

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

93rd Annual Convention

“Thyme To Garden”

April 23, 2023

The 93rd GCFP Annual Business Meeting was called to order by **President Sheila Croushore** at 8:30 AM. A quorum was declared.

President Croushore introduced GCFP officers – Sharon Brown – Parliamentarian, Leeanna Ryba – President-elect, Patricia Wolanski – 2nd Vice President, Flossie Narducci – Recording Secretary, Joyce Crider – Treasurer, Barbara Brand – Financial Secretary, Brenda Moore – NGC President-elect, Corresponding Secretary – Margie Wolff, Appointed Members – Haddie Weber, Sharon Richardson, and Barbara Campbell.

The presentation of colors was made by the Air Force Jr. ROTC, Plum Senior High School and followed by the singing of the National Anthem performed by Andrea Falchek from Somerset Garden Club. Leeanna Ryba, 1st Vice President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vina McLeod Rudolph, Convention Chaplin offered the invocation.

President Croushore thanked District VII for hosting the GCFP 93rd Annual Convention “Thyme to Garden”. **District VII Director, Sharon Bryner** welcomed all to the first weekend GCFP Convention.

Sharon Brown, Parliamentarian read the Convention rules and moved for their adoption.
Adopted

Convention Chair, Marilyn Backus announced changes/additions to the Convention Program. On page 9 of the Convention Booklet, the addition of Social Media Awards Chair, Marilyn Small and on page 12, Juliette Olshock will replace Gabe Tilove, Director at Phipps Conservatory. A motion was made and seconded to accept the changes to the Convention Booklet.
Adopted

Registrar, Linda Phelps was unable to attend, **Assistant Registrar, Arlene Madray** gave the Preliminary Credentials report. Former NGC Presidents-1, NGC Board Members-13, GCFP State President-1, Former GCFP Presidents-8, GCFP Board members-75, CAR-SGC Board Members-17, District Directors-10, Assistant District Directors-9, Current Club Presidents-39, Current Club Members-265, NGC Life Members-52, CAR-SGC Life Members-37, GCFP Life Members-71, Flower Show Judges-44, Gardening Consultants-26, Environmental Consultants-18, Landscape Design Consultants-30, Spouses and Guests-35, and Volunteers-31.

President Croushore introduced the Convention timekeepers, Nerita Brant and Linda Troll. A bell ringing was the signal for the allotted time to give a report.

The final introductions were Marilyn Backus, 2023 Convention Chair, Haddie Webber, 2023 Vice Co-Chair and Sharon Bryner Vice Co-Chair. Tonya Young served as Page for the 2023 National President-elect, Brenda Moore. Angie Raitano served as the GCFP President's Page.

Chris Leskosky and Sharon Richardson have been appointed to approve the Minutes of the 2023 GCFP Convention.

Officers Reports

President Croushore expressed her appreciation for the privilege to work with an amazing group of Officers, Directors, and Board Members. GCFP organized a trip to the Netherlands last April, following the Convention in Malvern. The GCFP website has been reformatted and forms updated. Having a virtual office appears to be working well. As President, she attended several functions including luncheons, garden tours, award ceremonies and Blue Star dedications. She attended the NGC Convention in Orlando and the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis. Pennsylvania hosted the CAR-SGC Conference at Seven Springs. GCFP saw a profit of over \$14,000. GCFP is working to sign a new contract with the Allegheny Forestry Department for the State's Penny Pines donations. Zoom treasurer and membership training were offered to members. Two new clubs, Covered Bridge and Verona Garden Clubs have joined GCFP. Oakdale Garden Club is in the process of obtaining an EIN number so they too can be part of GCFP. She concluded by thanking all for their support and being a great garden family.

1st Vice President, Leeanna Ryba reported that it has been a pleasure to serve GCFP as 1st Vice President. Travelling across Pennsylvania to attend all ten District Annual Meetings with **President Sheila** and 2nd Vice President, Pat Wolanski allowed them to meet with all of you and experience your kind hospitality. She enjoyed facilitating the scheduled monthly Zoom Meetings with the District Directors and their Assistants to provide a forum for discussing their concerns and relaying information to them. Monitoring the gcfp205@gmail account to direct member's requests to the appropriate committee chair was a new addition to her job description. Since October, she has been occupied with her new duties as President-elect, making telephone calls and sending email requests, asking many to serve on the 2023-2025 GCFP Board in various ways. Her thanks and gratitude to those who have accepted. She will miss the calls from, as her husband calls Sheila, "my alter-ego". They have spent many hours talking over the course of their terms together to ensure that the organization is serving the members in the best manner possible. Congratulations to her dear friend, Sheila, on navigating through the many changes that have occurred during her term. She always proceeds with confidence, and it has been her sincere pleasure to follow her direction.

2nd Vice President, Patricia Wolanski reported that this past year she secured the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg, planned the meals and emailed the Call for the June and October Board Meetings. She was able to secure this same site for the 2023 June and October Board Meetings. She, along with the President and 1st VP, attended all of the District Annual Meetings in September. She enjoyed having the opportunity to meet and visit with members of PA Garden Clubs. The meetings were held in diverse venues with creative themes and decor - from country clubs to converted barns --and themes from picnics to Elvis. She was impressed with the number of awards given, projects and activities reported as well as future activities planned for the clubs. It was a wonderful way for her to see PA, meet and get to know GCFP members and hear about what they have done and are planning to do. She thanked all for inviting her and for the very warm welcome at each and every one of the meetings. She also had the opportunity to set up and host five Zoom meetings for various GCFP committees.

Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci reported that the Minutes of the 92nd GCFP Convention have been approved and distributed electronically.

Treasurer, Joyce Crider reported that the Total Checking/Savings, Petty Cash & Other Assets as of 3/31/23 is \$ 49,625.58. Total Assets including Advances Receivable is \$56,625.58. Penny Pines Total as of 3/31/23 (Including \$10,000 transfer to Stifel) is \$19,685.27. Total (Including \$13,957.76 refund from US Treasury) as of 4/10/23 is \$33,643.03.

She reported on the GCFP Statement of Financial Activity from May 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023. Income from Membership Dues is \$ 47,537.00. Total 2022 Convention Income is \$8,211.04. Contributions totaled \$1,253.00. Total Miscellaneous income totaled \$136.00. Overall Total Income is \$57,139.32.

Chairs' Expenses totaled \$1,162.20. Administrative Expenses totaled \$ 29,007.06. Keystone Gardner Expenses totaled \$ 5,846.37. Membership expenses were \$ 5,014.19. Officer's Allowances totaled \$ 5,800.00. Awards totaled \$468.00. Total expenses were \$47,297.82 with a variance of Income vs. Expenses of \$9,841.50. The full report is attached.

A motion to accept the Treasure's report was made and seconded. **Approved**

President Croushore then reported on the money given to the U.S. Forestry Service for Penny Pines. She advised that since GCFP didn't have a special entity number, the U.S. Forestry Service would remit the money to the general fund for use wherever unless GCFP requested it to be returned. **President Croushore** did the paperwork, and the money was returned. This is the explanation for the \$13,957.76 mentioned in the Treasurer's report.

Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand reported for the period October 1, 2022, through April 15, 2023. Opening Balance for GCFP Dues Account, Truist is \$100. Total Deposits leave a

balance of \$1805. Disbursements (Transfer to Treasurer) total \$1705. Dues receipts & disbursements Year to Date total \$47,905.00. The full report is attached.

Corresponding Secretary, Margie Wolff reported that since the October Board Meeting, Get Well cards were sent to Nerita Brant and Pat Ptasick. Sympathy cards were sent for Joel Hawthorn, Chris Hawthorn's husband, to Marjorie Sears for her daughter, Robin and for Anne Collier, who recently passed away.

Parliamentarian, Sharon Brown reported that in the past two years she has advised officers, Directors, and members on questions of parliamentary procedure. In all situations, she has referred to Roberts Rules of Order when applicable and advised "common sense" whenever possible. It has been her pleasure to serve all.

District I Director, Nancy Cuttic reported that The Covered Bridge Garden Club has joined District I. Another club, Radley Run Garden Club from West Chester, is also "on board" to join and she is scheduled to speak to their general membership in May. That would make 2 new clubs for District I. The Country Gardeners are responsible for a new Blue Star Marker at the Veteran's Center in Media. Many thanks to Janet Fassbender and Sandy Manthorpe. Their Annual September luncheon meeting was held in a charming old barn while their autumn meeting, held at Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, featured a most interesting, guided tour. **President Croushore** presented "April in the Netherlands" via Zoom in February. Their June District meeting luncheon will honor their Club Presidents and will be held at the Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale. Kudos to Country Gardeners member, Janet Fassbender who chaired the successful Longwood Flower Show. They had many talented and creative members enter in various classes at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and many came away with blue ribbons!

District II/III Director, Jane Kruse reported that District II/III keeps evolving. One sure way to measure this is an expanded collection of Committee Chairs serving the District. These include an Environment/Recycling Committee, a Tree Committee, a Water Committee, and an Educational Committee. A bit unusual may be a Citizen Scientist Committee. The Citizen Scientist Chair is having each club measure rainfall from April 1 to October 31 and chart the variations in their long-stretched District on the eastern side of Pennsylvania. Their Garden Clubs are busy with their many community projects that include library planters, historic homes, butterfly gardens, museum gardens, rail to trails, downtown planters, inspirational gardens, community vegetable gardens, Blue Star Memorial Marker, war memorials, and children gardens.

District IV Director, Joanne Baylis reported that since mid-February, she and the Assistant Director have visited several of their garden clubs, giving an overview of how District IV fits within GCFP, NGC and CAR-SGC. During this "road show", topics have included the various schools and programs, promoting the 2024 Convention, which District IV will be

hosting, motivating club members to volunteer for committees and how important change is in officer positions. District IV will be hosting a Leadership Training Day on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the York Fairgrounds. Topics will include communication, teamwork, helping our garden clubs to thrive, and creating future leaders. Some highlights from a few of their Garden Clubs. The Littlestown Area Garden Club will be celebrating 50 years as an organized club with a dinner on May 21; the Gettysburg Garden Club has entered into a new collaboration with the Board of the Adams County Habitat for Humanity and will now be working with new homeowners in the Gettysburg area helping them with landscaping. The owner will assist with the planting and the Garden Club will provide education on how to maintain the plants; Penn-Cumberland Garden Club was awarded an NGC Plant America Grant and will collaborate with the Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts on the "RENAISSANCE Mechanicsburg" project. The design for this project was created by Grace Stewart who, in 2022, was awarded an NGC, GCFP and Penn-Cumberland Garden Club scholarship; for Earth Day, the Garden Club of York will have a booth inside the Central Market at the York City "Go Green" day. Youth committee members will provide conservation activities focusing on Woodsy Owl and his conservation message; the Hanover Garden Club is hosting an Arbor Day celebration at Guthrie Memorial Library. Club members will distribute white spruce seedlings to attending children; and the Shiloh Garden Club has been asked to assist with the Dover Township Summer Leadership Program for Youth.

District V Director, Judy Warn reported that all of their clubs have put forth a great effort to attract new members by producing newsletters, sending in newsy articles to their local papers, distributing flyers, and inviting friends and members of the public to interesting programs. Heritage Garden Club received a first place Publicity Press Award for small clubs from the Central Atlantic Region last fall and they also received a second-place award in the Trash to Treasure contest. Duboistown Garden Club donated \$2000 for a bench and picnic table which included a plaque with their Garden Club's name on it along with a tree planted for Arbor Day. Standing Stone Garden Club has a "Garden of the Month" program. Each month from May through September they award a plaque to an outstanding residential garden, a community landscape design, commercial planting or a cultivated area. Three clubs, Duboistown, McEwensville and Susquehanna all had entries in the Bloomsburg Fair.

District VI Director, Deb Stumpf reported that the clubs of District VI have had a great year. Last summer Flower Shows were held by Patton Garden Club and The Garden Club of Johnstown. Both clubs had outstanding designs and the amount of horticulture was stellar. They had a District VI picnic hosted by then District Director, Jan Davis. The group enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch and a tour of Jan's garden. Blair Garden Club continued their care of the Discovery Garden at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg and are planning a plant sale for May. Bedford Garden Club continued their community beautification projects and proceeded with plans for the installation of a Gold Star Memorial Marker. In September, Somerset Garden hosted their Annual District Meeting at the Heritage Barn in Rockwood.

The new District VI officers were installed by GCFP **President Sheila Croushore** and the program on new varieties of houseplants was very educational. They also held their annual Christmas wreath sale and will continue with their community beautification projects. November brought the Garden Club of Johnstown's Annual "Welcome the Holidays" Luncheon. It featured dazzling decorations, delicious food, a fashion show, and a delightful program on how to decorate all kinds of things for Christmas. The club uses all the funds from this event for community beautification. In December, Patton Garden Club hosted their Christmas Tea and Indiana Garden Club held their annual Christmas Party. The Evergreen Garden Club held their new officer installation at their Christmas get together. Weeders and Seeders Garden Club was very active in garden projects at the Ligonier Farmers Market. They also made natural Christmas ornaments that they sold at the Ligonier Night Market. They also held a program on ticks by new member Dr. Henry Croft in March.

District VII Director, Sharon Bryner reported that Landscape Design Society of Western Pennsylvania has not met during the Pandemic years, but this year, meetings are planned in 3 counties. These include Westmoreland County - Greensburg Garden Center Tour, Somerset County - Flight 93 National Memorial, Remember Me Rose Garden, Washington County - Donora Eldora Park, Donora's Cement City, Monongahela's Chess Memorial Park. The club has supported education by donations to Rachel Carson Homestead, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden and the GCFP Penny Pines Project. Garden Club of Forest Hills is dedicated to stimulating the knowledge and love of gardening in their community. They are celebrating their 100 Year Anniversary. A flower show planned in July has a theme "Tracing our Roots." Joyful Bloomers Garden Club meets at Kane Community Living Center. The mission of the club is to enhance the quality of life for the residents, and they maintain two courtyards, several flower beds and planters and provide seasonal centerpieces on the tables in the residents' dining halls. Two programs that are scheduled this year are Framing Pressed Flowers and weeds and Edible Plants. Pucketos Garden Club maintains five gardens throughout the area and will be adding one more this year. The visibility of the gardens helps attract new members. Highland Park Garden Club maintains ten large flowerpots that are located on a sidewalk in front of small retail businesses. To attract new members, they use Facebook, have their own website, put notices on neighborhood email groups and have used Eventbrite to sell tickets to events. A visit is planned to Rabkin Japanese Garden. Murrysville Garden Club is rethinking how they want to approach the goal of "community beautification" in the light of decreased membership rolls and the ability of members to take on physical challenges. An idea is to expand educational outreach efforts through a collaboration that includes the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Murrysville Library. Garden Club of Monroeville has been confronted with the same challenge as Murrysville and the plant sale in May has been canceled. Gardens Ltd. has many older members, who meet nine times a year. This includes a lunch and a program. Once a year they do a hands-on project and go on a field trip. Home Gardeners Guild focus on the residents of a personal care home. The residents recently received a thoughtful collection of personal care items.

District VIII Director, Rosie Lawrence reported that District VIII has 13 Garden Clubs with approximately 430 members. The clubs will be having their flower/horticultural shows, plant sales, garden tours, and bus trips. They will continue to maintain their community gardens, library boxes, and Blue Star markers. Some of their Garden Clubs donate children's books to elementary school and public libraries. District VIII now has a central location for meetings. Their Spring District Board meeting in March was at the Cross Creek Resort in Titusville. The Kane Garden Club is celebrating their 99th Anniversary this year. District VIII will have a total of 15 Blue Star Markers this year. June 3, 2023 will be the dedication for a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on I-90 West at the Welcome Center at the NY/PA state line. The Wildflower Garden Club is also planning a dedication on September 16, 2023, for a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker at the West bound exit 29 of I-80 at Barkeyville, PA. Their 2022 Helen Robarge Scholarship recipient was Ella Lynn Matteson from Titusville High School majoring in Biology.

District IX Director, Claudia Bernardo reported that at the 2022 Convention they were honored to have the Governor's Trophy return to District IX, thanks to the hard work of Southern Butler County Garden Club. They were also honored to have Shaler Garden Club member, Leslie Anthony, receive the State Member of Honor Award. And their District once again received the Comprehensive District Award. Oak Hills Garden Club of Butler County was welcomed into the district, now giving District IX 10 member clubs. This past year, they dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker and donated a memorial bench to the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. Every club takes part in a community project during the winter holiday season; some of these projects are craft sales, winter greenery sales, or wreath making workshops. Many of the clubs host annual plant sales or plant giveaways. Many host Summer Garden Tours, or they hold their own Members Only Garden Tours. They are hosting more community outreach educational programs to celebrate events such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, and National Garden Week. An increasing number of programs include native plants and the plight of the pollinators. They have supported community efforts to preserve tracts of land from being developed and protecting watersheds. Several of their Clubs are becoming involved in youth-directed projects by teaming with their school districts and participating in grant programs to encourage children's gardens.

District X Director, Deborah Davis listed the District's Beautification projects for 2022. Garden Club of Munhall maintained flowers at the War Memorial and planters in the business district. Giant Oaks Garden Club planted Peters Township Library and Municipal building. Great Meadows Garden Club planted their Blue Star Memorial. Martha Washington Garden Club planted trees in coordination with Washington Park and planters in the business district. They maintain gardens at Washington County Historical Society and a veterans' garden in town. Mon Valley Garden Club completed roadside and backyard plantings. Pleasant Hills Garden Club received a Plant America Grant for students to plant at Thomas Jefferson High School and ongoing projects at the library, as well as a butterfly garden at Pleasant Hills arboretum. Uniontown Flower Club redid their fountain project across from Uniontown

Courthouse. Valley Garden Club maintained the YMCA garden. All ten Clubs reported promoting native plants and pollinators. She then listed each Club's outstanding project for the year. These ranged from planting projects, to luncheons, to Flower Shows, field trips, wildflower walks, and fundraisers. Five Clubs offered scholarships for members to attend GCFP schools as well as scholarships for students. Seven Clubs have accredited Flower Show judges. Three Clubs offered horticultural therapy projects.

District XI Director, Honey Bawduniak reported that Old York Road Garden Club decorated a cabin at the Variety Club for disabled children, in Worcester. Norristown Garden Club was able to return to their annual Holiday House Tour, with 5 homes and one church rectory open to tour. Countryside Gardeners decorated the historic Half Moon Inn in Newtown, in the Williamsburg style for the holidays. Small clubs have begun to share programs, meeting together for programs such as cider pressing and a demo of making Elderberry syrup and learning its benefits. All clubs are actively working on getting new members. Several clubs were winners at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Garden Club of Philadelphia and Vicinity entered the Doorway Category and won a Red Ribbon and Class Commendation. Norristown Garden Club won The Rosemarie P. Vassalluzzo Artistic Sweepstakes Trophy and Trevoise Horticulture Society's Karen Wychock won a Red Ribbon in the Windowsill Class, "An Ancient Artists Landscape" as well as a Class Commendation. She also exhibited her forced bulbs, which won many ribbons. Hulmeville Garden Club, in addition to providing volunteers for the show, met as a group for a day at the Show.

President Croushore recognized the following Past Presidents that were in attendance: Lois Shuster, Angie Raitano, Joyce Milberg, Gail Manna, Chris Leskosky, Sharon Brown, Betsy Smith and Dot Yard.

Nominating Committee Chair, Diane Hughes read the proposed 2023-2025 Slate of Officers. President – Leeanna Ryba, District VII, 1st Vice President - Patricia Wolanski, District XI, 2nd Vice President - Tonya Young, District IV, Recording Secretary - Marilyn Backus, District VII, Treasurer - Vivian Hall, District V, Financial Secretary – Barbara Brand, District IV. A motion to accept the 2023-2025 Slate of Officers was made and passed.

501 C-3 Chair, Mary Jo Gardill reported that on May 1, each Garden Club & District treasurer will receive via email a 990 form. This simple short form should be completed & returned immediately, via email or snail mail. It cannot be done before May 1. By completing & signing it, it means the Garden Club has not grossed over \$50,000 within the GCFP fiscal year. The only financial statement is a one liner on raffles, 50-50 etc. Please send it in promptly so that the District Directors don't need to get involved. If there are new federated Garden Clubs, it is essential to inform the reporter of the contact information so that the transition can be smooth. The IRS has been even more difficult to deal with since Covid. Avoiding costly penalties is the goal. If you have any questions, please contact her at any time.

CAR-SGC Conference Chair, Nerita Brant reported that the CAR-SGC Conference that was held on November 2 and 3, 2022 went very well. The theme “7 Super Blooms that Changed Our World” proved to be a useful means for each of the 7 states/area to use these flowers to represent their exhibits and designs. Tom Huston, keynote speaker summed up the whole theme in a brilliant design display of each bloom along with its historic lore. The Leadership Dinner was hosted by Lois Shuster at her mountain chalet home. Two tours were offered – one to Flight 93 National Park and the other to Fallingwater. GCFP saw a profit of \$5,733.08.

2024 Convention Chair, Joyce Crider reported that the 2024 GCFP Annual State Convention “Petals and Patchwork” will be held at the Doubletree in Lancaster, PA. Lots of exciting things will be happening. They will be holding a Tri-Refresher, Speakers, lots of interesting sessions, workshops and a flower show. For example, Dr. Richard Olsen, Director of the National Arboretum, Andrew Bunting from PHS on environmentally sound gardening, a workshop on Alcohol Ink Jewelry and Michael Lawn, former White House gardener, and so much more. Mark your calendar on April 7-9, 2024, for the 94th GCFP Annual Convention.

Horticulture Hints Chair, Grace Mitchell reported that when planting tiny seeds, place them on a single sheet of toilet paper – they will be easier to see. Cover with another single layer of bathroom stationery, moisten them and cover lightly. A nutrition booster is used teabags and loose tea. They contain nitrogen. For aquarium owners, when you change water and vacuum your tank, save the water for your plants. The natural fertilizer will make them grow like crazy. Stop poison ivy itch by making a paste of powdered milk and water. Used coffee grounds can be put in your potting soil and are also a good room deodorizer. Just place a small dish full on your counter and the odors will disappear. Some hints from the Old Farmer’s Almanac. When purple lilacs bloom, Grasshopper eggs will hatch. When crabapple trees bud, tent caterpillars are hatching. When morning glory vines begin to climb, Japanese beetles appear.

Pennsylvania Resources Council Chair, Mary Lou Colussy reported that since January 2019, many changes have occurred in our local communities’ recycling services – not the least of which was the loss of glass recycling as a curbside residential recycling option. Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) and their partners across the region have worked hard since that time to respond to this change, which has been felt as more than just a change in our public services. PRC and partners are committed to finding ways to keep drop-off site costs manageable so that communities can offer a variety of options for glass recycling. As valued partners and leaders in the effort to create a strong local recycling system, they are encouraging our local communities to keep their glass drop-off sites active and open to residents and small businesses.

Penny Pines Chair, Barb Andrus reported The GCFP Penny Pines Donations since September 30, 2022, is \$1,706.00. The Collection Contract between the Allegheny National Forest and GCFP Penny Pines Fund was due to be renewed on December 30,

2022. In the meantime, Carol Hall, the previous GCFP Penny Pines Chair received notification from Jeffrey Gaede on March 27, 2023, saying the contract is expired and the ANF will refund and close out the GCFP fund of \$13,957.76. If we don't accept this refund, then it will go to the US Treasury! We have indeed received the \$13,957.76.

Sharon Richardson reported that the deadline for the Germany trip is May 5.

Chaplin, Vina McLeod Rudolf led a Memorial Service for deceased Garden Club members, friends, and colleagues from each District.

Flower Show Symposium Chair, Tonya Young reported that GCFP will be hosting a Symposium in 2024. The date and location have not been confirmed at this time. Historically, symposium locations move throughout the State. The 2022 location was Lancaster. It is her intention to fairly choose a location mid-state to accommodate attendees.

Webmaster, Vina McLeod Rudolf asked all Board Chairs to review the job description for their position. If they did not receive a copy of the job description from the previous chair, it can be obtained by visiting the GCFP website. If newly appointed Chairs need to make changes, please contact Vina with those changes so that job descriptions can be updated by July 1st.

President Croushore announced that if anyone who is not on the NGC Board but planning to attend the NGC Convention at the Greenbrier, they can obtain a voting card by including their name on the sign-up sheet that will be circulated.

President Croushore then addressed the proposed revisions to the Bylaws.

Article VI Officers and their Duties – Section 1.....Nominating Committee's Report at the "October" Board Meeting to be revised to Nominating Committees Report at the "June" Board Meeting. **Approved**

Section 2 – Duties D – the Recording Secretary shall

3. Send a copy of the minutes to Headquarters Secretary within four weeks to be reproduced for distribution to all members of the Board of Directors.....will be revised to read "Send a copy of minutes via email to all members of the Board of Directors."

4. Written copies of all Board Members reports shall be filed with the minutes in the GCFP Headquarters Office.....will be revised to read "Written copies of all Board Members reports shall be filed with the minutes in the Recording Secretary files". **Approved**

Article XI Districts – Section 3 D2

2. Send District Chairperson's names and addresses to GCFP Headquarters....will be revised to read "Send District Chairperson's names and addresses to "GCFP Database Manager". **Approved**

Article XIII Meetings – Section 4 B

1. Certify that those elected to serve on the GCFP Nominating Committee have meet the

necessary qualifications.....to be revised to read “1. Certify that those elected to serve on the GCFP Nominating Committee have met the necessary qualifications”. **Approved**

Article XIII Meetings – Section 1

B. Other meetings may be called at the direction of the Executive Committee or upon written request of twenty-five Voting Member Groups..... will be revised to read “Other meetings may be called at the direction of the Executive Committee or upon written request of twenty-five Voting Members. **Approved**

4. Finance

When a deposit is required by the motel/hotel for booking board meetings or conventions.....will be revised to read “When a deposit is required by the motel/hotel for booking board meetings”. **Approved**

6. Keystone Gardener

the Board of Directors roster shall only be published in the Directory issue in the odd numbered year and the revisions to the roster will be published quarterly and on the website.....will be revised to read “The Board of Directors roster shall be published in the Directory issue in the odd numbered year and the revision to the roster will be updated as needed on the website.” **Approved**

Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci read the following recommendations from the Executive Committee meeting that was held on April 13, 2023.

To move \$15,000 from the GCFP Ready Cash account and purchase a high-quality bond. **Approved**

To reinvest the proceeds from another GCFP bond that will mature on May 3rd. **Approved**

To obtain a Post Office Box to use as the GCFP headquarters address during each President’s tenure at a location close to the then current President. **Approved**

Awards Chair, Sheri Lowry recognized the following Clubs for their special 2023 GCFP Anniversaries

- 25 years The Wildflower Garden Club – District VIII
- 60 years The Outdoor Gardeners - District XI
- 60 years Town and Country Garden Club of Lancaster District IV
- 80 years The Garden Club of Munhall District X
- 90 years Waterford Garden Club - District VIII
- 90 years Pucketos Garden Club District VII
- 90 years Hazleton Area Garden Club District II/III
- 90 years The Garden Club of Springfield District I
- 90 years Countryside Gardeners District XI
- 90 years The Garden Club of Forest Hills District VII was organized 100 years ago but federated for 90 years. Clubs celebrating 50, 75, & 100 Year Anniversaries receive \$100

KG Online Literary Awards for original garden related article was given to Marilyn Small, Wayne Woods Garden Club for “The Nostalgic Naked Lady” and for original poem to Debra Barhight, Parkland Garden Club for “Mother Earth and God Our Father”.

President-elect, Leeanna Ryba announced the dates for the June Board Meeting - June 6-7, 2023.

Convention Chair, Marilyn Backus reminded all to complete the 2023 GCFP Convention Feedback Form included in the Convention tote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.