

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Board of Directors Meeting

October 10 – 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) was called to order by **President, Sheila Croushore** at 2:01 PM at the Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA.

Present were: Vivian Abel, Barb Andrus, Leslie Anthony, Marilyn Backus, Kay Bair, Ines Bawduniak, Joanne Baylis, Claudia Bernardo, Sharon Brown, Barbara Campbell, Iris Cisarik, Mary Lou Colussy, Joyce Crider, Charlotte Crissy, **President Sheila Croushore**, Nancy Cuttic, Jackie Davies, Maryann DeSanto, Lorraine Dupre, Karen Faust, Jo Anne Fogelman, Mary Jo Gardill, Nancy Hannum, Sandra Hendricks, Bonita Herman, Mary Hetrick, Joyce Hoek, Eileen Hoover, Jane Howe, Rene Hrescak, Kay John, Jane Kruse, Claire Hope Leichter, Sheri Lowry, Gail Corle Manna, Lisa Merschiltz, Joyce C. Milberg, Grace Mitchell, Paula Mohler, Marie Mueller, Flossie Narducci, Lori Pancione, Joyce Peterson, Linda Pinto, Angela Raitano, Sharon Richardson, Vina McLeod Rudolph, Leeanna Ryba, Judith Schaffer, Mary Jo Schlomann, Marjorie Stilwell Sears, Lois Shuster, Linda Southerling, Deb Stumpf, Judy Warn, Haddie Webber, Pat Wolanski, Margaret Wolff, Karen Wychock, Dorothy Yard, Tonya Young

Chaplain, Vina McLeod Rudolph gave the invocation.

First Vice President, Leeanna Ryba, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President, Sheila Croushore declared that a quorum was present.

President Sheila Croushore introduced attending former State Presidents: Sharon Brown, Joyce Milberg, Lois Shuster, Angela Raitano, and Gail Corle Manna.

Officers Reports:

President, Sheila Croushore thanked all for attending. This officer has been kept very busy since June, attending Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedications, Garden Tours, and District Annual Meetings. She has received some fabulous photos of the meetings she was unable to attend. Tropical storm, Ida, did put a small hiccup on District IV's meeting, but fortunately they were able to reschedule.

The Treasurers' Training and Leadership Workshops were well attended and there were many great questions. Thanks to all who attended and presented. Links to both are on the GCFP website under Resources.

The Annual President's meeting was held Via ZOOM. There have been many positive comments regarding the information that was presented by our State Officers. It was recorded and the link was sent to all the Directors and Club presidents for those unable to attend. It has not been posted on the GCFP website.

Monthly Wednesday evening Programs have been attracting just over 100 attendees. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 13th and the topic will be AWARDS! A link has already been sent out.

The NGC Fall Board Meeting was switched to ZOOM. There was a virtual social hour with the "drunk botanist"!

Our website is being kept Up to Date and more and more information is being added. **Vina McLeod Rudolph's** program from August was recorded and is currently on the resource page for all to view.

Just a reminder, **President Sheila Croushore** does try to answer her phone from 8 AM to Noon, Monday thru Friday. Thank you to all who have answered her many questions over the past several months!

First Vice President Leeanna Ryba deferred her report until the Tuesday, October 12th meeting.

2nd Vice President, Pat Wolanski thanked all for sending their registrations in on time. There are 55 registered and the room reservation block was filled. She then reminded all of the procedure for meals. This hotel has been confirmed for the next two board meetings -June 6-7 and October 10-11, 2022. You may reserve a room for the June 2022 meeting, before checking out. You can always cancel, and you will be assured of the room block discount. There will be a price increase of \$3.00 for 2022 or \$111.00/night.

Treasurer, Joyce Crider reviewed the GCFP Asset Summary as of 9/30/21 and read the GCFP Statement of Financial Activity – May 1,2021 – September 30, 2021. It was noted that the KG Online expenses were incorrectly listed under Chairman’s Expenses and will be now included in Total KG Expenses. A full copy of the GCFP Asset Summary as of 9/30/21 and GCFP Statement of Financial Activity as of 9/30/21 will be posted in the GCFP Minutes Book.

A motion was made by Mary Lou Colussy to accept the GCFP Asset Summary and Statement of Activity and was seconded by Margie Wolff. **Passed**

Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The activity in the GCFP Dues Account at BB&T is as follows:

Account Balance 06/072021	\$100.00
Deposits (5)	\$15,385.00
	\$10,625.00
	\$ 1,400.00
	\$ 1,330.00
	\$ 265.00
Total Deposits	\$29,005.00

Disbursements

Transfers to Treasurer (3)	(\$27,410.00)
	(\$ 1,330.00)
	(\$ 265.00)
Total disbursements	(\$29,005.00)

Account Balance 10/10/2021 **\$100.00**

Total disbursements to Treasurer since 05/15/2021 **\$45,657.50**

As of October 1, 2021, Longwood Gardens did not renew their Affiliate membership, and Old Eagle Garden Club (District I) has resigned.

Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci reported that the Minutes of the June 7th & 8th, 2021 Board of Directors meetings were approved with minor corrections and distributed electronically. They were posted online and have been filed in the Minutes Book. Thank you to all who sent their reports by email in advance of this meeting. A motion to accept the Minutes as posted was made by Lorraine Dupre and seconded by Lori Pancione. **Passed**

Corresponding Secretary, Margie Wolff reported that she sent a get-well card to Dot Yard and a Birthday card to 1st District Governor, Leeanna Ryba’s mother, Mildred Schorr, who turned 100 on September 14.

Investment Chair, Gail Corle Manna reported that GCFP investments were up 8.98% for the year. As of October 8, 2021, our portfolio is valued at \$639,129.08. This value is after \$6,645.00 was transferred in August to our Treasurer to help defer the Scholarship funds. GCFP currently has \$30,930.47 in ready cash available if needed. **Gail Corle Manna** also noted that our **Investment Advisor, Mary Heltzel**, reported that the GCFP dividends are \$34,471.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee

With the GCFP database license soon to expire, it can be renewed but would no longer be updated and be maintained. It was recommended to upgrade to a Cloud based user-for-view only system at a cost of **AN EXTRA** \$30 per year which would be \$60 for the 2-year contract. This would also allow State officers (President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents) as well as the Secretary access with a password.

A motion was made by Judy Shaffer to upgrade the GCFP database to an iCloud format and seconded by Vina McLeod Rudolph. **Passed**

Highlighting several issues that could develop with the GCFP Secretary working from a home office, it was suggested that consideration be given to relocating the office to a public space. A recommendation was made to investigate the availability of suitable public office space.

A motion was made by Vina McLeod Rudolph and seconded by Claire Leichliter to investigate the availability of suitable public office space for the GCFP secretary. **Passed**

A recommendation that all GCFP manuals be corrected to effect compliance with the bylaws which state that the Financial Secretary assess and collect all dues and forward to the Treasurer. For specific Manuals and sections refer to full Committee Report. To implement these changes, there will be a Treasurers' Training in February and an appropriately addressed return envelope will be included with the annual dues invoice.

A motion was made Vina McLeod Rudolph to correct all GCFP manuals to effect compliance with the bylaws that state that the Financial Secretary assess and collect dues and forward to the Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Mary Jo Gardill. **Passed**

District Directors' Reports

District 1 Director, Maryann DiSanto reported that their club members continue to care for and enhance their local community gardens. Their presence in the community has been beneficial in obtaining additional members. When residents see and meet members at community events, they are more inclined to join our clubs. Uwchlan Garden Club held their own in-house Flower Show last month. Their theme was Friendship, with design classes appropriately named, "Two Peas in a Pod", "Bosom Buddies" and "Birds of a Feather". Zoom has been a valuable tool for meetings and sharing programs with other Clubs and Districts. We are all glad to be back meeting in person but realize the convenience of zoom as another option. District I has taken advantage of Zoom for various meetings crucial to planning next year's convention. With committee members located throughout the entire District, Zoom made it easier to update one another eliminating the need for a conference call or finding a meeting location convenient to everyone.

District II/III Director, Linda Pinto reported that their members have begun to close out the GCFP gardening season with a sense of gratitude and euphoria. The annual District Luncheon was a prime example. Gathering at the historic Bethlehem Hotel, members of the Bethlehem Garden Club had been preparing for this event for over 32 months! Luncheon speaker, Darcie Garcia, a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers has worked her mechanic and assembly skills for the Philadelphia Flower Show and contributes to Longwood Gardens. Her presentation "Fall Foraged Florals" delighted participants with a variety of everyday items around the home which were transformed into unique and glorious designs. Bethlehem also celebrated their 90th anniversary in the Federation (topped only by Montrose, which celebrates their 91st year). Presidents gathered for a discussion about how to grow their membership. Personal invitations, discounts on membership for those who bring in a new member, seeking corporate sponsors, developing brochures and postcards, establishing a virtual storefront (web page or FACEBOOK), joining the local Chamber of Commerce or Rotary, public programs at libraries, schools, girl/boy scouts, and changing meetings from day to night or vice versa were some of the suggestions. The District celebrated Barbara Campbell as the recipient of the Perennial Bloom Award and Judy Vehse who is moving to the Boston area.

District Director IV Tonya Young reported that Joanne Baylis is the new Assistant Director and is creating a website for District IV Clubs. You can visit at www.districtivgcfp.org. Town and Country Garden Club hosted the Annual

Meeting at Pheasant Run B & B, Lancaster. The speaker highlighted the trees of Lancaster County. Members were delighted to have **GCFP President, Sheila Croushore** present. Two members of District IV were awarded the GCFP Exceptional Horticulturist award. 57 club members were awarded laurels. Members are enjoying the GCFP evening Zooms and are looking forward to hosting in February when Connie Holland will be presenting on Vanilla Orchids. Biglerville Garden Club participated in the Chesapeake Keystone 10 million tree partnership. They also were recognized at the annual meeting for their club's growth in membership. Chambersburg GC added a Fringe Tree and Mock Orange tree to their fragrance garden. They will be hosting a fall plant sale to benefit Natural Disaster USA & International. Green Thumb Garden Club's horticultural therapy team has recently been able to return to a local nursing facility. Littlestown Garden Club is preparing for fall clean up. District Youth Activities chair shared that the Penn Cumberland GC will be working with a group launching a new "garden to table" course this fall. Garden Club of Harrisburg has two interesting speakers lined up – one on carnivorous plants and the other on trees in the city of Harrisburg. Gettysburg Garden Club is scheduled to tour the gardens at the Military Park's historic Sherfy House Farm.

District V Director JoAnne Fogelman reported that she had participated in the Zoom Leadership, Presidents', and Treasurers' workshops as well as the NGC Awards workshop. Both she and Assistant Director, Judy Warn, were invited to Standing Stone Garden Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner and celebration. She thanked Heritage Garden Club again for hosting District V's Annual Meeting "Autumn Amusements". McEwensville Garden Club, Susquehanna and Duboistown Garden Clubs all participated in the Bloomsburg Fair. The clubs in District V are continuing to meet through the end of the year. All are cleaning up the local gardens they maintain.

District VI Director Jan Davis reported that District VI Clubs took advantage of the lazy, hazy days of summer with many outdoor activities. Flower Shows were held by two clubs, Weeders and Seeders and Blair Garden Club. Programs where members worked on a craft were popular. Indiana Garden Club renovated the garden beds along the fence line at the top of Vinegar Hill near Jimmy Stewart's boyhood home. The District VI Annual Meeting hosted by the Patton Garden Club was extra special this year. District VI is the home district of **GCFP President Sheila Croushore**. Each of the eight clubs provided a floral design to highlight an aspect of her life. The designs were amazing and the presentations critiquing design construction, plant materials used, and symbolism were superb. Former **NGC President Lois Shuster**, a member of Sheila's Somerset Garden Club, delivered a heartfelt tribute. We wish Sheila nothing but success as GCFP President.

District VII Director Marilyn Backus reported that she showed Craftsyt's "The Flower Kitchen" as a program at their largest club, Gardens Ltd., for their first club meeting in 1.5 years. The same course segments were offered to 15 Juniper Independent Living Home residents. First Vice President, Leeanna Ryba was the guest officer at District VII's Annual Meeting and was presented with the District Hummingbird Award certificate and pin. Joyce Peterson of Forest Hills was the recipient of the District Perennial Bloom Award. In lieu of Club Presidents giving verbal club reports, they were asked to use the **Daffodil** Awards to thank selected members for their long-term service. They used the **Laurel** Awards to recognize members who were instrumental in programs, projects, or events. By requesting this, three clubs that never participated in these awards did recognize at least one and up to eight members. 13 new members were welcomed into District VII.

District VIII Director, Bonita Herman reported that District VIII is moving forward and adapting to changes in the ways we need to meet, communicate, and plan. They are all proud of their clubs and promote others to join. Conneaut Lake Garden Club has 11 new members and several other clubs had 1-4 additional members. There continues to be 15 garden clubs and one affiliate in District VIII, with about 500 members. Waterford Garden Club will be celebrating their 90th year of being Federated and Gospel Hill Garden Club their 60th. The Blue Star Memorial Marker located at the I-90 OH/PA West Springfield Welcome Center was dedicated last week. This has been the project of Joyce Milberg and Mary Hetrick. Heather Club of Edinboro also installed and dedicated a Blue Star Bi-Way Marker in the Veteran's Memorial Park in Edinboro. Since 2019, this is the fourth Blue Star Marker added to District VIII installations.

District IX Director Karen Faust reported that District IX has enjoyed a very busy year. Moon Garden Club hosted a Garden Tour to celebrate their 100th Birthday and featured themes from each decade at the different gardens. Shaler Garden Club is also celebrating their 100-year Anniversary. To mark the occasion, a beautiful bronze child holding a watering can was added to the Plant America Award Winning Shaler Library Garden. The June Board

meeting at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden included a Tour of the Garden. The District Annual Meeting enjoyed an unexpected high attendance of over 120 ladies. Guest speaker, Dr. Mark Miller, from the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden spoke on the many different trees, shrubs and plants with fall interest. Assistant District Director & Awards Chair, Claudia Bernardo, presented 32 Daffodil and 25 Laurel Certificates to members of the District. Three new District Members joined the GCFP Honor Roll of Outstanding Horticulturalists-Debbie Williams, Butler Garden Club, Karen Lampman, Greybrooke Garden Club and Linda Johnson, Southern Butler Co. Garden Club. Three Director Citations were presented to Mary Reefer, Butler Garden Club, Sue Vandertie of Edgeworth Garden Club and Chris Hawthorne of Ingomar Garden Club for their service. Anne Miller, a 30-year member of Butler Garden Club will compete with other ladies across the State for the GCFP Perennial Bloom Award. Fox Chapel Garden Club received the District IX Civic Achievement Award as well as being one of only two GCFP Plant America Grant recipients in 2021. Both awards recognize the work on the Bog Filtration System in Mary's Garden at Fox Chapel High School and the addition of a bog filtration system.

District X Director Kay Bair reported that after hosting an outdoor meeting, an event survey was sent to members to obtain opinions on improving the event. Great Meadows Garden Club had a Non-Standard Flower Show, "*A Fun Flower Show*". Martha Washington Garden Club's Small Standard Flower Show, "*Bee Positive*" featured horticulture and design classes focusing on all the positive attributes the community used to weather the Covid-19 pandemic. The Club decided to try to get involved in recycling by asking each member to collect plastic bottle caps and bring them to their monthly meetings where they are taken to New Jersey to be recycled by one of their member's brother, who lives in New Jersey.

District XI Director Marjorie Sears reported that at the District XI Annual Luncheon, Judith Swanson, the Environmental Chair, explained the hazards of using Oasis. Eight members of the Philadelphia Area Judges Council created magnificent designs without Oasis. There was also the introduction of a brand new **District XI Aster Award for Excellence**. It was the perfect perennial for a Fall Meeting Award. 12 members were surprised to be honored and receive a Purple Perennial Aster! This year there were eleven zoom meetings for all District XI club members between October 26th and May 4th in an effort to supplement the club's activities.

Reports of Committee Chairs

501-C3 Chair Mary Jo Gardill reported that all 990N ecards have been filed and there were 2 minor glitches that are being handled. They will continue to resolve and update regarding the progress.

Flower Show Schedule, Charlotte Crissey reported that as of this date there are only two requests for schedule evaluations.

Book of Recognition, Joyce Hoek reported that the Book of Recognition has had contributions of \$235.00 honoring 6 people. The contribution form has been updated. It can be found on the GCFP website under the Forms Library. These contributions will be used, as needed, for the expenses of the GCFP at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Contributions may be made to the "Book of Recognition" in the amount of \$5.00 or more from individuals or garden clubs. These may be given "In Memory", "In Appreciation", or "Honoring" an individual or group. Thank you cards will be sent to the donor and the honoree, and the contributions will be noted in the Keystone Gardener.

Laurel Highlands Judges Council Chair Claire Leichter reported that The Laurel Highlands Judges Council has 15 members, 12 of whom participated in a Joint Flower Show with the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council on August 18. Mary Jo Gardill won the Design Excellence Award. Mary Ann Artman of the PAJC won the Horticultural Excellence Award. They have 8 Master Judges, 2 Life Judges, 4 Accredited Judges and 1 Student Judge. Their next meeting will be on October 20, 2021 at Perkins Restaurant in Johnstown.

Webmaster, Vina McLeod Rudolph reported that she has been busy since June 7, 2021. More pages have been updated. A Zoom training session was presented on August 13, 2021. The YouTube address for it is available on the Information Resources page of the website. If any Judges Council would like a page, or if the Flower Show Judges Councils would like to have their area Flower Shows listed, please send a list to her in Word or PDF format. Two areas still need to be updated: the list of Landscape Design Consultants on the Directories page and the information about Landscape Design School on the Education page.

President Sheila Croushore made the following announcements:

Any photos taken at District Meetings, please send to Webmaster Vina McLeod Rudolph.

Thank you to all the District Directors for hosting their Annual Meetings.

GCFP password is PArocks!2021

National Garden Clubs, Inc. posts a blog every Monday. You can sign up to receive it and if you have a noteworthy article or program, please submit it to NGC.

Awards Chair Sheri Lowry announced that all information necessary to apply for Awards can now be obtained with a click on the Awards link on the GCFP website. She also announced the recipient of the Perennial Bloom Award – Barbara Campbell.

Bee Gap Chair Bonita Herman offered some hints for maintaining the Mason bee population in your garden. Putting the nesting tubes in a refrigerator is best. The temperature should be about 36 degrees and 50-75% humidity, which is the typical range for most kitchen refrigerators. Mark the tubes so you can identify the “mud” end when you put out the tubes in the spring. The “mud” end goes on the outside of your bee’s hotel. The Mason Bees are now hibernating in their warm cocoon under shrubs or woodpiles to keep them snug until it is warm enough. Remember they come out as full-sized adults and ready to populate again. When we have sustained warm weather of around 50 degrees and the dandelions are blooming, or perhaps you have seen a white moth flying around—this is the time to get out your bee houses or nesting houses and clean up your yard.

Birds and Butterflies Chair Marcy Cunkelman was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Most of the native plants are winding down, but there are still flowers blooming especially the goldenrods and asters. If you can plant some of these natives, the migrating monarchs will appreciate the stop on their journey to Mexico. But if you look closely, bees, flies and other insects will also be using these plants. Because of the insect activity, the birds will be finding food - some on their way south, and others staying all year. Winter visitors have arrived in late September. Now is NOT the time to clear your gardens. Please leave as many native plants standing for the winter. Moths and butterflies and other insects will use the stems and leaves to winter over until next spring. Birds and other small animals will eat the seeds and use the plants as cover in snowy and icy weather. If you must cut down, leave 12-18 inches of stem, and make a loose pile with your stems and leave until later May to mulch. If you would like to bring birds and butterflies into your yard, plant a service berry, dogwood trees or shrubs, native viburnums, spice bush to name a few natives. It is safe now to put up your bird feeders. Just keep an eye out for sick or dead birds. There was not a reason found why so many birds died in the spring and summer. It’s a mystery and not a good one to not know the ending. Keep your feeders clean and dry, so the food you offer is fresh and not moldy. Use the right feeders for the seed you choose.

Advisory Committee Chair Joyce Milberg had nothing to report at this time but wanted to update all on Dot Yard’s medical condition. Dot remains in Critical Care Rehab after an intestinal blockage and surgeries. She is especially appreciative of all the notes and cards that you have sent. Keep them coming!

Blue Star Memorial Chair Karen Faust thanked Corinne Babson and Sandra Manthorpe for their past and continuing interest in this Program. Both ladies have given countless hours assuring the program would continue long into the future. Rin and Sandra want to concentrate on securing the records so that no part of this 78 year program’s priceless history is lost. The Chair will concentrate on finding and helping Clubs and Districts install By-way, Memorial, Highway and Gold Star Markers. Working as a team with another District or by two Clubs joining together, the burden is lessened but the reward is the same. Thanks to Vina McLeod Rudolph, our GCFP Website Administrator, we now have a near complete listing of all the Markers in our State. News about future dedications and opportunities that need a Marker will be posted.

Blue Star Memorial Chair/Central Jane Howe was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. With all of the present technology, almost all the information on the memorials can be found on the GCFP website. Any questions, please contact Jane by email or phone. Since she doesn’t answer unknown numbers, please leave a message and she will return your call.

Civic Development Chair Rene Hrescak reported activities within District IV. In 2020, Penn Cumberland Garden Club was awarded \$75 GCFP Seed Money. Funds were donated to a local boy scout who built raised beds at The Frankenberger Tavern and did the initial planting of the gardens as his Eagle Scout Project. Their Civic Beautification Committee were consultants and donated additional plants. The Gettysburg Garden Club and Gettysburg Green Gathering partnered to prune more than fifty golden redbud trees at the local YWCA. The Chambersburg Garden Club has planted a Fringe Tree and a Moch Orange in the Kittochtinny Heritage Center fragrance garden. In District VI The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announced that Patton Garden Clubs Corner Lot received the "Garden Club Distinction Award". The Indiana Garden Club recently revamped a planted area at the top of Vinegar Hill. Within District XI the Garden Club of Bristol Borough member, Donna McCloskey and 3 other members built 31 raised beds on empty tennis courts. Today they offer 123 large beds and 32 small beds. The Food Pantry Committee grew food for the local food pantry and hosted a Vegetable Growing event. The Soil Health Team demonstrated the use of beneficial nematodes. The Pollinator Committee created a garden along the pathway to the Delaware Canal State Park.

Club Yearbook Chair Iris Cisarik has sent to all the District Directors an information sheet covering the necessary guidelines when garden clubs submit their club yearbooks to the State and CAR-SGC for an award. Included was all the necessary information for the application and the importance of choosing topics for programs that cover a variety of NGC goals and objectives. District Directors were asked to forward this information to the presidents of their District. NGC is no longer offering an award for Club Yearbooks.

President Sheila Croushore recessed the meeting at 4:06 PM.

The GCFP Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:56 PM.

Habitat for Humanity Chair Lisa Merschiltz reported that there were no actions on Habitat Homes. The Covid pandemic and the high cost of lumber has affected this program. Also, contractors have had difficulty in obtaining other necessary materials in a timely fashion. In speaking with a local contractor, kitchen appliances and bathroom fixtures are in short supply due to a problem in the supply chain.

Judges Council Erie Area Vice Chair Kay John presented a report in the absence of the Chair, Dot Yard. Erie Area Judges' Council was busy this summer judging 4 District Flower Shows and several area County Fairs. In July, EAJC held a small standard flower show titled "Summer Soiree". During their last meeting held in September, Council meeting dates, venues and programs for 2022 were planned. They also began planning their 2022 Flower Show that will be titled "School Days-Memories".

Personnel Chair Kay John requested that each GCFP board member please take the time to complete the Personnel form. It is a fillable form available on the GCFP website. The state compiles this list of persons so that they are aware of those who are qualified, interested, and available to serve as officers and committee chairman. If your Personnel form was completed quite a while ago, please notify her of additions or corrections to your form.

Convention Coordinator Judith Schaffer recently met with Convention Chairs of 2022 and 2023 via ZOOM. The main issue of discussion was the problem of some PA banks not accepting the GCFP's EIN Number to set-up a convention account causing delays in having the Convention Treasurer set up an account. The Convention Manual states that we must use the mother group's EIN number. The newly revised Registration forms for 2022 approved in June will soon be available featuring a package rate. If members are complaining that the prices are too high, be sure to explain what goes into event pricing- Base cost of meal, Tax/tip, Printing fees, Speaker fees, Audio-visual needs, Floral centerpieces, Favors, NGC or CAR/NGC President costs, Banquet rental fees, Riser rental fees, Gifts for honored guests, Complimentary meals for honored guests. All these determine the event pricing. GCFP Conventions are always worth the price of admission.

2022 Convention Chair Nancy Cuttic reported that the committee has carefully planned for this tri-refresher convention. There have been significant changes from conventions of the past. All the forms and contracts have been updated. They have renamed the courses formerly known as workshops to 'presentations' and are calling hands on activities 'workshops'. Top notch boutique vendors will be available all three days with some vendors changing daily. There are 2 unique hands-on workshops planned for the afternoon of the first day, as well as a guided trip to the John James Audubon Center, which is a requirement for the tri-refresher. Plan to be checked in

by 10:30 AM on day one for the tour. On day two, there will be 4 presentations in the morning, 4 in the afternoon and 4 on the morning of the third day. Because of the diversity of programming, it will be difficult to choose just one per session. There will be 12 different topics which along with the change in fee structure, will entice attendees to register for the whole convention. The convention programming will address all of the topics of the NGC schools, so there is something for everyone. There is an impressive lineup of renowned banquet speakers as well. The fundraiser is a ruled notebook with the convention logo on the cover for \$7. However, they are currently offering a Buy One Get One Free. Please consider taking some back to your members to sell, raffle or gift. We look forward to seeing all of you in April as we “Celebrate Nature’s Masterpiece”.

2023 Convention Chair Marilyn Backus reported that the 2023 theme is “THYME to Garden” which has a watering can as part of the logo. 28 members from all of their 11 clubs attended the first Convention Chair meeting at the Monroeville DoubleTree. The meeting goal was to distribute the role descriptions, stress the need for sharing information, tour the hotel and exchange ideas over lunch. They worked on opening the 2023 Convention banking account. Highland Park started to identify outstanding vendors for the Convention, and Murrysville GC has begun to identify Program and Presentation Topics and Speakers. The 2023 Convention fundraiser is a 4x4 inch fade-resistant decals to place on an iPad, house door window, car window or bumper to encourage onlookers to “Join Your Garden Club”. Each is \$4.

Flower Show Book of Evidence Chair Deb Stumpf advised all that if their club is applying for a flower show award, please read the instructions on both the GCFP and NGC website. They will need to have the following applications. One GCFP application and two NGC applications with their book. The deadline is December 1, 2021. If the club is having a holiday show and need time to prepare a book, please contact Deb and she will work with the club as far as a deadline.

Flower Show Judges Council Chair Mary Hetrick reported that a speaker has been secured for the Judges Council Luncheon at the GCFP Convention on April 5, 2022. Janice Hamlin from Bradenton, FL will present “Twist and Shout” using leaf manipulation. The Petite Flower Show, “Rock and Roll”, will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at the June Board Meeting.

Central Area Judges Council Chair Judy McGinnis was not present. Tonya Young reported that the CAJC held a successful Small Standard Flower Show at their June meeting. Another Small Standard Flower Show, “Autumn Splendor”, is planned for the October meeting, providing exhibiting and judging credits. CAJC currently has 24 members.

Northeast Area Judges Council Chair Barbara Campbell reported that the Council met in May and the new officers were installed. Audrey Angelella - Chair, Barbara Campbell - Vice Chair, Marjorie Faust – Treasurer, Barbara White – Corresponding Secretary. The Council met on October 6 and hosted a small Standard Flower Show, “Kaleidoscope of Color”.

Pittsburgh Area Judges Council Chair Margie Wolff reported that their first meeting was held on July 21 outdoors. A successful Flower Show on August 18 was a joint effort with the Laurel Highlands Judges Council and PAJC.

Philadelphia Area Judges Council Chair Kathleen “Kay” Morrissey was unable to attend and Lori Pancione read the report. Following the May 20, 2021 outdoor meeting and tour of the Morris Arboretum, new officers were installed. The PAJC new board members are Chair, Kay Morrissey; Vice-Chair, Valerie Burgess; Treasurer, Barbara White; Recording Secretary, Louise Heilig; and Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Hannum. However, due to the sudden passing of Barbara White’s husband, she recently resigned her position as Treasurer, to tend to family responsibilities. They are in the process of replacing her. At the September District XI luncheon, six of the PAJC members created designs to support the program regarding designing without using Oasis Foam. The first of a series of GCFP/PAJC Flower Show Schools will be held April 28 – May 1, 2022, at the Double Tree Hilton, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

Flower Show Judges Credentials Chair Nancy Cartwright was not present. Nancy Hannum reported that there are 115 Accredited Flower Show Judges in Pennsylvania with 31 Accredited Judges, 14 Life Judges, 70 Master Judges and 40 Emeritus Judges. Applications for the Symposium must be sent to the Credentials Chair in order to receive credit for the Symposium.

Flower Show School Chair Lori Pancione reported that the Flower Show School Series will begin with Flower Show School #1 scheduled for April 28-May 1, 2022. The school will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Plymouth Meeting, PA., a western suburb of Philadelphia with easy access to many major highway arteries, the Philadelphia airport and tourist attractions. The trifolds are also available at the back area, distributed or soon-to-be distributed to Judges' Council Chairs and will be posted on the state GCFP website after this meeting under EDUCATION pull down tab – Forms Library C-1, Registration for Flower Show Schools. The total price also includes a Thursday evening dinner at the hotel as well as instructions for the Handbook Procedure which is now separated out from the Horticultural and Design sessions of NGC, Inc. Flower Show Schools. This change in format has received very positive feedback from students who like the time to concentrate their test efforts on ONE topic at a time. We hope to have representation at the school from around our KEYSTONE state.

Flower Show Student Judges Credentials Chair Connie Burnley was not present, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. We currently have 2 Student Judges: Rani Murali from District VI and Marilyn Backus from District VII. Three student judges have exceeded the time constraints to become an accredited judge and have been dropped from the list.

Flower Show Symposium Chair Tonya Young announced that Pennsylvania will host a Symposium on June 3, 4, 5, 2022 at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Willow Valley Lancaster, PA. The Symposium will be held just before the June 2021 GCFP Board Meeting.

Gardening School Credentials Chair Mary Jo Schlomann reported that the complete information on upcoming Gardening Schools can be found on the NGC Website <https://www.gardenclub.org/school/gardening-school-courses>. Gardening School has 13 Provisional Consultants, 44 Consultants, 12 Master Consultants and 1 Emeritus.

Horticulture Coordinator JoAnn Celaschi was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. This year there were 13 winners of the Exceptional Horticulturists Award. This year's winners are: Myrtie Musetti, Wayne Woods Garden Club, District I; Sharon Richardson, Uwchian Garden Club, District I; Jossel Fears, The Green Thumb Garden Club, District IV; Ronald Myers, Biglerville, Garden Club, District IV; Lisa Merschiltz, Blair Garden Club, District VI; Nancy Shremshock, Burrelton Garden Club, District VII; Camille Erb, Murrysville Garden Club, District VII; Bonita Herman, Lawrence Park Garden Club, District VIII; Deborah Williams, Butler Garden Club, District IX; Karen Lampman, Greybrooke Garden Club, District IX; Linda Johnson, Southern Butler County Garden Club, District IX; Ralph Nicholson Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing, District X; Ronney Kosempel, Old York Road Garden Club, District XI.

Horticulture Hints Chair Grace Mitchell offered the following hints. To make cut flowers last longer- mix 2 tbsp white vinegar and a tsp sugar in a quart of warm water. After a day or two, mist them with hairspray. Give houseplants more light by sitting them on a mirror. Feed houseplants an aspirin dissolved in water once a month. Stake small houseplants with the chopsticks you bring home from the Chinese restaurant. Clean your glass vases by filling them half full of water and adding two denture cleaning tablets. Use WD-40 to wipe rust from your tools before storing for the winter. To deodorize your fridge, cut a raw potato in half and put it in the fridge cut side up. When it turns black, just trim that off and put it back in the fridge. How to divide zebra grass- use sharp shovel, small backhoe, or better yet, don't plant it anywhere it will ever need to be divided. Her last and best hint came from a tee shirt. It said, "When I die, take the flowers off my casket and throw them into the crowd to see who's next!"

Horticulture/Trees and Liaison to Pennsylvania Forestry Council Chair Judy Warn reported on tree planting to combat Climate Change. One of the plans which has gained traction is the Trillion Trees Initiative, but many leading scientists maintain that the only climate solution is to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero as soon as possible by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Horticulture Therapy Chair Maryann DeSanto reported that Clubs have been creative in their ways to share their love of Horticulture. The Country Gardeners Club in District I didn't wish their retirement facility to miss out since they weren't allowed in. They decided to send flowers, containers, and a how-to Power Point presentation, so the residents were still able to construct their own Floral designs. Last summer the Garden Club of Springfield made

fresh flowers in a patriotic theme, and delivered them to their own members, who due to illness or Covid restrictions were unable to attend club meetings. Each volunteer personally delivered the arrangements to the members' homes, to let them know how much they were missed. Delivering arrangements is easy, but not visiting with the residents, or having the opportunity to hear them share their childhood memories of favorite flowers, has no replacement. A Horticulture Therapy program is more than sharing our love of horticulture, it is sharing ourselves and our time with others.

Keystone Gardener Editor/Advertising Chair Karen Wychock reminded all that the deadline for the next issue is November 1st. That issue will include all the information for the 2022 GCFP Convention and Flower Show Schools.

Keystone Gardener Online Chair Marie Mueller advised all of the deadlines for the 2022 KG Online Newsletter. The deadlines are: April 15 for May 1st posting; June 15 for July 1st posting and October 15th for November 1st posting. Please submit articles of interest about your club, club members, special things that you did, helpful hints, or anything that you think other club members might find of interest. When sending submissions by e-mail, in the Subject line type: "KG Online submission" to confirm whether it is intended for the KG Online and not the KG booklet. Also make sure your name, club name, and phone number are included in the e-mail, in case there are questions. Be sure to put your submission in a WORD document. The deadlines and Style Formatting instructions for your submissions are now available on the GCFP web site.

Landscape Design Schools Chair Vivian Abel announced that Landscape Design School Series 14, Course 2 will be held on Monday and Tuesday, October 25-26, at Pheasant Run Farm Bed and Breakfast in Lancaster. The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Lancaster is only 7 minutes away and is offering a special rate to attendees. NGC approved extensions for all the Landscape Design Consultants in Pennsylvania whose credentials would have expired in 2020. These extensions are good until December 31, 2021. All Landscape Design Consultants whose credentials will expire in 2021 should take this course if possible. Nancy Fulk attended Landscape Design School in Wisconsin, on Zoom. This was her 6th refresher, and she is now in good standing until December 31, 2026.

President Sheila Croushore recessed the meeting at 8:59 PM.

The GCFP Board Meeting was reconvened at 9:07 AM on Tuesday, October 12, 2021

First Vice President, Leeanna Ryba thanked all for sending birthday wishes to her mom who celebrated her 100th birthday. She also thanked Marjorie Sears for the pins that she had made for the GCFP President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. She participated in the monthly Zoom meetings with District Directors who shared information about their events and activities. She also participated in the Leadership, Treasurers' Training and Convention planning meetings. She was delighted to attend the District VI meeting, President **Sheila Croushore's** home District, where the centerpieces created, reflected different aspects of the President's life. At the outdoor District X meeting she learned so much about hydrangeas. At the District VII meeting, she was surprised by being awarded the Hummingbird Award. At the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden, she was put to work, changing slides for the District XI meeting. She also attended District VIII's dedication of the Blue Star Memorial at I-90 OH/PA. Also, by attending District Meetings, she learned that there are Aster, Butterfly, Hummingbird and Mushroom Awards presented to those deserving individuals for the contributions and achievements.

Liaison to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Chair Flossie Narducci reported that PHS has been a supporter of GCFP and continues its support as an Affiliate. When Elizabeth Pinkham did not receive PHS' dues, she reached out to me as Liaison to PHS. Due to a typo in the mailing address, the check had not arrived at Headquarters. Fortunately, she was able to notify the proper individual and PHS immediately sent the check this time by Priority Mail. You may have already heard, PHS will host the Philadelphia Flower Show outdoors again in June of 2022. The 2021 Show was the first time in the history of the Show that it was staged outdoors....and due to its success and the still unknowns with covid, the organization made the decision to repeat the success of the 2021 Show in an outdoor setting again at FDR Park in Philadelphia.

Life Membership Chair Nerita Bryant was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. New Life Members include State Life Member—Brenda Aubert, Parkland Garden Club, District II/III and National Life Member—Jacqueline Elmer, Presque Isle Garden Club, District VIII. No new CAR Life Members at this time.

Membership Chair Rosalie Miller was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Unfortunately, there have been no requests for information regarding joining a garden club in their vicinity. In May 2021, the number of invoices for dues sent out to the clubs listed the total membership as 4,686. As of August 2021, the total number of membership paying dues is 4,524, which includes 50 new members.

National/Regional Projects Chair Eileen Hoover reminded all that the Plant America Grants deadline is October 15, 2021. Submit one page application and one budget page. More than two pages will not be considered. Grants will be awarded by January 31, 2022. Projects must be completed by April 1, 2023. Past recipients will not be considered.

Natural Disasters Chair Kathy Crossman was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Since April 19, 2021, contributions to the Natural Disasters have totaled \$385. Contributions were received from Bethlehem Garden Club - \$50, Penn Cumberland Garden Club - \$35, GCFP District IV- \$100, Gettysburg Garden Club - \$100, Parkland Garden Club - \$50, Garden Club of York - \$50. Also, the following donations were earmarked for: Garden Restoration in the State of Oregon: Contributions were received from Abington Garden Club - \$100, Burrellton Garden Club - \$50, Town and Country Garden Club - \$50, Kathy Gingerich - \$50. All checks have been forwarded to Joyce Crider, GCFP Treasurer. District Directors and club presidents are reminded to inform their treasurers that all contributions are to be made out to GCFP with Natural Disasters listed on the memo line.

Pennsylvania Resources Council Chair Mary Lou Colussy reported that there has been a lot of talk lately to buy local, buy American made. American Eagle Paper Mills, an American company with a local address--Tyrone, PA is the way to go! They make paper using recycled fiber generated in our unique integrated de-inking and re-pulping system, giving new life to discarded paper. Making paper with recycled fiber uses less water and energy than papermaking with virgin fiber.

Penny Pines Chair Barbara Andrus reported that the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) seasonal staff were instrumental in completing work expanding the ANF native plant pollinator gardens of two existing gardens and have maintained existing ones across the ANF. They planted Black-eyed Susan's (*Rudbeckia hirta*), purple coneflower (*Eupatorium purpurea*), butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and tickseed (*Coreopsis*). Funding for work this year came from obligated funds for the ANF and from the GCFP (approx. \$500.00). The Penny Pines donation form is on the GCFP website (www.pagardenclubs.org) under FORMS LIBRARY #18. \$68.00 will cover the cost of one tree. Donations received since April 2021 total \$1,358.00 from 18 Garden Clubs.

Pollinator Restoration Program Chair Leslie Anthony reported that people are becoming increasingly aware of the plight of pollinators and are ready to help make a difference. In addition to including pollinator programs on Garden Club schedules and articles in their newsletters, she recommended that all districts and clubs form Pollinator Advocacy committees to better promote pollinator education and to support pollinator garden certifications. All community gardens should be certified as PA Pollinator Friendly. Additionally, clubs and individuals should be recognized for their pollinator-friendly achievements. As an example, Shaler Garden Club is awarding a pollinator lapel pin to club members who have certified their garden as a PA Pollinator Friendly Garden.

President's Project – Blooming Youth Chair Daryl Jones was not present. His report was read by the Recording Secretary who reported that he has not yet received any entries for the President's Project-Blooming Youth. He is encouraging Garden Clubs to review the categories and plan on entering this worthwhile project.

Publicity Press Book Awards Chair Georgieann Dettinburn was unable to attend. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Although the National Garden Clubs no longer gives an award for the Publicity Press Books, GCFP will continue to give a state award for Publicity Press Books. She is asking all District Directors to inform all the clubs within their district and encourage them to enter their Publicity Press Book of Evidence. Please mail to: Georgieann Dettinburn, 234 Mark Avenue, Biglerville, PA 17307 no later than Jan 25, 2022. The award requirements are on the GCFP Website. Click on Awards, then the blue box that has 2021-2023 Awards Manual 8/21. Scroll down to page 7 & 8 for all GCFP/CAR-SGC Publicity Press Awards.

Scholarship Committee Chair Sandra Hendricks reported that a new release for advertising the 13 GCFP Scholarships was sent to all District Directors to be forwarded to their club scholarship chairmen. It was recommended this information be taken/sent to the local high schools and colleges in their area. GCFP Scholarship information is found on the website at www.pagardenclubs.org. (Forms Library). The deadline is February 1. Sandra does not accept applications electronically; they must be mailed to her. A student is not eligible for the National Scholarship until they are a junior in college. Therefore, no need to complete the NGC application until they are a sophomore (or above) in college. Pennsylvania is allowed one NGC winner per year.

Scholarship Donations Chair Linda Southerling advised all to use the form on the GCFP website. It is in #22 in the Forms Library. In order to save on postage and paper, please indicate an e-mail address on the form for both the donor and person who will receive the acknowledgment.

Schools Coordinator Chair Vivian Hall was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The Schedule for schools is as follows: No Environmental Schools scheduled. Gardening schools will resume in 2022 with course # 4. Tri fresher scheduled for January 19-20, 2022, in Florida. Flower Show Schools: #1 April 28- May 1, 2022 Plymouth Meeting; PA; # 2 October 13-16, 2022; # 3 April 13-16, 2023; # 4 October 12-15, 2023. Contact Laurie Pancione at 215-680-1310. Landscape Design Schools: # 2 - October 25-26 2021; # 3 - January 15-16 2022 Turlake, CA.

Seed Money Chair Marjorie Sears reminded all to make sure that their clubs fill out the form on the GCFP Website for Seed Money. This is also a reminder that you can save big bucks by starting seeds inside and then transplanting them outdoors after the last frost in your area. Some flowers can be sown directly into the ground. Burpee Seed Company has a section in their Seed Catalog for Perennials. You can purchase seeds for Cone Flowers, Daisies, Black-eyed Susans (rudbeckia), Carnations and Lupine. GCFP has \$2500.00 for Seed Money and over one-hundred garden clubs. This year we can be less hard on our own pocketbooks and just try planting beautiful flower seeds!

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair Paula Mohler reported that The Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster Contest information is easy to find. After accessing the GCFP home page, click on Projects Information. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl information is on the next page. Some very important information - There are conflicting dates on two forms posted by National as to the deadline that the State Chairpersons must receive their winning posters. As you will see on the Project Information page, the Project Deadline is January 21, 2022. Also please note, winning posters need to be sent to Paula Mohler's winter address, 271 Pine Loop, Frostproof, Florida 33843 after December 27, 2021. Please email halcyon1@verizon.net or call 814-643-0564 with any questions or concerns.

Youth Activities Chair Chris Hawthorne was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The deadline for Poetry, Youth Sculpture and Essay Contests is December 1, 2021. If club contacts do not want to mail the entries, please contact Chris Hawthorne and she will meet you to get the entry. Guidelines for the Essay Contest are as follows: The theme for 2021 is "What Can We Do to Prevent Water Pollution?" The length of the essay is limited to between 500 – 600 words. Every word counts. The essay must be typed using 10-point font and is open to students attending 9th through 12th grades. The theme for the Poetry Contest is "Sing with the Songbirds-Exploring the Glory of Nature". Important is a new rule. Do not use the theme as the title. Use the theme throughout the poem. The poem must be typed using 10-point font and is open to students in Kindergarten through 9th grade, Special Needs and English as a second language students. Please make this a class assignment so there is no help from family members.

Angie Raitano made an announcement for Diane Hughes. There will be Wildflower Workshop in Western Pennsylvania on April 26, 2022.

President Sheila Croushore adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.