

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

91st Annual Convention

“ZOOMing into Spring”

April 19, 2021

Via ZOOM

The 91st Convention and Annual Meeting was called to order by **President Joyce Milberg** at 9:31 a.m. This convention was a virtual event, with all activities being offered on the Zoom platform.

Chaplain Vina McLeod Rudolph gave the invocation.

1st Vice President Sheila Croushore presented the flag of the United States; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Appointed Board Member Tom Huston.

Tonya Young, District IV Director, welcomed everyone to District IV, and thanked the 2021 Convention Committee for working so hard to transition from an in-person to a virtual format via Zoom. The Committee tried to incorporate as much of the traditional convention elements as possible – programs, sessions and workshops. It might look very different from past conventions, but she promised it would be a memorable event. On behalf of District IV and the committee, she welcomed everyone to the 91st GCFP Annual Convention, “Zooming into Spring.”

Maryann DeSanto, District I Director, complimented the District IV Convention Committee for their “nerves of steel” in planning our first virtual convention. She announced that the 2022 GCFP Convention will be held in District I at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, located in suburban Philadelphia. The event will include a variety of interesting speakers and programs, as well as an NGC Schools Tri-Refresher. In addition to in-person events and activities, there will be some virtual options available, making this our first “hybrid” convention. The dates are Sunday to Tuesday, April 3 to 5, 2022.

President Milberg introduced three special guests: Cherie Lejuene, President of National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., which hosted the CAR-SGC Virtual Conference last October that was the model GCFP followed when planning this convention; Gail Corle Manna, Regional Director of CAR-SGC; and Gay Austin, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Betsy Smith, Registrar, gave the preliminary credentials report: total registration was 297. At this convention, the following were registered: 1 National President, 1 former National President, 1 Regional Director, 2 State Presidents, 9 Former State Presidents, 10 District Directors, 65 Garden Club Presidents, 68 National Life Members, 76 GCFP Life Members, 13 National Board Members, 66 Flower Show Judges, 22 Environmental Consultants, 31 Landscape Design Consultants, 20 Gardening Consultants, and 80 current State Officers and Board Members,

President Milberg declared a quorum was present.

[Recording Secretary's Note: All motions and recommendations at this meeting were voted on using the polling question procedure available on the Zoom platform.]

Joyce Crider, 2021 Convention Chairman, called for the adoption of the agenda and the program for this convention. There were no changes.

- Shall this agenda and the convention program be approved?

Approved

President Milberg appointed Nancy Fulk and Linda Morrison to approve the minutes of the convention, and she appointed Claire Leichter and Tom Huston as Timekeepers.

Officers' Reports:

President Milberg reported she was very proud of GCFP's accomplishments over the past two years. She complimented Elizabeth Pinkham, Headquarters Secretary, for the admirable work she did, particularly working to implement the Zoom program into our meetings. Highlights of her administration included: the successful launch of the *KG Online*, which enhances the reduced schedule of the Keystone Gardener; the distribution of 40,000 packets of Burpee seeds, which benefited not only garden club members and their friends, but local food pantries as well; hosting of the first ever NGC Gardening School via Zoom; and the awarding of \$180,000 in scholarships by GCFP clubs over the past two years.

The pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 Convention which was accomplished without any penalty by the Doubletree Hotel, but the cancellation of the 2021 Convention required a commitment to hold the 2024 Convention at the same venue in Lancaster. She congratulated the 2021 Convention committee which regrouped and successfully reorganized to host this first, history making "Zooming into Spring" convention.

Garden Clubs and Districts became innovative in their activities, hosting online plant sales, flower shows and garden tours, but most particularly embracing technology by holding meetings via Zoom. GCFP had to cancel flower show school and environmental school, but our members have remained committed to carry on.

1st Vice President Croushore reported that in the past year she met virtually with the District Directors and Assistant Directors at least every month since October 2020 via Zoom. The meetings began with zoom training presented by incoming Zoom Trainer Sandy Benedict, and continued with roundtable discussions on many topics and ideas. This training will allow Districts to incorporate hybrid schedules for their Fall Annual Meetings. She also attended a number of additional Zoom training sessions, including those hosted by Michigan for NGC. With not a lot of traveling or in-person events happening, ZOOM has proven to be a great way to talk and see each other while continuing to meet in our new normal.

2nd Vice President Leeanna Ryba reported that her duties were sharply curtailed due to the Covid 19 restrictions in place in our state. There were no Calls to be issued, no menus to be created and thanks to the cooperation of the staff of the Wyndham State College, no contracts to fulfill. President-Elect Sheila Croushore will be in contact with Steven Romig at the Wyndham Hto discuss plans for our June Board meeting. We have a contract and will ask to amend it to a hybrid meeting schedule. She stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the board and she congratulated everyone for having negotiated the uncertain waters this pandemic created for the GCFP with confidence.

Recording Secretary Barbara Brand reported that the minutes of the October 12, 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 thanked everyone who cooperated in sending their reports in advance of meetings. She reminded everyone who did not send in a report for this meeting to do so as soon as possible if they are to be included in the minutes.

Treasurer Joyce Crider gave highlights of Financial Activity from May 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021: membership income was \$48,077; total income was \$57,656.51. Expenses included Officers' Allowance of \$2,400, total Payroll of \$26,034.50, and the purchase of 2 past presidents' pins for \$3,925; total expenses were \$65,241.98. After transfer of funds from the Stifel account, the balance in checking was \$19,483.62. She also reviewed the Assets Summary as of March 31, 2021, which totaled \$40,811.67. Both reports are attached to these minutes.

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

Beginning balance as of 10/12/2020		\$100.00
Receipts: Deposits from club dues	\$412.50	
Disbursements::Transfer to Treasurer	<u>(\$512.50)</u>	
Balance in checking account as of 04/18/2021		\$ 0.00

Total deposits from dues for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year were \$48,052.50.

President Milberg asked the Recording Secretary to read the recommendations forwarded from the Finance and Investment and the Executive Committees. She noted that one of the items reviewed was the question of continuing membership in the Land Trust Alliance in light of a dues increase from \$200 per year to \$1900. This question was not approved.

- To ratify the electronic vote taken that approved moving the date of the 2021 GCFP sponsored CAR-SGC Conference to 2022. **Approved**
- To approve the appointment of Marilyn Backus as Chair, and Sharon Bryner and Haddie Weber as co-Chairs of the 2023 GCFP Annual Convention. **Approved**
- To approve the purchase of the design program for use in the production of the 2021-2023 issues of the Keystone Gardener at an annual cost of \$240. **Approved**

District Directors Reports:

Maryann Desanto, District I Director, This year brought many changes in club meetings and activities. Clubs have met in person, socially distanced, others by zoom, one took a sabbatical, or met for walks in the park. These changes have forced us to be more creative in rethinking the Garden Club experience. From drive by plant sales, and zoom bingo to floral design meetings in a park, clubs have found new and creative ways to stay connected and continue their activities. At first, zoom meetings were thought to be a negative replacement for the fun meetings of the past, but we were pleasantly surprised by the connection they have brought. We have been able to see one another face to face, and zoom enabled us to share our programs and their costs with other Districts.

Linda Pinto, District II/III Director: The member clubs of District II/III weathered the winter and the pandemic the way any gardener treats a challenge...as an opportunity to rest, recover and revive. Rather than dampening enthusiasm for garden clubs, the isolation and distance only accentuated a resurgent interest in horticulture and conservation. Some clubs report an increase in membership. Many clubs made the best possible use of socially distanced gatherings innovatively and creatively. Unable to hold their annual closing luncheon, Reading Garden Club members were invited to the Reading Library Park, one of their service projects. Milford Garden Club created ten outdoor floral displays celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Parkland Garden Club made corsages for "Night to Shine", an event celebrating special needs children 14 and older. Slowly returning to our new normal, Christmas in June

or July parties are already planned and community gardens supporting local food banks have been planted.

Tonya Young, District IV Director: The clubs of District IV have been zooming on! The District now has a Virtual Training and Technology Chair and a Program Resource Chair. All clubs have had the opportunity to participate in district wide training sessions for zoom. Moving forward did not come without trepidation, but she is proud to say that all the clubs in District IV are using this platform. Club Presidents have been doing an outstanding job conducting meetings and keeping their members engaged, and have also been sharing information on webinars, learning opportunities, and invitations to other clubs for their own programs on zoom. Five GCFP scholarship recipients were sponsored by District IV clubs. Town and Country GC of Lancaster and Penn-Cumberland GC each earned first place for their yearbooks, and Gettysburg Garden Club earned first place with their Publicity Press Book; their long-time member, Cornelia Saltzman was the Forget me not recipient for District IV. Some clubs are conducting hybrid meetings, others entirely on zoom. In-person gatherings are slowly taking place. It is spring, and with that comes annual plant sales and the resurrection of spring garden club gatherings. With the help of Seed Money Grants and partnerships with other organizations, the clubs of District IV are making a difference.

JoAnne Fogelman, District V Director: Despite the restrictions on us all this past year, some clubs in District V held more outdoor activities such as garden tours and meeting outdoors – a few even met indoors. Most clubs kept up the gardens that they maintain. One club had a successful plant sale, and another club held a crafty 2 day sale of things they made themselves during group gatherings so they could socialize while they worked. The most interesting of the happenings was a donation of plants from a researcher developing stronger roots in a variety of plants. Alexandria Garden Club planted these plants in local beds and their primary garden project, the local library. They will hopefully report on the outcome of the research. All the clubs in District V are cautiously optimistic about getting back to regular meetings and activities this year.

Janice Davis, District VI Director: Zoom has become an invaluable tool for programming and communicating. The Zoom training conducted by GCFP made it possible for her to host training sessions for the District VI Board and individual clubs. District VI Clubs are conducting their spring meetings on Zoom, allowing them to expand their reach and present programs with diverse topics and presenters. Options for programming are unlimited and sharing has become a common practice. Weeders and Seeders Garden Club is an example of how a club can grow even during a pandemic. Membership has increase from under 25 to 37 during the past year and into 2021. Members have been attracted to join due to their popular public and private Facebook groups.

Marilyn Backus, District VII Director: She highlighted two events held in District VII. Their Affiliate Member, Greensburg Garden Center, held a memorable annual spring tea, which they called “Tea-In or Tea-Out”. The “Tea-In” option included limited attendance for a sit-down meal at uniquely elegant tables in a church hall. Diners were served personal teapots and wrapped plates of desserts and sandwiches and treated to soft, live music. “Tea-Out” customers picked up an elegantly bowed white tea box, complete with an antique tea cup and tea bags and containing the same meal to enjoy at home. All could participate in the Basket Raffles positioned at the far end of the hall. When the District VII Board decided to cancel our Annual Spring buffet, they offered four Dine-In Sunday Afternoon Teas from March to May 2 at a local tearoom in McKeesport. Each Dine-In Tea concluded with one of two 45-minute Craftsy.com garden courses that featured experts and topics of interest. The courses were simultaneously zoomed to registrants outside the tearoom. She thanked all who participated and supported these events.

Bonita Herman, District VIII Director: This past winter she and her Board decided to update the District By-laws – the only problem was, the By-laws were missing! After much browsing through old records, By-laws from 1999 were located. Pleas for help went out and Districts VI, VII and IX forwarded their By-laws as resources. Two months and many Zoom meetings later, they had a draft document, which was reviewed by Joyce Milberg and Dorothy Yard. The final By-laws document was approved by the District VIII Board. The By-laws will never be lost again – they will be printed annually in the yearbook.

Karen Faust, District IX Director: District IX members did not allow a worldwide pandemic slow them down in 2020. Early on, members realized that they needed to reinvent the way their clubs would navigate the year. Most Clubs continued with meetings in outdoor gardens and parks. Two clubs in the District ventured out of their comfort zone and were well rewarded. Last July, Southern Butler County Garden Club hosted their 12th Annual Garden Tour. Organizers never flinched at the Pandemic being an obstacle but rather a way for their Community to be outside on a lovely summer day. As a result, the event had the highest ticket sales, highest raffle basket sales and the most positive reviews in the history of the Garden Tour. Tusca Ridge Garden Club found a unique way to hold their famous Christmas Greens Sale. Thanks to the talents of a recent college graduate with free time, they posted photos of wreaths and arrangements on a newly created website where they offered customers a safe and convenient way to pay for items as well. Customers arrived to pick up their pre-ordered items safely – just in time for the holidays.

Kay Bair, District X Director: She highlighted the achievements of two clubs in District X. The Green Gardeners of Uniontown, which focuses on the beautification of their community, received a \$1,000 National Garden Club Plant America Grant in January 2020. The grant funds were used in conjunction with existing Green Gardener funds, and volunteer donations to enhance the gardens with new plantings, and added a bench at Marshall Plaza in Uniontown. All 21 members of the club, with volunteers from the community and the city of Uniontown, took part in the project. Members of Giant Oaks Garden Club grow vegetable plants from seed to plant in the South Hills Interfaith Movement Garden. In this 20 x 30 foot garden, enclosed with a 7 foot fence, they grow a variety of vegetables, using straw for mulch, three rain barrels for water collection, and an active bee hive for pollination. To complement the food needs of the large refugee community, long beans, bitter melon and okra were added to the plantings. 394 pounds of vegetables were harvested last year and distributed among two food pantries in the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Marjorie Sears, District XI Director, Zoom made it possible for District XI clubs to get through the winter with a variety of programs, even joining with District I and District II/III for shared programs. The District's many community gardens were cared for; these included gardens for libraries, and historic houses, herb gardens, window boxes and municipal planters. Four clubs supplied the Ronald McDonald House and Two nursing homes with flower arrangements. Norristown Garden Club raised \$11,000 for the Variety Club Camp by decorating the outside of their cabins for a special tour. Four Lanes End Garden Club decorated the outside of their own homes and raised \$1954, and also collected 337 pounds of food for pantries & homeless shelters. Swedesford Garden Club was able to hold their Annual Harvest Home Project for families.

President Milberg called upon several committees to present their reports.

Committee Reports:

Awards, Marilyn Backus: The following GCFP Awards for 2020 were announced:

- Gold Seal Award: Linda Southerling, District I, Four Seasons GC of Kennett Square
- Member Award of Honor - Jill Evans, District XI, Norristown GC
- Perennial Bloom Award - Susan Semple, District IX, Greybrooke and Shaler GC
- Silver Seal Award - Doug Oster, nominated by District IX, Southern Butler County GC.
- Horticulture Excellence Award – Emily Schnarr, District XI, Old York Road GC
- District Forget-Me-Not Awards:
 - District I - Jane Nyiri of Springfield Garden Club
 - District II/III - Jeanne Partel of Parkland Garden Club
 - District IV – Cornelia Saltzman, Gettysburg Garden Club
 - District V - Rosalie Miller of Duboistown Garden Club
 - District VI - Mary Lou Colussy of Patton Garden Club
 - District VII – Camille Erb of Murrysville Garden Club
 - District VIII - Dolly Devine of Gospel Hill Garden Club
 - District IX - Tess Swartz of Southern Butler County Garden Club
 - District X - Angie Raitano of Valley Garden Club
 - District XI - Liz Snowdon of The Outdoor Gardeners
- Club Membership Awards – club growth since April 2020
 - Small club – Weeders and Seeders (VI), 27 new members
 - Medium club – Bristol Borough Garden Club (XI), 9 new members
 - Large club – Garden Club of York (IV), 15 new members
- Comprehensive Award - District IX with 38 Awards\
- Cynthia Calhoun Convention Attendance Award for the highest percentage of members as full-time registrants at this zoom convention
 - Over 10 members – The Heritage GC, District V, 25%
 - Under 10 members - Landscape Design Society of Western Pennsylvania, District VII, 28.6%

Fox Chapel and Presque Isle Garden Clubs received NGC Plant American Grants for 2021. She reminded everyone to read the April and May issues of the KG Online for the full list of award results.

President Milberg announced a donation from Bill and Jackie Davies has allowed the creation of a new scholarship, the Jacqueline A. Davies Scholarship, to be awarded for the first time this year.

Scholarship Awards, Sandra Hendricks, announced the recipients of the GCFP 2021 Scholarships.

- The Louise Dimmick Scholarship recipient is Simon Philip Joseph of Johnstown sponsored by the Garden Club of Johnstown, District VI.
- The Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship is awarded to Emily N. Boozel of Huntingdon. The Mifflin County Garden Club, District V, sponsored her
- The Lois Dupre' Shuster Scholarship recipient is Mariah Grace Noll of Middleburg, sponsored by The Susquehanna Garden Club, District V.
- The Mary Alice Wheeler Scholarship is awarded to Angelica Brill of Mechanicsburg. The Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, District IV, sponsored her.
- The Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship recipient is Donald William Yealy of New Oxford. He is sponsored by the Hanover Garden Club of District IV.
- The Dorothy A. Hermani Scholarship winner is Jacqueline Maureen Kiszka of York, sponsored by The Garden Club of York, District IV.

- THE JANE LAYMAN SCHOLARSHIP is a four-year scholarship conditional on an annual GPA of 3.0. It is awarded to Andrew Lynwood Schott of Hanover. He is sponsored by The Garden Club of York, District IV.
- The Katherine L. Rieger Scholarship recipient is Emma J. Butzler of Jersey Shore. She is sponsored by the Susquehanna Garden Club of District V.
- The Constance H. Smith Scholarship is awarded to Samantha Grace Schulteis of Biglerville, sponsored by The Gettysburg Garden Club, District IV.
- The Miriam A. Steel Scholarship recipient is Ryan Smith of Columbia Cross Roads, sponsored by Heritage Garden Club, District V.
- The Edith Clemmer Steinbright Scholarship is awarded to Mustapha A. Salau of Breinigsville. Parkland Garden Club of District II/III is his sponsor.
- The Jacqueline A. Davies Scholarship recipient is Ian Raymond Gumto of Butler. He is sponsored by the Southern Butler County Garden Club, District IX.

President Milberg stated that there are By-law and Standing Rules changes approved in the last two years that must be voted upon. These were published in the Winter issue of the Keystone Gardener in 2020 and again in 2021. Voting will be done *in seriatim*; the changes will be summarized, rather than read in full, in order to streamline the process in the time allotted on the Zoom platform. The full list of changes as they were published will be attached to these minutes.

Organizational Studies, Susan Semple, explained that all but two of the proposed changes were to have been voted upon at the April 2020 Convention, which had to be cancelled. Many changes focus on how Officers, District Directors, and Committee Chairmen are to submit copies of their reports. Since copies may now be shared electronically, this process is simplified. Two additional amendments to the By-laws allow for electronic voting and for voting to be permitted in the case of the cancellation of a GCFP Convention by National or Local Emergency. She summarized the amendments, and **President Milberg** read each article. The following records the polling questions for each article, and the result of the votes.

By-law Amendments

1. Article IX titled Board of Directors, page 7, add G
Shall the bylaw amendment to add voting by mail or electronic communication (confirmed in writing) be adopted? **Passed**
2. Article XVI; Amendments, page 11, add Sec.3
Shall amendment of GCFP bylaws be authorized to be conducted electronically as well as by postal mail in the event a National Emergency causes the cancellation of a GCFP convention? **Passed**
3. Article VI titled Officers and their Duties Sec.1B#1 Page 3
Shall the bylaw amendment to allow preparation of one copy and email transmission of all officers' reports in Arial 12pt. instead of printing 5 copies be adopted? **Passed**
4. Article VI titled Officers and their Duties Sec.1 B#2 Page 3
Shall the bylaw amendment to allow preparation of one copy and email transmission of officers' term of office summary reports in Arial 12 pt. instead of printing 5 copies be adopted? **Passed**
5. Article VII titled Committees and their Duties Section 3A Page 5

Shall the bylaw amendment to allow a Committee chair to prepare one copy to be given to the Recording Secretary written in Arial 12 pt. and also, to be emailed, be adopted? **Passed**

6. Article VII titled Committees and their Duties Section 3B Page 5

Shall the bylaw amendment to allow a Committee chair to prepare one copy of a term of office report to be given to the Recording Secretary written in Arial 12 pt. and also, to be emailed, be adopted? **Passed**

7. Article XI titled Districts Section 3E Page 8

Shall the bylaw amendment to allow Districts to prepare one copy of a report to be given to the Recording Secretary written in Arial 12 pt. font and also, to be emailed be adopted? **Passed**

8. Article IX titled Board of Directors E Page 7 (This amendment was not in the 2021 KG)

Shall the bylaw amendment allow Board members to prepare one copy of board meeting reports and term-of-office summary to be given to the Recording Secretary written in Arial 12pt. and also emailed be adopted? **Passed**

9. Article VII titled Committees and their Duties 7A #1 Page 6 (This was not in the 2021 KG)

Shall the bylaw amendment to allow the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee to be elected and ratified at the Fall Board meeting in an even number year be adopted? **Passed**

Standing Rules Changes

10. Standing Rule 1 "I" General

Shall the standing rule 1 be changed to allow the incoming president to sign contracts? **Passed**

11. Standing Rule 2 "g" Awards

Shall a GCFP Flower Show Awards and Ribbons Chair replace Headquarters Staff in providing rosettes and other ribbons to clubs holding flower shows? **Passed**

12. Standing Rule 3 "c"

Shall the amendment returning 25% of a convention's net profit to the District(s) whether or not more than one District hosts, allowing 75% of the net balance to remain with the GCFP be approved? **Passed**

13. Standing Rule 4 "a" Finance

Shall the amendment reference the GCFP return policy in BOD manual rather than Advisory Committee be approved? **Passed**

14. Standing Rule 4 "c" Finance

Shall the amendment specifying a \$100 donation to the GCFP Scholarship Fund on the death of a former State President be approved? **Passed**

15. Standing Rule 7 "b" Keystone Gardener

Shall the Keystone Gardener be published 3 times per administration? **Passed**

16. Standing Rule 4 "g" will be eliminated since we no longer give a Governors Trophy.

Shall standing rule 4 "g" be eliminated? **Passed**

Voting "*In Seriatim*" requires one last vote on all the 16 articles we've just gone through as amended.

This voting body having approved 16 amendments to the GCFP's By Laws and Standing Rules affirms that voting was done "*In Seriatim*" and that an opportunity for debate and amendment was allowed to the voting body. **Passed**

President Milberg thanked Susan Semple for her assistance in preparing these amendments for the note. She explained the procedure to be followed in voting on the slate of GCFP Officers.

Nominating Committee, Diane Hughes: The ticket for the term 2021-2023 was presented:

President	Sheila Croushore (VI)
1 st Vice President	Leeanna Ryba (VII)
2 nd Vice President	Patricia Wolanski (XI)
Treasurer	Joyce Crider (IV)
Recording Secretary	Flossie Narducci (XI)
Financial Secretary	Barbara Brand (IV)

Hearing no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed

Shall we elect by acclamation the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee for the GCFP Officers for the term 2021-2023? **Passed**

There was no further business,

Chaplain Vina McLeod Rudolph presented a moving video tribute to those GCFP members who passed away since 2019.

President Milberg adjourned the Annual Meeting at 11:20 a.m., and announced that the Convention would reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the installation of officers.

The Convention reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

President Milberg welcomed everyone, and introduced the "virtual" head table, consisting of nine former GCFP presidents: Chris Leskosky, Sharon Brown, Betsy Smith, Angie Raitano, Dorthy Yard, Jackie Davies, Judy Vehse, Lois Shuster, and Gail Corle Manna, the current CAR-SGC Director.

She also welcomed Gay Austin, NGC President, who graciously agreed to perform the installation of the new Officers. **President Milberg** described how she and Sheila Croushore met on a cold windy day in Cranberry PA to film a video of the pinning ceremony, which was shown following the installation.

Gay Austin, 2019-2021 NGC President, installed the 2021-2023 Officers of GCFP. She recognized the Officers who led the state during a difficult and trying time. Her installation featured a description for each incoming Officer as a bird, including outgoing President Joyce Milberg as an American eagle, and incoming President Sheila Croushore as a ruby-throated hummingbird.

President Milberg introduced the film of the pinning ceremony. Because the audio of the film was not usable, music was added to the video. She recounted that she was very pleased to hand over GCFP to such capable hands; complimenting Sheila on the outstanding work she did working with the District Directors to develop them as a team. **Incoming President Sheila Croushore** thanked Joyce on behalf of the Board for her hard work getting GCFP through the past two years. The short film followed.

After the showing of the film, **Incoming President Sheila Croushore** thanked Gay Austin for the lovely installation. She thanked her family and garden club friends for their past and future support. She

announced her theme for the term 2021-2023, "Watch Us Bloom;" and her President's project as "Watch our Youth Bloom." Looking forward, the GCFP website is being redesigned; there are Leadership and Treasurer's Training workshops this summer; and she will initiate monthly Zoom meetings hosted by each District.

President Milberg announced the agenda for the following day, and recessed the Convention at 7:25 p.m.

The Convention was reconvened on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2:15 p.m.

President Milberg welcomed everyone back for the closing of the Convention. She enthusiastically complimented the committee on the success of this historic Convention, including the programs and educational sessions, and in particular the Judges' Council program, which will be made available to all clubs.

Convention Registrar Betsy Smith reported that there were no changes in the credentials report, with a total registration of 297.

President Milberg announced the following Presidential Citations

2020:

- Sue Semple, Karen Faust, Rose Romboski and their committee for their brave and difficult decision to cancel the Convention, and for succeeding in posting a small net profit.
- Marjorie Sears for her management of the Burpee Seeds Project
- Judith Jackson for her continuing support
- Sandra Manthorpe for her service working with PennDOT in placing Blue Star markers
- Marie Mueller for developing the online newsletter version of the Keystone Gardener

2021

- The 2021 Convention Committee for agreeing to postpone the District IV sponsored Convention to 2024, and for successfully reinventing this year's Convention on Zoom: Joyce Crider, Chair; Barbara Brand and Linda Hoppes, Co-chairs; Betsy Smith, Registrar; Jane Ahrens, Treasurer; Sandy Benedict, Technical Adviser; and Tonya Young, District IV Director.

Ellen McGarrigle, 2022 Convention co-chair, announced that the 92nd Convention, "Celebrating Nature's Masterpieces," will be hosted by District I, and will take place April 3-5, 2022 at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, PA. Features of the convention include a Tri-refresher, renowned speaker Doug Tallamy, and a tour of the Audubon Sanctuary.

President Milberg expressed her pleasure serving as President of GCFP, despite the lemons we were served, and thanked everyone for their expressions of support.

Chaplain Vina McLeod Rudolph gave the closing invocation.

The 91st GCFP Convention was adjourned at 2:29 p.m., ***SINE DIE***

Barbara Brand
GCFP Recording Secretary

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

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Corresponding Secretary Linda Morrison reported that the following correspondence was sent in the last year: Sympathy cards were sent to Sheila Croushore on the death of her father; the family of Ruth Berry; Rose Romboski on the death of her mother; Joyce Peterson on the death of her husband; Eleanor Tickner on the death of her husband; Lois Shuster on the death of her daughter; The Robinson family on the death of Sandra Kay Robinson. Get Well cards were sent to Betty Lewis and Pat Ptasick

Parliamentarian Angie Raitano reported that in the past two years she has communicated by phone and e-mail regarding clarifications of Robert's Rules of Order and/or GCFP Protocol that pertained to issues of concern within several garden clubs. On those occasions, she has tried to be fair to all parties concerned, and consulted Robert's Rules of Order to support her remarks.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

Newsletter Awards, Julie Willow: The committee awarded certificates to clubs in the small, medium, large and extra-large club categories. She reminded everyone to complete their applications carefully - some were incomplete, resulting in lost points. First place awards went to: Small club: Upper Perkiomen Garden Club (II/III); Medium club: Wayne Woods Garden Club (I); Large club: Fox Chapel Garden Club (IX); Extra-large club: Penn-Cumberland Garden Club (IV).

Bee Gap, Bonita Herman spoke about how the native Mason Bees are better pollinators than even the honeybee. She encouraged garden clubs to include a Native Bee Committee or Native Bee Awareness Program in their agendas. She suggested that clubs might add Mason Bee hotels or houses to gardens that they maintain. The house/hotel goes outside when the dandelions are in bloom and comes down at end of May or start of June. She would like to hear from clubs that have native bees programs.

Book of Recognition, Ann Hulse reported that in the Book of Recognition, past members of GCFP are memorialized, and present members are honored. Also, gifts can be given to recognize the achievements of a GCFP member. In the past twelve months, a total of \$150 has been given to the Book of Recognition. She hopes that more clubs will find the Book of Recognition as a valuable place to recognize a past or present member.

Blue Star Markers, Corinne Babson reported the installation of Blue Star Markers since 2019:

- Chambersburg Garden Club (IV) dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker in front of the Franklin County Visitor's Bureau (Historic Route 11)
- The Green Thumb Garden Club of the Red Lion Area (IV) dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker at the Keystone Welcome Center on I-83 North Bound, Mile Marker 2.5 in York County
- The Presque Isle Garden Club (VIII), dedicated a Blue Star By-Way Marker in Veterans Park, Mill Creek Township, Erie County.
- The Lawrence Park Garden Club (VIII), dedicated a Blue Star By-Way Marker at the Laurence Park Veterans Memorial, Lawrence Park, PA
- The Southern Butler County Garden Club (IX), dedicated a Blue Star By – Way Marker, in Graham Park, Cranberry Township, Butler County
- The Hazelton Area Garden Club (II/III), dedicated a Blue Star By-Way Marker at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, West Hazelton, PA

There are two upcoming dedications: The Burrellton Garden Club (VII) has ordered a Blue Star By – Way Marker to be dedicated at the War Memorial, Lower Burrell, PA; and on June 13, 2021 the Heather Garden Club of Edinboro (VIII) will dedicate a Blue Star By-Way Marker at Veterans Memorial Park, Edinboro, PA

Civic Development, Marjorie Sears highlighted a number of GCFP garden clubs as examples of how – despite the pandemic – garden clubs continued to beautify and benefit their communities by developing or refurbishing a variety of projects: cemetery gardens, memorial plantings, firehouse gardens, library projects, harvesting for food pantries, Victorian and wildflower gardens, and school programs. Moon Valley Garden Club (IX) will celebrate their 100th anniversary by promoting community “Victory Gardens.”

Convention Coordinator, Judith Schaffer reported that planning a zoom convention presented many new challenges to the planning committee. Program/Workshop contracts had to be adjusted to meet zooming requirements. The Registrar Report had to reflect both paid and open member registration via zooming. A possible zoom section attachment should be added to the Convention Directives Manual. She congratulated the District IV Convention Committee for planning and executing the 2021 Convention! The 2022 Malvern site committee is moving forward with a face-to-face Convention on April 3-5. They have designed a sponsorship challenge list based on their theme—“Celebrating Nature’s Masterpieces” to help defray expenses. Their schedule is incorporating lots of workshops per member requests. The 2023 Convention Chair for District VII is Marilyn Backus. Her co-chairs are Sharon Bryner and Haddie Weber. The dates will be April 18-20, 2023 as a weekend event held at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville. T

Flower Show Judges Council, Pat Wolanski reported that as of March 2020, flower shows, symposia, many design programs and judging came to a halt as a result of COVID. GCFP Judges needed inspiration to get back into designing and back into the swing of things. So, on January 14th, they put zoom to good use and organized a design program featuring eight GCFP judges. The Judges Council convention program “Spring into Floral Design – Around the World” will feature the designs of the judges. This zoom program is on the cutting edge and a new wave of zooming for the future. She reported that the Good Standing dates expiring in 2020 and 2021 for all Accredited, Life, and Master Judges are extended to Dec. 31, 2022. NGC Flower Show Chair, Jan Warshauer, has asked Judges’ Councils in every state to plan a small Standard Flower Show during one of their meetings in 2021 or 2022. She included summaries of reports for the following committees:

Credentials Chair Nancy Hannum, reported that GCFP has 112 Accredited FS Judges (28 Accredited Judges, 14 Life Judges, 70 Master Judges). Two new judges passed their exam in October – Margie Bucci and Deborah Stumpf. In addition, there are currently 40 Emeritus judges; Eudoxie Broussard became an Emeritus judge in October 2020. She reported that Master Judge Patz Lowery passed away in March 2021, and Emeritus judge Peggy Hartwick passed away in June 2020. Flower Show School instructors are needed in Design and Horticulture – contact the NGC Design and Horticulture Chairs. Symposia schedules can be found on the new NGC website.

Flower Show Evaluating Chair Mary Lou Colussy, reports that she did not evaluate any shows in 2020. Her chairmanship is now being passed on to Mary Jane Martucci.

Student Judges Credentials Chair Connie Burnley reports that there are eight new student judges, and one scheduled for the handbook exam on April 22.

Flower Show School Chair Lori Pancione reports that GCFP/PAJC Flower Show Schools are scheduled to begin April 28 – May 1st, 2022. School #1 will begin April, 2022 and will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

Symposia Chair Tonya Young reports that there will be a symposium late in 2021 or in 2022.

Philadelphia Area Judges Council, Lori Pancione reported that In February, the PAJC had a “Sweetheart Fun” Zoom meeting to plan for the State Convention. On March 15, 2021, they had an exciting and educational virtual St. Paddy’s Day Design program presented by nine members of their council. which focused on using some mechanical support other than floral foam.

Dorothy Yard, Chairman of the Erie Council reports - All flower shows were cancelled for 2020 but they plan to have five flower shows during 2021 to enter and judge. Four meetings have been planned for 2021.

Gardening School, Mary Jo Schломann, reported that one GCFP member attended Washington State's Gardening School Courses 3 & 4 via Zoom and achieved Consultant status. Gardening School now has 12 Provisional Consultants, 43 Consultants, 12 Master Consultants, and 1 Emeritus.

Habitat for Humanity, Iris Cisaarik, reported that GCFP received two donations from GCFP garden clubs for the Habitat for Humanity. She was sending a monthly article to the District Directors to circulate to their garden clubs and members -- until the garden club meetings were cancelled. One article was on the Habitat For Humanity stores There have been several inquiries from clubs on starting a Habitat for Humanity Project. She gave advice and sources they could reach out to in order to begin a project.

Horticulture Therapy, Joyce Hoek, reminded everyone that one does not need to be a trained Horticulture Therapist to bring happiness and plant material to a group of people..While there has been less activity during this pandemic, some groups still are doing something. Clubs made holiday arrangements to give to nursing home residents, created homemade Valentine cards in February and Easter arrangements in March. She started a Facebook Group "Horticulture Therapy—sharing information and ideas" and it currently has 55 members. It is a fun way to let everyone know what your group is doing and it can be a source of ideas and inspiration.

Insurance, Judy Jackson, reported that during these uncertain times there have been a variety of questions concerning COVID-19 and liability insurance issues. There have been few requests for Proof of Insurance this past year. A Certificate of Insurance is posted on the pagardenclubs.org site

KG Online, Marie Mueller The submission response for the KG ONLINE has been so good that the pages have expanded for each issue. The last issue included four paid ads. We have received many positive comments from readers who enjoy reading the newsletters. The deadline for the June 15 issue of the KG ONLINE Newsletter is May 15. 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. The following issue comes out October 30, with a deadline of October 15. She reminded everyone to write the article in WORD format, and to send it by e-mail, with the Subject line "Keystone Gardener Online submission", and to include your name, Club name, and phone number, and send to mmueller150@aol.com.

Landscape Design School, Vivian Abel reported that there have been no Landscape Design School Courses held in Pennsylvania since Course I, Series 14 on November 1-2, 2019 in Lancaster. Since Landscape Design Consultants must attend a refresher every five years to remain in good standing, two Consultants whose credentials would have expired December 31, 2020 requested and were granted an extension. This Chairman applied for extensions for all the other Consultants whose credentials would have expired. These extensions will expire December 31, 2021

Life Memberships, Nerita Brandt, listed the names of new Life Members for 2020-2021:

- State Life Members: Fran Koch, Biglerville GC (IV); Jacqueline Elmer, Presque Isle GC (VIII); Melanie Markowski, Green Thumb GC (IV)
- National Life Members: Fran Koch, Biglerville GC (IV); Rosemary Romboski, So. Butler GC (IX); Karen Wychock, Trevoise Hort. Society (XI)
- CAR- SGC Life Members: Micki McKahan, Bedford Area GC (VI); Daryl Jones, Somerset GC (VI); Kathryn Yniguez, Penn Cumberland GC and GC of Harrisburg, (IV); Melanie Markowski, Green Thumb GC (IV); Tonya Young, GC of York and Town and Country GC of Lancaster (IV)

Membership, Rosalie Miller, was sorry to report, the Old Eagle Garden Club in District I, did request the procedure for withdrawing from GCFP as their club has been inactive due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This information was forwarded to Mary Ann DeSanto. She did not have any requests for information regarding anyone looking for a garden club in their vicinity to join, since the last report in Oct. 2020. As spring is approaching, she is sure individuals will once again begin to look for a garden club to join.

Natural Disasters, Kathy Crossman, reported donations from Garden Clubs and Districts in Pennsylvania from October 12, 2020 to April 19, 2021 have totaled \$687: Natural Disasters USA, \$587, and Special Collection - Oregon \$100. Checks were forwarded to Joyce Crider, GCFP Treasurer. She reminded treasurers that contributions to these funds must be made payable to GCFP, with "Natural Disasters USA" or "Natural Disasters International" on the memo line, and sent to her, not to GCFP..

Penny Pines, Carol Hall, explained that this program was started by former GCF President Pat Beal to help preserve one of our natural resources, the Allegheny National Forest. Many may have heard that there's been a wildfire in the forest this past week. So far, it has burnt over 250 acres and was 80 to 85 percent contained. Thru the years, donations have planted new trees and shrubs, helped to finish building an outdoor educational center, repaired river banks, and was in the process of a possible new project which was put on hold till a future date. The new Penny Pines Chairman will be Barb Andrus.

PHS Liaison, Flossie Narducci, reported that due to the pandemic, PHS has not scheduled the meeting to continue discussions regarding PHS' support of Garden Clubs and Plant Societies. Also, PHS' plans for hosting workshops and events across the State have been postponed. The Philadelphia Flower Show, was rescheduled to be held outdoors in June at the historic FDR Park in Philadelphia. "Habitat: Nature's Masterpiece" will be the first ever outdoor Flower Show for PHS. She has shared with PHS the Judges Council Chairs to ensure that qualified judges can be invited to judge this world renowned event.

Recycling, Lynn Jackson, reminded everyone that their masks are hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. The DEP website is filled with information for everyone. www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/RecyclingDisposal/Pages/default.aspx. There are programs for recycling electronics, household items like chemicals, batteries, cardboard, fluorescent lamps etc. It is important for both residents and businesses to keep as many items as possible from entering the landfills.

Sage and Roses, Betty Lewis, stated that the Sage and Roses Fund was established in 2010 to help fund the purchase, placement, and maintenance of Blue Star Memorial Markers within Pennsylvania. In the term 2019-2021, a total of \$450 has been donated to this fund.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl, Paula Mohler, reported that she received 54 posters this year. She had requested the schools to select their top 2 or 3 choices for grades 1-5. The 2021 winners will be listed in the Keystone Gardener Online. She was proud to announce that PA has a National Winner in the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Contest! The first place winner at the 4th grade level is Sorcha O'Sullivan who attends St. Kilian's School, and was sponsored by Ingomar Garden Club in District IX. Sorcha's poster has been sent onto Washington DC for the judging for the grand prize winner. Good luck to her!

Scholarship donations, Linda Southerling, encouraged all clubs to consider donations to GCFP Scholarship Fund as a means of honoring members, in memory of individuals or just a club donation to the fund. The donation can be made to a specific scholarship fund or donated to the general fund. Be sure to use the donation form on the GCFP website. She asked donors to specify when possible that acknowledgements be sent to the donor and recipient via email rather than by USPS.

Schools Coordinator, Vivian Hall, reported the NGC Schools schedule for 2021:
Environmental School

- Course 4- Zoom Sept. 22-Sept 23 2021 contact Sharon Bender 203-530-2920

Gardening School

- Course 1- Zoom April 26- 29 contact 716-812-4850
- Course 2 Zoom April 28 –April 29 contact Denise Clegg
- Course 3- Zoom April 28- April 29 contact Cheryl Cappiall 203-314-3559

Landscape Design School

- Course 1- Zoom April 23 -April 24 2021 contact Gretchen Vest 262-338-6645
- Course 4- Zoom June 9-June 10 2021 Hybrid Rochester, NY contact 585-230-7587

Flower Show School (all in person)

- Course 1 - May 11-May 14 2021 Ohio, contact Deb Wright 513-871-1997
- Course 2-June 20 June 23 2021 NC Contact Trish Sumners 336-945-4433
- Course 3- Nov 7-Nov 10 2021 NC contact Trish Sumners 336-945-4433
- Course 4- April 26-April 29 2021 MD contact Marjorie Glennan 401-987-9028

For all classes on zoom, participants must have a desk top or laptop computer. tablet or I-pad with audio and video.

Seed Money, Marjorie Sears, reported that this year fifty-four garden clubs applied for the \$2500.00 to improve their Legacy. She mentioned several of these worthwhile projects in the Civic Development report.

Student Judges Credentials, Connie Burnley, announced that Margie Bucci and Deb Stumpf (both District VI) successfully passed the Handbook Exam in October 2020 to become accredited judges. Nancy Fulk (IV) is scheduled to take the Handbook Exam in April. GCFP has six Student Judges:

- District I: Beverly Kostek, Pat Neff
- District IV: Nancy Fulk, Betsy Smith
- District VI: Rani Murali
- District VII: Marilyn Backus

Youth, Chris Hawthorne and Barbara Oswald, reported that with many schools teaching in a Hybrid or completely remote learning environment, participation for the youth contests was significantly lower than in past years. Here are the State breakdowns: Youth Sculpture – 0 entries; Essay - 3 entries –all from District IX; Poetry – 116 entries;