

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania 96th Convention
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2025 at 4:00 PM

The Executive Committee of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) was called to order by **GCFP President, Patricia Wolanski**, at 4:03 PM. President Wolanski thanked those in attendance. A quorum was declared.

[The 21 Voting Members include 6 Elected Officers, 2 Appointed Officers, 2 Appointed Members, 10 District Directors, and 1 Advisor]. **Present:** President Pat Wolanski, 2nd Vice President Mary Hetrick, Recording Secretary Deborah Davis, Treasurer Vivian Hall, Financial Secretary Sheila Croushore, Appointed Member – Jane Kruse, Appointed Member – Lori Pancione, District I Director Pam Walsh, District II/III Director Claire Kukielka, District IV Director Carla Kelly, District VI Director Mary Lou Colussy, District VII Director Marilyn Backus, District VIII Director Bonita Herman, District X Director Martha Alexander, District XI Director/Appointed Officer – Corresponding Secretary Flossie Narducci. **Absent:** 1st Vice President Tonya Young, District V Director Joyce Wenner, District IX Director Stacey Ivoll, Appointed Officer – Parliamentarian Angie Raitano, Advisor to the President Christine Leskosky, Advisor from the Advisory Council Leeanna Ryba. **Guests:** Investment Chair Gail Manna, Barbara Brand, Co-Chair of Organizational Studies.

Recording Secretary, Deborah Davis, reported the Executive Committee Minutes of October 13, 2025 were approved and distributed electronically by **President Wolanski** on April 10, 2026. Voting for approval of all of the October 13-14, 2025 BOD Minutes will occur at the June 8-9, 2026 GCFP Board Meeting. The Annual Convention Minutes of April 7-8, 2025 (on the “BOD Information” webpage) were distributed electronically by President Wolanski on May 16, 2025 and were posted on the GCFP website.

REPORTS FROM THE COMBINED FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The **Treasurer, Vivian Hall**, reviewed details of Financial Statements received from **Financial Advisor, Cindy Layton**. The statements were projected on a screen and hard copies were available. The **GCFP Statement of Financial Activity May 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026**, stated income from **Total Membership Dues** was \$48,043.50. Other Support, including the 2025 Convention Proceeds allocated \$21,274.25 to GCFP and \$7,124.75 to District XI, totaled **\$23,505.51 Total Other Support**. **Total Interest** was \$518.23. **Total Income** was \$72,067.24. **Total Expenses** from Total General and Administrative, Chairman’s Expenses, Keystone Gardener, Memberships, and Officer’s Allowances were \$65,122.72, which resulted in a positive Variance of Income vs. Expenses of \$6,944.52. It was noted there are fourteen Junior “Sprouts & Seedlings” Clubs.

The **GCFP Asset Summary as of March 31, 2026** showed Total Checking and Savings equaled \$31,357.61. **Total Advances Receivable** pertinent to the 2025-2027 Conventions was \$4,100. **Petty Cash** was \$100. **Total Current Assets** were \$53,863.81. **Plant A Tree/Penny Pines including Investment Account** was \$22,292.03.

The **Financial Secretary, Sheila Croushore**, reported the GCFP Dues Account activity, Somerset Trust, for the Fiscal Year – 2025-2026:

Beginning balance 05/01/2025		\$100.00
Deposits: Member dues	\$45,610.00	
Affiliate dues	\$140.00	
New Members	\$2,167.50	
Total Receipts/Balance	\$49,917.50	\$48,017.50
Disbursements		
Transfers to Treasurer	(\$47,917.50)	
Ending Balance 04/01/2026		\$100.00

Gail Manna, Chair of the Investment Committee, reported the Federation Investments have been doing quite well even with the world volatility in the last several months. As of March 31, 2026, Investments totaled \$655,425.59 and the total in the cash reserve is \$34,301.65 for ready access. As you see, GCFP has funds in ready assets available for the Scholarships which will be paid out in August to the Schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

BYLAWS: Barbara Brand, Co-Chair of Organizational Studies, presented proposed bylaw amendments that need to be approved by the Executive Committee before being presented to the membership.

Additional Amendments (not yet approved):

Page 5 *ARTICLE VI, delete “Headquarters” from article heading*

*Sec.2.G.2– Insert “President **and** Treasurer”; delete “Headquarters.”*

Page 11 *ARTICLE XVI ,Amendments, Sec. 1. Delete “in writing” and insert “electronically”*

ARTICLE XVI, Amendments, Sec. 2. Replace : “Amendments presented without prior notice at the Annual Convention shall be limited to corrections of errors, omissions, or clarifications that do not alter the intent or substance of the bylaws, and shall require approval by a majority vote of those present and voting.”

Page 13, Index: Delete “Headquarters”

A motion was made by Bonita Herman, seconded by Vivian Hall, that the Executive Committee approve the proposed bylaw amendments. Motion carried. APPROVED

PLANT-A-TREE: PENNY PINES FUNDS: President Wolanski had a lawyer review the contract. We are legally free to make a donation to another like-minded organization. Example: Plant-A-Tree funds totaled of \$22,292.03. **The motion approved in October to allocate \$10,000 from the Plant-A-Tree Program for planting at the Flight 93 Memorial site was rescinded due to project delays and because the proposed use no longer aligned with the program’s purpose of funding tree planting. RESCINDED**

President Wolanski recommended consideration of a \$10,000 a donation to the Remember Me Rose Garden, a 501 (c)(3) organization, established by the families of those lost during Flight 93, to support the installation of a red/white/blue garden, with participation by a local garden club, if they desired to participate, in the design and plant selection. It was noted that funds must be distributed prior to the end of the fiscal year on April 30. Mary Heltzel of Stifel Investments reported that GCFP has available income from its investments. It was the recommendation of the Combined Finance and Investment Committee to allocate \$10,000 from the investment income in Stifel Investments and donate to the Remember Me Rose Garden. **However, as a result of conflicting information about plant materials to be purchased and the lack of care and watering for previous installations, a motion was made by Vivian Hall, seconded by Bonita Herman, to not move forward with this project. Motion carried.**

SCHOLARSHIPS: Sandra Hendricks is the Chair of the Scholarship Committee. GCFP distributes 12 - \$1,000 scholarships as well as several named scholarships. Mary Heltzel of Stifel Investments suggested, at the Combined Finance and Investment Committee zoom meeting, increasing the scholarships to \$1,500 each as there are funds available. **A motion was made by Pam Walsh, seconded by Martha Alexander, that the scholarships be increased to \$1,500 beginning with the 2027 recipients.** **APPROVED**

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Deborah Davis - GCFP Recording Secretary

Ref. Vivian Hall issued the Financial Statements on April 1, 2026.