

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

GCFP President, Pat Wolanski, called the meeting to order at 2:16 PM. **GCFP Chaplain, Margie Wolff**, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the **2nd Vice President, Mary Hetrick**. 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: 61, Day 2: 60).

President Wolanski introduced the **former GCFP State Presidents** in attendance: Dot Yard, Angela Raitano, Sharon Brown, Joyce Milberg, Chris Leskosky, Sheila Croushore, and Leeanna Ryba. She then introduced the **2025-2027 officers**: Second Vice-President Mary Hetrick, Recording Secretary Deborah Davis, Treasurer Vivian Hall, and Financial Secretary Sheila Croushore. She noted that 1st Vice President, Tonya Young, was home recuperating from a fall. Timekeeper for the meeting on October 13, 2025 was Mary Jo Gardill. President Wolanski thanked Claire Kukielka and all those who helped with the beautiful horticulture show at this Board meeting.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President, Pat Wolanski, reported it has been a very active and productive few months since our last Board meeting. First, she thanked the chair of our Horticulture Specialty Show being held here today, Claire Kukielka and her committee for their hard work in organizing today's event. She also thanked all those who entered – your participation is what makes this show a success. Since June, she has had the honor of attending three Blue Star and one Gold Star Memorial Dedications. Each ceremony was deeply meaningful honoring those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. She attended a CAR "Meet and Greet" in June which provided an opportunity to meet our new CAR Director, and the seven state presidents. Our Director's theme, "Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul" was introduced along with the themes of all of the seven state presidents. She has also been working closely with our Organizational Studies Team on updating the Board of Directors Manual, Standing Rules, and job descriptions. This has been quite a task and should be completed soon. In addition, the same committee has reviewed and amended our Bylaws. The proposed amendments are being voted on here today, and – upon approval – will be presented for final adoption by the full board at the upcoming State Convention in Erie in April. In July, we had State Presidents' Meeting which provided an opportunity for just the state presidents to get to know one another, share ideas, and ask questions. The exchange was both informative and inspiring. This meeting was followed by National Garden Club's "Care to Share" session, which allowed us to meet our National president and other officers and receive updates on awards, ask questions, and share concerns. In September, she completed the Tour de Pennsylvania attending your District meetings. It was a pleasure meeting so many members across the state, hearing your ideas, and celebrating your accomplishments. She traveled with the First and Second Vice Presidents, and together we had the opportunity to connect personally as well as with club members. She attended CAR's Board Meeting recently where we had the opportunity to meet new Board Members and hear their reports and learn of changes in criteria for our youth awards. Please refer to both NGC and CAR websites for updated information on these awards. Recently, she attended the National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting. During that meeting the board members were introduced, and several important updates were shared. Such as: The Plant America Community Grants Program was amended to allow up to 10% of total grant funds to be allocated to non-garden club or 501(c)(3) organizations, provided they meet the programs requirements. NGC is also allocating \$100,000 toward a special committee grant fund to promote the planting of red, white and blue gardens in collaboration with Keep America Beautiful to commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary.

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

Information will be going out shortly to all districts and clubs to promote this initiative. Deadline for this grant is January 2026. You will be hearing more about this! Working on a Schools Record Portal which will be launched on November 2nd. Students will be able to log in and receive their own records. Did you know – weddings are being held on Magnolia – this is the location of our Headquarters. Six events are planned over the next 12 months from garden club members and granddaughters. The Path of Success is complete – next to Magnolia (our headquarters). The idea of the path is to bring people through the beautiful gardens located there. Further details on these and other initiatives can be found on the NGC website. Looking ahead, she has been working with our Leadership Workshop chair organizing our next workshop which will take place on November 13th. Some topics of discussion are: Parliamentary Procedure, Awards, Leadership Roles and Succession Planning, Effective Communication, Using New Technology to your Advantage and Fundraising Ideas ... and more! Please plan on attending. While managing all of my responsibilities, my initiatives have continued to progress, and you will hear about them in the chair reports. She is deeply grateful to everyone for their hard work and dedication and the role you are playing in the success of all of these initiatives. Coming soon is the CAR-SGC Conference which will be held October 19-21, 2025, in Cambridge, Maryland; our own State Convention in Erie in April and the National Convention will be held May 4-6, 2025, in St. Louis, MO. The theme of the convention is “Getting to Know NGC --- It’s History, Quirks, and Artifacts.” Thank you all for all you do!!

2nd Vice President, Mary Hetrick, reported that as she settles into her position as 2nd Vice President, she continues to learn the “ins and outs” of Zoom. She has enjoyed scheduling and operating various meetings for our members. On August 25th, in lieu of meeting with the Club Presidents in person at their District’s annual meeting, she scheduled and attended the Zoom meeting as requested by President Wolanski. She has held one Zoom meeting for all GCFP Club Presidents and have another scheduled for October 27th at 6:30pm. This is the first of its kind. It is an attempt by President Pat Wolanski to have direct contact with all the club presidents simultaneously. This first meeting allowed our president to review her initiatives and Nancy Cuttic to answer all their questions regarding our upcoming PA Garden Party next June. The plan is to have this meeting follow Vice President Young’s meeting with the District Directors. Future topics will include – Review of the President’s Manual, Questions and Answer sessions, concerns and issues. On June 11th my fellow officers joined me in Erie to help Presque Isle Garden Club celebrate their 75th Anniversary with a luncheon on the Victorian Princess Riverboat Cruise on Lake Erie. The luncheon was so nice and the time on the water was lovely. She is so proud of two Districts, VIII and IX and how they coordinated an amazing Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedication on I80 East on July 16th. This was a first and the involvement from both Districts was commendable. I attended and was very interested to hear the Gold Star Mother and Wife speak. All went well and the rain showers held off until the end. Congratulations to both Districts. It was her pleasure to join President Wolanski and 1st Vice President Young on the 2025 Tour of Pennsylvania. It was a joy to visit our ten Districts in their own neck of the woods. She spoke on the importance of including Youth in our garden projects as it relates to our new Sprouts and Seedlings Program. We are blessed with a beautiful state with amazing garden club members. This time with all of you has been the highlight of my position so far. Your hospitality, your project reports and the programs you provided were so enjoyable and interesting. She was honored to be asked to be the Judges Coordinator for today’s Horticulture Specialty Flower Show. All those amazing club members who serve on President Wolanski’s Board brought such impressive specimens to share. Thank you to those who are not on the Board and still chose to participate. This is such a wonderful way to showcase our organization and educate the public with this array of outstanding horticulture. She continues to schedule our upcoming Board meeting’s meals and

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

gathering spaces here at the Wyndam Garden Inn and looks forward to welcoming you all to my neck of the woods – in Erie - for our GCFP 2026 Convention – MystErie on the Bay April 26, 27, and 28th.

Recording Secretary, Deborah Davis, reported recording the June 2025 Combined Finance and Investment minutes, the Executive Committee minutes and the general Board minutes along with committee reports. It is a pleasure and honor to serve, and a learning experience.

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, reviewed the **GCFP Statement of Financial Activity May 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025** which listed income from Total Membership Dues as \$46,882.50. The 2025 Convention Profit allocated \$21,374.25 to GCFP and \$7,124.75 to District XI. Environmental Studies School was \$1,571.26 with account closed and proceeds remitted 8/6/2025; NGC award - \$500.00; Book of Recognition Donations - \$50; Interest - \$276.16. Total GCFP Income was \$70,654.17. Total Expenses from Total Chairman’s, General and Administrative, Keystone Gardener, Memberships, Officer’s Allowances and Miscellaneous was \$51,816.57, which resulted in a positive Variance of Income vs. Expenses of \$18,837.60.

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, reviewed the details of the GCFP Asset Summary as of September 30, 2025. The **GCFP Asset Summary as of September 30, 2025** stated Total Checking, Savings and Petty Cash was \$30,541.35. Total Advances Receivable was \$4,100. Total Current Assets was \$61,855.63. The Plant a Tree Reforestation Total \$12,192.03, including \$10,000 in the Stifel account, was \$22,192.03. Total amount of 2025 Scholarship Awards was \$13,200.00. Funds available in Truist Accounts for Scholarships was \$9,311.00. Funds from Stifel Investments A/C transferred on 7/30/2025 was \$3,890.00. \$3,056.00 was sent to NGC for Natural Disasters 8/29/25.

Financial Secretary, Sheila Croushore, reported for the period June 15-October 6, 2025.

GCFP Dues Account – Somerset Trust		
Beginning Balance – 06/15/2025		\$100.00
Deposits: Member/Affiliate dues	\$1,840.00	
New Members	\$992.50	
TOTAL RECEIPTS/BALANCE	\$2,860.50	\$2,960.50
Disbursements – Transfers to Treasurer	(\$2,860.50)	
ENDING BALANCE – 10/06/2025		\$100.00

Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Narducci, reported that since our last GCFP Board Meeting in June, condolences have been sent to several members – all of whom have suffered the loss of a loved one.....Audrey Williams - husband, Jim , Betty Pisano - husband, Charles, Gwen Barrett - husband, Stephen, Vivian Hall - husband Jim, and Barbara Andrus - husband, Jack. Also, condolences were sent to Gail Manna whose mother, Florence, passed away. A letter of sympathy was sent to the family of Carol Norquist, our NGC Media Coordinator, who passed away in July and just last week to the family of Judy Warn who served as District V Director for GCFP.

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

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

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:

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Executive Committee recommended selling Kimco bond and Reynolds American bond and add AI, power and tech-focused equities. APPROVED

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 \$12,192.03 plus an additional \$10,000 in Stifel account, to equal a total of \$22,192.03. In honor of America's 250th anniversary, and in recognition of the deep connection Pennsylvania share with the hallowed ground of the Flight 93 National Memorial, President, Pat Wolanski, proposed that the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania allocate \$10,000 from our Penny Pines funds to support the ongoing reforestation efforts at the memorial site. Rationale: This allocation represents a transfer of Penny Pines funds to a "comparable conservation-focused initiative", maintaining its original intent of reforestation. This gift aligns with the celebration of America's 250th anniversary, allowing GCFP to participate in a meaningful, enduring project that honors our nation's history. It also aligns with National Garden Club's request to plant red, white and blue as red, white and blue blooming trees are planned. It is a sacred place for all Americans. Pennsylvania pride in that site for its importance. The National Pike Service is willing to host an informational/inspirational open house tour of the memorial groves specifically for Pennsylvania's garden clubs and clubs from all around the state would be invited for that special day.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The Executive Committee recommended that the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania allocate \$10,000 from our Penny Pines funds to support the ongoing reforestation efforts at the memorial site at Flight 93 in Shanksville. APPROVED

BYLAWS

Dot Yard reported for the Organizational Studies Committee consisting of Dot Yard and Barbara Brand and reported proposed bylaw changes as of October 1, 2025. Cover page - Revised and Adopted - (**Insert date**). ARTICLE II Heading and first line: Delete "Object" insert **Objectives**. Page 2 - ARTICLE IV Sec. 2. Delete: "A Headquarters Office". Sec. 3. A. 2. Delete the comma after "Inc.". Renumber Sec. 3 to read **Sec. 2**. ARTICLE V Sec. 1. Delete last line: "All members of voting organizations shall receive the *Keystone Gardener*." Page 3 - ARTICLE V Sec. 2. A. Delete: "The President of the organization shall receive the *Keystone Gardener*." ARTICLE V Sec. 2. B. Delete: "and a subscription to the *Keystone Gardener*." ARTICLE VI Sec. 1. B. 1. (Add emboldened phrases.). All Officers shall "Attend all Board Meetings and, unless otherwise requested, prepare one copy of **their reports** to be given to the Recording Secretary; retain a copy for **their files**. The report should be written in Arial 12 font. A copy of the reports must also be sent via e-mail to the Recording Secretary **prior to the meeting**." ARTICLE VI Sec. 1. C. No Officer may serve in two (2) **GCFP** elected positions during a term. Page 4 - ARTICLE VI Sec. 2 A.6 Re-phrase to read: "**Be an** ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. D. 4 **Recording Secretary's** files. (Make this possessive). Page 5 - ARTICLE VI Sec. 2 H. 1 "...printed promptly in the *Keystone Gardener* **on line**." ARTICLE VII Sec. 3 A."Attend all Board Meetings **and**, unless otherwise requested, prepare and send an electronic copy of **their** reports to the Recording Secretary **prior to each meeting**." Page 6 - ARTICLE VII Sec. 5.A. "....*Keystone Gardener* **Editors**...." (plural). Page 7 - Sec. B. Insert:

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

The Editor of the *Keystone Gardener* shall serve as Chairperson of this committee. The Advertising Manager of the *Keystone Gardener*, Associate Editors, the **GCFP President** and the First and Second GCFP Vice Presidents shall be members of this committee. ARTICLE IX E. Insert: "A copy of the reports must also be sent via e-mail to the Recording Secretary **prior to the meeting.**" Page 8 - Article IX F. Insert: "No member shall serve in more than one (1) elected **GCFP** position at the same time." Page 9 - Article XI Sec. 3 E. Add to last sentence: **prior to the meeting.**

RECOMMENDATION 3: The Executive Committee recommended that the 2025 revisions to the GCFP Bylaws be approved. APPROVED

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District I Director, Pam Walsh, reported District I continues to be busy. Our District I Luncheon with 94 guests, was a wonderful event that included lovely favors, delicious food and inspiring messages from Pat, Tonya and Mary. We learned a lot about how to care for Hydrangeas from our speaker. Thanks to The Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd for hosting this incredible event! Our clubs have had some special programs including: stream water quality in our local watersheds; rose gardens; planting autumn containers; the art of kokedama; native plants, trees and shrubs; the cutting garden; how our daily actions on land influence the health of our rivers and streams; pollinator gardens; design tips and techniques; how to make a fall container; peonies; how to grow elephant ears; and many more. Blue Star Marker areas have been tidied up and replanted, Sprouts and Seedlings have planted kitchen gardens and will have a program about spiders, flower arrangement workshops have been held in senior centers and nursing homes, and holiday workshops are planned. Some of our biggest fund-raising events are held during the holidays including: Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show; Holiday Village Market; Harvest Celebration aimed at educating the community on houseplants and gardens; Annual Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop; and Annual Christmas Fair. Flower Shows have been held by several clubs. One club will feature a festive session on making Holiday Mocktails using tea-based beverages. Two new garden club awards will be given to deserving members of one of our clubs. We also have had and will have many workshops including: holiday gnome horticultural workshop; garden easels with horticulture; creating holiday ornaments; crafting pinecone turkeys and seasonal hoop holders filled with sensory items; pressed flowers to design pictures and greeting cards; flower arranging workshops; and making hypertufa troughs. At least one of our clubs has formed a book club and is reading "Listening to Nature's Voices" by Pam Baxter. We look forward to our 3rd Annual Centerpiece Challenge in Nov. when each club sends two members to compete. Each team is given the same components and flowers to create a centerpiece. Raffle tickets are sold, and prizes are given. It continues to be a nice way for club members to meet members from other clubs.

District II/III Director, Claire Kukielka, reported District II/III is working hard to support their communities, their club members, as well as the GCFP and the NGC. During the recent months they have: Acted as beacons of community inspiration for activities including; provided a Memorial program for the local Blue Star Memorial and Veterans program (HAGC); weeded and trimmed the Inspirational Park in conjunction with the Hazleton Fire Company. We have created 24 gorgeous planters throughout the Milford community; attended monthly programs including one celebrating the Pinchot family and their support in starting our current federated club-Milford Garden Club. We have hosted garden tours (PGC/BGC) and pop-up garden tours (Monroe Garden Club and PGC), we have supported a multitude of community/ pollinator/native

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

plants/rose/and prayer gardens by ourselves as well as in in partnership with others (BGC, HAGC,PGC,UPGC,RGC). Furthermore, we stand as model for generosity. When a local church in Pottstown who maintained a large community vegetable garden was robbed of their produce, she was proud to report that the President of Pottstown Garden club notified their members of the situation. Within a short time, the club members as well as their compatriots began to fill the shelves of the church with fresh produce from their gardens. The church pantry was restored and local community members with food insecurity were once again being fed. We have attended several field/bus trips as diverse as visiting the Grounds for Sculpture in NJ(BGC) and a local dahlia farm (Monroe Garden Club); we visited Jenny Rose Carey's house, and Pottstown, Upper Perkiomen, and Reading Garden Club have held programs on peonies, dahlias, and/or orchids by the local plant associations affiliated with these plants. The Reading Garden Club held a program on Ikebana Pottstown Garden Club had a speaker address fall and winter clean up. We have acted as entrepreneurs for garden club plant sales (AGC/EGC/MGC,PGC/Pottstown GC/PGC/RGC); we created first Friday floral arrangements which are auctioned off once a month with the profits split between the Hazleton Art League and the HAGC; we conducted evaluation of issues with watering systems in town as well as a woefully inadequately sized shed, wrote grants, received grant money, and improved both the watering systems as well as purchased a new shed (Milford Garden Club). Several garden clubs are also noting that their plant sales have opened up a stream of potential new members: **so success does breed success**. We have also tried our hands at Botanical Arts creating beautiful hats, pouches and visors to be sold at a later date (Reading Garden Club). We have applied for seed money and used those funds to label native plants in order to educate the community (Upper Perkiomen). We value education and virtually all our clubs provide one or more scholarships. We have taught flower arrangement for the public at the Great Allentown Fair (AGC, PGC) as well as senior citizens in Hazleton Active Life Center; we have inventoried a butterfly garden identifying 18 different species; we have hosted a Citizen Science project across the district in two different areas- bird observation during winter months and water precipitation in the summer and fall. We have provided Arbor Day programs (AGC, PGC) and participated in the Polk Environmental Day (Monroe Garden Club). We have conducted flower shows such as the ones held by Bethlehem and Emmaus Garden Clubs. We hold tournaments, and little shows, (PGC and BGC) and hold training classes on design (BGC, EGC, HAGC, and HAGC). We have also held garden parties (Reading GC). In the last year we have had 3 milestone birthdays- Allentown Garden Club celebrated a 75th year as a garden club; Parkland Garden club celebrated their 70th year and South Schuylkill Garden Club celebrated their 85th year. Monroe Garden Club hosted an annual District II/III meeting (Monroe Garden Club) and did an excellent job. We are also sad to announce the dissolution of Montrose Garden Club. It was the oldest garden club in the state. Still many of our clubs are growing and we had three installations of officers since the spring. We look to the future with both gratitude and optimism.

District IV Director, Carla Kelly, reported two clubs change officers where she performed the installations. A Blue Star Marker was installed in Mechanicsburg on Aug 2. A fun by-product of visiting that town was that the local club photographer chair hopped in my car and we drove to 6 public garden areas that they maintain. It was a surprise tour and very satisfying to see the outcome of the enthusiasm of these gardeners in the Penn-Cumberland club. They have 108 members and robust fundraising and she experienced the structure behind that success. On July 18 she visited the York State Fair for the first time in her life. The Garden Club of York administers the Horticulture building, which is massive, and arranges for the competitions of flowers, vegetables, canned goods, fresh baked goods, and more. It was very impressive, just with what they are doing every year. Additionally this year they added a competition for arranging a vignette

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

with a fireplace. The four clubs competing all produced different scenarios with four floral arrangements - the public viewing it as if we had just dropped by and hung our head through a doorway. It was a lot of fun. Again, she experienced first-hand the enthusiasm of this large and wildly successful club. Our annual Board meeting in August had a record of 101 meals sold. She thought how we jumped up from 74 at this time last year. She thought the direct email to members was successful as it was timely and a direct invitation to each club member in our district. She also requested that each club president personally invite any promising leaders from their clubs which did not work though. If we offered funds to provide a free ticket, then we might get more takers. Speaking of funds, our district does actually have quite a few funds that we need to spend. Several thousand in fact. We had a Zoom meeting with club presidents and made a list of topics that new presidents need, and advanced topics for more experienced leaders. We will do a spiral method - which is presenting the same topic a couple of times over a 9-month period. So if someone is away, or hasn't taken over their club position yet, there will be another chance to learn the topic later on. They decided we should focus on the cold months to schedule these. We will call them Leadership Workshops - our old style GCFP topics that we all need. Then we'll have new topics in a series of Club Development Workshops where we'll learn how to make proper images for Facebook posting of events, video clips to promote our activities such as Flower Shows and floral design.

District V Director, Joyce Wenner, reported District V clubs have had a busy year. **Alexandria GC** : They have been busy in their borough with cleaning up at the public library and preparing the grounds for fire prevention week. They took a tour of Huntington's wet lands and viewed the wonders of nature. They had a plant sale and with the proceeds the club is able to do many projects around their town. **Mifflin County GC**: They had their annual plant sale this year. To build up their scholarship fund the club had a Spring Garden Tea. A tree was planted at the Habitat for Humanity new home to recognize our Pa. motto "Plant America while keeping Pa. beautiful". In December they will be having their annual Christmas Party. **McEwensville GC**: This year the club took four field trips to visit local gardens. They had a informative meeting on Lyme disease. There was also an informative meeting on HEMP and learned of all the plant can do to help our environment. They planted a garden at the Community Center and took care of two Blue Star Markers. **Standing Stone GC**: They have taken on the project of restoring the Welcome to Huntington sign, also the gardens at Portstown Park. These were a two-year project and are almost finished. And because of these projects the club has been asked to help with more borough projects which the club members are interested in doing. **Heritage GC**: It has been a rewarding year for the club. They won the Governor's Trophy at the Convention this year and first place for their yearbook for medium size clubs. They maintain their Blue Star Marker and will be hosting the Annual District Meeting in 2026. **Duboistown GC**: They ended their year with an Arbor Day Celebration by having a tree planted in memory of a member. They had a luncheon to install new officers and to thank all members for the work they do throughout the year. The club participates at two county fairs, the Lycoming County and Bloomsburg Fair. This year the club hosted the Annual District Meeting in September. The clubs of District V have had a busy and successful year.

District VI Director, Mary Lou Colussy, reported District VI is alive, healthy and going strong! Our district comprises eight clubs in six counties, which include Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Westmoreland. District VI has 361 members. Even though we are geographically expansive we coexist like a family. Most of the clubs interact with the other clubs in events, programs and personnel. Our district newsletter, *Seedlings*, published quarterly keeps the clubs informed of upcoming events and happenings across the district. When many organizations are

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

losing volunteers, it is refreshing to know the art of gardening is alive and well in our region, with new members who want to help as they learn. The highlights for the Bedford County Garden Club for this past year were the awarding of two scholarships in May to two talented young ladies, Savanna Hershberger and Madison Rose Beutman, the dedication of the Gold Star Memorial Marker in downtown Bedford on Sept. 17th and the bi-annual Christmas Home Tour on December 6-7th. Blair County Garden Club celebrated their 75th Anniversary, installed a Gold Star Memorial at the Veterans Hospital in Altoona, and members displayed their talents this year in a Horticultural and Botanical Arts Flower Show on August 16th. Members of the Evergreen GC provided a floral arrangement program to campers and counselors at Camp Orenda, a residential camp for adults with physical and /or mental disabilities. Arrangements were created to be used as centerpieces for a dinner dance held later the same day. Plans are being made for the club's annual fundraiser, Tinsel Time, which will be Dec. 4th. The theme is "Winter Wonderland" at the Indiana Country Club with a sit-down dinner. Two \$1000 scholarships were awarded this year to Elizabeth Bruner and John Bruner. They are brother and sister. Both outstanding students with interests in wildlife and forestry management. After 33 years of success, GCJ Welcome the Holidays annual fundraiser will be replaced with a Holiday Home Tours of century-old homes in the Westmont borough of Johnstown on Dec. 6th partnering with a non-profit historic neighborhood organization. A Christmas Market with boutique gifts and Glamor Galore raffle ticket items will inspire the annual holiday spirit. GCJ's major public service is provided by over 35 members of the Civic Development committee, who maintain 16 public gardens that include a historic bandshell, a music park, the landmark Johnstown Flood Museum, a 3,000-square-foot green roof, a living wall, and a garden entrance to the 10-acre conservancy. Indiana GC spent an afternoon in April at Gary Balls Daffodil Farm, and had their first Cove Greenhouse Hop, sponsored by the Martinsburg area and another Greenhouse Hop was scheduled from beyond Punxsutawney to Blairsville in May. The 50th anniversary of their May Mart was held on May 16-17th. Finally in August, an outstanding Flower Show was shown in the renovated Indiana Mall. Patton GC is very proud to announce that we were able to award 2 \$1,000 scholarships this year to two worthy high school seniors, One, Eric Nagle was also the recipient of a GCFP scholarship as well. PGC members are constantly learning and perfecting our skills as gardeners. This spring they learned about the new hydroponic system at Cambria Heights Middle School, where students enjoy salads made from the produce they have grown, learned the intricacies of bee keeping, the importance of bats in our ecosystem, and the cultivation of herbs. Somerset GC hosted Earth Day at Elephant Farm, educational workshops where members demonstrated seed planting, crafting and conservational activities to the community. They are also working hard preparing for the upcoming Garden Party Tour in June, 2026.

District VII Director, Marilyn Backus, reported District VII is located in eastern Allegheny and western Westmoreland Counties and currently has 274 members in 11 clubs. The following report is the status my personal objectives for the district's clubs: **1. Did at least one member from each club volunteer for a role in District VII's first Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, Dog Daze, such as a Chair, or an exhibitor?** No, but 10 clubs provided 39 volunteers. Thirty-four exhibitors provided 230 horticulture specimens, 2 educational exhibits and 12 classes of botanical arts. **2. Did District VII increase its publicity for District VII's Calendar of Events to include other districts' clubs and affiliate events?** Yes, 9 district clubs were represented at the Pucketos Fundraiser. A couple of GC of Munhall members attended the Horticulture Flower Show, the Fundraiser and/or the Indiana carpool and a visitor from Pleasant Hills GC attended the Annual meeting. Conversely, four clubs had members who attended Westmoreland Garden Council's Garden Tour, Annual Tea and/or Munhall's trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. The Annual Meeting had 63 members in attendance compared to 41 members at the Spring Meeting,

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

both of which cost the same to attend the same venue. **3. Did each district club collaborate in some way with another club?** No, but Murrysville and Monroeville, as clubs, had some of their members attend the others' library programs, while Burrellton and Pucketos partnered and are planning for the PA Garden Party. Moreover, a few individuals from 9 clubs collaborated with one another at District VII's July 26 flower show: the experienced Forest Hills clerks paired up with inexperienced clerks from Joyful Bloomers and Pucketos. Expert classification chairs from Murrysville and Forest Hills helped exhibitors to accurately complete their Horticulture entry cards. Murrysville, Burrellton, Monroeville and Forest Hills participants worked together to sub-group the horticulture. **4. Did each club have at least one member traveling with the Landscape Design Society to a destination garden and lunch?** No, but 7 clubs participated. **5. Did at least one member and/or potential member from each club participate in the District's day trip to Indiana, PA?** No, but 17 individuals from 5 clubs did. Six carpools traveled to Indiana and all received new information and many seedlings shared by the host. **6. Did each club have a speaker present how to prepare horticulture entries for the District VII Horticulture Specialty Flower Show?** No, but 4 clubs did. Marilyn Backus' presentation at the Monroeville Library included members from other clubs. **7. Did each club invite a flower show judge or design specialist to present a floral design, table artistry or botanical arts example as a topic of interest or program?** No, but 2 clubs did: Pucketos and Forest Hills. While the objectives were not met, there has been increased interest and participation in club activities and the District VII Board meetings seem enlivened. She plans to discuss these objectives for next year at our upcoming district board meeting.

District VIII Director, Bonita Herman, asked "Well, what has been going on in the "Great District VIII" since June?" There were successful flower/plant sales and flower shows. A joint Horticulture Flower Show by Gospel Hill and Lawrence Park Garden Clubs took place. This was the first combined show for quite a few years, and it was well attended and organized. Both clubs had numerous entries, and Lawrence Park was most pleased to take home many Blue Ribbons. A joint Gold Star dedication with District IX on I80 just east of the PA/OH state line. We were honored to have two Gold Star wives present and they spoke of their husbands and how important these dedications are for them and other Gold Star families. She was a part of officer installations, picnics, and club meetings and had two important meetings involving clubs, that were not able to get new officers. After much discussion occurred at one of the clubs, she said she was not leaving until they established officers. The club came through, and she will be helping the new people. With another club we are working out a plan that is "out of the box" and she will be letting you know more about it next time. The annual meeting was great. The presidents gave their reports in a rhyme/poem, in which they did. Everyone was very attentive. There were 20 Laurels and 5 District Director Awards. Presque Isle Garden Club for 75 years established, Wildflower Garden Club for the Silver Tray Award, Lawrence Park and Gospel Hill Garden Club for Recognition of the Joint Horticulture Flower Show, Kay John of Garden Club of Clarion County, received the Exceptional Horticulturist Award, and Jackie Landfried of Wildflower Garden Club received the Forget Me Not Award. She had very busy June – October-----and not done yet! Now, onward to the 2026 MystERIE by the Bay Convention!!!

District IX Director, Stacey Ivoll, reported District IX consists of nine clubs, but we may be adding a new club- The suspense... We are waiting for the club vote. Our district has five medium clubs and four large clubs, giving us 450 club members. With a drumroll- District IX celebrated with 63 new members this year. Don't harsh my mellow if you got more. District IX has seven Blue Star Markers and a Gold Star Marker with District VIII. Speaking of Blue Star Markers, Butler Garden Club planted and is maintaining a Flower bed at their Blue Star Marker on the VA grounds near

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

their club. A way to say “Thank you to those who served.” Southern Butler County Garden Club has an Annual Garden Tour that sells over 200 tickets. This club has been doing this for 17 years and have it down to science. Another Club that has a garden tour is Shaler Garden Club their tour raises funds to support their long partnership with the Shaler North Hills Library. This year Shaler celebrates its 125 Anniversary. Moon Township also has a tour, but they have been working on a makeover of their local park. They created “The Fleur de Lune Garden”. They have done so well that the township has agreed to provide additional funds. Ingamar Garden Club holds a plant sale that has been in existence for 80 years it was started when the members started digging up their own plants. This plant sale is now an anticipated community event. District IX really shines at Christmas for a Gala called “Glitter and Glow”. Fox Chapel Club holds a fundraiser to raise money for community food gardens. They partner with Nike to collect old tennis shoes for playgrounds and tracks. Our newest club joining our district last year is Kennedy Garden Club, their motto is “Come Grow With Us” and we will. At their latest Spring Fest they walked away with 23 new members. Prep is beginning for Tusca-Ridge’s Nature’s Bounty Greens sale. Their one-day sale provides them with the funds for their all of their clubs community efforts throughout the year. Oakhill Garden Club has been participating in a plastic bag recycling program. They reached their goal of 1,000 pounds and received a bench for this effort. They have begun their 1,000 lb. quest again.

District X Director, Martha Alexander, reported District 10 has done it again. 125 members were honored at our annual meeting, and we hope the spirit they carry forward is anything but fleeting. Tulips, laurels, daffodils galore, we showed our appreciation, and of that there’s much more. Our clubs in numbers, oh how we build, 26 **new** members help make us fulfilled. We now total members of 413, which makes me smile just like a queen. When tending our gardens, we dig in the soil, with love and care we doth work and toil. Historic, Perennial, Pollinator, Blue Star, our gardens are impressive both near and far. So many opportunities for fellowship and learning, on any topic for which one is yearning. Our programs on composting and rare trees have reason. We also have “A time for Tea” and learning the “Magic of Season.” Our Fundraising takes a creative turn, Tinsel teas, bazaars, and modeling help us earn. Our flower shows Botanical Arts and Road Trip, were said to amaze, to be just fantastic! Some clubs have new young Sprouts and Seedlings, whose kids learn much more about gardening than weeding. They learn about roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds, and look at our garden, the community feeds! We provide hort therapy for young and for old. The designs bring delight, especially when it’s cold. And just look at the flowers the displays, behold. Creativity abounds in so many ways as we plan Seasonal luncheons and holidays. Our Award ceremonies are very grand for sure, we celebrate members and all they’ve endured. We work so hard with great perspiration in hopes that our gardens will bring inspiration. We’re planning a splendid Garden Party Tour and hope big flowers come from all the manure. Altruistic projects like floral Christmas mugs, and baking for meals on wheels, brings much delight, and even some squeals. 100 daffodil bulbs planted in historic places bring smiles to those who see, on their faces. Bulbs planted at gravesites will last on for years, and bring beauty to those who come and shed tears.

District XI Director, Flossie Narducci, reported once again, the Garden Clubs of District XI have been active in providing many varied activities for their members. However, here are a few noteworthy endeavors. Several Clubs will feature Flower Shows in the Fall. To encourage participation in their Club’s Flower Shows, Trevoise Horticultural Society and Old York Road Garden Club have partnered with each other to offer floral design classes outside of their regular monthly meetings. Norristown and Our Garden Club of Philadelphia participated in an annual project by making and delivering floral arrangements to the families residing at the Ronald

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.
October 13-14, 2025

McDonald House, while their children are hospitalized at Philadelphia's Children's Hospital. A few of the more unusual programs included a gathering where the Garden Club of Bristol Borough's club members learned how to craft cocktails and mocktails using fruits and herbs and was held at Daddy Tom's Cocktail Lounge. They are also collaborating with a local cheese shop for a Mozzarella Making and Tomato Tasting program. The Norristown Garden Club featured a Lettuce Workshop. Four Lanes End Garden Club's new Community Outreach program visited a local nursing facility to work on an atrium garden for memory care residents. Gardeners of Crooked Billet's Facebook page has been successful in raising awareness of their club's projects and activities and what the club is contributing to their community. To date, Old York Road, Norristown, and Countryside Gardeners will be participating in the newly initiated PA Garden Party next June. Many Clubs are busy planning Holiday House tours as well as holiday projects, decorations and workshops. Countryside Gardeners will feature a guest speaker at their November meeting who will discuss how you can volunteer to help decorate the White House. Swedesford Garden Club will participate in the local Library's Holiday Marketplace offering baked goods, homemade ornaments and decorations, even peanut butter pinecones for the birds. Some clubs have offered scholarships to needy students pursuing a degree in horticulture-related fields. Proceeds from annual Flower Shows and Holiday House Tours help fund the Clubs' Scholarship programs.

Advisor, Leeanna Ryba, reported that seven members of the Advisory Committee met over lunch on October 13, 2025 and discussed one item. GCFP Bylaws #4: Appoint the Chairperson of all committees excepting the Nominating Committee. An equitable balance of representation from each area of the state shall prevail when possible. No changes were deemed to be necessary at this time.

President Wolanski recessed the October 13, 2025 meeting at 4:30 PM. She asked attendees to reconvene on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9:00 AM. Social time was 5:30-6:30 PM and a dinner buffet began at 6:30 PM. District Directors and their Assistants met with the 2nd VP, Mary Hetrick, at 8 AM on Tuesday in the absence of 1st VP, Tonya Young. The Board meeting reconvened at 9:10 AM on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 where reports of Board Committees continued. The timekeeper for that meeting was Mary Lou Colussy. The Board meeting on October 14, 2025 was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES continued in alphabetical order following the listing in the 2025-2027 Directory Issue. **NOTE: THESE COMMITTEE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED SEPARATELY ON THE GCFP WEBSITE UNDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Wolanski noted the mums were on sale for \$10. There were cookies available to members for their ride home. Horticulture Therapy should now be referred to a Horticultural Enrichment. The new address of 1st Vice President Tonya Young was given.

President Wolanski adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

Deborah Davis – GCFP Recording Secretary

Ref: The Board Minutes of June 9-10, 2025 were emailed on September 23, 2025.