

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania  
Executive Committee Meeting**

**June 29, 2020**

**Via ZOOM**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) was called to order by **President Joyce Milberg** at 2:03 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020. This meeting was held online via the Zoom portal. .

Present were:

Vivian Abel	Georgieann Dettinburn	Judy Jackson	Vina McLoed Rudolph
Barbara Andrus	Sandy Eldridge	Lynn Jackson	Leeanna Ryba
Leslie Anthony	Karen Faust	Kay John	Judith Schaffer
Corinne Babson	Jo Anne Fogelman	Lou Ann Lauger	Mary Jo Schlomann
Marilyn Backus	Nancy Lambert Fulk	Claire Leichliter	Marjorie Stillwell Sears
Kay Bair	Mary Jo Gardill	Gail Corle Manna	Susan Semple
Barbara Brand	Vivian Hall	<b>Joyce Milberg, President</b>	Lois Shuster
Connie Burnley	Nancy Hannum	Grace Mitchell	Betsy Smith
Barbara Campbell	Sandra Hendricks	Paula Mohler	Linda Southerling
Iris Cisarik	Bonita Herman	Linda Morrison	Judy Vehse
Mary Lou Colussy	Deann Hertzler	Marie Mueller	Judy Warn
Joyce Crider	Mary Hetrick	Flossie Narducci	Haddie Weber
Sheila Croushore	Joyce Hoek	Lori Pancione	Betty Wist
Marcy Cunkelman	Jane Howe	Linda Pinto	Pat Wolanski
Jackie Davies	Diane Hughes	Angela Raitano	Margaret Wolff
Janice Davis	Ann Hulse	Sharon Richardson	Karen Wychock
Maryann Desanto	Tom Huston	Rosemary Romboski	Dorothy Yard
			Tonya Young

President Milberg went over some of the protocol for this online meeting. After greeting everyone, and thanking them for attending this meeting online – new adventure for all of us -- **President Milberg** declared that a quorum was present.

She announced that Linda Morrison and Nancy Fulk will review and approve the minutes. Any of the reports that were sent to the Recording Secretary and are not read today will still be included in the minutes of the meeting. She reminded everyone that the Recording Secretary records the minutes.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**President Milberg** congratulated everyone for the innovative and creative ways we have continued doing Garden Club stuff. We will hear more about virtual plant sales, masked plantings of civic gardens and more. How exciting that we have taken this most challenging of times to create new ways to communicate, share and learn.

Many of us are just itching to get out and be face to face again. It's a whole lot easier to run meetings and our clubs in the real world; it's a lot scarier to face each other virtually. She thanked everyone for participating in this history making Board Meeting.

The 2020-2021 FY GCFP Budget will be submitted for approval. We anticipate a shortfall in income and increasing expenses in normal categories such as insurance and accounting. Fortunately, our investment fund is strong so that we will not need to invade principal. She cautioned that in the long-term shortfalls of this magnitude may not be sustainable, and adjustments to income will need to be made.

Gail Corle Manna, our CAR-SGC Director, has suggested to her board that they consider taking the money not spent in traveling to meetings and donating it to the scholarship program. She asks the same of the GCFP Board – please consider making a donation to GCFP's Scholarship fund in lieu of the money you have not spent attending this meeting in person. The 12 scholarships we will give next spring are one of the best things we do. She hopes that we will encourage our scholarship recipients to report to us about how these funds were used, and how their exciting careers have developed.

She announced some of the winners of NGC award that would have been presented at the cancelled NGC convention in May. The awards were further delayed because the rosette manufacturer shut down during the pandemic. The box of awards is on its way to Awards Chairman Marilyn Backus, who will divide the awards by District and send them out.

The full list of NGC Awards will be attached at the end these minutes.

**President Milberg** presented Presidential Citations to the 2020 GCFP Annual Convention Committee, specifically Sue Semple, Convention Chair, Rosemary Romboski and Karen Faust, Convention co-Vice Chairs, Mary Reefer, Convention Treasurer, and Karen Lampman, Convention Registrar, who worked tirelessly and diligently not only to develop an outstanding 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention, but also to successfully manage the unexpected cancellation of the event. She asked that everyone recognize how difficult the task was for them.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sheila Croushore** reported on the Zoom meeting held with the District Directors on June 28, 2020. The tentative dates for the 2021 District Annual Meetings were distributed for review. The 2020 Trash to Treasure Contest will be judged as usual by the Districts, with a photograph of the winners being forwarded to the KG for the Winter Issue. It was considered too difficult to judge a state winner from a photograph, but all felt that the District winners should be recognized. She gave highlights of the District Director's reports in lieu of having them read at this meeting. Summaries of the Directors' reports will be included in these minutes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Leeanna Ryba** reported on the conversations she has had with Steven Fromeg at the Wyndham Garden in State College since June: first to change the dates of the June Board meeting, and then to cancel the meeting; and then to discuss with him the possible cancellation of the October Board meeting. Since the hotel has reopened, we would be charged a cancellation fee of \$4,261. We would be able to avoid this fee if we were to move the date of the meeting to late October or early November.

**President Milberg** suggested that a decision on this be postponed for the present, to see what might transpire with the COVID-19 virus. But, if the meeting does need to be cancelled, a vote of the Board would be required to approve payment of the cancellation fee.

**Recording Secretary Barbara Brand** reported that the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting were approved with minor corrections and distributed electronically. They were posted online and are filed in the Minutes Book. Since the April Convention was cancelled, there are no Annual Business Meeting minutes, and this has been noted in the Minutes Book. She thanked all who were able to send their reports by email in advance of this meeting. Any reports not read today will be included in the minutes.

**Treasurer Joyce Crider** explained that copies of her report and the proposed budget were distributed to the Board before this meeting. She presented the financial activity from May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020 indicating that the variance between income and expenses was \$25,681. We drew from investments in the amount of \$29,000, leaving a balance at the end of the fiscal year of \$9,421. There being no questions, she presented the proposed budget for fiscal year May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. She made note in her advance report that the budget reflects the gradual decline in membership dues and the cancellation of the 2020 Convention, and the inevitable increase in some expenses such as insurance. The anticipated income is \$55,877 and the anticipated expenses total \$87,758; drawing \$32,000 on investments will bring these totals into balance.

- The recommendation is to approve the proposed GCFP budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021. **Approved**

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

**Financial Secretary Nancy Lambert Fulk** reported the following balance in the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank checking account:

Beginning balance as of 10/01/2019	\$100
Receipts: Deposits from club dues	\$19,687.50
Disbursements::Transfer to Treasurer	<u>(\$19,687.50)</u>
Balance in checking account as of 06/01/2020	\$100

**Corresponding Secretary Linda Morrison** reported that she sent get well cards to Barbara Campbell in October and to Angie Raitano in April. Sympathy cards were sent to Elizabeth Pinkham and to the family of Evelyn Parent.

**Parliamentarian Angie Raitano** had no report, but she wanted to thank everyone who sent her cards and prayers during her recent illness.

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

- The recommendation from the Executive Committee is to add “100 Years Federated” to the existing \$100 awards for 50 and 75 years, with a monetary award for \$100. The award for 85 Years Federated will be eliminated. Certificates may be awarded for other anniversary years. **Approved**
- The recommendation from the Advisory Committee is that the executive officers not travel to the annual District meetings in the fall of 2020. **Approved**

**President Milberg** explained that the District directors will determine how they wish to handle in-person annual meetings, and that officer installations may be conducted via Zoom.

- The recommendation from the Executive Committee is to ratify the votes which were taken electronically in April: to extend the period dues will be accepted as current until June 30, 2020; to approve \$200 for an ad in the CAR-SGC October Conference program book (the conference was cancelled); and to increase dues to CAR-SGC to \$.09 per capita (this was included in the 2020-2021 budget, which has been approved). **Approved**

Since the District Directors’ reports were summarized in the report given by **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Croushore, President Milberg** proceeded to the Committee reports. In the interest of time, she called upon specific Chairmen to give their reports at this meeting; other reports prepared by Chairmen will be included in these minutes.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN’S REPORTS**

**Judges’ Council: Pat Wolanski** reported that the GCFP Judges’ Council Board met via “Zoom” on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. District IV was acknowledged for judging the Philadelphia Flower Show this year, and it was confirmed that District V will be judging in 2021. Judges were reminded to refer to the Winter Issue of the National Gardener, Page 34, for a correction under Awards Summary Chart, Arboreal Awards.

She has collected and developed a list of Judging Comments and useful adjectives based on the Principles and Elements of Design. This list will be shared with all judges with the aim of assisting them in writing comments during the judging process.

She summarized the reports given by the Council’s Flower Show Committee Chairmen, the Symposium Chairman, and the Judges Council Chairmen. If submitted, their reports are included in these minutes. Due to the pandemic, Judges Councils did not have much activity, but a few meetings were held prior to the outbreak.

She announced that, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, the lowest allowable test score has been changed from 75 to 70. Also, all Accredited, Accredited Life, and Accredited Master judges can receive judging credit for serving on the evaluating panel.

**Gardening School: Mary Jo Schломann** reported that Gardening School has 37 consultants, 14 master consultants, and 1 emeritus. Gardening School, Series 13, Course 3 will be held July 21-22, 2020 via Zoom. The cost is \$75 with test or if refreshing, \$70 without the test. Participants must have a tablet, iPad, or computer with a camera and microphone and they must attend a session on July 13 to check their equipment. Registration is limited to 25 people. The brochure has been posted on the GCFP website. Gardening School Course 4 will be held in the spring of 2021.

**President Milberg** announced that Environmental School this fall has been cancelled, and **Nominating Committee Chairman Diane Hughes** will give a report in October.

**Awards: Marilyn Backus** reported that GCFP Awards were announced in the May and June issues of the KG Online. Norristown Garden Club’s President, Barbara Stobenau, was presented the Governor’s Trophy (an engraved crystal vase) at Lancaster on May 28. GCFP Award Certificates, and any NGC and CAR-SGC Award Certificates, will be sent to each District Director in one package in July for distribution to their clubs.

She provided some statistics about the GCFP awards, which numbered 210 in all, and also mentioned that 37 entries were forwarded to CAR-SGC for regional judging, and 43 entries were sent to NGC for national judging. She reminded District Directors to send their District’s nominee for the GCFP Perennial Bloom Award to her by August 1.

**Scholarships: Sandy Hendricks** reported that she received 21 scholarship applications from 14 clubs in 7 districts. The winners were announced in the online Keystone Gardener Issue. Letters of congratulations were mailed to each of the 13 winners with copies to the sponsoring garden clubs. She also mailed letters to all alternates and non-winners.

Congratulations to Kimberly Ferrara, sponsored by District II/III, Hazelton Area Garden Club winner of the 2020-2021 National Garden Club Scholarship of \$4,000.00. The Doreen Dew Kauffman scholarship of \$1,000.00 is ending with this year’s scholarship. It has been given annually for ten years, 2012 – 2021.

**Scholarship Donations:** **Linda Southerling** reported that donations for the year-to-date total \$1,710. Please use the form off the GCFP website and include the e-mail of the donor when sending in a donation. She thanked the donors for their generous contributions

**Convention Committees:** **Judy Schafer** gave a combined report from the convention committees for 2020, 2021 and 2022. She commended the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention Committee not only for planning an outstanding event – to be held for the first time on a weekend – but also for the speedy and professional way they handled the cancellation of the convention. The cancellation has prompted a revision of the Convention Manual, which she and Sue Semple have started. The principal changes revolve around procedures and policies in case of cancellation. The pandemic also has affected the 2021 Convention Committee's ability to meet, so their planning has been mostly by email. The committee is in a "no spending" mode at present. The 2022 Convention Committee is experiencing difficulty getting a contract from their chosen hotel. District VII will host the 2023 Convention, if such an event is still viable.

**Insurance:** **Judy Jackson** was busy with questions arising from the cancellation of the 2020 Convention. bonding of the convention treasurer, and liability coverage for events due to the COVID-19 virus. Our Liability Insurance policy renews each year on July 25. There will be a \$551 increase in the premium for the year through 7/25/2021. An updated Certificate of Insurance will be posted on the [www.pagardenclubs.org](http://www.pagardenclubs.org) site. Select Projects/Resources on the left side of the page, then click on GCFP Insurance Certificate on the right. You may copy it for your needs or contact her.

**Littering/Recycling:** **Lynn Jackson** commented on the impact of COVID-19, in particular on our individual attempts to remain environmentally responsible at this challenging time. Among her observations were the discovery of discarded face masks in parking lots at stores and restaurants. She encouraged everyone to follow where possible the guidelines when in public, and to spend more time in our gardens to reduce stress and create beauty.

**Youth Awards and High School Essay Contest:** **Chris Hawthorne and Barbara Oswald** announced the themes for the 2020/2021 school year: the Poetry Contest theme is "Exploring Backyard Mysteries"; the theme for the High School Essay Contest is "Adapting Our Actions to Protect Our Natural Habitats." The Youth Sculpture Contest has no theme. Grades 4 - 8 are eligible to participate; the sculpture entries are required to be made out of recycled materials and only photos with a description are to be mailed.

Please consider participating in these contests. We had quite a few poetry entries like we usually do, however only two schools participated in the Youth Sculpture Contest and only one High School student entered the High School Essay Contest. The deadline for submitting these applications is Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

**Civic Development/Seed Money Grant:** **Marjorie Stillwell Sears** expressed gratitude to Pat Wolanski for obtaining 40,000 packs of fresh seeds from Burpee for GCFP. 4,000 packs were delivered to each District Director to distribute to their club members. The committee members did everything they could to give all 49 club applicants a portion of the \$2,500 Seed Money funds. She shared a PowerPoint presentation which included a sampling of the 235 photographs of Civic Development projects sent to her this year: Blue Star Marker gardens, civic gardens, memorial gardens, tree planting, senior center programs, and much more.

#### **New Business:**

**President Milberg** reported that since the proposed By-Law changes that were to have been approved at the Annual Meeting could not be acted upon, there are now additional By-Law changes arising from our recent experiences in having to cancel the convention. She asked the Recording Secretary to read the proposed changes.

- Article IX, Board of Directors: Add Section G. In an emergency, vote either by mail or electronic communication (confirmed in writing). **Approved**

**President Milberg** explained that the option for electronic voting in an emergency situation is currently only listed under the Executive Committee. This change will add the same wording to the full Board of Directors.

- Article XVI, Amendments: Add Section 3: In the event of a National or Local emergency, where the GCFP Annual Convention must be cancelled, the By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors. The ballots are to be sent by mail or electronic communication. All ballots must be received by the Recording Secretary within thirty (30) days to be counted. **Approved**

**President Milberg** explained that currently the By-Law changes must be approved at the Annual Convention by the membership. This change allows for By-Law changes to be approved in an emergency situation, without waiting a year until the next Annual Convention.

As the Annual Conventions for 2022 and 2023 are coming up, **President Milberg** asked for ratification of the selection of the Host Districts and Chairmen for these Conventions.

- The recommendation is to ratify the selection of District I as the Host District for the Annual Convention in 2022. **Approved**
- The recommendation is to ratify the appointment of Nancy Cuttic and Ellen McGarigle as Co-Chairs of the 2021 Convention. **Approved**
- The recommendation is to ratify the selection of District VII as the Host District for the Annual Convention in 2023. **Approved**

**President Milberg** announced Presidential Citations (prepared prior to the Annual Convention in April) for the following Board members: Marjorie Sears for her enthusiasm and support of GCFP, resulting in a windfall of seeds for our members to beautify their gardens; Judith Jackson, for your continued support of GCFP in your job as Insurance Chairman has been a boon to the organization over the years; Sandy Manthorpe, who has diligently worked with PennDOT to increase the installation of markers recognizing our veterans in the rest areas along Pennsylvania highways; and Marie Mueller for creating the KG Online which has been a success since its beginning.

#### **Announcements:**

**President Milberg** announced the resignation of Chris Leskosky, Past President of GCFP, as Chair of the Advisory Committee, which she has accepted with deep regret.

The Fall Board Meeting of NGC has been cancelled; Environmental School has been cancelled, and the CAR-SGC Annual Conference has been cancelled. The Executive Committee members have indicated that 75% would not attend an in-person Board Meeting in October, and this will influence our negotiations with the Wyndham Garden Hotel in State College.

**Chaplain Vina McLoed Rudolph** presented closing words.

The meeting was adjourned by **President Milberg** at 3:25 p.m.

---

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

#### **DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

**Sharon Richardson, District I Director**, reported that all of their clubs' activities came to a screeching halt by the end of March. No clubs have held face to face meetings since then, but plenty of planning has occurred behind the scenes. They're getting familiar with ZOOM and held their first Presidents' Zoom Meeting. Each club is approaching their levels of activity with thoughtfulness. Several clubs performed their installations on line; one club is doing virtual pop-up gardens where members invite their club membership to 'visit' their garden virtually through photographs. One club is contemplating a virtual flower show.

At the District level they were in the middle of negotiating a contract with the Desmond Hotel for GCFP's 2022 Convention, but they are now in 'stall' mode. The Convention Committee is off to a great start. Several key leadership positions have been filled and they look forward to announcing the theme at the October Board Meeting. They're currently working on a plan to hold our September Annual Meeting as a Zoom meeting.

**Barbara Campbell, District II-III Director** read her Top Ten List of ways their clubs have dealt with restrictions and guidelines during the pandemic. #10, Installing new officers virtually; #9, Checking in on members with calls and emails; #8, Encouraging member sharing on Social Media; #7, Initiating Burpee Seed Challenges using the 4,000 seed packets that were sent to District II-III clubs; #6, Planting public spaces while practicing social distancing; #5, Receiving awards and grants; #4, Giving scholarships and other gifts to the communities; #3, planning new projects; #2, Holding ZOOM meetings and programs, and the #1 Activity - Canceling and rescheduling many meetings and events while staying safe and continuing to garden.

**Georgieann Dettinburn, District IV Director**, reported that although all club meetings were cancelled, some club activities have taken place. All Clubs practiced social distancing and wearing masks at their activities. Chambersburg Garden Club held a Visual Flower Show on line. Green Thumb President Carol McDonald sent monthly "Checking on You" notes to her club members. Biglerville Garden Club planted the begonia apple at the Apple Museum, weeded and added flowers to their Rain Garden, the Upper Adams Senior Center and Biglerville Borough Office Garden. Biglerville and Gettysburg Garden Clubs shared an emailed newsletter featuring photos sent in from club members, showing what was in bloom in their gardens in the spring and early summer. Penn-Cumberland Garden Club posted tours of Club members' Gardens on their Facebook page. Club President Susan Reppert-Brill sent a personal Thinking of

You note to each of the 127 members. The Garden Club of York helped spread cheer by delivering 248 coffee mugs, planted with succulents to residents of the Senior Assisted Living facility in downtown York.

**Barbara Andrus, District V Director**, reported that all seven clubs did not hold their March, April, May meetings, but some held outside activities in June. Standing Stone GC will commemorate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with flowers in the yellow-gold spectrum on display at the entrance of Huntingdon. Susquehanna GC shared their gardens and bird visitors via email -- Baltimore Orioles and Red-Breasted Grosbeak were popular. Mifflin County GC encouraged its members to each plant one tree in honor of/memory of a loved one for Arbor Day. At their June outdoor meeting, they presented two \$1,000 scholarships. The Heritage GC took a tour of the Dean and Rebecca Jackson Mt-Glen Farm in June, which was honored to receive the 2019 Leopold Conservation Award.

**Marcy Cunkelman, District VI Director**, reported that District clubs are finally having meetings using masks and safe distancing. Community projects continue even though the number of people helping is down. Many club fundraisers were cancelled and two more clubs cancelled their holiday luncheons. Blair GC and Indiana GC received Plant America Grants. Weeders and Seeders received a grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation for a "Native Bee and Honeybee Education" for the Ligonier Valley School students. This activity was postponed in the spring and will resume this fall. GC of Johnstown has been busy with planting a rain garden/bioswale at the Bottle Works Ethnic Art Center. Almost 2,000 perennials were planted by 10 women, by hand. District VI is still discussing what to do about the annual meeting.

**Margaret Wolff, District VII Director** reported that most of the District clubs end their meetings in December and start up again in March. Only a few clubs were able to get started and then were put on hold. All of the clubs kept in contact with their members by email, phone, and Zoom during the stay-at-home period. Three clubs - Garden Club of Forest Hills, Garden Club of Monroeville & Greensburg Garden Center - creatively held their plant sales. She was pleased to announce that Judy Schaffer received the 2019 GCFP Member Award of Honor, and that Tammy Watychowicz, Naturalist of the Allegheny Park System, was nominated by the Garden Club of Monroeville and received the GCFP Silver Seal Award. We held a District VII Board meeting on June 23, 2020, at a pavilion in Monroeville Community Park. We had a quorum, (9 out of 13 clubs) were represented, so we were able to vote on the proposal to host the 2023 GCFP convention.

**Mary Hetrick, District VIII Director**, reported on how the clubs in her District managed to continue during the pandemic. Emporium Garden Club, a recipient of an NGC Plant America Grant did plant their community gardens but could not refurbish the raised beds at their Elementary School. The Garden Club of Clarion County will be returning the 685 Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl posters they received in the fall. The Titusville Area Garden Club could not meet to help the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders plant nasturtium seeds like they have for years. Wildflower Garden Club had to cancel all their Little Sprouts Programs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders. Never before have the 15 garden clubs in District VIII had to cancel so many monthly meetings and plant sales. Only Elk Valley had a pre-order and delivery plan for their plant sale. We are fortunate that all Clubs are sound financially.

**Rose Romboski, District IX Director**, stated that she is proud of the Clubs in District IX that have done their best to keep their clubs active and functioning during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.. District IX was awarded the GCFP Comprehensive Award with a total of 50 awards amongst our nine clubs in various categories. Greybrooke Garden Club recently held their Summer Garden Party/Sale in the garden of a member instead of an indoor venue. The Ingomar Garden Club held their Plant Sale in a parking lot on a busy corner in the neighborhood. Lots of mask-wearing shoppers arrived ahead of the 10am start to get the best pick of perennials. Many Clubs have moved their typically indoor meetings outdoors. Southern Butler County Garden Club (SBCGC) held their May meeting in Graham Park, where they are caretakers of a community garden. Since many programs were cancelled, SBCGC also held a member only Progressive Garden Tour in June. While socially distancing and masked, members were able to tour four gardens with a bagged lunch at the last stop.

**Kay Bair, District X Director:** The District Spring Tea and June Fundraiser were cancelled due to Covid-19. Currently DX Clubs have discontinued monthly meetings until it is safe to meet. One club did have a Zoom meeting where they installed new officers. Many members planted the donated Burpee seeds, made Covid-19 Masks, donated fabric, cleaning supplies, and food to local churches. The clubs have planted and cared for their community beautification projects. Several clubs have visited members' flower gardens. A District X Board meeting is being planned for the end of August at the Lions Club Community Park in Waynesburg.

**Karen Wychock, District XI Director**, stated that District XI clubs have tried to retain normalcy by continuing to publish their monthly newsletters and update their websites. A few clubs brought members together through ZOOM for their board and monthly meetings. The Trevoze Horticultural Society monthly "Little Shows" went virtual, with photographs being posted and shared with fellow gardeners. The BURPEE Seeds were distributed to all of the garden clubs: some community projects involving the BURPEE seeds had to be canceled, but several got underway involving churches, homeless shelters, and schools. Clubs continued to maintain their community gardens while being masked and practicing social distancing. All scheduled flower shows and major community events were canceled through September and several clubs canceled events through December 2020. Garden Clubs across the District would like to congratulate the Norristown Garden Club on receiving the GCFP Governor's Trophy.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

**501-c-3, Mary Jo Gardill**, stated that after a last minute rush, with the able assistance of our District Directors, all of the filings are in and forwarded to GCFP's accountant.

**Blue Star Marker, Corinne Babson**, reported that the Heather Garden Club of Edinboro, PA has postponed its Blue Star Marker Dedication until June 2021 due to the Pandemic. One club has called for information about ordering and dedicating a marker. Marker

prices will increase as of July 1, 2020: Highway Markers \$1,590.00; Memorial Markers \$1,590.00; By -Way Markers \$530.00; Replacement posts \$325.00. She also shared a bit of history: the NGC President's pin, designed in 1952, contained seven diamonds and one large blue sapphire, symbolic of the program.

**Blue Star Marker (Central), Jane Howe**, reported that Weeding, planting, mulching Blue Star Memorials across Central PA seemed to be the only norm this Spring. Because of the uncertain times, no new dedications occurred and that hopefully kept garden club members safe and well.

**Book of Recognition, Ann Hulse**, reported that since the Board Meeting on Oct 14-15, 2019, three entries have been made into the Book of Recognition totaling \$75.00 in donations: one from District V in memory of Mary Longacre; and two from the South Schuylkill Garden club -- in memory of Georgia Sandler and in memory of Dorothy Monaghan.

**Club Programs, Sandy Eldridge** stated that there have been many imaginative developments in garden clubs' programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. One gardening activity reported by The Schuylkill Garden Club of District II/III seems especially significant right now. After cancelling their spring plant sale, members made salsa and *bruschetta* pots from vegetable seedlings and donated their plantings to the intensive care staff at a local hospital. It seems so fitting a gesture for members of a garden club to cultivate hope where there has been so much despair.

**Conservation/ Birds and Butterflies, Marcy Cunkelman** stated that it has been a hard year to see many bees and butterflies also. When trimming your trees and shrubs, be sure to thoroughly check every branch to make sure there isn't a nest hiding with babies. If you do happen to find a nest, try to cover up with branches to add protection until they fledge. The birds are best bug eaters in our gardens and remember to not spray. Planting native trees and shrubs and perennials will bring more activity to your yard. Remember to plant host plants for the butterflies and moths. These will also offer nectar with the blossoms and fruit for the birds. The native Cardinal Flower is bright red and the hummers, bees and swallowtail butterflies love to use for nectar. Your garden is the best place to relax and observe. The more you plant and improve your little patch of heaven, the more you will see.

**Environmental School, Nancy Fulk** reported the Environmental School scheduled for September 8-9, 2020, has been canceled and will be rescheduled for next spring. If Covid-19 is still evident most likely the class will be by zoom. By then everyone will be well acquainted, with zoom! You will be notified when the date is secured.

**Flower Show Book of Evidence, Deb Stumpf**, reported The Flower Show Book of Evidence Committee met in December 2019 to judge the books from 2018 flower shows. They judged a total of ten books, of which eight scored higher than 95. Those books were forwarded to the GCFP Awards Chairman to be forwarded in turn for NGC competition. Because the 2020 GCFP Convention was cancelled, the results have not been given to the clubs.

**Flower Show Schedule, Sue Irwin** reported that the Flower Show Schedule Committee met to judge the 2019 flower show schedules, and judged 15 schedules. Since they could not be announced at the 2020 Convention, the flower show schedule award winners will be listed in the June edition of the Keystone Gardener. Seven schedules scored 95 or above and were eligible to compete at the CAR-SGC level.

**Laurel Highlands Judges Council, Mary Jo Gardill**, reported that in December 2019 they welcomed their newest accredited judge, Charlotte Crissey. The joint Flower Show with Pittsburgh Area Judges' Council will be on Wednesday August 19, 2020 at the Greensburg Garden Center. Margie Bucci, student judge, wrote the schedule, "New York, New York. Claire Leichter, Bedford County Garden Club, will begin her administration at our next meeting.

**Philadelphia Area Judges Council, Lori Pancione**, reported that because of COVID-19 crisis PAJC has not had an opportunity to meet since fall of 2019. Meetings, tours and flower shows had to be canceled. They are hoping to have an October, 2020 meeting but have not announced dates. She hopes to have a ZOOM meeting of officers. She has been working on arranging, canceling and re-scheduling Flower Show School dates, instructors and work committees. She is hopeful that the Flower Show School dates for 2021 will not have to be changed again: She reported with deep sadness recent losses in the PAJC group: Peggy Hartwick (91), a long time member of Uwchlan Garden Club died recently.

**Flower Show Judges Credentials, Nancy Hannum** announced two new members passed the Handbook Exam: CHARLOTTE Chrissey, GC of Johnstown (VI), and Carol KLONICKI, Cambridge GC, and Heather GC of Edinboro (VIII). Louise Heilig Mary Jane Martucci, Kay Morrissey, and Lori Pancione, and Sandra Pritchard have achieved reached Master status. Delores Nolt, Claire Leichter, Mary Lou VanDorn achieved Life status. Tonya Young, Judy McGinnis, Joyce Wallen Audrey Angelella, Valerie Burgess, and Barbara Campbell passed the first symposium. Twenty two judges with "good through" dates 2020 were extended until Dec. 31, 2021. Liz Snowdon is now the Flower Show Schedule Advisor. There are currently forty Emeritus Judges.

**Habitat for Humanity, Iris Cisarik** reported that she had been circulating a monthly article to the District Directors and in turn requested that they have the articles circulated to their garden club presidents who in turn would distribute copies of the article to their members. This activity has been curtailed since none of our garden clubs have been meeting. The plight of families in many communities has been hardest hit by the economic shocks of COVID-19. Last year HfH served more than 7 million people through home construction, rehabilitation, repairs and improvements. Now, more than ever, many more families will need decent affordable housing. Gifts of \$35, \$20 or even \$15.00 will help children and parents get the hand up they need.

**Horticultural Therapy, Joyce Hoek** stated that Horticulture Therapy has pretty much collapsed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Most activities are in nursing homes and they are off limits for the foreseeable future. Working in a group right now is scary. However, in late April, The Garden Club of York collected 250 mugs and planted succulents in them at their homes. The mugs were collected and on May 1, they were given to York City Police to deliver to City senior citizens who were living in quarantine. While not strictly "Horticultural Therapy" according to the GCFP Awards Manual, she is sure it was a bright May Day for many

**KG Online, Marie Mueller** reported that we published a KG ONLINE in May and June of 2020. The May issue featured things that would have been discussed at the Convention, had it been held, and some awards that would have been announced at that time. The June issue featured more Awards and some general information. The next issue will be distributed by the end of October, and will feature many of our state's garden clubs' programs and projects. She reminded everyone of the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the next issue, and asked that everyone please send articles as Word documents only.

**Landscape Design Schools, Vivian Abel** reported that the last GCFP Landscape Design School was Series 14, Course I, held in Lancaster on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Sixteen garden club members attended as students and 8 Consultants refreshed. One student was from Maine, one was from New Jersey, and all the others were from Pennsylvania. Landscape Design School, Environmental School, and Gardening School now all use the same Handbook, the same forms, and all now have open book/open note tests with Pass/Fail grades. Since Covid -19 has been part of our lives there have been a few NGC schools, including Landscape Design School, held on Zoom. This Chairman is anticipating holding Course II this fall, either in person in Lancaster or on Zoom.

**Liaison to PHS, Flossie Narducci** reported that she attended a Roundtable Discussion with Garden Clubs and Plant Societies last fall at the Horticulture Center in Philadelphia. The most noteworthy recommendation was to request that each Garden Club designate one of its members to serve as Liaison to PHS. While PHS sends emails to the President of each Garden Club, when the president's term of office has ended, club has not notified PHS. The member designated as Liaison would need to be the contact person for several years and share pertinent information with the Club's current president. PHS is instituting a Garden Club Advisory Committee and I have been invited to serve on this committee. The first meeting was scheduled for April; however, due to the pandemic, the meeting was canceled.

**Life Memberships, Nerita Brant** reported the following Life Members for NGC, GCFP and CAR-SGC for 2019-2020: GCFP: Karen Szoke, Gettysburg G C (IV), Judith Miller Wildflower G C (VIII), Rebecca Stark Duboistown G C, (V), Lois V. Ziegler Mifflin Co. G C (V) Don Sine, Villages, FL, Lorraine Dupre, Somerset G C (VI), Michael Sarraino G C of Munhall (X). NGC: Lynn Jackson, Presque Isle G C (VIII). Adrienne Busko, Presque Isle G C (VIII), Joan Davis, Presque Isle G C (VIII), Jan McLaughlin, Presque Isle G C (VIII). CAR- SGC: Marilyn Backus, G C of Monroeville (VII).

**Memory Book, Joy Kempf** asked everyone to send her pictures, news articles, etc., that show activities Joyce has shared with your club: the September annual meetings, Blue Star dedications, club celebrations where Joyce was attending, etc. Newspaper articles, pictures, everything. Please just include the information as to who-what-where-and when. This term of office is going to be something to remember for all of us. Please send them to her as soon as possible, and continue to send them as things start to slowly open up again.

**Natural Disasters USA/International, Kathy Crossman** reported Donations from *Garden Clubs and Districts* in Pennsylvania from October 20, 2019 to June 25, 2020 have totaled \$1,983.96. These donations include: Natural Disasters USA, \$1813.96 and Natural Disasters Int'l, \$170. All checks have been forwarded to the GCFP Treasurer. District chairmen and Club Presidents need to remind their treasurers that contributions to these funds must be payable to GCFP with the notation "*Natural Disasters USA*" or "*Natural Disasters International*" on the lower left memo line.

**Pollinator Restoration, Leslie Anthony** stated that in the spring, she planned to kick off her GCFP pollinator restoration efforts at the convention, Her Pollinator Friendly Workshop, promoting pollinator friendly habitats, was sold out. She also planned to assemble an Exhibit table for Allegheny County Penn State Master Gardeners, providing educational information focused on pollinators, the PA Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification, Spotted Lantern Flies and more. This spring and summer, she wrote monthly pollinator-based articles for Shaler Garden Club, and expanded her articles to include Nine News, District IX's quarterly newsletter. Despite coronavirus restrictions, she continues her quest to educate others about the benefits of pollinators.

**Publicity Press Book, Joy Kempf** reported that Publicity Press Books for this year have been returned, or sent on. She still has one as there was no postage paid return envelope included. There were eight books submitted this year for judging. These books are a great way to show what your club has done for a year, and combined with your minutes, are a wonderful visual record. The judges were impressed with the number of new and different activities some of the clubs have come up with. She hopes that more clubs will participate this year, as it is uncertain if this State Award will continue. Information on the award is in the Award Manual, and the deadline to submit to her is January 15th. Remember to include a postage paid envelope if you want your book returned.

**Sage and Roses, Betty Lewis** stated that the Sage and Roses Fund was established in 2010 at the suggestion of Lois Dupre Shuster, GCFP President and NGC President 2001-2003. This fund is designated for the purpose of helping to fund the purchase, placement, and maintenance of Blue Star Memorial Markers in Pennsylvania. In October, 2019, she donated \$100 to Sage and Roses Fund in appreciation of The Garden Club of Harrisburg for their help in presenting a very successful District IV Annual meeting at the beautiful Hershey Gardens and Conservatory. In May, 2020, she donated \$50 to Sage and Roses Fund for get well wishes to Angie Raitano, sent by email from her. In November, 2019, Karen Faust of Butler, PA sent a check for \$50 from the Tusca-Ridge Garden Club for a flower arranging program that she presented. Also in November, Susan Simple donated \$50 to the Sage and Roses Fund.



**Schools Coordinator, Vivian Hall** reported the information she has as of this date: Flower Show Schools sponsored by the Philadelphia Area Judges Council and GCFP, to be held Oct. 15 to 18, 2020 in the morning; April 8 to 11, 2021; October 21 to 24, 2021; April 28 to May 1, 2022; contact Lori Pancione for information. Gardening School; July 21 and 22, 2020; contact Mary Jo Schlomann. Environmental School, September 8 and 9, 2020; contact Nancy Fulk.

**Smoky Bear/Woodsy Owl, Paula Mohler** reported that 85 Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl posters were received for the 2020 Contest from five (5) districts, represented by six(6) clubs. The first place winners were:

1st grade Johnny Baldrige, Giant Oaks GC, District X

2nd grade Elise Beach, GC of Clarion County, District VIII

3rd grade Jocelyn Gardner, GC of Clarion County, District VIII 4th grade Chloe Summerville, Ingomar GC, District IX

5th grade Carly Salac, Ingomar GC, District IX

She has the posters to return to the districts when we are able to meet again in person. Also, she has a photograph of the winning poster and blue ribbon for each of the winners and she will give these to the individual districts for presentation to their winner(s).

Barbara A. Brand

Recording Secretary