with her at each State Board meeting over a Round Table lunch. We discuss improvements for future conventions, finances, the wrap up parties, and other convention issues. She reviewed the status of the recent and upcoming conventions, and has approached a District for the April

2022 Convention. Distributing bottles of cranberry juice to the officers, she reminded everyone that the next GCFP Convention will be held in Cranberry, PA in April 2020.

**Environmental Schools, Nancy Lambert Fulk**, announced that the next Environmental School will be on August 22-23, 2019 at the Clarion & Quality Hotel in Exton PA. She is still developing the details, but there are already 25 people registered.

**President Milberg** announced that the GCFP Flower Show ribbons will be provided in future by the Judges' Council. Please send order directly to the Flower Show Ribbons chairman, not to the Headquarters Secretary.

**Flower Show Awards & Ribbons, Rosemary Ebersole**, was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Since the beginning of 2019, requests for ribbons have been processed or are in process for 11 garden clubs and the Central Area Judges' Council.

**Flower Show Judges Credentials, Nancy Hannum**, was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Currently there are 111 Accredited Flower Show Judges in Pennsylvania; 28 Accredited Judges, 21 Life Judges, and 62 Master Judges. 1 member transferred from New Jersey, Joan Lippi, a member of Monroe County Garden Club in District II-III. Upcoming events include the Symposium on June 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, 23 judges are auditing, 31 judges are taking credit; at the Symposium in Berea Kentucky, 2 life judges are registered for credit.

**Flower Show Evaluation, Mary Lou Colussy**, stated that it is her responsibility to designate judges to evaluate flower shows in Pennsylvania. Evaluations are confidential, and are sent directly to the Book of Evidence Chairman. Clubs that have requested evaluation in 2019 are: Garden Club of York, Penn- Cumberland Garden Club, Outdoor Gardeners, Heather Club of Edinboro, and The Duboistown Garden Club.

**Flower Show Book of Evidence Evaluation, Deb Stumpf**, announced that the committee received and judged 6 Books of Evidence for 2018 – 5 books scored 95 and above and were forwarded to NGC. She encouraged all clubs to have their shows evaluated and to submit a Book of Evidence. The current GCFP Awards Manual is being updated to reflect the same awards numbers used by NGC, and which should be used when applying for awards.

**Flower Show Judges Council, Pat Wolanski**, reported that she attended the NGC Convention in Biloxi, where there were 4 recommended changes approved for the Flower Show Handbook; she has forwarded the changes to the Flower Show Council chairmen. She reminded everyone to order GCFP ribbons from the new Awards and Ribbons chair, and to order the large rosettes from the NGC website. Dorothy Yard has forwarded to NGC a new chart for Flower Judges' requirements; this information will be sent to the Councils as soon as approved.

**Flower Show Student Judges, Connie Burnley**, reported that there are 10 student judges looking for judging assignments.

**Central Area Judges Council, Eileen Hoover**, announced that the Central Area Judges Council has not met since the Convention in April, but will hold its next meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and they have scheduled a Horticulture Flower Show for that date.

**Erie Area Judges Council, Mary Hetrick**, reported that this Council currently has 14 Master Judges, 6 Accredited judges, 3 Emeritus judges, and 1 student judge. At our March meeting, we wrote our schedule for our flower show, "Wings over Lake Erie, Birds, Bees and Butterflies," to be held in Edinboro on August 29<sup>th</sup>. In June, we will create kokedama (Japanese moss balls), learn how to include them in flower shows, and how to judge them. Our Council will assist the District VIII Board at their annual meeting in September with a Horticulture Specialty Show, the first show of this kind in our District. We will be judging 4 small standard flower shows as well as the Waterford, Albion, and Northeast Fairs.

**Philadelphia Area Judges Council, Lori Pancione**, stated that the Council has been busy learning the new judging rules and attaining judging and exhibiting credits. In March, they held a Small Standard Flower Show, "Flowers in Fiction." In May, they had a tour of Bryn Athyn Cathedral and Historic District, and 2 historic estates – highly recommended. In October, they will hold a Horticulture Specialty Show, featuring an environmental program on "The Demise of PA's Predatory Birds."

**Pittsburgh Area Judges Council, Angela Raitano**, reported that the Council has 23 judges: 1 Student Judge, 3 Accredited Judges, 4 Life Judges, and 1 Emeritus Judge. At their meeting on May 29, new officers were elected and installed: Mary Jane Martucci, Chairman; Margie Wolff, Vice Chairman; Mary Ann Artman, Recording Secretary; Jane Sotto mayor, Treasurer; Claire Leichter, Corresponding Secretary. This year, the Council will chair the annual joint flower show with Laurel Highlands Judges Council – "Autumn Creations" will be staged on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Greensburg Gardens and Civic Center. There are 6 flower shows that will be held in our area in 2019.

**New Cultivars for Food Gardening, Grace Mitchell**, was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Always trying to bring us the latest in new cultivars, she found one that comes under the category of “what will they think of next?” It’s a kalette! It is what you get when you cross brussel sprouts and kale. It grows like brussel sprouts, only the florets develop and are ready to pick when two inches in diameter. They can be yours for \$3.95 for 15 seeds from Jung Seeds and Plants.

**GCFP History, Lois Armstrong**, recounted the founding of the Garden Club Federation of PA in 1930; there were 22 organizations with 4725 active members. She read the list of clubs celebrating over 70 years in 1990. She also read excerpts from essays written about the changing couture of garden club members and Flower Show Judges over the years.

**Gardening School, Mary Jo Schlomann**, Gardening School, Course I will be held October 17-18, 2019 at the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House, Exton, PA. The cost is \$95 with test or if refreshing, \$90 without the test. Registration is limited to 20 people. The brochure will be posted on the website as soon as our instructors are finalized. Gardening School Course II will be held in the spring of 2020.

**Habitat for Humanity, Iris Cisarik**, explained the partnership of NGC with Habitat for Humanity, and the emphasis of the program on enhancing the environment by planting native trees, shrubs and flowers at Habitat homes. She will be contacting each District Director to find out which clubs have a Habitat for Humanity Committee, and that all GCFP clubs will incorporate this program into their existing projects.

**Horticulture/Bulbs, Xeriscape, Indoor Gardening, Sue Konvolinka**, was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. When planning for fall bulb planting, use summer annuals as a marker – when the annuals are done blooming, pull them out and plant the bulbs in that spot. When moving your indoor plants outdoors for the summer, she reminded everyone that direct sunlight can significantly damage delicate foliage and blooms of houseplants, so move them gradually into the sunshine; remember that wind can easily dry out soils, and can blow over containers. Make note that there will be increased water and nutrient needs, as well as insect and pest challenges.

**Horticulture Coordinator, Judy Vehse**, is proud to be responsible for the Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturists and reminded everyone that the deadline for this award is August 1<sup>st</sup>. She has given each District Director a copy of the award application. The certificates are sent to the District Directors in time for presentation at their annual meetings.

**Horticulture/Trees, Liaison to PA Forestry Council, Sharon Richardson**, stated that she had recently attended a program at the Stroud Water Research Center in Chester County. Their website has valuable information and resources, such as landmark studies, videos, podcasts and more. She highlighted an article, “How many trees does it take to protect a stream?” of particular interest. It can be found at [www.stroudcenter.org](http://www.stroudcenter.org).

**Horticulture Therapy, Joyce Hoek**, stated that her job is to encourage all clubs to participate in horticultural therapy. She explained what horticultural therapy is, how it works, and who benefits. Anyone can bring plant material and happiness to a group without holding a therapist's degree. She tries to keep a current list of clubs that provide this kind of program, but to make it easier to share information she has started a Facebook Group, “GCFP Horticulture Therapy”, which has 25 members.

**Insurance, Judy Jackson**, reported that she is the liaison between GCFP Garden Clubs and our Liability Insurance carrier. If your club needs proof of insurance for an event or facility, contact her and she will have a Certificate of Insurance sent to you by email. A copy of this certificate is also available on our website, [www.pagardenclubs.org](http://www.pagardenclubs.org). Please note that our policy renews annually on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Keystone Gardener Editor, Lou Ann Lauger**, expressed her hope that she can fill Marcie’s “really big shoes.” She and President Joyce Milberg have been working hard on the Directory Issue.

**Landscape Design Schools, Vivian Abel**, reported that Landscape Design School Course IV was held last October, with 23 garden club members registered, 14 students and 9 consultants refreshing. At this time, the dates for Course I are not final, but it will be in November at the Doubletree by Hilton in Lancaster. Congratulations to our new Landscape Design Consultants, Linda Andrus, Jannet Kelley, Joyce Wallen, and Jane Wissler.

**Landscape Design Central Council, Joyce Crider**, announced that the Council is planning a trip to the Allentown area to visit the William F. Curtis Arboretum at Cedar Crest College. The Arboretum is nationally registered with hundreds of tree species in individual plantings and gardens. Another trip will be to the Lombardo Welcome Center, Millersville University’s first Zero Energy Building.

**President Milberg** recessed the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

The regular meeting of the GCFP Board of Directors was reconvened by **President Milberg** on Tuesday, June 4, at 9:04 a.m.

For those not present at the meeting on Monday, **President Milberg** reiterated that the email address for the Keystone Gardener remains the same; and that the new mailing address and email address for the Headquarters Office and Secretary; the phone number remains the same.

It was brought up that some line items on the approved budget for 2019-2020 need to be adjusted: Accounting fees and Liability Insurance should not be identified as Payroll and Payroll Related Expenses. These items are included in the final figure for Expenses.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sheila Croushore**, reported her activities since the April Convention, including a Memorial Day service where Somerset Garden Club received a Patriot Award for their beautification efforts in the downtown area. At the District Directors' meeting, Betsy Smith announced the new Legacy Award. An idea for recognizing long time members of clubs was discussed, such as a 10- or 20- year pin. There was also discussion about ways to streamline the fall meetings and perhaps save some money. She announced that she has asked to be the "ambassador" for CAR-SGC to GCFP.

**Leadership Workshop, Kay John**, reminded everyone that Monday, October 14, 2019 is the date for the next Leadership Workshop. Registrations forms are on the GCFP website as a fillable form. Directors are asked to encourage their club presidents and officers to attend. Robin Pokorski, the speaker, has presented this workshop all over the country.

**President Milberg** explained the revised schedule for the October Board Meeting.

**Litter/Recycling/Environment, Lynne Jackson**, reminded everyone that we live in a beautiful corner of the universe and we must protect it by giving Mother Nature a hand. Make little changes: Be a conscientious consumer, buy locale, and recycle everything you can. She recommended that everyone research TerraCycle, a New Jersey-based recycling company, which offers free recycling programs often funded by product brands. Learn more at their website, [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).

**Membership, Rosalie Miller**, stated that she has responded to online requests from individuals interested in joining garden clubs in their communities, and forwarded their information to the District Director and Assistant Director. She will continue to respond to these requests, and write a note to new garden club members.

**Memory Book, Joy Kempf**, asked everyone on **President Milberg's** team to submit a page or two about themselves, their office or chairmanship, and memories of serving in those positions. Please include clippings and photographs of events that our President has attended. Non-crafters can send their information to her and she will create a page for you.

**National/Regional Projects, Eileen Hoover**, congratulated the winners from PA of the "Plant America" Grants for 2019. She announced the deadline for applications for the next round is October 15, 2019. She also asked District Directors to assist her in creating a display of PA "Plant America" Projects.

**Natural Disasters USA/International, Kathy Crossman**, announced donations for both funds from Wyomissing Area Garden Club. At the October meeting, she would like to report on the distribution of funds from NGC. She also reminded everyone to send checks made out to GCFP, with the specific disaster fund in the memo line.

**Nominating, Diane Hughes**, had no report.

**Organizational Studies, Sue Semple**, had no report.

**PA Resources Council, Mary Lou Colussy**, announced that For the 34<sup>th</sup> year PRC is inviting student and adult amateur photographers to submit scenes in PA that depict litter's impacts public health and safety, scenic beauty and the urban environment in Pennsylvania. In addition to highlighting litter in our communities, the Lens on Litter contest uses submitted photos to identify sites for clean up through local action. Go to [www.prc.org/lens-litter](http://www.prc.org/lens-litter) to find more information about how to participate

**Penny Pines, Carol Hall**, was proud to report that the generous garden clubs of Pennsylvania sent over \$8,000 to the Allegheny National Forest from the Penny Pines program. A major project at Kane has been put on hold until a water quality issue is resolved, but is still planned. The Allegheny National Forest has completed a project with the Warren County Conservation District to restore Brown's Run after last year's fish habitat improvement project was completed.

**Personnel, Kay Bair**, explained that she is the collector and keeper of personnel resumes submitted by those who serve on the GCFP Board. If you resume has been submitted many years ago, please send an updated version to her. The form on the

GCFP website still needs to be updated, so please be sure to send your forms to her. She also reminded everyone to review their information listed on the website and send corrections to both President Milberg and Elizabeth Pinkham.

**Pollinator Restoration Program, Leslie Anthony**, announced that since 2015, NGC has partnered with the National Pollinator Garden Network to identifying 1 million pollinator friendly gardens working to restore critical pollinator populations. She has copies of the Pollinator-Friendly Certification applications – she encouraged all to make theirs one of the 1 million registered gardens.

**Protocol, Haddie Weber**, wanted to remind everyone on the GCFP Board of the importance of special seating at GCFP Conventions. Please respond to this honor by taking your seat as invited by your GCFP President.

**Publicity Press Book Award, Joy Kempf**, encouraged all clubs to keep an annual Publicity Press Book – it may be sent in for judging, but in addition you will have a complete pictorial record of your club's activities for the year. You may use newspaper clippings, magazine articles, Keystone Gardener articles – you can use anything that has been put into print. Make sure your clippings are cut straight, and don't fold the articles; underline the first mention of your club; remove excess material not pertinent to your club; use a sturdy cover (not a notebook or scrapbook. Be inventive but follow the rules.

**Sage and Roses, Betty Lewis**, was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She reviewed the origin of the fund, created with the purpose of helping with the purchase, placement and maintenance of Blue Star Memorial Markers in Pennsylvania. Checks should be sent to the chairman, payable to GCFP, with "Sage and Roses" in the memo line.

**Scholarship, Sandra Hendricks**, stated that the updated scholarship application for the 2020-2021 school year will be on the website by mid-July. She reviewed the requirements, including that the applicant must be a resident of Pennsylvania, and must be sponsored by a federated garden club. There were 27 applicants for this year. Isaac Marshall Leach of Wellsboro, sponsored by Heritage Garden Club, received the \$4,000 Lois Dupre Shuster Scholarship from NGC.

**President Milberg** reported that Pennsylvania gave \$99,000 in scholarships at all levels for 2018.

**Schools Coordinator, Vivian Hall**, stated her responsibility for keeping the calendar for NGC Schools. She had not received any requests for school dates at this time.

**Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl, Paula Mohler**, reported that she saw an increase in the number of Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters submitted to the clubs and Districts; her committee judges only the top choices from each that were sent in. There were 8 clubs participating this year, 1 more than previously, and 6 Districts. She is encouraged that more clubs are taking an interest in this project, working with our schools, scout troops, 4-H groups, etc. Please pass on the information to them to participate in 2020 and beyond.

**President Milberg** reported from **Webmaster, Cindy Layton**, that she cannot accept changes to the website from members. Any changes must be reported through President Milberg or the Headquarters Secretary. She reminded everyone to make hotel reservations for the October Board meeting.

There was no **New Business**.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**President Milberg** reviewed the By-Laws instructions for committee reports, which states that 5 copies are required. However, she has asked the Organizational Study chairman to bring a revision to the By-Laws to allow for the receipt of reports by e-mail. The revision will be presented at the October Meeting.

**Chaplain Vina McLoed Rudolph** gave the benediction.

**President Milberg** adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m., June 4, 2019

Barbara A. Brand

Recording Secretary