

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Board of Directors Meeting

October 10 – 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) was called to order by **President, Sheila Croushore** at 2:01 PM at the Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA.

Present were: Vivian Abel, Barb Andrus, Audrey Neff Angelella, Marilyn Backus, Claudia Bernardo, Sharon Bryner, Barbara Campbell, Nancy Cartwright, JoAnn Celaschi, Iris Cisarik, Mary Lou Colussy, Charlotte Crissy, Kathryn Crossman, **President Sheila Croushore**, Deborah Davis, Maryann DeSanto, Georgiann Dettinburn, Lorraine Dupre, Andrea Falchek, Karen Faust, Nancy Lambert Fulk, Mary Jo Gardill, Vivian Hall, Sandra Hendricks, Bonita Herman, Mary Hetrick, Joyce Hoek, Eileen Hoover, Jane Howe, Diane Hughes, Daryl Jones, Jane Kruse, Rosie Lawrence, Claire Hope Leichter, Sheri Lowry, Mary Jane Martucci, Eileen McGarrigle, Joyce C. Milberg, Grace Mitchell, Paula Mohler, Kay Morrissey, Marie Mueller, Flossie Narducci, Lori Pancione, Joyce Peterson, Robin Pottorff, Angela Raitano, Sharon Richardson, Leeanna Ryba, Mary Jo Schломann, Marjorie Stilwell Sears, Betsy Smith, Deb Stumpf, Judith Swanson, Pam Walsh, Judy Warn, Joyce Wenner, Pat Wolanski, Margaret Wolff, Dorothy Yard, Tonya Young

President Sheila Croushore called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM

First Vice President, Leeanna Ryba led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Croushore declared that a quorum was present and reminded all that the meeting is being recorded. She then introduced the following former State Presidents: Angie Raitano, Dorothy Yard, Betsy Smith, Joyce Milberg, and Sharon Brown.

Report of the Officers

President Croushore reported that all information for District Directors and their Assistants is current on the GCFP website. They are no longer creating a directory by position. It is listed alphabetically by first name. All the Board positions are listed as well. She then reported that the best part of being the GCFP President is traveling to all the September Annual Meetings. All 1,107 miles of it. But the most enjoyable part was hearing how all of the clubs are thriving! They are all working in their communities on projects, fundraisers and they are including their youth. She offered CONGRATULATIONS to all for their successes!! Also, in September she attended the National Board meeting in St Louis, MO representing GCFP. After visiting all the Districts and learning about the Clubs' activities, no matter what the topic, she had something to share. She visited National Headquarters for a tour, and was able to also go up into the Arch. She shared an all-inclusive non-denominational blessing before the Wednesday evening dinner and was able to meet and get to know the Executive Director from the NGC Headquarters.

2nd Vice President, Pat Wolanski reported that she, along with **President Croushore** and 1st VP, Leeanna Ryba enjoyed attending the District Annual Meetings in September. The best part of their travels was having the opportunity to meet and visit with members of so many garden clubs. She was impressed with the number of awards given, projects and activities reported, as well as long term activities planned for the clubs. There are 59 members in attendance for this Board Meeting. Steven Romig, Sr. Sales Manager, has been facilitating these meetings. He has decided to retire and in appreciation for all he has done, she circulated a thank you card for all to sign.

Recording Secretary, Flossie Narducci reported that the Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting that was held on June 6th and 7th, 2022 were approved with a minor correction and distributed electronically.

Treasurer Joyce Crider reviewed the GCFP Statement of Financial Activity – May 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022. Income which included Dues, Conventions, and other support totaled \$55,290.63. Expenses which included Administrative, Officers' allowances and Awards totaled \$31,562.87. The variance of Income vs. Expenses was \$23,727.76. GCFP Asset Summary as of September 30, 2022. Total Assets including Advances Receivable totaled \$68,006.13. The full and detailed report is attached. Also attached is a list of Scholarship recipients.

A motion was made by Sharon Richardson and seconded by Barbara Campbell to accept the Treasurer's report. **Passed**

Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. This is the report for the period June 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2022.

Truist GCFP Dues Account

Opening Balance 06/01/2022		\$100.00
Deposits	\$6,735.00	
	7,785.00	
	4,355.00	
	1,325.00	
	280.00	
	192.50	
	130.00	
	<u>247.50</u>	
Total deposits	\$21,050.00	
Balance		\$21,150.00
Disbursements		
Transfers to Treasurer	(\$14,520.00)	
	(4,355.00)	
	(1,797.50)	
	<u>(377.50)</u>	
Total disbursements	(\$21,050.00)	
Balance 09/30/2022		\$100.00

Total dues receipts & disbursements Year to Date \$46,200.00

There are 4,620 GCFP members

Corresponding Secretary, Margie Wolff reported that three sympathy cards were sent out since the last Board meeting in June to Pittsburgh Area Judges Council member, Sue Luisi, on the death of her mother and two longtime members of the Murrysville Garden Club and former Flower Show Judge, Marion Weihe and Sue Thomas, September 16, 2022. Get-Well Cards were sent to Chris Leskosky and as of this past weekend to Vina McLeod Rudolph (who broke her wrist).

Investment Chair, Gail Manna was not present, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She reported that the Investment Account balance as of the close of business on October 4, 2022 is \$535,353.81. The annual estimated income is \$31,037, giving a yield of 5.80%. **Investment Advisor, Mary Heltzel** is recommending no portfolio changes at this time, but there are bond maturities which will occur in November and December that will need to be addressed. She is suggesting rolling these maturities over into different bonds but cannot recommend particular bonds until the maturities happen. She will contact Gail in November and December to discuss these changes. The GCFP Account is down 13.72% with the Dow currently down 17%, S&P down 21% and Nasdaq down over 29%. The corporate bond index, mentioned above, is down over 17%, thus the need for future change. She would like the Board to accept Mary Heltzel's recommendation to roll over maturing bonds in November and December. If the Board approves the recommendation to make the changes in November and December, there will be no need to call for another meeting to handle these changes.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee

Recommendation to accept Gail Manna's request to accept **Investment Advisor, Mary Heltzel's** recommendation to roll the GCFP bonds over into other Bonds in November and December 2022, when said Bonds Mature. **Approved**

Recommendation to allow Sharon Brown to serve as the custodian of a piece of artwork of the Ruffed Grouse (the State Bird of Pennsylvania) that was donated to GCFP by Mrs. Michael Snyder of Brownsville, PA and the founder of Bird Day, (March 21). Sharon will serve as custodian until a decision can be made regarding its disposition. **Approved**

A recommendation to have GCFP place a \$100 ad in the CAR-SGC program for the upcoming Conference on November 2nd and 3rd. **Approved**

District Director Reports – President Croushore invited each of the retiring District Directors to introduce their new incoming District Director.

Maryann DeSanto introduced **Assistant District I Director, Pam Walsh** since **District I Director, Nancy Cuttic** was unable to attend. District I has nine very active clubs. Eight of them installed new officers this past Spring and Summer. They are excited to be adding another club to their district. The Covered Bridge Garden Club of the Valley Forge area inquired about joining the Federation and four of their members were invited to enjoy the annual luncheon where Sheila, Leeanna and Pat graciously stayed to meet with them. The busiest club has been The Country Gardeners who have been planning the dedication of their new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the Veteran's Museum in Media on Veteran's Day. Country Gardeners organized the fabulous country themed District I luncheon in a restored barn in rustic Chester County in September. District I held a multi-color flower show at Longwood Gardens in early September. Elverson Garden Club increased their membership by 25%, mostly by word of mouth and social media, while Springfield Garden Club celebrated its 90th anniversary. This coming year includes several flower shows, especially the Philadelphia Flower Show, in which some clubs participate. Several clubs have scheduled greens and holiday sales and spring plant sales as their main fundraisers.

District II/III Director, Jane Kruse reported on some examples of youth engagement. These included: a special needs class in vegetable and flower beds, scholarships to attend a week-long environmental camp, issuing 1000 tree saplings to first graders, making prom corsages and boutonnieres for teenagers with disabilities. Taking trips to area gardens seems to have become a popular event among garden clubs. Emmaus Garden Club even has a special name for their trips "Weed on Wheels". They wanted a name to indicate being out and about, and something to do with gardening. WOW - Weeds on Wheels.

Tanya Young announced the new **District IV Director, Joanne Baylis** who was unable to attend. However, her report was read by **Assistant District Director IV, Robin Pottorf** who reported that the majority of their clubs have had positive growth in their memberships; the Hanover Garden Club celebrated its 70th anniversary at a luncheon in June; and the Garden Club of York celebrated 100 years with a black-tie gala on September 23rd. Their annual meeting was held on September 1st and for the first time two clubs (Biglerville and Littlestown) hosted and worked together for what was a very successful event. With the largest crowd in many years, there were 95 attendees who were treated to a program by another of their District IV garden clubs, the Garden Club of York entitled "Are you going to Scarborough Fair? Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme". District IV has created a new award called the District IV Distinguished Service Coin. The coin is for garden club members who, while serving in any capacity, have distinguished themselves by exceptional meritorious service. This award recognizes achievement in the areas of Innovation, Community Building, Strategic Leadership and Commitment to Strengthening Garden Clubs within District IV. Nominations are due by January 15th with the coin being presented at the April semi-annual meeting. During the September annual meeting, the outgoing Director may distribute these coins to members on the Board who have demonstrated exemplary service. At the annual meeting, past District Director, Tonya Young presented 38 coins to members of her Executive Board, committee chairs and special guests. On the front of the coin is District IV logo. The back of the coin includes a gerbera daisy and the words Floral Design, Conservation, Gardening and Civic Planting that come from the District IV mission statement.

JoAnne Fogelman introduced the new **District V Director, Judy Warn** who reported that the Duboistown Garden Club created seven displays for the Bloomsburg Fair. They also donated \$2,000 for a bench and picnic table for the city of Williamsport which included a plaque with the club's name. The Heritage Garden Club held its most successful bake sale ever at the Fall Festival making over \$1,000. McEwensville Garden Club held a successful plant sale which replaced the annual Christmas Show, its main fundraiser. Mifflin County hosted District V's Annual Meeting at Birch Hill, a beautiful event center located in the country. Standing Stone Garden Club awards a "garden of the month" plaque to an outstanding residential garden, a community landscape design, commercial planting or cultivated area. Susquehanna Garden Club presented programs at its local library and a local church in which members talked about planting sedums in seashells and containers. They also entered an exhibit at the Bloomsburg Fair and are planning a fall plant sale.

Mary Lou Colussy introduced the new **District VI Director, Deb Stumpf** who reported on a busy summer for District VI Clubs. No lazy hazy days of summer for their clubs. In June, the District VI Board had a summer gathering entitled, "All About Nature" at the Patton Recreation Park. They enjoyed delicious food, the company of old and new friends, and took part in nature activities. With all the summer flowers coming into bloom, July was the month for Flower Shows. Patton Garden Club, The Garden Club of Johnstown, and Bedford County Garden Club hosted flower shows. At the Annual Meeting in September, 59 new members were welcomed to the district. They are especially proud of the Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier with sixteen new members. All eight clubs increased membership. To encourage members to plant for pollinators, the District honored 11 members who have **Penn State Master Gardener Certified Pollinator Friendly Gardens** with certificates of recognition and bee pins.

Marilyn Backus introduced the new **District VII Director, Sharon Bryner** who reported that at its annual meeting, there was a floral design competition between **GCFP President Sheila Croushore** and National Capital Area Garden Club President Arlene Stewart. The Hummingbird Award was presented to Camille Erb of Murrysville Garden Club for her many accomplishments. The State Life Membership award was presented to Marilyn Backus in appreciation for all her hard work over the years. Highland Park Garden

Club hosted a Secret Garden Tour. The name of the tour resulted from peeking through fences, walking around the neighborhood, and looking through gates to find secret gardens. Membership has almost tripled since the tour. Clubs were invited to create a centerpiece that will grace the dining tables at the 2023 Convention.

Bonita Herman introduced new **District VIII Director, Rosie Lawrence**, and then reported that many of their clubs are just glad to have their clubs be able to work together, socialize, and make plans for the next year. Some have started new projects, such as community gardens, library boxes, Blue Star markers, and improving on their publicity. District VIII is going to reach out to non-federated clubs and encourage them to visit garden clubs in their area and attend meetings. They have not hosted a social event for the whole district. It is difficult to have all the clubs' representatives, attend a Board Meeting because of the distance some may need to travel. District VIII is a very large geographical area, and it would require several hours to travel to some of these areas. At the Annual Meeting, after adjournment, they went outside and released 11 Monarchs. What a great ending for a meeting with many smiles and wishes for the butterflies on their long journey to Mexico.

Karen Faust introduced the new **District IX Director, Claudia Bernardo** who reported that their Clubs have come up with some creative ideas that have generated public support, which is so vital to their continued growth. The Clubs that are most visible in the community are their stronger Clubs. This past year, their District was led by Karen Faust who spearheaded two community events that brought widespread recognition to the Clubs in District IX. One project was a bench donation to the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens and the other was a Blue Star Marker Dedication from the collective Garden Clubs of District IX. Every Club in the District maintains community gardens. Every Club celebrated with a summer garden party. Moon Township Garden Club hosted a **“Wine, dine, hops and crops”** Garden Party. Three clubs celebrated National Garden Week with community directed events. The Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations included the distribution of seed packets to students and/or the community and plant giveaways. Southern Butler County Garden Club took part in a community educational event, teaming with Bartlett Tree Service. Tusca-Ridge Garden Club teamed with the Beaver County Tree Commission for a program where one of the raffle prizes was a tree. She reported that every club in the District hosted at least one program that was related to conservation and the environment. They are preparing for winter projects, which include workshops on holiday wreath decorating, fund raisers such as Fox Chapel Garden Club's Glitter and Glow Event, and Tusca-Ridge and Moon Township Garden Clubs' Winter Greenery events.

Angie Raitano introduced **District X Director, Deborah Davis** who reported that District X held its annual fund-raiser on June 15 at Valley Brook Country Club. The theme was “Designs for the King,” inspired by the music of Elvis Presley. District X held its annual meeting on September 6, at Valley Brook Country Club with **President Croushore**, First Vice-President Leanna Ryba, and Second Vice-President Pat Wolanski attending.

District XI Director Honey Baduniak was unable to attend but her report was read by outgoing **District XI Director, Marge Sears**. Several clubs had Flower Shows and Garden Tours over the summer months. Master gardeners were on hand to answer questions of those on the tour. Trevoise Horticulture Society will be celebrating its 100th year in 2023. Countryside Gardeners will commemorate their 90th Anniversary in 2023. Our Garden Club of Philadelphia and Vicinity had the opportunity to help celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Negro Garden Club of Virginia through their former president, Lillian H. Ransom, who is a descendant of the Virginia Club and was a panelist in the symposium, “Unearthed History of Black Garden Clubs in America” at the Morris Arboretum.

President Croushore asked for the ratification of Tonya Young as the Co-Vice Chair of the 2024 GCFP Convention in Lancaster. **Passed**

President Croushore asked for the ratification of District XI to host the 2025 GCFP Convention since this would be the home District for the 2025 incoming President, Pat Wolanski. **Passed**

President Croushore asked for the ratification of District VIII to host the 2026 Convention in Erie with Joyce Milberg as Chair and Bonita Herman as Vice Chair. **Passed**

President Croushore also reported that there will be an addition to the Convention Manual that in an odd number year, the installation Convention should be hosted in the District of the incoming President. She also reported that the GCFP website has been updated with the names of the new District Directors and their assistants and the convention manual is being reviewed and as soon as the review has been completed, there will be a Zoom meeting to have the Board's approval and have it posted on the website.

Kathy Crossman, Natural Disasters Chair reported that donations since April 4, 2022, total \$822.10. These contributions were received from Shiloh Garden Club - \$80, Duboistown Garden Club - \$68, Hazleton Area Garden Club - \$25, District IV - \$50, District V - \$120.10, Ingomar Garden Club - \$100, Garden Club of York - \$50, District X - \$265, District VII - \$64. All checks have been forwarded to Joyce Crider, GCFP Treasurer. District Directors and Club Presidents are reminded to inform their treasurers that all contributions are to be made out to **GCFP** with **Natural Disasters** listed on the memo line.

Penny Pines Chair, Barb Andrus reported that the GCFP Penny Pines donations from eight Garden Clubs from June 1st to September 30, 2022 totaled \$61.00. Expenses including plants, mulch, topsoil, compost, and sprayer parts totaled \$1,650.36 with a remaining balance of \$13,957.02. The current agreement expires in December 2022. The GCFP funds can be transferred, and Linda Ordiway from Allegheny National Forest will be working on renewing the GCFP agreement. She has given each District Director a Penny Pines Donation Certificate to give to each Club/District that has made a donation. Please be sure to include the name of the District you are from with your donation.

Nominating Committee Chair, Diane Hughes presented the following nominees for the 2023-2025 administrative term. 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 was made by Sheri Lowry and seconded by Mary Lou Colussy to accept the proposed Slate of Officers. **Passed**

Flower Show School Chair, Lori Pancione reported that Flower Show School #2 will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Thirty-two students have signed up to take Course 2 which starts Thursday, October 13-16, 2022. Most of these students are individuals who passed Course 1 and are returning to take Course 2. A few out-of-state attendees are new. Thirty-nine students took Course 1 with twenty-nine actually taking the tests. There was only one course failure, and that individual is planning to take Course 1 over again at a different location. A recent NGC Policy change now allows a person to take the courses out of sequence. It is not too late to start studying to become a judge. Thanks to the state Judges Council's gift of a stipend, Ways and Means tables at the Convention, hardworking District XI, and local garden clubs, they were able to provide a solvent Flower Show School #1. They will continue new ways of approaching flower show schools, which includes a Thursday evening dinner as well as instruction for the Handbook Procedure separated out from the Horticulture and Design sessions. This change in format received very positive feedback from students who like the time to concentrate their test

efforts on one topic at a time. They hope to continue the momentum for the eastern state flower show school series where new judges are particularly needed. Replenishing the supply of trained judges is at a critical level. Mark your calendars now for Course #3 next Spring, April 13-16, 2023.

Blue Star Memorial Chair/Central, Jane Howe reported that the Blue Star Memorial is an enthusiastically promoted project of NGC, GCFP, and local clubs. It serves to honor all the servicemen and women who have fought, are fighting and will fight to save our country's freedoms. It is a visible sign of our gratitude. She encouraged all to clean up summer plantings, remove dead plants and any overgrown plantings. All Memorial information can be found on the GCFP website.

501-C3 Reporter, Mary Jo Gardill reported that GCFP has every single Garden Club compliant with the IRS. She advised District Directors that as soon as they know about a Garden Club wanting to join the Federation, it is imperative to let her know so that their tax status can be identified. After an organization secures an EIN, they have two years to file with the IRS. If they do not, they will be penalized. Penalty is with the IRS, not GCFP.

Book of Recognition Chair, Joyce Hoek reported that the Book of Recognition has received donations in the amount of \$75 honoring 2 people. She encouraged members to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a member. The names of those honored will be published in the Keystone Gardener.

GCFP 2023 Convention Chair, Marilyn Backus reported that the 2023 Convention will be the first weekend convention to be held Friday-Sunday, April 21-23. She asked all to purchase their Convention fundraiser decal stickers "Join a Garden Club". Sponsorship/ad/raffle donation forms were sent to businesses. AV subcontractor rate is estimated at \$11,000 and hotel down payment at \$10,000. Yet room rate is only \$124 plus tax and gratuity. Registration forms will appear in the January Keystone Gardener. Friday's 1793 Loghouse tour and breakfast will be followed by Afternoon Tea with Titanic era fashions, Make and Take sessions and a Trash to Treasure contest. They are encouraging all to wear a hat for tea and an ethnic costume for Friday's International Food Buffet. Saturday's 7 presenters will conclude, after installation, with Angie Raitano's "Floral Rhythms" short program. Sunday's 3 presenters will conclude with the Judges Council lunch and "Rainbow of Color" program. They have 11 confirmed vendors. Glorious Outdoor's Spear Head shovels will offer a \$4 discount, if ordered after January 1 using the group code.

Awards Chair, Sheri Lowry reported that updates to the Awards Manual and supporting documents have been posted on the GCFP Website. Most notable changes and revisions are: Club Size Categories have been adjusted to align with the 3 NGC Club Size Categories: Small 1-20 members, Medium 21-50 members, and Large 51 or more. The Application/Cover Sheet has been revised. In order to provide more space for essential information, it was necessary to remove the information box about awards that are forwarded to Awards Committee Chairs. These exceptions to the general rule that most applications are to be submitted electronically to the GCFP Awards Chair, are listed in the Awards Deadlines Document, the Awards Summary, and the GCFP Awards Chairman Roster. All the exceptions are highlighted in the supporting documents, particularly the Awards Deadlines Document. Contact information for the Awards Committee Chairs is listed in the Directory. Refer to the new "GCFP Awards Formatting Guidelines". Note the guidelines for naming your application and narrative files before submitting electronically. The quality of the application will improve if you follow the process outlined in the "Preparing your Narrative" section. December 1st is the first deadline for the majority of Awards, particularly awards that require hard copies and are forwarded to Awards Committee Chairs, and NGC Awards. Consult the Awards Deadlines Document for deadlines, guidance on application forms, scoring rubrics, processes, and forwarding instructions. She strongly encouraged those applying for awards to print copies of the manuals and supporting documents to make the process easier to manage.

She then announced the **2022 GCFP Perennial Bloom Award Recipient**. This Award honors a long-time club member whose continuous support of GCFP Goals and Objectives makes their Club grow and bloom. The **2022 GCFP Perennial Bloom Award Recipient** joined her club in 1996, and since then has taken on the following responsibilities. Editing, printing, and binding the Club's yearbook every year since 2000. Producing the monthly club newsletter, preparing all the Club's Flower Show Schedules, chairing the annual plant sale fundraiser, including purchasing plants, transporting, setting up, and treating workers to pizza and treats afterwards, hosting and presenting workshops about hypertufa, concrete leaf designs, and repurposed bowling ball bees and ladybugs, serving as Co-Chair of the 2012 Annual District II/III Luncheon and 2017 GCFP Convention, hosting monthly Zoom meetings for the Club and District during Covid-19, volunteering to take on the leadership positions of 2nd Vice-President and Program Chair when those positions were unexpectedly vacated, currently serving as Club President and Program Chair until April 2024. This hardworking, enthusiastic club member is **AUDREY STENGEL** of the Pottstown Area Garden Club, District II/III, and is the 2022 GCFP Perennial Bloom recipient. With her "Super Hero" efforts, her Club continues to thrive and bloom!

Bee Gap Chair, Bonita Herman reported that now is the time to bring in your Mason Bee houses. Keep them in a cold, not freezing area, like an unheated garage with a blanket, or in a covered box. She puts hers in an old ice chest. If you are able to remove the tubes, put them in a paper bag and store in a refrigerator, or garage. You will need to keep them from freezing. There is a full-sized adult bee sleeping in its cocoon. Keep them in this place until the spring when the dandelions are blooming in your area. That is the time to place your bee hotel in the southeast facing morning sun area. Crownbees.com sell cocoons. After purchasing them, she taped them to the top of the hotel. After about a week, the males emerged. They have the white dot on their face. 7 to 10 days later, came the females. As soon as the next day, females are laying eggs. Last week, she had a booth about Mason Bees/Native Bees at a Master Gardener Pumpkin Walk in Erie. She distributed handouts and even had a video of her bee hotel, showing the females going in and coming out of the little reeds. Videos she encouraged all to watch include "My Garden of 1000 Bees" which uses a special camera to get up close to the bees. In a Mason Bee video on PBS digital Studio, you can watch a female make a nest, collect pollen, and lay an egg.

President Croushore then recessed the meeting until 7:45 PM.

The GCFP Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:55 PM.

Civic Development Chair, Rene Hrescak was not present, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The Country Gardeners in District I will dedicate a new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum at 12 E. State Street in Media, PA, prior to the Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2022.

Club Newsletter Chair, Joyce Peterson reported that there were only 18 newsletters submitted for awards for the year 2021. She is sending an email to all of the District Directors asking how many clubs in their District send out newsletters to explain the low number she received last year. She also wants the Directors to encourage their clubs to send these newsletters to her for awards. They may be sent to Joyce Peterson, 207 Overdale Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. The deadline is December 1. Her new email is jpeterston1010@msn.com

Bird and Butterfly Chair, Marcy Cunkelman was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Fall sure did come in and take over summer! It brought in the winter visitors before October 1st. Trees are changing and losing their leaves, making it easier to see the few summer residents still hanging

around. There have been sightings of Rufous Hummers around the state. If you see a late hummer and there is rusty color, especially on the tail, please let her know, so she can report it and see if it can be banded. Take a photo to help ID, since there could be other Western Migrants. If you can, don't cut back all your plants, so there is winter cover and natural food for the birds and critters. If you do cut back, please make a loose brush pile with the stems, since many pollinators use these for winter hibernation. Speaking of a brush pile, why not make one out of the downed branches and twigs for added protection for the birds. If you have been following Monarch Watch through the years, Chip Taylor has announced that he will be stepping down in August 2023. He is 85 and has worked for free. He says he still has projects to finish. Applications are now out to look for his replacement. All the butterfly and bee numbers are way down compared to other years. The weather this year was so up and down, dry and drought in places and other places wet and rainy. It's a great time to plant native plants that would offer nectar bloom for pollinators, fruit and color for the birds and host caterpillars, and cover all year for nesting and a safe place to perch. Time to get those feeders clean and filled. Keep a journal and you will be surprised how many birds you see and how adding some more natives and fruit bearing trees and shrubs will bring them closer for you to enjoy!

Blue Star Marker Chair, Karen Faust reported that six markers have been ordered and scheduled for dedications and another one pending a final approval. On Memorial Day, the Old York Road Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star By-way Marker at the American Legion Post 10 in Fort Washington, PA. On Flag Day, June 14th District IX dedicated their Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Veteran's Memorial in North Boundary Park, Cranberry Township. Elk Valley Garden Club in Girard, PA held the dedication for a By-Way Marker at Wells Park on August 20th. District VIII has scheduled a dedication on Saturday, October 22nd for a Blue Star Marker at the Rest Stop on I-90 Westbound, in North East, PA. Veteran's Day is the day scheduled for dedicating the Blue Star By-Way Marker by The Country Gardeners in Lima, PA. This marker will be placed at the Media Veteran's Museum. In June, Judy Jackson presented her with a check for the first Gold Star By-Way Marker from Bedford Garden Club. They will schedule the Dedication for next Spring. Currently, she is working with Kay Yniguez, President of Penn Cumberland Garden Club, District IV who is interested in placing a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Soldiers and Sailors Park in Mechanicsburg. Her meeting with the Borough Council went very well and she anticipates a positive answer to her request to partner with them on this venture. Be aware that pricing increased in May 2022, for all Markers. She has new brochures stating the new price for each marker. Feel free to pick up one to share with your clubs.

Club Yearbook Chair, Iris Cisarik reported that she will distribute yearbook applications at the Tuesday morning meeting with District Directors and will encourage them to pass the applications on to their Club Presidents. She noted that there is nothing on the application indicating that applications are to be sent to the Yearbook Chair. She has made copies of the directions and will remind all to submit 2 applications, one for the State and the other for CAR.

Convention Coordinator, Judith Schaffer was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She hosted a meeting where the topic of discussion was the use of the Ways and Means profits earned during Conventions. The Convention Manual refers to vendors under Ways and Means, not other fundraisers like a District Table. Vendor profits always go directly to use as Convention revenues. District donated Ways and Means table profits belong to the district. Basket raffles solicited by District clubs which garner profits are to be used at the discretion of the Convention Chair. Tonya Young, Lancaster Assistant Chair, spoke on developing a Tri-Refresher for 2024.

Environmental Concerns Chair, Judith Swanson reported that she wanted to reach out to members of Garden Clubs who do not live in the suburbs, but who might be occupying a city apartment, or other similarly situated dwelling some floors above ground level. She also wanted to tap the shoulders of potential

new members: young apartment dwellers, looking for ways to augment the greening of cities and support pollinators. Even multi-floored Senior Citizen Residences, Dormitories, and Nursing Homes can get on board with this concept. A series of window boxes will also serve, turning adjacent upper floor outside window ledges into “pollinator stops” supplying provisions! She researched and wrote an article for the NGC Blog: “Butterflies on My Balcony? Make that a YES!” explaining how balconies can be set up to host flying pollinator insects. Highlighting the possibility that balcony gardens can be waystations along a “corridor of habitat” for pollinators, she wanted to encourage new and prospective members – folks who might not have realized that they could make any contribution to the natural world – not to underestimate the value of their efforts. She believes a Garden Club is a great place to start, with resources, information, and people of initiative. Conservationists advise us that insects, birds, and animals are increasingly moving into highly populated areas, and some are finding niches suitable for long term survival inside of cities. Therefore, it behooves us to find a way to aid and abet their chances of survival. They survive - we survive. And the world remains a beautiful place.

Flower Show Book of Evidence, Chair Deb Stumpf reported that preparing a Book of Evidence for your Flower Show is a great way to document the history of your Club as well as compete for both State and National Awards. This year’s deadline is December 1. If you would like your Book of Evidence returned to your Club, please enclose a self- addressed envelope with the proper amount of postage.

Flower Show Judges Council Chair, Mary Hetrick thanked all the designers, judges, and board members who participated in today’s **Rock and Roll Flower Show**. This NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show was the brainchild of Jackie Davies and Chris Leskosky. There were 40 designers with 42 exhibits. The Rock and Roll Songs were so much fun. So, “ROCK ON!” MUSIC and COLOR continue to inspire us here in Pennsylvania. The GCFP State Judges Council Luncheon Program is entitled: “**Under the Rainbow**”. It will be a Floral Design Program featuring COLOR by our own “Best of the West (PA)” Designers. The Erie Area Judges Council, the Laurel Highlands Area Judges Council, and the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council will send judges to complete a RAINBOW of designs. All designs will be raffled off including the container. Each designer will be given up to \$75.00 to assist with their costs.

Central Area Judges Council Chair, Judy McGinnis was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Their last meeting was July 14, 2022 with 10 members present. The program was a PowerPoint presentation of designs by Chris Leskosky, District IV Flower Show and Quilt Show presented by Tonya Young. Betty Lewis was appointed chair of the nominating committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2022, and the program will be Leaf Manipulation. Their total membership is 24 and all are in good standing.

Erie Area Judges Council Chair, Kay John was not present. Her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Erie Area Judges Council held a small standard flower show on August 31, 2022, at the Edinboro Municipal Building. The title of the flower show was “School Days’ Memories”. Congratulations to the new Life Judges - Louise Dyer, Sigma Toth and Kay John. New Council officers elected at the August meeting included, Chairman, Kay John, and Vice Chairman, Tom Huston. She ended the report by noting how elated the Erie Area Judges were when Dot Yard attended the June Council meeting and their Flower Show in August.

Laurel Highlands Judges Council Chair, Claire Leichter reported that the following flower shows took place this summer:

July 18 Standard Flower Show, “Childhood Memories”, Patton Garden Club

July 27 Standard Flower Show, “Nature’s Wonder”, Joint Flower Show, Pittsburgh Area Judges Council and Laurel Highlands Judges Council

July 29-30 Standard Flower Show, “A Patriotic Summer”, Garden Club of Johnstown

August 3 Horticulture Only Flower Show, “Posies on Parade”, Bedford County Garden Club
The LHJC had a brief meeting at the Joint Flower Show and discovered that the points needed for a GCFP Flower Show award were 90, whereas for NGC the sum is 95. Laurel Highlands Judges Council will make centerpieces for dinner at the CAR-SGC Conference at Seven Springs, PA, November 3, 2022.

Northeast Area Judges Council Chair, Audrey Neff Angelella reported that this Spring the Council concentrated on the June Symposium in Lancaster. They were the sponsoring Council. Everyone pitched in making designs and bringing horticulture and making the Symposium a success. Their Fall meeting will be on October 19th and will have a small standard Flower Show titled “Hide and Eek”. Rosie Ebersole will be teaching a dahlia workshop.

Philadelphia Area Judges Council Chair, Kay Morrissey reported that the PAJC June meeting featured a tour of noted horticulturist Eleanor Tickner’s lovely Peony Farm/Garden with hundreds of varieties, located in Glen Mills, PA. This was followed by a luncheon at a popular restaurant. Eleven members and 2 guests attended. A short meeting was held after lunch, where PAJC members were thanked for helping with the Flower Show School #1 and encouraged to help with Flower Show School #2 in October 2022. The Judges Council’s fall meeting is being held October 17, at the Norristown Library with speaker Beth Davis, from the well-known Waldor Orchids located in New Jersey. Beth will speak on raising and caring for orchids and also on judging orchids as she is an accredited orchid judge. Several judges have judged and entered flower shows over the summer and early fall and are placing designs and providing plant material for Flower Show School #2.

Pittsburgh Area Judges Council Chair, Margie Wolf reported that the PAJC met on March 9 and May 24. Their next meeting was a combined annual joint Flower Show with the PAJC/LHJC clubs, held at the Greensburg Garden Center on July 27. The title of the standard Flower Show was “Nature’s Wonder”. Their last meeting will be held on October 29 at Mary Jane Martucci’s home.

Horticulture Hints Chair, Grace Mitchell offered some hints for this transitional period. When potting houseplants, put a square of panty hose over the drainage holes to prevent leakage of soil, or use a layer of foam peanuts on the bottom to lighten the weight of the pot. Here’s a spicy secret to keep Fluffy and Fido away from philodendrons- shove a few cinnamon sticks into each pot. Cats and dogs both seem to dislike that aroma. If your plants have dusty leaves, try rubbing them with the inside of a banana peel. Or use some mayo, which may smell better. When you bring in herbs and geraniums, set them on a windowsill that you’ve lined with aluminum foil, shiny side up. The reflected light will keep the plants going strong all winter. She asked all who has eaten a raw beet. It never occurred to her because her mother always cooked them. She sliced one, peeled it and crunch! It was delicious. Hort hint: eat a raw beet!

Flower Show Judges Credentials Chair, Nancy Cartwright reported that there are 112 Accredited Flower Show Judges in Pennsylvania. The numbers are categorized as follows: 26 Accredited Judges, 12 Life Judges, 74 Master Judges, with a total of 112 and 39 Emeritus Judges. She urged the Judges Councils to share the following information with their members. Near-by states are holding Symposiums this fall. All judges whose Good Standing ends in December 2022 and have not yet attended a Symposium should consider attending one of these. Judges should send the appropriate accreditation application, found on the NGC, Flower Show Resources, Forms page to Nancy Cartwright, Credentials Co-Chair no later than 6 weeks before their desired Symposium. Master Judges who wish to go Emeritus should contact Rebecka Flowers at RFlowers@gardenclub.org When the request is processed, she will inform the Credentials Chair. Judges who wish to request an extension or wish to discontinue judging should contact Nancy Cartwright at nlbc1980@gmail.com Reminder, any exhibiting and judging credits previously earned in the years 2020 through 2022 can be carried over to 2023.

Flower Show Schedule Chair, Charlotte Crissey was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. The Schedule Committee is busy reviewing the 8 schedules that have been submitted thus far. She hopes more will be forthcoming before the December 1 deadline. Thanks to the clubs that have sent them and included an electronic copy. Having the electronic copy allows the committee to preview them before meeting, which greatly simplifies the evaluation process.

Flower Show Symposium Chair, Tonya Young reported that The Northeast Judges Council sponsored a GCFP Symposium on June 3-5, 2022, that was held at the DoubleTree in Lancaster. 37 judges audited and 22 judges attended for credit. There were two part time attendees, four additional full-time attendees, one registrar, and one symposium chair. After all expenses were paid the Symposium was \$60.00 in the red. That expense has been covered by a donation allowing the 2022 Symposium to break even.

Gardening School Credentials Chair, Mary Jo Schlomann reported that the complete information on the upcoming Gardening Schools can be found on the NGC Website <https://www.gardenclub.org/school/gardening-school-courses> . Gardening School has 16 Provisional Students, 40 Consultants, 13 Master Consultants and 1 Emeritus.

Habitat for Humanity Chair, Lisa Merschiltz was not present, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Iris Cisarik, District VII Chair, reported that the only activity their club members do is to take household items such as clothes, furniture, and small furnishings (vases and glassware) to a ReUse store which she believes is operated by Habitat for Humanity. In any future landscaping projects, she would like to recommend clubs using native plants as much as possible. These plants are not only fantastic pollinator plants, but so many of them are larval host plants necessary for caterpillar growth and development.

Horticulture Coordinator, JoAnn Celaschi made everyone aware of the Exceptional Horticulturist Award that can be given at each District's annual September meeting. There is no special form to submit for this award but rather a letter should be sent to her by August 1 identifying the club member who is an exceptional horticulturist. Be sure to identify the club and the District of the nominee and describe their experience in growing a variety of samples of horticulture, their education in this area and examples of their sharing of their expertise. Photographs are not required. A lengthier description of the qualifications for this award can be found on the GCFP website under Information Resources. The nominations for this award can be submitted by email to celaschi@hotmail.com or mailed to JoAnn Celaschi, 1216 Lookout Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022.

Horticulture Therapy Chair, Maryann DeSanto reported that to help share ideas with other clubs, she asked District Directors to forward a message from her to their Club Presidents regarding this program. She asked that if any club participated in a Horticulture Therapy program to please respond. The purpose of this was to put together a list of Club Chairs throughout the State, who were involved with this program for them to share much needed ideas. There is an informative GCFP Facebook page for Horticulture Therapy, where clubs post photos of their designs to share with others. However, not all members belong to Facebook, nor do they wish to join. She has compiled a list of everyone who responded to her request, and plans to share ideas and photos by email, in addition to the GCFP Facebook page. She received a very positive response from her request. Each resident and facility have different wants, needs, and capabilities. If we can bring a smile to their faces, through sharing our love of Horticulture, we have certainly accomplished our mission. Her goal this year is to share these creative ideas with other clubs, and to encourage many more clubs throughout the State to participate in this heartfelt program.

Keystone Gardener Editor Chair, Karen Wychock was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She would like to remind everyone to check out the GCFP website for specific

directions when submitting information to either the online version or printed version of the KG. Information on style and format can be found there. It makes her job so much easier if you follow just a few steps. When submitting a document to the Keystone Gardener printed booklet, or to the KG ONLINE newsletter, please put it in a WORD document. Advertising rates are also posted in the same location. The next deadline for the printed KG is November 1. This is the convention issue. It would be mailed to members in mid – January 2023.

Keystone Gardener Online Editor Chair, Marie Mueller reported that the deadline for the next KG ONLINE Newsletter issue is October 15, and that issue will be posted on the GCFP website, by November 1. The deadlines and the Style Formatting instructions for your submissions are now available on the GCFP website. Be sure to put your submission in a WORD document. PDF's do not fit into columns. You can now access the new KG Online submissions "one click" e-mail which is now available on the web site. It is KGoOnlineGCFP@gmail.com . Also be sure your name, club name, and phone number are included in the email, in case there is a need for clarification.

Landscape Design Schools Chair, Vivian Abel reported that Landscape Design School Series 14, Course 3 will be held in-person on Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, at Pheasant Run Farm Bed and Breakfast in Lancaster. They are still accepting registrations. Joyce Crider is Registrar and the course brochure, which includes a registration form, is posted on the GCFP website. Instructors will be George Weigel, Kirk Brown, and Wendy Brister. A new curriculum for Landscape Design Schools was put into operation and stresses how moderate changes in planting choices and cultural practices can make significant impacts on the ecosystems. Each course now contains a segment aimed at redesigning a home landscape. One brand new topic in Course 3 is "Creating Your Own Home Garden Landscaping Plan."

Liaison to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Chair, Flossie Narducci reported that The Philadelphia Flower Show, the nation's largest and longest running horticultural event will be returning to the Philadelphia Convention Center. The Show runs from March 4 thru the 12, 2023. The theme "The Garden Electric" will, as always, amaze visitors with an exciting floral experience, bringing together dynamic designers, bold exhibits, upscale shopping, education, music, food, and family fun. If anyone is interested in serving as a judge or volunteer, please contact her after the meeting.

Membership Chair, Rosalie Miller reported that she has had requests for information in regard to joining clubs in 3 Districts and she has forwarded the contact information to the District Directors.

President Sheila Croushore adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was reconvened by **President Sheila Croushore** at 9:02 AM on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

1st Vice President Leeanna Ryba reported that since the last Board Meeting in June, she has attended the Blue Star Dedication in District X, conducted monthly District Director meetings via ZOOM, Convention 2023 meetings at the DoubleTree in Monroeville, attended the flower show sponsored by the Pittsburgh and Laurel Highlands Judges Councils at the Greensburg Garden Center, the Pleasant Hills GC Flower Show, ten District Annual Meetings, a Zoom GCFP Convention meeting and the Annual Fall Meeting of our affiliate, the Greensburg Garden Center and enjoyed spending many hours traveling with President Sheila and 2nd Vice President Pat Wolanski. She thanked the Past-District Directors. She has met and welcomed the new District Directors in person, and they have also had their first ZOOM meeting, which included 2nd VP, Pat Wolanski. They are already at work in their Districts.

Advisory Chair, Joyce Milberg reported that she met with only 4, out of 11, of the members at dinner last night and they discussed an issue they thought the Board should consider. Since there is a short period of time from October to the 2023 Convention, it may be difficult to find approximately 100 people to fill all the Board seats. They are hoping that the Board might consider following the example of NGC and make the First Vice President, the President Elect at either the Convention or the June Board Meeting so that she will have more time to fill those seats or ask that the next Organizational Studies Committee change the standing rules or policy.

2024 Convention Chair, Joyce Crider reported that District IV will be hosting the GCFP State Convention in Lancaster County at the DoubleTree by Hilton on April 7, 8, 9, 2024. The theme is “Petals and Patchwork.” The main speaker for Monday, April 8 will be Dr. Richard Olsen, Director of the US Arboretum. A Tri- refresher is in the planning stages. She urged all to mark their calendars to save the dates.

Memory Book Chair, Rose Romboski was not present, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. It is that time of year to send her your photos/memories that you’ve shared with **GCFP President Sheila** throughout her term. She will be collecting these memories to place into a 12 x 12 scrapbook, which will be given to **President Sheila** at the 2023 GCFP Convention in April. You may complete your own scrapbook page if you like. The deadline is January 31, 2023. Please mail your photos/memories to: Rose Romboski 118 Preserve Valley Drive, Cranberry Twp. PA 16066.

Pennsylvania Resource Council Chair Mary Lou Colussy reported that Act 101 was signed into law in 1988, jump starting recycling, reuse, and waste reduction in Pennsylvania. This law was established to ensure Pennsylvanians have free and convenient access to recycling services for commonly recycled materials. All recycling is based on simple market economic principles. Recycling works when the value of the particular material supports the collection, processing, and re-manufacture of a product into a new one. The challenge is not just in the marketability of a particular material but may also include that material’s impact on the quality of what are otherwise highly valuable materials.

Personnel Chair, Kay John was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She thanked those board members who have sent her a completed Personnel form over the last few months. However, there are many more members who need to either update their Personnel form information or submit their first information form. The state compiles this list of board member information so that they are aware of those who are qualified, interested, and available to serve as officers and committee chairs. Office holders and chairmanships can be more capably filled by persons who have expressed an interest in a particular field of endeavor. It is a fillable form available on the GCFP website.

Pollinator Restoration Program Chair, Leslie Anthony was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Leaves and plant litter are critical for pollinators. They provide insulation and protection for insects over the winter. Bonus: leaves serve as natural mulch and fertilizer for the garden. GCFP members are becoming increasingly aware of the plight of our pollinators, and they are taking action. The theme for District IX’s annual meeting was native plants and pollinators and many club reports specifically mentioned activities focused on pollinator friendly activities. Penn State’s Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification program focuses on the needs of pollinators and recommends plants and practices that will boost the pollinator value of our gardens. Club-maintained community gardens should all be certified as PA Pollinator Friendly. If your club does not yet have a Pollinator Advocacy Committee, consider forming one. Committee members can help fellow members wanting to know how to improve the pollinator value of their gardens. Exceptional pollinator gardens can be featured in the club’s newsletter.

President's Project Chair, Daryl V. Jones reported that she has awarded thirteen certificates for the President's Project- "Watching our Youth Bloom". The awards were given to the following Garden Clubs and members: District II/III - Parkland Garden Club for their activities involving youth in their community. Monroe County Garden Club for granting scholarships to youth to attend Kettle Creek Environment Center summer school. Ellen Phraner, a member of the Monroe County Garden Club for involving youth in the maintenance of the Bryant Street Park in Stroudsburg, PA. Milford Garden Club for involving the High School Special Education Transition Class in gardening the Community Vegetable Garden and maintaining the flower beds in Milford Borough. District IV - The Garden Club of York's Youth Gardening Committee for working with a youth group in decorating trees for Christmas at the Normandie Ridge Retirement Community. Hanover Garden Club for their 2022 Arbor Day Celebration. Sheri Goff, for her work involving youth as the Youth Activities Chair of the Penn Cumberland Garden Club. District VII - Burrellton Garden Club for involving a local Girl Scout troop for their First Day of Spring Daffodils for Meals on Wheels Project. Diana Sanner, a member of the Murrysville Garden Club for her leadership of her Garden Club's Junior Earth Team. District VIII - Jacqui Nufher, for her leadership and involvement in the Earth Day Project at the General McLane Middle School since 1983. Jacqui passed away in 2021 and was a member of the Heather Club of Edinboro. District IX - Shaler Garden Club for hosting a Fairy House Workshop for children in the gardens at the Shaler North Hill Library. District XI - Cheryl Brumbaugh, a member of the Norristown Garden Club, for her leadership in the youth gardening project at the Stewart Middle School. The Outdoor Gardeners for the installation of a native perennial pollinator garden at the John B. Kelly Elementary School.

Publicity Press Book Award Chair, Georgieann Dettinburn reported that all Books of Evidence for the 2022 Publicity Press Book Award are due to Georgieann Dettinburn, 234 Mark Avenue, Biglerville 17307 by January 25, 2023. Please remember to: Include all publicity from newspapers, magazines, newsletters & electronic media - Arrange chronologically with headings - Number the pages - Include a table of contents - Protect pages with plastic covers and insert in an Oxford Brief Folder (No Notebooks) or other lightweight covers with brads. Include 2 State Forms – Provide Club information. (Do not answer the questions) Forms can be found on the GCFP Website. There is no limit to the number of pages. Categories include Small Clubs – up to 25 members, Medium Clubs – 26 to 50 members, Large Clubs – over 50 members, Group of Member Clubs, Councils, Districts. The following Scale of Points will be used for Judging: 25 points for Presentation – Neat -Attractive – Flowing Chronologically 1/1/2022 through 12/31/2022, 35 points for Quality – Well written publicity related to projects or activities, 40 points for Quantity & Diversity Promoting Garden Clubs, their goals and objectives.

Scholarship Chair, Sandra Hendricks reported that updated scholarship material is available on the GCFP website. Application and Financial Need Forms are in a "fillable PDF" form. The NGC updated material was submitted and has also been released on the website. All District Directors and Scholarship Chairpersons, Club Presidents and Garden Club members are encouraged to get information to local high school and college students. The deadline is February 1, 2023, and awardees of these scholarships will be announced at the April 2023 convention. She received 15 applications and awarded 13 scholarships. Only four districts submitted those 15 applicants. If you are a senior, you must have plans to continue your education to receive the scholarship. You cannot use the \$1,000.00 to pay off your present year's tuition. If you need any help with advertising in your local paper or in any other way, please contact her. A lengthy and varied discussion followed concerning the present state of the scholarship program. Topics included the dwindling number of applicants, the amount of the scholarship and other personal viewpoints. No further action was taken or required.

Scholarship Donations Chair, Linda Southerling was not present, but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She thanked all for their continued donations. She encouraged all to use the form on the GCFP website for all donations and furnish emails, whenever possible, to reduce the need of mailings using United States Postal Service.

Seed Money Chair, Marjorie Sears reported that the Burpee Seed Co. has been very generous when donating seeds. She is hopeful that all have received a pack or two of Burpee Zinnia seeds. Response was lighter this year for Seed Money, but there were many awesome projects! Thirty-six clubs received a check for a total of \$2503.00. The Seed Money application is on the GCFP Website under Awards. Feel free to use it and snail mail it to her as did 22 of the 36 clubs that applied. Or you can use the standard GCFP/CAR-SGC/NGC Cover Sheet via email. There is no limit to the number of pages you can submit, and she loves to see photos of the gardens.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chair, Paula Mohler reported that she sent an email to the state membership referencing the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl 2023 Poster Contest. She is confident that local chairpersons are working toward getting the contest information out to their local schools, scout groups, etc. This year the poster artwork can be of Smokey or Woodsy. As always, the contest is open to first through fifth grade age children. The Rules and Guidelines can be found by Googling Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest/National Garden Clubs, Inc. Click Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest/National Garden Clubs Inc. Scroll down to Contest Details & Resources. The deadline for the contest is January 20, 2023. Again, this year, they can be mailed to her PA address at 8378 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652 before December 20, 2022 or to her Florida address at 271 Pine Loop, Frostproof, FL 33843 after December 27, 2022.

Youth Activities Chair, Chris Hawthorne was unable to attend, and her report was read by the Recording Secretary. She reported on the following contests. The Sculpture Contest is open to fourth through eighth grades. The Sculpture is limited to a size that would fit on an 8 ½"x 11" sheet of paper. The Poetry Contest theme is "Seeds, Trees, and Bees, Oh My! Celebrating the Diversity of Nature". It is open to kindergarten through 9th grade. The new rule specifies that you are not to use the theme as the title. Instead, use the theme throughout. The Essay contest theme is "How Can we Protect Our Water Resources" and is open to 9th through 12th grades and limited to 500-600 words. Deadline for all contests is December 1, 2022.

Sharon Richardson recapped the Netherlands trip and looking into another trip to Germany next year. She also reported that the Central Landscape Design Council is sponsoring a trip to Longwood Gardens on October 28, 2022, for their annual Chrysanthemum Festival. They will meet at 1:00 PM to plan for next year's trips. At 3:15 PM you can enjoy the Fountain Show at the Open-Air Theater. There is also a Bonsai Exhibit. From 4:00 – 11PM, you can enjoy the Bruce Munro's Field of Light Exhibit and at 8:15 PM the world renown Fountain Show. Contact her if you wish to attend.

President Sheila Croushore reported that she will be attending a meeting of Trips 'n Tours of PA, for a program for CAR, to keep members engaged. She requested that District Directors send her photos of any trips that their Districts may have planned. She will include photos from the Netherlands trip and will end with a blurb regarding the trip to Portugal in the Spring. She encouraged all to check the GCFP calendar on the website for current dates and information regarding activities. She also reported that the NGC will no longer recognize Regional Assistant Directors. This is due to voting.

Joyce Milberg offered the closing message.

President Croushore adjourned the meeting at 9:59 AM.

