

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting**

October 12, 2020

Via ZOOM

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) was called to order by **President Joyce Milberg** at 2:15 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2020. This meeting was held online via the Zoom portal. .

Present were:

Vivian Abel	Jackie Davies	Lee Ann Ishman	Lori Pancione
Barbara Andrus	Maryann Desanto	Diane Hughes	Linda Pinto
Leslie Anthony	Georgieann Dettinburn	Ann Hulse	Sharon Richardson
Marilyn Backus	Sandy Eldridge	Tom Huston	Rosemary Romboski
Kay Bair	Karen Faust	Judy Jackson	Vina McLoed Rudolph
Claudia Bernardo	Jo Anne Fogelman	Lynn Jackson	Leeanna Ryba
Barbara Brand	Nancy Lambert Fulk	Kay John	Judith Schaffer
Sharon Brown	Mary Jo Gardill	Jane Kruse	Marjorie Stillwell Sears
Sharon Bryner	Vivian Hall	Lou Ann Lauger	Susan Semple
Connie Burnley	Nancy Hannum	Claire Lechliter	Betsy Smith
Iris Cisarik	Sandra Hendricks	Gail Corle Manna	Linda Southerling
Mary Lou Colussy	Bonita Herman	Ellen McGarrigle	Judy Warn
Joyce Crider	Deann Hertzler	Joyce Milberg, President	Haddie Weber
Kathy Crossman	Mary Hetrick	Rosalie Miller	Pat Wolanski
Sheila Croushore	Joyce Hoek	Grace Mitchell	Margaret Wolff
Marcy Cunkelman	Eileen Hoover	Paula Mohler	Karen Wychock
Nancy Cuttic	Jane Howe	Linda Morrison	Dorothy Yard
		Marie Mueller	Tonya Young

President Milberg declared that a quorum was present, and announced that Linda Morrison and Nancy Fulk will review and approve the minutes.

[Secretary's note: For all votes taken at this online meeting, a poll to approve the proposals or recommendations was posted on the Zoom platform and the result of the vote was also displayed.]

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President Milberg expressed her pride in GCFP's garden clubs and members. The National Gardener had an article highlighting our Burpee Seeds Project describing the distribution of thousands of seed packets under less than optimal conditions this spring and summer – and included lots of photos as well. Congratulations to Chambersburg Garden Club a winner of this year's Plant America Grant also mentioned in TNG. PA is a winning state in all respects, we held the first in the nation all-Zoom Gardening School to accolades from participants, some who tried zoom for the very first time.

All indications are that this pandemic will be with us for some time to come. When NGC cancelled their highly anticipated National Convention for the second time, we knew that we must consider keeping our members safe despite the longing we may have to see each other and connect in person. She announced the decision to cancel the live 2021 Convention.

District IV and the current Convention Committee has agreed to continue working on "Zooming into Spring" a convention via Zoom. Using two very successful GCFP board meetings and the CAR-SGC "Blooming-Zoom Festival" as models, we expect a well-attended, enjoyable and educational experience over the same days as originally scheduled. The winter edition of the Keystone Gardener will have details of the Zoom Convention.

Zoom will make it possible for our gardeners who normally would not attend convention to attend. She challenged everyone to become familiar with Zoom before April, as we gather to celebrate 91 years of gardening and continue Growing our Legacy.

1st Vice President Sheila Croushore reported she has received numerous enquiries about meeting formats, whether via Zoom or in person. At the District Annual Meetings in September, she installed officers of three clubs, one in person and two via Zoom. She also attended several other Zoom meetings. She met with the new and past District Directors to

discuss upcoming issues: the request from NGC to provide clubs' email addresses on their website, and clarification of the District Nominating Committee terms. They also discussed some internal club organization matters.

2nd Vice President Leeanna Ryba said she has missed the enjoyment of making menu selections and dining arrangements for this group. In August, Catering and Group Room Agreements were signed with the Wyndham Garden State College for June and October 2021.

In September she virtually attended District Annual Meetings for Districts I, II/III, IV, and V and was impressed to hear the ways our clubs have adjusted to Covid, and their plans for the rest of 2020. On September 18, she attended the District VII Annual Meeting held at a pavilion in Monroeville Community Park and installed their new officers. She also attended First Vice-President Croushore's District Director ZOOM meeting and had a chance to "meet" the District Directors she will work with during the next term. She anticipates attending the CAR-SGC Blooming Zoom Festival.

Recording Secretary Barbara Brand reported that the minutes of the June 29, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting were approved with minor corrections and distributed electronically. They were posted online and are filed in the Minutes Book. She reminded everyone to read the minutes once posted, since corrections can still be made. She asked that images not be included in reports, as they will not be included in the minutes. She also asked that reports be sent in Word (or similar) format, not as a PDF file, and be attached to an email. If updates are needed, please send a revised report labeled as an "update." She thanked all who were able to send their reports by email in advance of this meeting. Any reports not read today will be included in the minutes.

Treasurer Joyce Crider reviewed a summary of activity from May1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Income amounted to \$56,113, including a profit from the 2020 convention, despite its cancellation, totaling \$730, remarkable in the circumstances. Expenses include: liability insurance of \$12,067; payroll and office expenses of \$11,402; officers' allowances of \$2,400 (less than budgeted due to travel restrictions); and the subscription for Zoom which costs \$15.95 per month. Expenses totaled \$32,051, leaving a balance of \$24,062. She reviewed the Asset Summary; and explained that when we received the COVID PPP grant of \$4,582, \$4,000 was transferred to checking, leaving the balance in savings.

President Milberg explained how scholarships are paid for: the memorial donations made during the year and the income from the accounts are supplemented by a transfer from our investment account at Stifel. The more funds are donated the less has to be transferred from investments.

Financial Secretary Nancy Lambert Fulk reported the following balances in the 1st National Bank checking account:

Beginning balance as of 06/01/2020	\$100
Receipts: Deposits from club dues	\$29,215.00
Disbursements::Transfer to Treasurer	<u>(\$29,215.00)</u>
Balance in checking account as of 09/30/2020	\$100

Corresponding Secretary Linda Morrison reported that she sent a sympathy card to Mary Jane Martucci in September.

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

- To approve the payment of \$275 of which our portion is \$181.50, to Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club as reimbursement for the amount spent as penalty to reinstate their 501-c-3 designation. **Approved**
- To approve moving from a \$900 per annum maintenance contract on the office printer to an "as needed" service call basis. **Approved**
- To allow NGC to contact GCFP club presidents directly. **Not Approved**

President Milberg asked **Treasurer Crider** to report on obtaining an estimate for purchasing one or two Past President's pins. She explained that the jeweler could not find the mold, but they will not charge us for making a new one. The company would like to have one of the past president pins for about 2 weeks in order to take measurements and photographs before giving us an estimate. We should receive this estimate within a month or so and the Board will be asked to approve the payment at a later date.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORTS

Sharon Richardson, District I Director, reported that 10 out of 11 clubs have installed their officers; one club is taking a sabbatical for the year. A few clubs were able to meet in person, several held Zoom installations, and a few elected their

new officers via e-mail. Several clubs found alternative projects to fill in the void of not being active. Some clubs have met outside to make arrangements. One club delivered arrangements to a nursing home, since they weren't able to make the arrangements in person with the residents. They had a great turn-out for their Annual Meeting via zoom. For the program there was a 20 minute video segment on leaf manipulation of an aspidistra leaf. Some members bought leaves ahead of time so that they could work along with the presenter. One club attended from an outdoor gathering place to try these techniques together. It was gratifying to receive thank you notes from members who haven't been able to attend in the past because of financial, health or mobility limitations -- they were thrilled to be able to attend!

District I is also deeply involved in planning for the 2022 Convention, "Celebrating Nature's Masterpieces" as well as the Tri-Refresher that year.

Barbara Campbell, District II-III Director introduced the new District Director Linda Pinto. Most clubs were unable to meet, but they found innovative ways to continue sponsoring their activities and encouraging their membership to stay involved. Allentown let their members forego their dues, and Bethlehem Garden Club enticed their members in a 50% dues reduction for 2020-2021. Many clubs tried to keep in touch with their members by using ZOOM, emails, sending out newsletters, and telephoning members; a club did virtual tours of members' gardens, even using a Drone for videotaping. South Schuylkill Garden Club turned their cancelled plant sale into 40 Salsa Bruschetta Pots for the Intensive Care Unit of a local hospital. Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club received the Ames Tool Award to further their commitment to grow produce for the local food bank. Two clubs in our District have been federated for 90 years. Montrose is the oldest club in the state being founded in 1905, and Monroe was founded in 1927. Both were federated in 1930.

Georgieann Dettinburn, District IV Director reported that District IV held its annual meeting at Box Hill Mansion, Regent's Glen Country Club in York, with 40 members attending in person (socially distanced) and 20 participating through Zoom. 1st Vice President Croushore installed new officers, which include our new District Director, Tonya Young, a familiar face as a GCFP Board member, and Donna Beach, Assistant Director. Awards were announced, and we are pleased that Chambersburg Garden Club received an Espoma Grant of \$250. Activities in the District included virtual garden tours, field trips, "brown bag" workshops, and an attic sale. Gettysburg Garden Club celebrated its 60th anniversary by planting trees at the local park.

Barbara Andrus, District V Director introduced Joanne Fogelman, new District Director, and Judy Warn, new Assistant Director. She stated that the COVID restrictions did not stop the District clubs from their activities and accomplishments. Susquehanna Garden Club sponsored two recipients of the Lois Dupre Shuster and Dorothy A. Hermani Scholarships. The Heritage GC is planning a 25th Anniversary which will be writing a publication in the *Experience Bradford County* magazine. Standing Stone GC will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary at their Christmas party. The District has contributed to the GCFP Scholarship in memory of Ruth Notestine. All our clubs have done well with the Burpee Seed Challenge and she is glad they have contributed to the success of GCFP in the realm of NGC projects!

Marcy Cunkelman, District VI Director introduced the new District Director, Janice Davis, who gave the District report. The District annual meeting was scheduled in August, when the officers were installed by 1st Vice President Croushore. Members adapted programming to the COVID restrictions, and remain committed to their community projects.

Margaret Wolff, District VII Director introduced the new District Director Marilyn Backus, and Assistant Director Sharon Bryner. Despite having to cancel most of their activities and programs, the clubs of District VII still managed to maintain contact with their members. Three District meetings were held at an outdoor pavilion in Monroeville; ten of the District's twelve clubs attended the annual meeting in September when 2nd Vice President Ryba installed the new officers. Among the awards handed out at this meeting was the presentation of a Perennial Bloom Award to Mildred Schorr, age 90, a member of Burrelton Garden Club and Leanna Ryba's mother.

Mary Hetrick, District VIII Director reported that she officiated at the installation of officers for nine garden clubs and two affiliates in the District. At the District's June Board Meeting held via Zoom, some clubs reported that they have decided not to meet until next Spring. Other clubs have met in person either outdoors, observing social distancing and face masks. Most Presidents have been in contact with their members either via the phone, newsletters or email. Some clubs have met via Zoom. They enjoyed our beautiful spring and summer and worked hard to complete any of their civic beautification projects. District VIII's Annual Meeting was held in person on September 17th, although attendance was limited to 25. President Joyce Milberg installed the new officers, Bonita Herman, District Director; and Lee Ann Ishman, Assistant Director. She was pleased with District VIII's success with the Burpee Seed donations, and pointed out that Rosie Lawrence's photo of her radishes appeared in the Fall 2020 issue of the National Gardener

Rose Romboski, District IX Director introduced the new District IX Director Karen Faust and Assistant Director Claudia Bernardo. Many District IX clubs have gone to monthly virtual meetings or socially distanced outdoor meetings. Ingomar GC held their Board meeting on a member's back patio. Greybrooke GC held their summer members picnic in a park

pavilion, where Sue Semple was awarded the GCFP Perennial Bloom Award. Southern Butler County GC stayed the course and held their 12th Annual Garden Tour, with the most people ever in attendance. Tusca-Ridge GC is going virtual with their Annual Greens Sale. Photos will be online of items available to purchase & credit cards will be taken. The September Annual District Meeting was cancelled due to indoor gathering concerns, but that didn't stop the installation of Officers; GCFP President Milberg held a zoom installation in late September in front of our District IX Board. The following day, the Board gathered for a socially distanced outdoor lunch & cookie reception

Kay Bair, District X Director reported that despite the lack of meetings, Districts were involved in the Burpee Seed Project – many photographs were shared, and three photos taken by Town and Country Garden Club members were published in the Fall 2020 National Gardener. Notable is the photograph of 94-year old Marion Walker with her tomato plants, which is also featured on the Burpee website. The District held its annual meeting in an outdoor pavilion on August 21st, combining three District events in one. Awards were presented, including the GCFP Gold Seal Award to Vina McLoed Rudolph, and the District Perennial Bloom Award to Marion Walker, among several others. Marilyn Backus reinstalled the District officers for another term: Kay Bair, Director, Mardell Page, Assistant Director, Linda Coleman, Secretary; and Sandra Grilli, Treasurer.

Karen Wychock, District XI Director, reported that On September 11 at the Cedarbrook Country Club, Pat Wolanski, past District XI Director, presided over the Installation of the new District XI officers – Marjorie Sears is the new District XI Director. Despite the pandemic, the garden clubs within District XI have worked to keep their members informed through Facebook pages, newsletters and club websites. Most club meeting sites are still closed to groups, so several clubs have been meeting in person at local parks, at member's homes, or via ZOOM. All scheduled flower shows, Holiday House Tours and major community events have been canceled through December 2020, but Clubs are continuing to work to maintain their community gardens in small groups or as individuals, all masked and practicing social distancing as they work. Many District members are helping to plan for the 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show. All meetings up to this point have been virtual. The show is being moved from the Convention Center in downtown Philadelphia to an outdoor setting in FDR Park located near the airport. The show is also moving from March to June. In response to the pandemic, the District has been selling cloth masks made by a good friend of Marjorie Sears. To date, we have taken in over \$900.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

Pat Wolanski, Judges' Council Chairman, stated that the Judges' Council Board met via Zoom on October 8th. National has forwarded an updated Exhibiting Credits and Summary Chart, dated 7/1/2020. This new information was sent to all Council chairs. The Philadelphia Flower Show is now scheduled to be held in June and will be held outdoors at FDR Park. The exact date of the show is not yet known. District V is scheduled to judge this year.

She summarized reports from several Judges' Council and Flower Show Chairmen. **Connie Burnley, Flower Show Student Judges Credentials Chair**, reports that three student judges will be taking their handbook exam on October 22nd. **Mary Lou Colussy, Flower Show Evaluation Chair**, reports that all regular flower shows were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, but a few judges participated in virtual flower shows. Evaluation forms that have been returned have been on time. **Nancy Hannum, Flower Show Judges Credentials Chair**, reports that we currently have 113 Accredited Flower Show Judges in Pennsylvania. The numbers are categorized as follows: 28 Accredited Judges, 14 Life Judges, 71 Master Judges, and 40 Emeritus Judges. **Tonya Young, GCFP Symposium Chair**, reports that there will not be a symposium following our GCFP State Board Meeting in June 2021. **Lori Pancione, Flower Show School Chair**, reports that Flower Show School for 2021 may be cancelled. Courses I and II are anticipated for 2022 and course III and IV are anticipated for 2023. **Dorothy Yard** is the new **Erie Council Chairman**, with Kay John as Assistant Chairman. **Mary Jo Gardill, Laurel Highlands**, reports that all flower shows, and meetings were cancelled including a joint show with Pittsburgh Area Judges' Council. They will have two student judges taking their exams on Thursday, October 22nd. **Lori Pancione, Philadelphia Area Judges Council**, reports that there have been no meetings, but they are planning a Zoom meeting soon.

Kathy Crossman, Natural Disasters Chairman, reported donations of \$671 from Chambersburg, Gettysburg and Town and Country Garden Clubs. She has had no word from National about and grants from Natural Disasters USA.

Corinne Babson, Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman was not present, and Karen Faust read her report. The Burrellton Garden Club, District VII, has ordered a Blue Star By-Way Marker for the War Memorial planting located at 2880 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, PA, with the dedication on May 29, 2021. The Heather Garden Club of Edinboro, District VIII, has postponed its Blue Star Marker Dedication until June 2021. Marker prices increased on July 1, 2020: Highway Markers \$1,590.00; Memorial Markers \$1,590.00; By-Way Markers \$530.00; Replacement posts \$325.00. Blue Star Markers are still needed at PennDOT Welcome Centers. Penn DOT officials are excited about this project and they

are hopeful that all our districts are working on completing these markers. She reminded all clubs and Districts to submit applications for the Blue Star Marker or Gold Star Marker Landscaping Award.

Judy Schaffer, Convention Coordinator, stated that Covid-19 has presented a sense of frustration to all those involved. Convention 2020 took months to close down, and a profit of \$730.24 was sent to the GCFP Treasurer. All supplies were delivered by Sue Semple to the Lancaster committee. We have learned from their experiences. Event Insurance needs to be addressed. Joyce Crider and her group are facing a possible second Convention closure -- rescheduling of this Convention was discussed at our zoom meeting on October 5th. Doing a virtual convention is now a certainty in 2021. Reducing financial outlays is recommended for all conventions. Nancy Cuttic and Ellen McGarrigle are ready to sign their contract for April 3-5, 2022 in Malvern, PA. A tri-refresher is linked into their planning with credit field trips. Marilyn Backus is proceeding with initial steps to secure a 2023 site in District VII. We need to think outside the box in planning upcoming conventions. Registration primarily via emails, not the Keystone Gardener, is highly recommended.

President Milberg reported that District IV has agreed to move the 2021 in-person convention to 2024, at the same location and with the same committee members in place – this action was approved by the Executive Committee.

Marilyn Backus, Awards Chairman, announced the winner of the GCFP Perennial Bloom Award, Susan Semple; her application was forwarded to CAR-SGC in September.

Diane Hughes, Nominating Committee Chairman, was asked to present the committee's report, for officers nominated for the term 2021-2023: President, Sheila Croushore; 1st Vice President, Leeanna Ryba; 2nd Vice President, Patricia Wolanski; Treasurer, Joyce Crider; Recording Secretary, Florence Narducci; Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand.

- Approve the slate of officers for the 2021-2023 GCFP club years.

Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

President Milberg asked for ratification of the following motion:

- Ratify the motion approved by the Executive Committee to move the 2021 in-person convention to 2024.

Approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Milberg encouraged everyone to attend the CAR-SGC "Blooming Zoom" event later this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Included in these minutes are the reports that were submitted by the Committee Chairmen, but not read at this meeting.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

Awards, Marilyn Backus: Each of the ten District Directors received an email file listing of their district's 2019 awards that normally would have been announced at the cancelled 2020 Convention; they also were sent their districts' GCFP and NGC certificates. In September, she installed officers for District X, and was especially pleased to present the GCFP Gold Seal necklace to Vina McLeod Rudolph. She reminded everyone that the NGC Plant America applications are due October 15. Other NGC Award applications are due to the appropriate Awards Chair Committee member by December 1. She sent updates to the GCFP webmaster for the 2020-2021 State Award Chairs Committee, the Awards deadline dates and the final compilation of 2019 Awards for the 2020 Convention. She continues to work on an update of the 2017 GCFP Awards Manual.

Civic Development, Marjorie Sears: This year was so different. One or two members at a time seemed to tackle the Community Gardens, ever mindful of social distancing while wearing masks. But the gardens were still maintained and we had more time to play in our own, thanks to Pat Wolanski and the 40,000 packs of FREE seeds from Burpee (4000 for each GCFP District). Clubs used these free seeds for a wide range of projects and for their gardens: planting seeds in parks and community gardens; sharing the blossoms and fruits of their gardens with others; and donating vegetables to local food banks.

2020 GCFP Convention, Sue Semple: Wrapping up the 2020 Convention after it was cancelled, her committee worked hard to finalize their efforts. Refund checks have been cashed, the bank account was closed, a cashier's check for

\$730.24 was forwarded to the GCFP Treasurer, and supplies purchased by the 2021 Convention Committee were delivered. She thanked all those who made donations to their Convention and helped make it possible to show a small positive balance.

Environmental School, Nancy Lambert Fulk: At the present time there are no plans for Environmental School, Perhaps next spring it may be possible to hold a course via Zoom, although a classroom setting is always preferable.

Gardening School, Mary Jo Schlomann: Gardening School, Series 13, Course 3 was held July 21-22, 2020 via Zoom. This course was the first NGC Beta Zoom Course and was well attended. NGC has written Zoom Guidelines for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design so that students and refreshing consultants can now attend Zoom Courses and not have to travel. Four Pennsylvania students, who attended the Zoom Course, achieved Consultant Status and one Consultant achieved Master Status. Gardening School now has 40 Consultants, 15 Master Consultants, and 1 Emeritus. Gardening School Course 4 may be held in the spring of 2021.

Habitat for Humanity, Iris Cisarik: This project received donations from two Pennsylvania Garden Clubs this past year, and to date there is \$3,349.38 available to garden clubs for Habitat for Humanity projects. The Pucketos Garden Club, District VII, is interested in starting a Habitat for Humanity project and inquired about obtaining funds for their project. She received the information on the procedure for applying for a grant.

Horticulture Therapy, Joyce Hoek: There is little to report about Horticulture Therapy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, since most activities are in nursing homes that are off limits for the foreseeable future. However there is still some activity and there were a couple of posts to the GCFP Facebook Group. Members of the Garden Club of Springfield wrote personal notes to all the residents of a nursing home to let them know they were thought of. The club also met outside on October 6 to create fall arrangements, which were delivered to residents at the nursing home. One member of the Green Thumb Garden Club did multiple outdoor flower arranging demonstrations for residents of an assisted living facility over three days in September. The Facebook Group also gained two new members.

Horticulture/Trees/PA Forestry Council, Judy Warn: Pennsylvania is notable as the only state in the Union named for its forests, and today almost 60% of the Commonwealth is covered by a high quality hardwood forest. Our forests provide recreational and tourism opportunities and they also protect more than 25,000 streams, wildlife, and plant habitats. They include more than 90 species of trees and two-thirds of our native wild plants. Pennsylvania forests contain more hardwood stock than any other state, provides an industry that employs 100,000 people and earns \$5 billion a year. She noted that the challenge today is addressing the needs of all of the competing interests which are part of a larger ecosystem and providing good stewardship.

Insurance, Judy Jackson: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there have been no requests for Proof of Insurance Certificates from our clubs. She noted that an updated Certificate of Insurance is on the GCFP website for the year July 2020-July 2021.

Keystone Gardener Online Newsletter, Marie Mueller: The submission response for the KG ONLINE has been so good that the pages have expanded for each issue. She reminded everyone that the deadline for the October 1st issue of the KG ONLINE Newsletter is October 15th. Please submit articles of interest about your Club, Club members, special things that you did, or anything that you think other club members might find of interest. When sending it by e-mail, in the Subject line say: "Keystone Gardener Online Newsletter submission". Make sure your name, Club name, and phone number is in the e-mail, in case she needs to contact you for clarification, and send to mmueller150@aol.com. Please put your submission in a WORD document.

Life Members, Nerita Brant: Since the last Board meeting, Fran Koch, Biglerville Garden Club, District IV, is a new National Life Member and GCFP State Life Member.

Organizational Studies, Sue Semple: Since the June board meeting, she has overseen the finalizing of the new Convention Directives Manual. It has been typed by the Headquarters Secretary, proofed and distributed to the Convention Committee. It will also appear on the GCFP website. She has assembled all of the bylaw changes, both those not able to be approved with the cancellation of Convention 2020 and the ones that were approved by the board at the June meeting. They will appear in the Winter edition of the KG for approval in 2021.

Liaison to PA Horticulture Society, Flossie Narducci: She reported that due to the pandemic, the May PHS meeting to continue discussions regarding PHS' support of Garden Clubs and Plant Societies was postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

Pollinator Restoration Program, Leslie Anthony: With the cancellation of the 2020 GCFP Convention, she was disappointed not to be able to give her planned program on Pollinator Friendly Gardening; however she will be presenting this program at the 2021 GCFP Convention in April, either in person or via Zoom. She has written articles for the Shaler Garden Club Newsletter that were also submitted to the KG Online Newsletter. She made note of the support she has received from GCFP for promoting this program. She plans to establish contacts with Penn State pollinator experts to explore the potential of forming a collaborative GCFP and PSU effort aimed at increasing the number of Certified Pollinator Friendly Gardens across the state.

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Mary Lou Colussy: The Pennsylvania Resources Council, established in 1939, is one of the Commonwealth's oldest citizen action environmental organizations. It is recognized as a state and national leader in waste reduction and recycling, as well as litter and visual blight prevention, watershed awareness, and composting. In this year of uncertainty and caution, it is even more important to recycle, reduce and reuse in our modern society. Reducing the amount of stuff, we consume is the first step and finding constructive uses for "waste" materials is the second. Why? Nothing is ever really thrown "away" -- it all has to go somewhere. By recycling and reusing, we reduce the amount of waste that sits in landfills

Scholarships, Sandy Hendricks: Applications for GCFP Scholarships are due February 1, 2021. The updated scholarship information is on the GCFP website www.pagardenclubs.org. The scholarship awardees will be announced at the 2021 Convention.

Seed Money Grants, Marjorie Sears: We had a great year for seeds and she looks forward to garden club plans for next year. One thing for sure, we have had plenty of time to think ahead. Seed Money Applications are due February 12, 2021. If seeds are left over from last year, remember to keep them in a cool, dry place over the winter month.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Paula Mohler: All the District Directors have been given the information they need to pass on to their club's poster chairpersons. One major difference this year is that only posters of Woodsy Owl are to be entered into the contest as Woodsy is celebrating his 50th anniversary. Concern was expressed by one school's art teacher since her school has gone paperless due to the pandemic. Her creative solution was to inform all parents of the contest, including the rules and guidelines; plus the contact chairperson's phone number and address. She forwarded this solution to the National Chairperson.

Youth Activities, Christine Hawthorne and Barbara Oswald: The theme for the Poetry Contest for 2020-2021 is "Exploring Backyard Mysteries". The theme for the High School Essay Contest for 2020-2021 is "Adapting Our Actions To Protect Our Natural Habitats." Revised Guidelines and Scale of Points for this contest are posted on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org The Youth Sculpture Contest for 2020-2021 has no theme. Grades 4 - 8 are eligible to participate, and the sculpture is required to be made out of recycled materials -- only photos with a description are to be mailed. The deadline for us to receive all entries is Wednesday 12/2/2020.

Vina McLoed Rudolph, Chaplain offered closing words by Cynthia Landrum, which concluded with this wish: "Until we are together again, friends, be strong, be well, be true, be loving."

Barbara A. Brand

GCFP Recording Secretary