

A Message to The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

I know you have received lots of messages such as this in the last few days but thank you for bearing with us as we addressed the financial situation with the hotel for this inevitable decision. While we await final word from the hotel I felt it was important for you to be aware of the situation.

It is with genuine disappointment and heartbreak that we announce the cancellation of the 90th Annual State Convention of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania that was to be held April 17-19, 2020. This decision has not been made lightly nor without hours of thought, discussion and negotiation. At the heart of the decision has always been the health and well being of our members.

Second was consideration of not further disrupting the busy fall schedule of GCFP, its Districts, the Region and NGC.

With the cancellation of the convention, all current ***room reservations in the block will be automatically cancelled and full registration fees will be refunded in as timely a manner as possible.***

Please be patient. Three Hundred and Thirty-nine checks need to be written to attendees as well as additional refunds to donors, vendors and advertisers.

Your trust that we would do the right thing has been so reassuring. Thank you. Of the 339 registrations, only a handful of our most vulnerable requested early cancellation.

We would ask that you respond to the registrar (Karen Lampman > kmlampman@verizon.net) if you feel inclined to donate the \$5.00 registration fee to cover the cost of preparing and mailing these 339 checks.

(You might also consider donating all or a portion of your refund to your local food bank).

Our deepest thanks go to all the members in District IX who worked so hard to make this a joyous and enriching 90th anniversary – Sue Semple, Rose Romboski, Karen Faust, Karen Lampman, all the speakers etc.

We are fortunate in that our gardens are places of tranquility and therapy. Go out and work the earth. We have a generous windfall from Burpee to help you seed your personal and civic gardens this year. Take plenty of photos.

Details will follow as to how we will give the awards and conduct the business aspects of the convention once the Board can review and approve Plan B and the financial consequences of this action.