

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Board of Directors Meeting

June 7-8, 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 2:06 PM. President, Sheila Croushore declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM.

Present were: Vivian Abel, Barb Andrus, Leslie Anthony, Marilyn Backus, Kay Bair, Claudia Bernardo, Barbara Brand, Sharon Brown, Sharon Bryner, Barbara Campbell, Iris Cisarik, Mary Lou Colussy, Joyce Crider, Charlotte Crissy, **President Sheila Croushore**, Marcy Cunkelman, Nancy Cuttic, Jackie Davies, Maryann DeSanto, Karen Faust, Jo Anne Fogelman, Mary Jo Gardill, Sandra Hendricks, Bonita Herman, Deeann Mary Hetrick, Joyce Hoek, Eileen Hoover, Jane Howe, Diane Hughes, Judy Jackson, Kay John, Chris Leskosky, Gail Corle Manna, Lisa Merschiltz, Joyce C. Milberg, Grace Mitchell, Kay Morrissey, Paula Mohler, Flossie Narducci, Lori Pancione, Joyce Peterson, Linda Pinto, Angela Raitano, Sharon Richardson, Vina McLeod Rudolph, Leeanna Ryba, Marjorie Stilwell Sears, Deb Stumpf, Jan Szych, Judy Vehse, Judy Warn, Haddie Webber, Pat Wolanski, Margaret Wolff, Dorothy Yard, Tonya Young

Chaplain, Vina McLeod Rudolph gave the invocation.

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

President Sheila Croushore introduced attending former State Presidents: Angela Raitano, Chris Leskosky, Jackie Davies, Judy Vehse, Gail Corle Manna, Joyce Milberg, Dot Yard

Officers Reports

President Sheila Croushore expressed her pleasure that so many board members are in attendance and offered congratulations to Mary Hetrick and her committee for the inhouse Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, "Watch Us Bloom": which is also her administration's theme. She reported that GCFP Zoom programs will continue. The date for the Treasurers' Training and Leadership workshop via ZOOM have been set. The tentative 2022 tour dates are out for approval. And finally, a Zoom meeting has been set on August 23 for all Club Presidents. **President Sheila Croushore** has also been working with Vina McLeod Rudolph on updating the website, the forms, the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors' directory.

First Vice president Leeanna Ryba deferred her report until the Tuesday, June 8th meeting.

Second Vice President, Pat Wolanski welcomed everyone to our 'resolving pandemic' in-person GCFP Board meeting. The first Board Meeting Horticulture Specialty Flower Show is being held in the lobby of the Garden Ballroom. The hotel has been very accommodating with the addition of this new event by providing us with space, tables, and table coverings. The number of members registered is 59 for lunch and 57 for dinner. A confirmation of the receipt of your check was emailed to all.

Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci reported that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on April 19, 2021, are not yet approved but will be distributed electronically when approved.

Treasurer, Joyce Crider summarized the GCFP Asset Summary as of 4/30/21. The operating budget is \$7,706.37. Total in saving \$24,448.22. Total for checking, savings, petty cash and other assets is \$39,211.09. She then offered highlights of the Proposed 2021 – 2022 Budget.

Income: Membership dues totals \$46,450; \$10 a person equating to 4645 members. 2021 Convention generated approximately \$8000. \$5999 goes to the State and 25% is distributed to District IV. Other support of note: Keystone Gardener advertising extremely high at \$1,603.00. With no in person convention, all the good wishes for outgoing and incoming Presidents were included in the Keystone Gardener, whereas in previous years, those good wishes would have

appeared in the Convention Booklet. This fiscal year Keystone Gardener advertising will be budgeted at \$500. Total income projected for 2021 -2022 is \$54,054.

Expenses: general and administrative costs total \$58,310.32, which includes an additional \$500 for the potential purchase of a copier. Officers' allowance for 2020 – 2021 was budgeted at \$7900. However, with no in person convention, only \$2400 was spent. \$6900 has been budgeted for the future.

Total expenses are projected at \$84,363.37. Actual Variance of Income vs. Expenses FY 2020-2021 is a deficit of \$30,309.37. Anticipated draw on Investments for FY21-22 is \$31,000.

A motion to pass the Budget was made by Vina McLeod Rudolph and seconded by Mary Lou Colussy. **Passed**
A full copy of the 2021-2022 Budget as approved will be posted in the GCFP Minutes Book.

Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand reported that the GCFP Dues Account was opened at BB&T on May 15, 2021.

Opening Balance 05/15/2021		\$0.00
Deposits	\$ 132.50	
	\$16,620.00	
Total Deposits		\$16,752.50
Disbursements		
Transfer to Treasurer	(\$16,652.50)	
Account Balance 06/07/2021		\$100.00

Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Wolff reported that a sympathy card was sent to Barbara White, PAJC Treasurer, on the passing of her husband, William.

Investment Chair, Gail Corle Manna reported a growth of 7.98% to date. At the end of 2020 we were at \$586,682.21 and as of June 2, 2021, our portfolio was valued at \$639,211.26. Mary Heltzel, our Investment Manager updated that number, reporting that our portfolio is now over \$640,000. Ready Cash account totals \$23,688.53. In May there will be a \$1,119.07 dividend and interest due into the account and in June, there will be an additional \$6,189.76.

Appointed Member, Sharon Richardson provided an update on the plans for the 2022 GCFP Convention. In an attempt to restructure the fee schedule to be in line with other conventions, the committee proposed a schedule with a full-time fee and a section of ala carte fees for those not attending the entire convention. CAR and GCFP were able to successfully hold zoom conventions without hotel and associated fees and charged \$18 per course, so \$20 per presentation was proposed. Full time attendees, for three days at the convention, have paid \$240 based on previous fee schedules. Given the cost-of-living increase since January 2021 of 4.2%, the committee proposed the following fees to reflect this.

* Full-time registration \$250

* Ala Carte: Lunch \$45 Dinner \$65 Presentation \$20

As in the past, a meal must be selected to attend the presentations. Hands-on-workshops and trips remain as add-on costs to any registration.

President Sheila Croushore asked Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci to read the recommendations from the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Bonita Herman to approve the proposal from the 2022 Convention Committee to restructure the Registration for the Convention to a package and an "a la carte" format and seconded by Nancy Cuttic. **Passed**

A motion was made by (unintelligible) from the Executive Committee to approve the GCFP purchase of additional Zoom space as needed and seconded by Vina McLeod Rudolph. **Passed**

A motion was made by Andrea Falchek to approve the authorization for members of the Board of Directors to use the GCFP Zoom account upon request and seconded by Mary Hetrick. **Passed.**

Recommendation to ratify the electronic vote taken in May of 2021 to change the printer for the Keystone Gardener.
Approved.

District Directors' Reports

District I Director, Mary Ann DeSanto reported that the members of District I have survived this past year by planning outdoor meetings, zoom programs, and drive by plant sales. The Elverson Garden Club has designed an outdoor Butterfly Exhibit as their entry into the Pollinator Gardens exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show and received a Second in the competition. Many other members of District I are volunteers and tour guides at the Flower Show. Spade and Trowel Club made 85 arrangements for a local hospice. Preparations to host the 2022 GCFP Convention continue.

District II/III Director, Linda Pinto Rather than dampening enthusiasm for garden clubs, the Covid isolation and distance only accentuated a resurgent interest in horticulture and conservation. Many clubs are reporting an increase in membership. Members began to rely on one another for presentations and their wealth of knowledge and experience shone through. Here are some of the more unique ideas; partnering with the local artists gallery to create floral designs which celebrate the spirit of the painting or sculpture. One inventive way to overcome the prohibition of shared refreshments was to hire an ice cream truck to appear just as the outdoor meeting ended. A planting challenge was launched by a club that mailed unusual seeds (luffa and peanuts) to members and asked them to grow and nurture them and to compare the results.

Tonya Young, District IV Director extended a sincere thank you to the 2021 GCFP Convention chairs and committee for organizing the very first GCFP Zoom Convention. District IV clubs have remained engaged and active. Club Presidents are doing an outstanding job juggling the meeting preferences of their members, especially as members are anxious to venture out. The Town and Country Garden Club of Lancaster had a record year for their annual plant sale. Their club reached celebrity status as they are featured in the NGC Plant America Membership Video. Many clubs have found creative ways to keep members engaged like outdoor meetings, taking walks together, exploring members gardens and small group community projects. District IV clubs are beginning to work with youth. Girl Scouts benefited by a socially distanced floral design class offered by Penn Cumberland Garden Club. Children in York were offered a seed growing project at the York County Library compliments of the Garden Club of York. They also participated in the city sponsored event "Go Green in The City" by teaching children how to make their own seed bombs. Green Thumb Garden Club has been invited to resume their library talks for children after a long hiatus. Prospect Hill Cemetery in York, PA is the site of 14 cradle graves that will be planted and maintained. An Ames tool grant will be used to complete this community project in the Victorian era site by the Garden Club of York.

JoAnne Fogelman District V Director reported that their clubs are getting back to meeting in person on a regular basis. Heritage Garden Club planted a white oak tree on Arbor Day at the new Troy Community Hospital to commemorate those who have been affected by the Covid 19 virus. The clubs continue to care for their community gardens with spring clean ups and plantings. Standing Stone Garden Club will finally be able to celebrate their 50th Anniversary which happened in 2020. Susquehanna Garden Club will host a summer reading program, "Tails for Tales" at the Degenstein Library in Sunbury. They will have the children complete pictures by applying colored seeds to the bodies of animals or birds. Alexander Garden Club continues to monitor the progress of its experimental program developing plants (geraniums) with stronger roots.

Janis Davis, District VI Director was unable to attend, and Deb Stumpf reported that District VI Clubs came into 2021 with a determination that through the use of Zoom, their clubs will thrive and grow. Blair, Patton, and Somerset Clubs reinstated their plant sales. Indiana Garden Club took on the task of planning and executing their much-anticipated May Mart. Somerset Garden Club sponsored an educational booth on Earth Day. The Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier are developing a new spring ephemeral garden.

Marilyn Backus, District VII Director reported that District VII held four dine ins and Zoomed Sunday teas. She attended the Burrelton Garden Club's installation of a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker. Forest Hills Garden Club held a poinsettia sale in December and a plant sale in May. Murrysville Garden Club had a light plant sale and will now meet in a new location. Rockledge continued its Seeds for Teachers. Gardens LTD will view The Flower Kitchen Tea video for their lunch

program in July and plan a trip to the Audubon Beechwood Nature Preserve. Highland Park is preparing for its first Hidden Garden Tour. Joyful Bloomers are planning for their anniversary celebration next year. McKeesport held Rose Pruning Days in April and are planning to celebrate a National Garden Club Week extravaganza of activities. Monroeville sponsored a "Rain Gutter Gardening" demonstration and will consult with Spectrum Charter School for autistic students as they prepare a teaching garden. Puketos participated in an Herbal Craft Fair at a café in New Kensington. They also created a new International Herb Garden, a Scented Garden as well as a Library Garden.

Bonita Herman, District VIII Director reported that clubs are now meeting in person. Flower and plant sales have restarted. Many of the clubs sold out of their stock which means the public still has a great interest in gardening, both flowering plants and vegetables. With these sales doing so well the club's coffers are increasing and they will open some of the projects that had to be on hold last year. New officers for the following clubs have been installed: Lawrence Park, Erie County Council of Garden Clubs, Waterford, Warren, and Heather Club. She has Elk Valley scheduled in July. Heather Club of Edinboro is having their Blue Star Memorial Marker dedication on June 13, 2021. Presque Isle Garden Club was awarded \$450.00 from the 2021 Plant America Grant program. Our annual District meeting will feature Tess Frawley with "Giving Back to The Earth." Her web site is "eat your yard".

Karen Faust, District IX Director, reported that the club meetings were held on Zoom. Shaler Garden Club had a unique fundraiser partnering with a local Caterer providing delicious Friday night boxed dinners. Several Clubs held outdoor Earth Day and Arbor Day events. Southern Butler Garden Club hosted a public event with a local Garden Celebrity, Doug Oster (our GCFP Silver Seal Award winner this past year) and a local Arborist who taught the correct way to plant a tree. Moon Twp. Garden Club is celebrating their 100th Anniversary. **Victory Gardens 2021** is their initiative that pays homage to their predecessors and the Victory Gardens of the 1940's. They are also hosting, "**100 Years of Gardens Tour.**" - a look back over the past 100 years. Shaler Garden Club will host an October luncheon to celebrate their 100th Anniversary. District IX will have the first in person Board Meeting next week as well as our in person Annual Meeting in September.

Kay Bair, District X Director reported that Great Meadows Garden Club flower show "*Flower Fun*" will be held on July 27th. No judging—it will be more for exhibition and education. They will be adhering to all the requirements of a regular flower show. Martha Washington GC's flower show, "*Bee Positive*" will be held October 8 and 9 at the Washington Crown Center Mall. Three teams from Carmichaels Area High School dominated at the Environthon held in Greene County. "**Scholarships Do Make a Difference!**"

Margorie Sears, District XI Director reported that District XI hosted 12 Zoom meetings and many practice sessions. Zoom highlights: "Shrubs & Hedges" by Eva Monheim. They celebrated the Winter Solstice with a YouTube demonstration. They celebrated the New Year with a Presentation by District I Director, Maryann DeSanto on Horticulture Therapy. In February, "Keeping your Garden in Bloom from April until Autumn" with 110 participants in the morning and 76 at 7 pm. For another program, "Glorious Shade", we invited not only District I but also II/III and split the cost three ways. We had 112 participants in the morning and 52 in the evening. Hulmeville Garden Club and Garden Club of Bristol Borough partnered for a tomato and vegetable give-away at the Hulmeville Fire House. Four Lanes End has had Garden Parties on the Historic Richardson House Grounds. Trevoise Horticultural Society planted a Fire Bell Garden at their local Firehouse. Old York Road Garden Club replanted the Herb Garden at the Historic Richard Wall House. The Jenkintown-Wyncote Train Station continues to be decorated year-round. After its Blue Star Marker was damaged by a snowplow, Norristown Garden Club replanted the memorial. Gardeners of the Crooked Billet, The Outdoor Gardeners and Swedesford Garden Club hosted Plant Sales.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Webmaster, Vina McLeod Rudolph reported that there are several new pages on the website. Our Executive Officers are spot-lighted; the GCFP Calendar is a listing by date; a comprehensive Forms Library is in the works; District Newsletters are added as she receive them; the GCFP Board Directories are updated; an Education page has been added for all the schools; the Keystone Gardener has its own page to make it easy to find, there is a Board of Directors Information page: a Projects Information page, and a Flower Show Council Information page. Other pages will likely be added as needed or upon request. All the forms and other information that are needed on the website will be in a folder on her computer. As things are updated, old files are trashed. All chairpersons, who have a form on the website must update it as necessary and send it in Word format to The GCFP Headquarters Secretary, Elizabeth Pinkham. She will forward these to the Webmaster, thereby having a library of forms at Headquarters and with the Webmaster. All the forms will be processed so they can be filled out

online from a laptop or desktop computer. Unfortunately, mobile devices such as tablets and phones, will need to download the form, then open it up and fill it out.

It is now time to change the password that we all use on the GCFP Webpage for directories and any other information that we list personal information on. The new password will be: PArocks!2021
This will be a more secure password, and hopefully easy to remember. Please don't publish it in a newsletter or email.

Flower Show Schedule, Charlotte Crissey, alerted all to be aware of schedule descriptions for design staging. The Handbook for Flower Shows, Page 29, Section B, Number 3 says: "State a precise description of the staging (type, color, size of background and/or staging panel) provided or required of the exhibitor." Often the type and color of the background are overlooked. When no staging panel is required, the description should include the type and color of the background. For example: *Staged in front of a white, smooth wall, 24", wide by 30" high.*

501-C3 Mary Jo Gardill reported that all Districts and Garden Clubs have filed their 990 forms. There will be a special training for District Directors and Garden Club treasurers as well as a laminated index card that will be kept by treasurers to remind them of procedures and timelines.

President Sheila Croushore made the following announcements should some Board Members not be able to attend the evening session of the Board meeting: All trainings and workshops can be found on the GCFP Website.

- June 16 Zoom Training 7:00 PM to 8:PM - Basic Zoom participation
- June 21 Zoom Training 7:00 PM to 8:PM - Scheduling free program, SignUpGenius
- July 13 Zoom Training 7:00 PM to 8:PM - Share Images & Files July 19

- July 19 Treasurers Training Zoom 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- July 22 Leadership Workshop Zoom - 10:00 AM – Noon
- Aug 23 Club Presidents Meeting Zoom 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

- Sept 21-24 NGC Fall Board Meeting – St. Louis, MO - in person meeting

CAR has postponed its 2021 Conference till next year. All Zoom workshops and trainings can be found on the GCFP website.

Blue Star Memorial, Karen Faust thanked Corinne Babson for promoting the program, attending dedications across the State and keeping records up to date. She gave another thank you to Sandra Manthorpe for her continued financial support to Clubs that helps with the cost of installing a marker. Jane Howe continues to represent the central part of Pennsylvania. She suggested that all markers be identified and listed by District on the GCFP website. She will also present a Zoom program to educate all clubs on the Blue Star Marker program. Directors are encouraged to have at least one representative from each Garden Club participate on the Zoom call.

Blue Star Memorial/Central, Jane Howe detailed her goals as Central Assistant for the Blue Star Memorial program.

1. To enthusiastically promote the Blue Star Memorial marker project.
2. To encourage participation in the project by the many clubs in my area and throughout the state.
3. To offer assistance with Blue Star Memorial Marker projects.
4. To assist the Blue Star Memorial Chairman in the central clubs in any way she can.
5. To participate in Blue Star Memorial Marker dedications whenever possible.
6. To help in any way to focus on the placing of markers at the Welcome Centers throughout the state.

Because of Covid-19, Sewah Studios, manufacturer of the markers, were closed for an indefinite time, and therefore, there have been no new dedications. Information and forms can be found on the NGC and GCFP websites.

Awards, Sheri Lowry was not present and **Marilyn Backus, Awards Vice Chair** reported that all ten District Directors have received a listing of all their District's GCFP Awards, noting which were to be sent on for regional or national competition. All award certificates have been packeted for distribution. The State Award Chairs Committee listing, Award Deadline Dates and the Awards Summary have been updated and will be sent to the District Directors in an email. Directors should encourage clubs to nominate a Perennial Bloom nominee by July 1. They in turn select one District Perennial Bloom and send the application to the GCFP Awards Chair before August 1. The 2017 Awards Manual is being updated to reflect the

changes made by NGC National and CAR-SGC Regional. Sheri Lowry set up a new email address for Awards GCFPAwardsSLowry@gmail.com

Bee Gap, Bonita Herman reported that she is continuing to visit garden clubs with her highly informative presentation about bees. She has posted articles in the on-line Keystone Gardener. She is also encouraging all clubs to consider forming a Nature Bee Committee and stands ready to assist with information about adding a bee hotel/home to community gardens.

Birds and Butterflies, Marcy Cunkelman reported that there are two kinds of Ladies that are butterflies – Painted and American. They look similar, but their food choice is different. Painted Ladies have 4 spots on their wings, while the American Ladies have 2 large eye spots. Painted Ladies are the butterfly of choice for school kids to raise and release, along with the Monarchs. They use a variety of plants including thistle, mallow to name a few. The American Lady uses native pussytoes, everlastings and a surprise to her – the licorice plant, both upright and vining. As for all butterflies that feed on nectar, remember no kind of chemicals should be used, even if organic. Plant natives as much as possible. Look for blossoms of all sizes especially with clusters of tiny blossoms like the annual penta, verbena, zinnias with noses and other flat flowers for landing. Plant in full sun and container gardens work very well. Check out what is needed for host and favorite nectar plants to have a healthy bed and breakfast in your gardens. If you need to plant a tree, her favorite tree is full of fruit right now – the service berry.

Book of Recognition Donations, Joyce Hoek reported that as of the April Convention, she is the new Chairman of the Book of Recognition. To date, there have been no contributions to report. Since clubs have not been doing a lot during this pandemic, it is not surprising.

Civic Development, Rene Hrescak was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Many clubs across our state are working diligently to create beautiful gardens on empty corners, historic sites, and other locations where they are able to grow plants and SMILES! In District VI, Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier are developing a new spring Ephemeral Garden on a wooded site near the Community Library to educate the public on the presence of spring ephemerals and inspire them to hike in nearby spring wildflower sanctuaries. Preparing a public garden is one of the criteria for obtaining the National Garden Club's Wildflower Education Grant. Sue Bowman, from the Garden Club of York, is working with UPMC Hospital to create a Breast Cancer Garden of Hope. The garden will feature beautiful pink shrubs, trees, and perennials. The club was also honored to receive an Ames Tool Grant.

Club Newsletter Awards, Joyce Peterson announced that she has been the Club Yearbook chair for the past 6 years but will now be the new Club Newsletter Chair. Currently, Iris Cisarik is the new Yearbook Chair. There were 38 Garden Clubs that submitted yearbooks for an award last year. She has brought all the yearbooks and they can be found in the back of the room. She urged District Directors to take and return the yearbooks to the clubs within their District. She is still receiving yearbooks and reminded all of Iris Cisarik's address. It is 1138 Wightman Street Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1050.

Club Yearbook Awards, Iris Cisarik, requested that all District Chairs notify club presidents that the deadline for Yearbook Awards is December 1, 2021. They are no longer going to be judged by NGC but only GCFP and Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. The application can be found on the GCFP website. This form needs to be enclosed with the Club's yearbook when submitting it. Questions, please contact Iris Cisarik at iriscisarik@verizon.net or 412-621-0954.

Convention Coordinator, Judith Schaffer was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Having a Zoom license has made communication between Convention Committees more accessible. Continue making Zoom meetings possible for committees! Now is the time to restructure our registration fees and workshop (presentation) costs! Support our recommendations to make convention planning the main focus, not fund raising. The 2022 Convention Committee has increased the number of sessions available per your request. The 2023 Convention is a weekend event-April 21, 22 and 23. The 2024 Convention has been rescheduled for Lancaster under the leadership of Joyce Crider and Tonya Young.

2022 Convention, Nancy Cuttic presented the theme and logo: Celebrating Nature's Masterpieces. The logo depicts the schools of study with a leaf, flower, butterfly and raindrop. This convention will be a tri-refresher for the schools of gardening, environment, and landscape design and will be held at the Desmond hotel in Malvern. The dates are Sunday through Tuesday, April 3 -5. The committee is working on an impressive array of topics that include: 1 trip 2 hands-on two-

hour workshops, and 12 different and unique presentations, formerly known as workshops. Banquet speakers include the renowned author and speaker, entomologist Doug Tallamy. Also featured at our meals will be Peter Rabbit author and gardener, 'Beatrix Potter' and Longwood Gardens Senior Horticultural Display Designer, Jim Sutton. Our fund raiser is a ruled notebook featuring our logo on the cover and is available for purchase today for \$7.

2023 Convention, Marilyn Backus reported that this will be the first Convention to be held over a weekend - April 21, 22 and 23. It will be held in Monroeville, PA at the DoubleTree Hotel. The theme will be "T H Y M E for Gardening". This theme can include topics such as herbal trees, plants and shrubs; their use in floral design; and maybe even potions, tinctures, poultices, nutraceuticals and other recipes.

2021 GCFP Convention, Joyce Crider, Chair reported that when the pandemic mandated no social gathering, the first thing that had to be done was contact the venue and see if they could cancel without a penalty. No, not an option. They could move the convention to another year, they did, and District IV is now hosting the convention in 2024. Next, they contacted the speakers and they all agreed to Zoom. Tonya Young and Carol Seifarth mailed kits for those registered for workshops and participants learned and created through Zoom. Zoom itself required hours of training and practicing. Thanks to Sandra Benedict. A heart felt thank you to all who stepped up to serve and to the Judges Council presentation that was the icing on the cake. Wonderful presentation! The 2021 Convention cleared almost \$8000.

Flower Show Book of Evidence, Deb Stumpf advised that the deadline for submission of a Flower Show Book of Evidence is December 1, 2021. Please send to; Deb Stumpf 5170 Redwood Dr. Indiana, PA 15701-9491

Flower Show Judges Council, Mary Hetrick congratulated all the winners of the first statewide Horticulture Specialty Flower Show "Watch Us Bloom". There were 34 exhibitors and 231 specimens, and the show was judged in 45 minutes. Area Councils are meeting once again planning Flower Shows and the Judges Luncheon for the 2022 Convention.

Central Area Judges Council, Judy McGinnis was not present; Tonya Young, Vice Chair read the report and advised all that the next in person meeting is June 17 and a Small Standard Flower Show will be held to offer opportunities for judging and exhibiting credits. They currently have 29 members and one member, Nancy Fulk, recently passed her exam and is a new accredited judge.

Erie Area Judges Council, Dorthy Yard reported that they will be hosting a small Standard Flower Show on July 28. In the meantime, they are practicing judging horticulture and design at each meeting.

Laurel Highlands Judges Council, Claire Leichter was not present; the report was read by the Recording Secretary reported that they are planning a joint flower show with the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council to be held at the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, entitled "New York, New York." Blair Garden Club will hold a Standard Flower Show "Good Ole Summertime" on August 28 in Hollidaysburg and Weeders and Seeders Garden Club will host "Getting to Know the Natives," a Small Standard Flower Show in Ligonier on July 24.

Philadelphia Area Judges Council, Kay Morrissey reported that the PAJC members were quick to adapt to Zoom meetings and used Zoom to connect with each other and also with the virtual State Convention. However, council members were finally able to meet in person on May 20th when they toured the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. Knowledgeable guides offered a tour of the "Hidden Gems" of the arboretum. Following the tour, a brown bag lunch was enjoyed. At the meeting, new officers were installed by Karen Wychock, who used herbs to symbolize the duties of each position. 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. Of particular merit is outgoing Chair, Lori Pancione, who held several Zoom board meetings in addition to creative membership meetings. However, the rest of the board: Barbara White, Nancy Wismer, and Karen Wychock are all to be commended, for their support. Preparations have been initiated for a series of GCFP/PAJC Flower Show Schools. The first will be held April 28 – May 1, 2022, at the Double Tree Hilton, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

2 16 50 **Pittsburgh Judges Council, Margie Wolff** was installed as President of the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council (PAJC) by Zoom on March 30, 2021. They have not been able to have any meetings because of complications and questions about signing a waiver for the facility where we were to have the meeting (The Greensburg Garden Center). Laurel Highland Judges Council and Pittsburgh Judges Council will be having a joint flower show on August 18.

President Sheila Croushore recessed the meeting at 4:18 pm.

GCFP Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:47 PM

Flower Show Judges Credentials, Nancy Hannum was not present: her report was read by the Recording Secretary. There are 113 Accredited Flower Show Judges in Pennsylvania. – 29 Accredited Judges, 14 Life Judges, 70 Master Judges. 3 Judges with a good through date of Dec. 31, 2023. 109 Judges with a good through date of Dec. 31, 2022. One judge with a good through date of Dec. 31, 2024. One new accredited Judge, Nancy Faulk passed exam in April. There are currently 40 Emeritus Judges. There is a search for a Credentials Chair. The Good Standing dates expiring in 2020 and 2021 for all Accredited, Life, and Master Judges are extended to Dec. 31, 2022. No additional exhibiting or judging credits are required. The symposium schedule can be found on new NGC website. The Flower Show School Resources page lists the Handbook Changes by chapter. Jan Warshauer is asking Judges' Councils in every state to plan a Small Standard Flower Show during one of their meetings in 2021 or 2022. Flower Show School instructors are needed. Please contact Flower School Show Design Chairman, Gina Jogan, or Horticulture Chairman, Darlene Newell, if interested.

Flower Show Schools, Lori Pancione Chair notified all that Course #1 is slated to take place April 28-May1, 2022 at the Double Tree Hilton in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Publicity will begin to appear in your Keystone Gardener online as well as the printed fall copy mailed to you. As more judges begin to retire, there will be a need to replace them. Also, the schools are open to everyone. Sessions provide educational information in regard to running flower shows and identifying horticulture and design principles. There is much to learn even if you decide not to become a flower show judge. Exciting plans are underway for nearby trips to some of the best public gardens in PA. Philadelphia Area Judges Council will join with GCFP to sponsor these flower shows. Additional information is available in your next edition of the Keystone Gardener or by contacting Lori Pancione at lpanty@hotmail.com. Sessions provide educational information regarding running flower shows and identifying horticulture and design principles.

Flower Show Schedule, Charlotte Crissey, alerted schedule writers to the design staging in the Handbook for Flower Shows. Be sure to schedule descriptions for design staging. The Handbook for Flower Shows, Page 29, Section B, Number 3 says: "State a precise description of the staging (type, color, size of background and/or staging panel) provided or required of the exhibitor." Often the type and color of the background are overlooked. When no staging panel is required, the description should include the type and color of the background. For example: *Staged in front of a white, smooth wall, 24", wide by 30" high.*

Student Judges Credentials, Connie Burnley was not present; her report was read by the recording secretary who reported that GCFP has 5 student judges. District I – Beverly Kostek and Pat Neff. District IV- Betsy Smith. District VI – Rani Murali. District VII – Marilyn Backus. She encouraged all to invite Marilyn Backus and Rani Murali to judge since both need judging and exhibiting credits.

Flower Show Symposium, Tonya Young reported that Judges across the state are working to earn judging and exhibiting credits. Pennsylvania is tentatively ready to start planning our next symposium for June of 2022.

Gardening School, Sue Konvolinka was not present; **President Sheila Croushore** reported that Sue Konvolinka's husband is very ill and **President Croushore** is looking for a replacement. The Gardening School report was read by the Recording Secretary. Gardening School courses will resume in 2022 with plans to present Course 4. There will not be a course offered in 2021 in PA. Seven consultants are due to complete a course in 2021 and one consultant in 2022. Please research NGS website: <https://www.gardenclub.org/school/gardening-school-courses> for courses offered or consider a refresher: <https://www.gardenclub.org/multiple-refreshers>. Current offerings: Course 2-June 21-24, 2021 Buffalo, NY (Zoom). September 1-2, 2021 Abbeville, LA (In-person classroom). Tri-Fresher January 19-20, 2022 Greenacres, FL (In-person classroom) Four Gardening School Provisional Students completed two or three Gardening School courses and must finish the four courses within seven years of the first year taken or qualifications will expire in 2021. Extensions for all Gardening Schools Consultants and Students are possible prior to expiration by contacting Mary Jo Schlomann, GCFP GS Accreditation Chair or Sue Konvolinka, GCFP GS Chair.

Habitat for Humanity, Lisa Merschiltz, was not present; report was read by the Recording Secretary. The Pandemic of 2020-2021 has had an effect on building projects for this organization. Only one garden club, the Garden Club of

Johnstown, had any activity on a Habitat project. This group helped to clear Japanese knotweed from the owner's property and also helped to trim bushes and shrubs around that property. In future landscaping projects, please use native plants as much as possible. They are not only fantastic pollinator plants, but so many of them are also larval host plants necessary for caterpillar growth and development.

Horticulture Coordinator, Joann Celaschi is seeking nominations for the award of Exceptional Horticulturist. This is a district award to be given to the club member who has demonstrated over the years through their experience, education and sharing with others, their love of horticulture. She will be contacting each district to have them forward to their clubs the qualifications for this award. The award will be given at each district's annual meeting in September. Deadline is August 1, 2021. Qualifications for designation as an "Exceptional Horticulturalist" are: EXPERIENCE - The candidate should grow numerous plant materials – trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, houseplants, and be able to discuss intelligently about "how to grow". EDUCATION - The candidate should be well read – books, magazines, flower and garden catalogs, the Internet, National Garden Clubs, Inc. programs and schools. SHARING - The candidate should share knowledge, experience and plant materials with friends and garden club members, as well as civic organizations. The candidate should have served club, community and country, when called upon to do so, and should be able to represent the GCFP as an intelligent, dignified and knowledgeable source.

Horticulture Hints, Grace Mitchell, Chair offered "hort" hints for starting and planting seeds. Plant any seed twice the depth of its size. Anything that holds soil and has holes in the bottom can be an appropriate container. Takeout containers with clear lids can create humidity until the seeds sprout. Do not handle seedlings by the stem or pull on them from the top. Press a 6 cup muffin tin in prepared soil and you will have 12 perfectly spaced holes. An effective deterrent for rabbits is strategically placed rubber snakes.

Horticulture/Trees/Liaison to PA Forestry Council, Judy Warn, reported that the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership aims to capture pollution from the air we breathe and runoff and pollution from the land that ends up in our waterways. Pennsylvania has over 19,000 polluted rivers, creeks, and streams. This initiative calls for 96,000 acres of new streamside forests or riparian forest buffers to be planted and thereby providing incredible pollution reduction benefits.

Horticulture Therapy, Maryann DeSanto, encouraged clubs to participate in this rewarding outreach program. Through Horticulture Therapy, we not only share our love of flowers and horticulture to the residents, but also enjoy a personal visit with them. Joyce Hoek, previous Horticulture Therapy Chair started a Facebook page making it easy to find inspiration and ideas. The Facebook page address is GCFP Horticulture Therapy sharing ideas. There is a power point presentation Maryann DeSanto can share with you by Zoom, on the process of initiating a Horticulture Therapy program in your club.

Insurance, Judy Jackson reported that the Insurance Chair serves as the liaison between the clubs in the federation and the Insurance provider. Requesting Certificates of Insurance for club events and answering insurance related questions are the main duties. A new certificate will replace the one now in force after the July 25, 2021 renewal date. It will be posted on the GCFP website.

Keystone Gardener Online Editor, Marie Mueller was not present; the report was read by the Recording Secretary. The deadline for the October 30th 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 submissions by e-mail, in the Subject line, write: "Keystone Gardener Online submission" so that it will be apparent that the report is not intended for the Keystone Gardener Booklet. Include contact information and send it to mmueller150@aol.com. Please put your submission in a WORD document.

Landscape Design School, Vivian Abel reported that in the fall of 2019, a new series of Landscape Design courses was initiated. The Landscape Design School Course 2 is planned for this October in Lancaster. George Weigel and Kirk Brown have agreed to be instructors. 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.

Leadership Workshop, Kay John announced that the 2021 Leadership Workshop will be held on July 22, 2021, via Zoom from 10 AM to 12 PM. Sign up information and agenda will be available soon.

Liaison to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Flossie Narducci reported that PHS has been notified of the 2021-2023 Officers as well as District Directors. Working with the Judges Council Chair, a list of qualified judges was provided for PHS for this year's Philadelphia Flower Show.

PA Resource Council Chair, Mary Lou Colussy reported that the water you drink today could be the same water (or water molecules) that a dinosaur bathed in millions of years ago? Planet Earth will never create new water. (A compelling reason to protect and conserve this precious resource!) The way we live on the land has a direct impact on the quality of water in our lives and streams. Rain Gardens are shallow, planted depressions that absorb runoff from impervious surfaces and allow it to infiltrate into the soil. They are planted with deep rooted, native plants and reduce the initial rush of water that enters a stream during rainstorms. Pollution from stormwater runoff is the leading cause of impairment in our streams.

Penny Pines, Barb Andrus reported that Penny Pines is a NGC fund raiser for replanting disaster struck forests. Heather White is the NGC Chair. Currently this program has been on hold but will proceed with planning and implementation in 2022. She encouraged all District Directors to have clubs send donations of \$68 or increments thereof. (\$68, \$138, \$276, etc.) This year's Penny Pines donations have totaled \$986.00. The form is on the website pagardenclubs.org under FORMS LIBRARY # 18.

Personnel, Kay John requested that all GCFP Board Members submit or update their personnel form which is available on the website as soon as possible. This information is not available to anyone else and is very useful and needed by others who serve on the Board.

Pollinator Restoration Program, Leslie Anthony reported on the status and establishment of the Pollinator Restoration Project. She encouraged all to print out the application for PA Pollinator Garden Friendly Certification. Check off all the native pollinator plants that you have and review all the recommended gardening practices. If you find that you are certifiable, nearly certifiable or ready to do what it takes to make your garden certifiable, then she strongly encourages all to complete the application and submit it to the Pennsylvania Pollinator Friendly Garden program.

President Sheila Croushore recessed the meeting at 8:40 PM

The regular meeting of the GCFP Board of Directors was reconvened by **President Sheila Croushore** on Tuesday, June 8 at 9:14 AM.

First Vice President, Leeanna Ryba reported that she met with nine District Directors and several Assistant District Directors at 8 AM on June 8, 2021. Topics discussed were the upcoming District Annual meeting invitations sent to the GCFP President, 1st VP and the 2nd VP. She requested that the invitations be mailed to all three and include a reservation form for response to the event registrar. She reminded the Directors to pass information on concerning the following event to their club Presidents: President's Zoom meeting August 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM. She shared information from Judy Jackson, Insurance Chair to report new club members to the Headquarters Secretary, Elizabeth Pinkham, monthly in order to maintain the club's GCFP insurance coverage. District Directors were asked to forward notices for **President Sheila's** "Second Wednesday" Zoom presentations to their club presidents as early as possible, to assure they have enough time to spread the word to their members. These Zoom presentations are not recorded and are intended to bring GCFP members across the state together. They reviewed the new state password and urged all not to print it in newsletters, yearbooks or emails. She asked District Directors to suggest that clubs budget for donations to the GCFP Scholarship Fund Scholarship Fund, and Penny Pines annually. Various awards deadlines were reviewed; CAR-SCG Perennial Bloom info from each district to be sent to Sheri Lowry by August 1; Nominations for Exceptional Horticulturalist to JoAnn Celaschi by August 1; Club yearbooks to Iris Cisarik by December 1. She also reminded the Directors to use the Book of Recognition to honor members of their Districts. Her next Zoom meeting with the District Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27 at 7:30 PM.

Publicity Press Book, Georgiann Dettinburn was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. District Directors are encouraged to reach out to their clubs and urge them to apply for this award. Advertise club meetings, programs and workshops. Your membership will increase. Deadline is January 25, 2022, and directions are on the GCFP website.

Scholarship, Sandra Hendricks reported that 13 applications were received, and all 13 applicants were awarded a scholarship. Applications were received from the following Districts. District II/III had 1 applicant. District IV and District V each had 5 applicants. District VI had 1 applicant. District IX also had 1 applicant. We are proud to add the new scholarship of Jacqueline A. Davies. We are sending a news release for the purpose of attracting new students to all District Directors to send to their scholarship chairperson in each of their clubs. We need to encourage students to go on our website and see what the GCFP has to offer as well as each individual club. One NGC scholarship recipient is Emma Butzler, sponsored by the Susquehanna Garden Club.

Schools Coordinator, Vivian Hall was not present; her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The calendar for Schools is as follows. Environmental Schools – Course 4 – Zoom Sept. 22 - 23, 2021 . Landscape Design School, August 16-17, 2021 - Memphis, TN. and January 15-16, 2022 – Turlack, CA. Flower Show School Course 1- May 11-14, 2021 – Ohio and August 2-4, 2021 – Arizona. Course 2 – June 20-23, 2021 North Carolina and September 13-16, 2021- Virginia. Course 3 – November 7-10, 2021 – North Carolina. All Flower Show Schools are in person, and you must complete Course 1 first.

Seed Money, Marjorie Sears reported that GCFP received 40,000 seed packets from the Burpee Seed Company, thanks to the efforts of Patricia Wolanski. \$2500 was shared by the 54 Clubs that had applied. Some of the projects included Lehigh Valley Zoo, Victorian Cradles at Historic Cemetery, Summer Reading Program, a new garden at a Cancer Center. There was a Hydroponic growing system for an Elementary School. There were Seed Swaps, Food Pantry Gardens and an emphasis on “Victory Gardens”.

Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, Paula L. Mohler received 54 posters from 5 clubs in 4 districts. The PA judging takes place in early February and the winning posters in each grade are sent on to the Region for further judging. The local poster chairpersons need to read all the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Guidelines and Rules on our GCFP Website. Two examples - poster paper size is important, as are the deadline dates of submission. Her PA address has an earlier date to submit and, after Christmas, she has a FL address. 2021 PA winners are: 1st grade - Molly Bereznay, Moon Township, Dist. IX. 2nd grade - Quinn Snyder, Ingomar, Dist. IX. 3rd grade - Harbyn Leinbach, Norristown, Dist. XI. 4th grade - Sorcha O’Sullivan, Ingomar, Dist. IX. 5th grade- Anna Jones, Ingomar, Dist. IX. Sorcha O’Sullivan, Ingomar was also an NGC winner.

Youth Activities, Chris Hawthorne and Barbara Oswald, Co Chairs 69;’. Their report was read by the Recording Secretary. Please consider participating. Any Garden Club can sponsor any child for Youth Contests, even if they do not reside in your district. This includes family members, especially grandchildren, even if they live out of state. Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2021. According to the National Secretary, there will be no essay contest this year.

Zoom Educator, Sandra Benedict reported on the 2020 Trainings. Two sessions on how to participate in a Zoom session had 27 participants. Four sessions on how to present at a Zoom session had 35 people participating.

New training sessions offered in 2021.

June 16 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.-- Beginning Zoom Training

June 21 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.--Scheduling free program — “SignUpGenius” which you use to enroll in these sessions.

July 13 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.--Zoom Training.

July 19 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.--Selecting a common meeting time; free--Doodle

August 19 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.--Zoom Training.

Chaplain, Vina McLeod Rudolph offered the closing remarks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM June 8, 2021.

