

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
June 9-10, 2025

GCFP President, Pat Wolanski, called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM. **GCFP Chaplain, Margie Wolff**, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the **1st Vice President, Tonya Young**. The roster was circulated on the first and second day of the meeting. **President Wolanski** declared that a quorum of at least 30 voting members were in attendance (Day 1: 69/112, Day 2: 60/110).

President Wolanski introduced the **2025-2027 officers**: First Vice-President Tonya Young, Second Vice-President Mary Hetrick, Recording Secretary Deborah Davis, Treasurer Vivian Hall, and Financial Secretary Sheila Croushore. She then introduced the **former GCFP State Presidents** in attendance: Betsy Smith, Dot Yard, Angela Raitano, Joyce Milberg, Chris Leskosky, Sheila Croushore, and Leeanna Ryba. Timekeeper for the meetings was Appointed Member Lori Pancione.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President, Pat Wolanski, reported that since her installation in April, she has been busy. She has attended two Garden Club Anniversary luncheons, with one more still to come, and two Blue Star Memorial dedications, with another one scheduled. She also had the opportunity to meet with our State Representative, Amanda Cappelletti and Heidi Secor, a representative from the Department of Agriculture at the Blockson Middle School in Norristown. Cheryl Brumbaugh, Chair of Sprouts and Seedlings, was also present. These two representatives expressed great interest in our youth initiatives, particularly our Sprouts and Seedlings Program and they assured us of the state's support for this effort. Ms. Secor requested additional information and garden photos, which have been sent to her. Our Organizational Studies co-chairs, Barbara Brand and Dot Yard, have been diligently revising the Board of Directors Manual, updating job descriptions, and reviewing our Standing Rules. Meanwhile, Jane Kruse, Tonya Young and Nancy Cuttic worked to update the District Director and Presidents' Manual. Judy Schaffer and past convention chairs offered revisions to our Convention Manual. In May, she attended the National Convention in Charleston, SC where Donna Donnelly was installed as our new National President. Joining her are 1st VP Gerianne Holtzman, 2nd VP Suzanne Andrego, and 3rd VP, Susan Miner. Pennsylvania was honored to receive several awards this year, which our Awards Chairs, Marilyn Small and Sheri Lowry will highlight. National has now launched a refreshed website which should make navigation easier. The GCFP website is in the early stages of review and to ensure it is up to date and user friendly. Two items discussed at the National Convention resonated strongly with our own initiatives. The first was the mention of a presentation by Jennifer Lawson of Keep America Beautiful, where she emphasized the healing power of nature. Research shows that patients recover more quickly when surrounded by flowers, nature and greenery. An interesting statistic shared was the "lipstick effect" -- during economic hardship, makeup sales remain robust, reflecting a deep human desire for beauty and hope. This idea aligns perfectly with our Healing Art Program. Please take a look at this program on our website under President's Projects. Our Healing Art Chair, Barbara Campell, will provide more details on this. Another initiative from National is the encouragement to plant a Red, White and Blue garden in observance of our Nation's birthday -- a perfect complement to her other President's Project of planting theme gardens, with red, white and blue as one of the themes. More about this will be presented by Theme-garden co-chairs, Marg Eberz and Eileen Harris-Regan. Additionally, she has been collaborating with Nancy Cuttic, Chair of the Pennsylvania Garden Party Committee, as she organizes our statewide garden tour. This significant undertaking will not only showcase the beauty of our state, but also highlight the vibrant work of our organization. Nancy will provide details. Sharon Richardson, Chair of our GCFP Reads Program and President Wolanski have

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been discussing the launch of this new reading initiative. Sharon will share more about this exciting program. Lastly, she noted the communication system and all State Board meeting messages has improved with more improvements to come. She hopes members are receiving messages in a timely manner. She looks forward to the Annual District Directors Meetings and luncheons in September, where she will have the opportunity to connect with club members. A quick note -- The October Board meeting will be held October 13 and 14th following her return from the GCFP Italy Tour. The Board will host a Horticulture Specialty Show. Ginger Hunsicker is working on the schedule titled: "Celebrating Nature." She mentioned that National requested the history of our State Garden Club. She has information up to 2018 and will complete the remaining updates before submitting it to National ahead of their deadline. National also reminds members to purchase a paver for installation in NGC's "Path to Success" walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, MO that will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Details are on NGC's website. She thanked the Board members for their time and commitment to GCFP. She looked forward to what GCFP will accomplish in the coming months. Let's make our Keystone a Gemstone – together.

1st Vice President, Tonya Young, reported her activities since her installation as the First VP in April at the GCFP Convention in King of Prussia. She served as a proctor at the Flower Show School held in Gettysburg. She attended a celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Gettysburg Garden Club. Unfortunately, she had to cancel her participation in the celebration with the Parkland Garden Club due to an emergency trip to the veterinarian on the same day. She assisted with the production of the design and horticulture program, which was offered on Zoom. She participated in a lovely Blue Star Dedication in District IV. She met with the District Directors on Zoom during their May meeting to discuss the DD Manual, GCFP Board reports, personnel forms, protocol, District Standing Rules, and a presentation on Pennsylvania's Garden Party by Nancy Cuttic.

2nd Vice President, Mary Hetrick, reported that she attended the 2025 GCFP Convention in King of Prussia, PA. This officer also attended planning meetings for the upcoming 2026 Convention in Erie, her hometown. After her installation, she attended several meetings on Zoom to assist the GCFP President and Executive Board in reviewing and revising the Board of Directors Manual and GCFP Standing Rules. She attended the Zoom meeting hosted by the First Vice President with the officers and the District Directors. Arrangements for this Board Meeting meals were completed with the help of the First Vice President, Tonya Young. Mary collected funds for the meal reservations and felt pin craft project. She secured the same site for upcoming GCFP Board meetings in 2026. She attended the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker sponsored by District IV Garden Clubs in Greencastle, PA. She is attending the planning meetings for the Gold Star Memorial Marker, sponsored by District VIII and IX, to be dedicated on July 16th. This officer has scheduled the initial zoom meeting for all the GCFP Club Presidents and herself, the President and First Vice President. These quarterly meetings are intended to further help achieve President Wolanski's communication initiative. She looks forward to the September tour of Pennsylvania 2025 with GCFP's President and First Vice-President.

Recording Secretary, Deborah Davis, reported that having just begun as GCFP Recording Secretary, she has only taken the minutes of the April 1, 2025 Zoom meeting thus far. It is a pleasure and honor to serve, and a learning experience.

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, reviewed the details of Financial Statements: GCFP Asset Summary as of 4/30/2025 and the GCFP Statement of Financial Activity May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025. The

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GCFP Asset Summary as of April 30, 2025 stated Total Checking, Savings and Petty Cash was \$35,558.98. Total Advances Receivable was \$4,100. Total Current Assets was \$51,437.89. The Penny Pines Reforestation Total, including \$10,000 in the Stifel account, was \$22,192.03. Total amount of 2024 Scholarship Awards was \$13,200.00. Funds available in Truist Accounts for Scholarships was \$7,328.25. Funds from Stifel Investments Account drawn for 2024 Scholarships was \$5,871.75. \$1,502.35 was sent to NGC for Natural Disasters 2024.

The **GCFP Statement of Financial Activity May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025** listed income from Total Membership Dues was \$49,712.00. The 2024 Convention Proceeds allocated \$13,564.67 to GCFP and \$4,521.56 to District IV. Symposium 2024 was \$972.63; Landscape Design School was \$885.87; Sale of past District Director pins was \$560; Book of Recognition Donations was \$200. Total GCFP Income was \$65,895.17. Total Expenses from Total Chairmen, General and Administrative, Keystone Gardener, Memberships, Officers Allowances and Miscellaneous was \$60,879.97, which resulted in a positive Variance of Income vs. Expenses of \$5,015.20.

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, reviewed the proposed **GCFP Annual Budget 2025-2026**. Proposed Total Membership Dues - \$47,504.00, Proposed Total Convention Income - \$21,750.00; and Proposed Other Support - \$250.00, for Proposed Total Income of \$69,504.00. Proposed Total Chair Expenses - \$2,463.88, Proposed Total General and Administrative Expenses - \$36,881.20; Proposed Total Keystone Gardener Expenses - \$12,500; Proposed Total Membership Expenses - \$5,587.50; Proposed Officer Allowances - \$7,300.00; Proposed Total Scholarships, Awards & Donations - \$4,250.00, for Proposed Total Expenses of \$68,982.58, leaving a Budget Variance of Income vs. Expenses 2025-2026 of \$521.42. There was a discussion about the Officer Allowances per position. Treasurer, Vivian Hall, stated that officers need to keep track of expenses with receipts and bring those expenses to the October Finance and Investment Committee for discussion and review of the Budget. The Proposed GCFP Annual Budget 2025-2026 was tabled until later in the meeting.

Financial Secretary, Sheila Croushore, reported the 2024-2025 total account collected and forwarded to the Treasurer was \$49,610.00. That account was closed out. A new account was opened with start-up money from GCFP of \$100 beginning May 1, 2025.

Income – New Member	\$80.00	
Income – Affiliate Dues	\$140.00	
Income – Dues	\$41,830.00	
Income – New Member	\$410.00	
Total Income		\$42,460.00
Expense – 2025-2026 Dues to State	\$39,005.00	
Total Expense		\$39,005.00
Net Income		\$3,455.00

Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Narducci, reported since our last Board Meeting at the GCFP State Convention in April of 2025, get well wishes were sent to Iris Cisarik. She asked to be notified if a club member is ill, has had surgery, suffered an injury, is celebrating a special birthday, or has passed away. Also, she had an apology to offer. To err is human so they say and being human, she erred when she overlooked extending the Board's sympathies to Joyce Milberg on the passing of her husband. When she learned of this oversight, she sent Joyce a

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personal note of condolence and an apology, and just wanted to acknowledge this before the entire GCFP Board.

Parliamentarian, Angie Raitano, was present and had no report.

RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS

The Recording Secretary read each the following recommendations from the Executive Committee for Full Board approval. For each, President Wolanski explained the details and asked for a voice vote. The recommendations were:

MOTION #1: The Executive Committee recommends that GCFP invest \$18,000 cash into dividend growth and sell “the reinsurance group” bond that has appreciated and replace with another bond.
Approved

MOTION #2: The Executive Committee recommends the officer allowance for the President be increased to \$6,000 and the officer allowance for the First Vice-President and Second Vice-President be increased to \$2,500 each.
Approved

AMENDED PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, reviewed the proposed **GCFP Annual Budget 2025-2026** which **was amended due to the increases in officer allowances**. Proposed Total Membership Dues was \$47,504.00, Proposed Total Convention Income was \$21,750.00; and Proposed Other Support was \$250.00, for Proposed Total Income of \$69,504.00. Proposed Total Chair Expenses were \$2,463.88, Proposed Total General and Administrative Expenses were \$36,881.20; Proposed Total Keystone Gardener Expenses were \$12,500; Proposed Total Membership Expenses were \$5,587.50; Proposed Officer Allowances were amended under the new budget **\$13,300.00**; Proposed Total Scholarships, Awards & Donations were \$4,250.00, for Proposed Total Expenses were amended under the new budget of **\$74,982.58**, leaving a Budget Variance of Income vs. Expenses 2025-2026 of **(\$5,478.58)**.

MOTION #3: The Executive Committee recommends the adjusted GCFP Annual Budget 2025-2026 be approved.
Approved

STANDING RULES

Barbara Brand reported that the Organizational Studies Committee consists of Dot Yard and Barbara Brand. She noted that the Standing Rules and Policies have not been revised since 2023 and need updated. She presented revisions to Section 1 – General, Section 2 – Awards, Section 3 – Convention and Meetings, Section 4 – Finance, Section 6 – Keystone Gardener, Section 7 – Co-Sponsorships and Grants – see attachment to original minutes for details.

MOTION #4: The Executive Committee recommends the amended 2025 revisions to the Standing Rules and Policies be approved.
Approved

AWARDS

Awards Co-Chairs Marilyn Small and Sheri Lowry presented a proposal to add two awards to the 2025-2027 Awards Manual.

GCFP currently has a Horticulture Achievement Award and the Co-Chairs proposed the addition of a **GCFP Floral Design Achievement Award**. A GCFP Floral Design Achievement Award may

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be awarded to a club or club member for a series of outstanding floral design programs, a minimum of seven (7), over a single calendar year. May be structured as lectures, workshops, demonstrations, educational, or any combination of these activities, but they must occur at a club meeting or scheduled outings. The application may be 3 pages total, no smaller than 11 pt. font. The application should include: A. Brief description of meetings; B. Pictures and publicity; C. Other substantiating evidence; D. Club Yearbook, as published. Scoring Rubric – Use Elizabeth Potts Amidon Horticulture Award rubric. Deadline: January 15 to State Awards Chair Marilyn Small, and a copy to Sheri Lowry. There was a discussion regarding the minimum number of activities during a single calendar year.

The Co-Chairs proposed the addition of a **Youth Activities category to the Special Recognition State Award** for A. Single Activity; B. Series of Activities. Deadline: January 15 to State Awards Chair Marilyn Small, and a copy to Sheri Lowry.

MOTION #5: The Executive Committee recommends the creation of two new club awards, “The GCFP Club Floral Design Achievement Award” and add a youth activities category to Special Recognition Awards for single activities with youth or a series of activities with youth. **Approved**

SPROUTS AND SEEDLINGS

President, Pat Wolanski, introduced the Sprouts and Seedling Program, chaired by Cheryl Brumbaugh. This program is designed to encourage all garden clubs to establish a youth garden club. To be officially recognized as a Youth Garden Club, the online form must be completed. There is a \$2.00 dues fee to be paid annually. She proposed a gift from GCFP to those clubs who start a Sprouts and Seedlings Program to the Executive Committee.

MOTION #6: The Executive Committee recommends a gift of \$50 up to \$1,200 limit from GCFP to those clubs who start a Sprouts and Seedlings Youth Program. **Approved**

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District I Director, Pam Walsh, reported District I club meetings have included a variety of topics including: Houseplants, Saving the Monarchs, Bees and The Food Chain, Everything Bulbs, Gardening Heritage, Critters in the Garden, Healthy Soils for Successful Gardens, Garden Reconstruction, Sustainability, Bringing New Plants to Market, Changing Landscape Styles of the Main Line, Teacup Arrangements, History of Essential Oils, Growing and Cultivating Lavender Varieties, Succulents and Such, Owls of Pennsylvania and Attracting Bluebirds. Our Youth Chairs have presented interesting programs, such as Bees Rock, where children learned about bees and pollination, homeschoolers learned how to make Salad Gardens, and 84 preschoolers made Mother’s Day Arrangements. Community service projects include: Spade and Trowel’s planting and maintaining the Barns-Briton House for over 35 years. They also joined forces with Four Seasons to plant flower containers in their town, and Uwchlan Garden Club continues to maintain the Historic Meetinghouse Gardens. As part of the Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd’s 100th anniversary celebration, the Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd was presented with the Charles Thompson Award for their outstanding loyalty and long-term support for maintaining a spring native garden at the Historic Harriton House for 50 years.

District II/III Director, Claire Kukielka, reported that since the last meeting, District II/III educated members in a variety of ways. Trips were made to the Peace Valley Lava Farm, Andalusia Historic House, and Jenny Rose Cary’s home. They visited gardens and supported programs on

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unusual vegetables and useful garden tools. They held plant sales, such as Pottstown Garden Club, where they find they are attracting new members when they hold these fundraisers. They develop and build on strong bonds with the communities maintaining plants in our historic towns. They cleaned and refurbished children's gardens and maintained butterfly gardens as well as Monarch way stations. They held open houses at vegetable gardens. They surrounded themselves with food to help celebrate accomplishments such as the Hazleton birthday party where club members gathered to share their birthdays with cake and stories of their current and past successes. They celebrated milestone births with ice cream socials and tea parties, picnics and open houses. They celebrated Arbor Day in a big way by planting trees as beautiful as the Cornus stellar pink at the shelter house in Emmaus. As doers, they love actual hands-on programs and enjoy making succulent wreaths, fairy gardens, and container gardens. They grow many things but they are most proud of the friendships developed and the support given to one another and their communities.

District IV Director, Carla Kelly, reported she installed several clubs' officers and reported District IV activities including the Central Area Judges Council for Flower Shows. The District purchased and installed a Blue Star Marker in Greencastle, along I-81, on May 14. The Zoom Board meeting in June focused on gardening. They will spend funds on interesting speakers who will develop leadership and organizational skills in club leaders. There are reports of clubs with disinterest in the overall organizational administration, so she is trying to counter the idea of leadership being too much work to be a leader and too much bother. They intend to try several types of activities to increase participation.

District V Director, Joyce Wenner, reported as the clubs of District V are busy with various projects, one of which is Civic Beautification. Standing Stone GC maintains five planting areas in their borough. Heritage GC maintains the pole baskets and planters in their community and are continuing the NEX TREX recycling program. The Alexander GC promotes Native Plants and looks for new members with luncheons and flyers. The Mifflin County GC placed planters in the borough and at their local YMCA, and at their June meeting they bring a friend to help increase their membership. McEwensville GC maintains a garden at their community hall and promotes Pollinators. They attract new members by word of mouth. The Duboistown GC maintains a large flower bed at the city park and donated a tree on Arbor Day in memory or honor of a member. At the 2025 convention, the Heritage GC won the GCFP 2024 Governor's Trophy and placed first for 2024 GCFP Year Book for clubs with 21-29 members. Standing Stone GC placed second for GCFP membership Advancement and Education, and 2nd place for 2024 GCFP Year Book for clubs with 30-44 members. The Jacqueline A. Davis Scholarship of \$1000.00 went to Chole Jayne Boughman, who was sponsored by the Mifflin County GC. Duboistown GC member, Bernadette Brewer, received the Perennial Bloom Certificate. The McEwensville GC had Sandy Hendricks receive a citation for her work as GCFP Scholarship chair, and JoAnne Fogelman for membership chair. The club also sponsored 2 GCFP Scholarships.

District VI Director, Mary Lou Colussy, reported she was honored to install the officers for 2025 at the **Bedford GC** on April 15th: A lovely luncheon at Homewood Estates following the program. **Blair GC** plans to hold a program at the historic Baker's mansion as it celebrates 75 years as a club. They purchased a gold star memorial, being displayed at the Veterans War Memorial Park. The ceremony was held on May 24th. They are also planning a Flower Show in Hollidaysburg on August 16th. She was asked to install the new officers at the **GC of Johnstown** on April 14th. Each officer was given a key to symbolize their role as officer. The installation was followed by a wonderful afternoon tea. The Evergreen Garden Club is going in a different direction for Tinsel

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Time this year on December 4, 2025. The location will be the Indiana Country Club. There will be a sit-down dinner with a basket raffle. **Indiana Garden Club's** 50th annual May Mart took place on May 16-17th at the S&T Bank Arena in Indiana PA. The GCFP's Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship of \$1,000 was presented to Elizabeth Bruner, a junior at Penn State University majoring in Forest Ecosystem Management. The Jane Layman Scholarship 4-Year - \$1,000 was given to John Bruner of Blairsville; John will be a freshman at Penn State Dubois studying, Wildlife Technology. The club will sponsor a Flower Show as well this August! **Patton GC** had their annual Plant Sale on June 7th; all the proceeds go towards the Scholarship Fund. This one event allows the club to donate two \$1000 scholarships to local high school seniors. The winners this year were Leah Strohmer and Ian Nagel. Ian was also the recipient of the GCFP Constance H. Smith Scholarship of \$1,200. Patton's Youth program and members from the club worked during an after-school program at the Middle School in May to replant the flowers grown in their greenhouse for the purchase at the Plant Sale. PGC is conducting a Cookbook fundraiser this year. Copies are available for sale if interested. **Somerset GC** invited me to install their new officers for 2025-6 on April 14th. The ceremony was entitled: Chorus of Angels and each officers was given an angel to symbolize their role in the club hierarchy. **Weeders and Seeders Garden Club** is planning an educational in-house Flower Show for its members in August. Four members of the Laurel Highlands Judging Council will conduct a workshop on June 17th to complement the instruction to help with the Flower Show. Our District newsletter "Seedlings" received a second-place award in Publications at the Convention this year.

District VII Director, Marilyn Backus, reported District VII, was preparing for its first districtwide flower show, *Dog Daze*. The District VII Board approved the concept in late January, ratified it at the March Lunch and most of the clubs stepped up to fill the Flower Show Committee Chairmanships at a special Flower Show meeting on May 28. They plan 76 classes of Horticulture, 2 Educational Exhibits and 3 classes of Botanical Arts, such as one each for decorating a canine collar, leash and bowl with plant materials. Earlier, she enjoyed the Haddie Weber GC of Munhall fundraiser in District X on April 26. She viewed the Chris Leskosky Design/Horticulture webinar on May 6 and decided to copy Dot Yard's approach to Horticulture Preparation! She is scheduled to use Dot's approach at Monroeville Library on Monday, July 14 at 6:30 PM to, first, advertise the District VII Horticulture Specialty flower show, *Dog Daze*, to 500 Friends of the Library as a first-time community flower show and, second, to encourage the public and district club members how to participate in it. During May, clubs like Burrellton, Forest Hills, Joyful Bloomers, Murrysville and Verona were juggling their successful annual plant sales. On May 22, she visited Murrysville to view an informative program on Rhododendrons and Azaleas and to seek volunteers and interest in the District Flower Show. On May 30, Landscape Design Society had various district VII, IX and X clubs represented at Rachel Carson Homestead for an excellent tour led by Pucketos member, and now, Landscape Design Society member, Rachel Carson Homestead Executive Director, Jeanne Cecil. Jeanne has so many interesting stories about Rachel and her neighbors, relatives and acquaintances that she needs to write a book. Pucketos continues to work hard on their fundraiser event overlooking Springdale and set for August 1. The Monroeville club was to have its annual sale for the first time at a reserved place in the Monroeville CommUNITY event, but it was cancelled the night before due to flooding and it hasn't been rescheduled. However, she was able to release a final Flower Show Schedule to the district board and members, but only with the timely help of Schedule Advisor, Angie Raitano. She released the first districtwide bus trip flyer to Indiana, just in time for the June and July club meetings. Overall, she believes her club members have been increasing their visiting of the events of other clubs, the second District Board meeting is on June 25 to discuss upcoming events.

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District VIII Director, Bonita Herman, reported District VIII and District IX will place a Gold Star Memorial in the I-80 Welcome Center at the Ohio/Pennsylvania state line, the first on I-80. This also is the first time two garden clubs are jointly working together to place a Gold Star Memorial. District VIII has 11 clubs and 1 affiliate with approximately 370 members. The clubs collectively gave \$4,500.00 for scholarships. Four clubs have a Horticulture Program or Therapy. Five clubs have some type of Youth Program from 1st - 12th grades. One garden club participates in a plastic wrap recycling program. Two clubs jointly hosted a Horticulture Flower show. One of the clubs has not had a flower show for over 20 years. They are excited and apprehensive. One club gives each 5th grader in their township a tree sapling for over 40 years. Their fundraisers include flower/plant sales, bake sales, raffle baskets, 50/50, and fresh green wreaths. All the clubs are actively involved in one, up to six community outreach programs or gardens, excluding the Blue Star gardens which they continue to maintain. She has visited several garden clubs as a social call, or a helping hand, installations and relaying and explaining information from the state. She also had zoom meetings with the club presidents and officers to keep in touch. She asked the club's secretaries to email her the minutes of their meetings so she can see the programs, ideas and future plans for the clubs. District VIII will be hosting the State Convention 2026 in Erie. There is a good turnout for meetings and the clubs and members are helpful. They have NO idea what Joyce and she have planned for them. In conclusion she concluded that "DISTRICT VIII IS GREAT"!

District IX Director, Stacey Ivoll, reported that with District VIII, District IX is pleased to co-sponsor a Gold Star Marker. Bonita Herman and Karen Faust have dedicated several years to this, and she is honored to be part of it. In May, she met with eighteen district members, including presidents and chairpersons, to discuss club issues. Over lunch we tried to answer some of each other's questions. We plan to have a couple more of these meetings to keep the questions and answers flowing. Shaler Garden Club and Claudia are hosting the Annual District Meeting on September 4, "Through the Garden Gate" and will be personally deliver invitations. District IX clubs are looking forward to a year of growth and rediscovery. They were shaken by the loss of one of the clubs that was unable to continue because they could find the leadership to guide their club. It has led them to recognize all is not okay. They need to become more proactive for the sake of their clubs. Even though District IX now consists of only nine clubs, she thinks NINE IS FINE! District IX looks forward to working with Pat, Tonya and Mary and their new initiatives.

District X Director, Martha Alexander, reported District X has been buzzing with activity. They were pleased to announce the official Blue Star Marker dedication at the Claysville Welcome Center (I-70 East, Washington County) on May 26. It was a beautiful tribute to our veterans and their service to our country. The Martha Washington Garden Club will maintain this garden. District X also maintains a large number of other gardens including historical, veterans, church, YMCA, courthouse, community, and library gardens, and other Blue Star Memorial gardens. District X recently hosted two major fundraising events: the Spring Mad Hatters Tea Party and June FUN Raiser. Both were well attended, lively fundraisers that brought in strong support for the district. Planning is underway for a unique Annual Meeting, where our new GCFP officers will be celebrated as the stars of the show. Across the district, clubs have been busy with plant sales and garden markets; flea markets and fundraisers; a delightful fashion show; selecting scholarship recipients; ongoing membership drives; using seed money on projects; helping with Meals on Wheels; and working at a nursing home to "plant the patio" with cheerful summer annuals. Their youth groups—Seedlings and Sprouts—have had a productive season. They've

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learned all about gardening through classroom instruction and hands-on activities. The highlights include successful winter sowing jugs that produced a bounty of flowers and herbs; strawberry and salad green harvests have begun in our large community garden, which produces loads of vegetables and flowers for the community; youth members will make pressed floral designs and participate in our upcoming Flower Show. Our members have enjoyed a range of programs and trips including learning about species and cultivars of trees/shrubs; wildlife education on bald eagles; floral design workshops and Mardi Gras fun; field trips to local Amish and other nurseries; a workshop on "Hardening with Grow Lights"; and creative sessions on Botanical Arts Design and May Flowers. She asked all to join National Award-Winning Great Meadows Garden Club on July 23 for a nostalgic 1960's Road Trip Down Route 40 and Route 66 and National Award-Winning Martha Washington GC on August 1 & 2 for an Exposition for fun, nostalgic, and creative with a spotlight on Botanical Arts.

District XI Director, Flossie Narducci, reported several District XI Clubs have initiated advertising campaigns regarding their Club activities in an effort to attract more members. Publicizing community projects, plant sales and Flower Shows has proven to be successful in increasing membership. Recurring topics at monthly meetings were presentations on herbs as gifts of healing; how to grow, select and repot orchids; plants resistant to deer; backyard habitats to attract birds and factors affecting native trees. Also popular are plant exchanges, plant swaps, or Adopt a Plant initiatives to spread the wealth of their members' plants to others. Some clubs, like Trevoise Horticultural Society, have members plant seeds, divide their houseplants or perennials for their Plant Sale as a means to increase their funds. Tohickon Garden Club hosts a Divide and Multiply event. Norristown Garden Club works with local schools to instill a love of gardening with youngsters. Having children plant seeds, harvest the vegetables and then take them home for dinner has a positive effect on healthy eating as well. Hosting a Flower Show is perhaps the most popular activity of all the Garden Clubs. Opportunities to enter a show, visit one, volunteer or perhaps serve as a judge follow. Four Lanes End Garden Club (June 21); Norristown Garden Club (June 14); Trevoise Horticultural Society (August 22-23) Outdoor Gardeners (June 5). As their Director, she is proud of the many and varied activities they have undertaken.

Advisor, Leeanna Ryba, reported six Past Presidents met today but Betsy Smith who had to leave prior to the meeting. Four Past Presidents live out of state, but maintain Pennsylvania club membership. Sharon Brown has a physician appointment and could not attend. This accounts for the twelve Past Presidents. Leeanna Ryba also thanked the Board for the "Rising Sun Red Bud" which she received as a parting gift.

President Wolanski recessed the meeting at 4:30 PM. She asked attendees to reconvene on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM. Social time was 5:30-6 PM and a dinner buffet began at 6 PM. District Directors and their Assistants met with the 1st VP, Tonya Young, at 8 AM on Tuesday.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES continued in alphabetical order following the listing in the 2025-2027 Directory Issue. The meeting opened at 9 AM on Tuesday. **NOTE: THESE COMMITTEE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED SEPARATELY ON THE GCFP WEBSITE UNDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION, THEN UNDER BOD MEETING MINUTES.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President also made the following announcements: The next GCFP Board meeting will be held on **October 13-14, 2025** at this hotel. There will be a small standard horticulture show. There will be a surprise announced by email prior to this meeting. Also, she is considering an AED refresher. She thanked everyone for a wonderful first Board meeting.

Bonita Herman, District VIII Director, had garden sleeves available for sale to benefit the 2026 GCFP Convention.

President Wolanski adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Deborah Davis – GCFP Recording Secretary

Ref. Vivian Hall issued the Financial Statements and 2025-2026 GCFP Budget on June 3, 2025 and the Amended 2025-2026 GCFP Budget on June 12, 2025. Sheila Croushore provided the Financial Secretary's Reports on June 9, 2025.

Organizational Co-Chair Barbara Brand attached proposed *Standing Rules and Policies 2023 with Revisions 2025* for the Minutes.