

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania  
Full Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.  
June 10-11, 2024

**GCFP President, Leeanna Ryba**, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. The **GCFP Chaplain, Margie Wolff**, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Pat Wolanski**. The roster was circulated on the first and second day of the meeting. **President Ryba** declared that a quorum of 30 voting members was present (Day 1: 55/104, Day 2: 50/104).

**President Ryba** introduced the former GCFP State Presidents in attendance: Sharon Brown, Sheila Croushore, Angela Raitano, and Betsy Smith.

### **REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS**

**President Ryba** reported a Zoom Leadership Workshop was conducted on March 26, 2024. All Club Presidents, Vice-Presidents and anyone interested in learning more about leadership were invited to attend. She thanked all of the GCFP Board members who participated. In preparation for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual GCFP Convention, Leeanna met with the Petals & Patchwork Committee via Zoom. Prior to the Convention, she prepared the scripts for the meals and worked closely with the Protocol Chair, Haddie Weber, on Honor Seating arrangements for all meals. The Convention Committee, chaired by Joyce Crider and co-chaired by Delores Nolt and Tonya Young, did a fabulous job. She thanked them for those special Eclipse Viewing glasses! On May 13<sup>th</sup>, President Leeanna flew to London, England to join twenty-two others on the GCFP Tour of English Gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show. They toured London, The Cotswold's, Plymouth, Bath, and back to London for the grand finale, Chelsea! On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, she flew to Denver, Co to represent GCFP at the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention. The awards won by PA clubs were enhanced by the waving of our ribbon wands. She reported news from the NGC Convention: in an effort to save money, NGC will issue "printable award certificates;" The Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis will be hybrid, with attendance in person or via Zoom; and the headquarters property is being opened for events, called "Weddings On Magnolia". The Forest Service is in the process of changing the name of Penny Pines to "Plant a Tree", and will officially roll it out later this year. Smokey Bear is 80 years old this year. The NGC is in the process of creating a Path of Success on the Headquarters property. Individual(s) or club(s) can purchase a paver on the Path for a cost of \$250.00 with three lines and 18 characters on the paver. The District Directors will issue information about the Path of Success, following their meeting tomorrow. President Leeanna also thanked the District Directors for the invitations to their Annual meetings.

The **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Pat Wolanski**, asked to report on Tuesday morning following her District Directors' meeting.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Tonya Young**, reported she attended the CAR-SGC Convention held on October 23 in Corning NY and attended the GCFP Annual Convention held in Lancaster, PA. Tonya was Vice Convention Co-Chair, participated in a GCFP leadership workshop on Zoom, attended multiple District Director Meetings and monthly District Zooms, set up Zoom Meetings and worked with the hotel to complete the arrangements for GCFP board meetings. During a meeting with club presidents at the April Convention, she personally invited them to attend the Board of Directors Meeting in State College and followed up with a written invitation that was distributed to all club presidents. This was done to give them an opportunity to learn about the GCFP organization from a different perspective and, going forward, to understand what role state board members play in shaping our organization. Two club presidents attended this day. Today's meeting had reservations for lunch, 57 reservations for dinner and 48 overnight rooms reserved. Unfortunately, the Board did not meet the hotel's required number of overnight room stays and incurred an additional expense of \$600 in room rental fees but the hotel gave us a \$200 reduction. These

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expenses are unbudgeted and can **only** be avoided by board members attending these meetings. **Tonya asked again for everyone's cooperation in avoiding Zoom meetings prior to Board meetings, marking advance dates on personal calendars, and encouraging others to attend, book a room, and purchase meals.** There is plenty of space to hold meetings in person. To offset these charges, the only recourse is to increase the food charges, which seems to punish those who do attend. This will be evaluated at the conclusion of this meeting. As a reminder from a previous report, Tonya has made a cost comparison of other locations in the area and the Wyndham Garden is the best choice. To eliminate slips of paper with meal selections, new, color-coded lanyards have been attached to the name tags:

- Purple represents Lunch and Dinner
- Green represents Dinner ONLY
- Blue represents Lunch ONLY
- Red represents No Meal Selection

Lastly, those who have a ribbon tied to their lanyard should attend the GCFP Judges Council Meeting over lunch, and the ribbon serves as a "get in line first" pass when lunch is served. The dates of the next Board meeting in Boalsburg are October 7-8, 2024.

The **Recording Secretary, Marilyn Backus**, reported that the draft GCFP Board Minutes of October 9-10, 2023 were approved and distributed electronically by President Ryba on November 5, 2023. Since no major corrections or changes were received, the October Board Minutes were accepted by acclamation. However, although the draft April 4, 2024 pre-Convention Finance/Investment Minutes were proofread and sent to President Ryba on May 10 for distribution, they were not distributed. The President sought clarification and agreement at this meeting on the timing to distribute the draft Minutes of the various Convention meetings. It was decided to distribute the Convention Minutes as soon as they are available, while memories are fresh.

Because the **GCFP Treasurer, Vivian Hall**, was absent, the **Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand**, reviewed the GCFP financial activity statements provided by the **Financial Advisor, Cindy Layton**. The **GCFP Asset Summary as of 4/30/2024** stated Total Checking and Savings, and Petty Cash were \$51,322.26. Total Advances Receivable to the 2025 and 2026 Conventions were \$4,500. Penny Pines Total, including the \$10,000 in the Stifel investment account, was \$35,933.03. The **GCFP Treasurer, Vivian Hall** found that the safety deposit box held seven Past District Director pins, two District Director pins, and fifty State Life pins. The **GCFP Statement of Financial Activity 5.1.2023 - 4.30.2024** stated Total Income from Total Membership Dues was \$49,619.00. The 2023 Convention Income was \$3,716.77, and the Total Other Support from the Book of Recognition donations and GCFP pin sales was \$435.00. Total Income, including interest, was \$53,770.77. Total Expenses from the Chairs' reimbursements, General and Administrative, Keystone Gardener, Memberships, Officer's Allowances and Total Scholarships, Awards and Donations were \$63,533.32, which resulted in a negative Variance of Income vs. Expenses of \$9,762.55.

**President Ryba** asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, which had no corrections. The motion was accepted by acclamation and filed for financial review.

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The **Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand**, also reported the **GCFP Dues Account** activity. The Financial Secretary's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

<u>GCFP Dues Account, Truist</u>			
Beginning balance, 05/01/2023			\$100.00
Deposits: Member / Affiliate dues		\$49,625.00	
New Club Application fees:			
Oak Hills GC (IX)		\$25.00	
Radley Run Garden& Social Club (I)		<u>\$25.00</u>	
Total Receipts / Balance		\$49,675.00	\$46,775.00
Disbursements			
Transfers to Treasurer		(\$49,675.00)	
Ending Balance, 04/30/2024			\$100.00

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The Financial Secretary's Report for the period May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024:

<u>GCFP Dues Account, Truist</u>			
Balance, 05/01/2024			\$100.00
Deposits: Member / Affiliate dues		\$26,720.00	
New Club Application fee Kennedy GC (IX)		<u>25.00</u>	
Total Receipts/ Balance		\$26,745.00	\$26,845.00
Disbursements			
Transfers to Treasurer		(\$26,745.00)	
Balance, 05/31/2024			\$100.00

The **Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Narducci**, reported that condolences were sent to the family of Sandy Manthorpe, as well as to Deen Day Sanders, on the passing of their husbands. Well wishes were sent to Nancy Fulk, who fell at the GCFP Convention in Lancaster.

The **Parliamentarian, Sharon Brown, and Advisor, Angie Raitano**, were present and had no reports.

**President Ryba** moved that the **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Patricia Wolanski**, be named formally as the GCFP President-Elect. The motion was seconded and accepted by the Board.

The **Investment Chairman, Gail Corle Manna**, was absent but sent her report, which was read by the Recording Secretary. Gail is happy to say the Federation Investments have been doing very well during these volatile times. As of April 30, 2024, Investments totaled \$599,046.42 and the total in the cash reserve is \$33,894.00 for ready access. Accounts have a current yield of 5.63%. **Mary Heltzel, VP Stifel**, attended this Board Meeting to give an update on all of the GCFP current accounts. Our accounts are in good shape to aid our Scholarship fund pay-out, if need be, which usually take place in August. At that time, funds will transfer to the Treasurer for disbursements to the scholarship winners' colleges and universities.

The **Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand**, read the **2024-2025 GCFP Budget** in the absence of the **Treasurer, Vivian Hall**. It reflected, under Administrative Expense, the letter request from **Financial Advisor, Cynthia Layton**, for a yearly increase in pay from \$4,000 to \$5,500. The **GCFP Scholarships 2024** part of the report stated that there were twelve student scholarship awards at

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\$1,000 each. The balance in the Savings Account for Scholarships on May 31<sup>st</sup> was \$4,719 but the estimated total in savings including potential donations is \$5,500, which was a shortfall of \$6,500 (\$500 more than last year.) It was noted that the Constance Smith Award was given from the interest (\$1,200) received on Truist.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS**

The Recording Secretary read each of the following approved motions from the Executive Committee for Full Board approval, after which President Ryba explained the details and asked for a voice vote for each:

**MOTION #1:** The GCFP Full Board accepts a proposal from Mary Heltzel of Stifel to sell three stocks (Invesco Steelpath, RITHM Capital Preferred and Talen Energy), transfer \$16,000 cash from the GCFP Money Market to purchase new bonds and to leave the remaining \$20,000 in the Money Market. **Accepted**

**MOTION #2:** The GCFP Full Board accepts a proposal from Mary Heltzel of Stifel to allow the Bank of the West bond to mature on June 27, 2024, and purchase the \$48,000 into the First Trust Dividend Growth account. **Accepted**

**MOTION #3:** The GCFP Full Board approves increasing the Financial Advisor's annual stipend from \$4,000 to \$5,500, effective in the current budget year. **Accepted**

**MOTION #4:** The GCFP Full Board approves the annual GCFP Budget for 2024-2025. **Accepted**

**MOTION #5:** The GCFP Full Board, in support of the NGC President's Project, "Plant America, Feed America," donates GCFP's previously approved \$200 donation to PHS' (Pennsylvania Horticulture Society) Community Gardens Project. **Accepted**

**MOTION #6:** The GCFP Full Board approves keeping two retractable signs from the 2018 NGC Convention and replacing their screens at an estimated combined cost of \$500 for use at GCFP events. **Accepted**

### **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

**District I Director, Nancy Cuttic,** reported that the clubs in District I were weeding and planting community gardens, flowerpots and holding plant sales. The Uwchlan Garden Club potted perennials from members' gardens, creating lovely planters and garden decorations and Mother's Day floral arrangements. This year they earned a record \$15,000 at the one day event. District I lost a treasured member, Sandy Manthorpe, who was instrumental in starting the Blue Star marker program in Pennsylvania. Sandy was an accomplished flower show judge and cared deeply about these two aspects of the GCFP and NGC. She will be missed, and will be memorialized by a Sage and Roses donation. Several clubs hosted luncheons and held officer installations. Last week the district held its annual Presidents' luncheon at Welkinweir estate. A record sixty members registered for the event where they enjoyed lunch, the Hudson Valley tour and honored their Presidents. Presidents were given District I board members contact information, along with a list of club officers and their contact info, pertinent information about club meeting days, years in the federation, and the club rotation schedule for hosting the annual September luncheon. Presidents were also given a listing of previous club programs with presenter contact information for planning purposes. This past year, on their Tour de District I, Assistant Director Pam Walsh and Nancy visited their clubs and presented a well-received Powerpoint presentation on demystifying the

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GCFP and NGC, explaining the benefits and giving members a sense of where they fit into the big picture. Nancy believes that it has made a difference in attendance and participation at District I meetings. This is Nancy's last District report as her term ends in September. She thanked her fellow District Directors from whom she learned so much and with whom she truly enjoyed working.

**District II/III Director, Jane Kruse,** reported Horticulture Therapy time was set aside for visits to past members at a personal care home by Hazleton Garden Club. Montrose filled 34 planters in their town square and are preparing for porch parties at different member homes. Parkland shared that pine saplings given to children in the past have grown to become full-grown trees offering habitat for wildlife. A kitchen garden at the Miller House grist mill is listed in the Bethlehem tourist brochure. The "Not Just Plants" sale held at Reading Museum and Walking Trail had numerous walk-ins, even before they allowed children to create plantings in tea cups for Mother's Day. The irony of living in a known wealth area is that there are pockets that find life financially more challenging. Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club focuses on garden production for community distribution. They offer free vegetable plants to encourage others to grow their own food.

**District IV Director, Joanne Baylis,** reported District IV will hold their second leadership training on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Harbaugh-Thomas Library in Biglerville, PA. They will examine whether those who previously attended implemented the new problem solving model change at their clubs, what worked or didn't work and whether club members were receptive to making the change. They will discuss the different NGC schools and Tonya Young will provide information on the local judges' council, flower shows and how all the schools relate to District IV garden club members. A few 2024 District IV highlights were: The Garden Club of York held their spring luncheon on May 8<sup>th</sup> at which time three new officers were installed; the Penn-Cumberland Garden Club held their annual Herb Tea on May 18<sup>th</sup>; the Hanover Garden Club will have new officers installed at their annual rose luncheon on June 18<sup>th</sup>; and the Littlestown Area Garden Club will hold an NGC Standard Flower Show titled "Through The Decades – Flowers in Fashion" on July 12 and 13. In preparation for the flower show, the garden club invited the Central Area Judges Council to conduct two workshops to help club members, and all District IV club members, with entering. In January 2024, District IV lost the Chambersburg Garden Club, which opted to become a non-federated club. In May 2024, GCFP gained the Linglestown Garden Club, so that District IV returned to a total of 11 garden clubs and 1 affiliate club.

**District V Director, Judy Warn,** expressed appreciation for the Lancaster Convention hosted by District IV as a wonderful way to see friends from other parts of the state. Since then, she participated in a program at the District's local Heritage Village that taught about the many uses of herbs to 450 enthusiastic 4th graders in attendance. In addition, Judy also enjoyed District IX's interesting Zoom presentation on Hugelkultur, which took composting to a new level. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, she traveled on a bus tour arranged by Sandra Hendricks to Akron and Toledo. They visited a National Landmark home with extensive gardens, a botanical garden, and a merry-go-round museum. Sandy is a member of McEwensburg Garden Club, and generously donates the proceeds from her trips to maintain the Blue Star Memorial near Williamsport. McEwensburg, Duboistown and Heritage Garden Clubs will be entering the Bloomsburg Fair. Alexandria Garden Club, McEwensburg Garden Club and Duboistown Garden Club also reported having plant sales this spring. Alexandria Garden Club maintains a seed bank at their local library and, with Standing Stone Garden Club, is planning the District's Annual Meeting, "Autumn Tranquility" in Huntington, PA. Duboistown Garden Club is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year. Lisa Bok, a member of the club, has created a montage of club activities since its founding in 1934. It is available on YouTube and worth watching to see how the ladies dressed back then!

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**District VI Director, Deb Stumpf**, reported District VI held an outing to the nationally certified Daffodil Farm of Gary Ball in Clarksburg, PA on April 20, 2024. The group was able to see over 250 varieties of daffodils in bloom. Gary also gave the group a talk on the 13 different types of daffodils and a tour of other gardens on his property. The group then traveled to a local restaurant for lunch. The Blair Garden Club welcomed a new president, Emma Kowalski, in April and held a very successful plant sale in May. The Patton Garden Club spearheaded a community project in 2019 to buy a greenhouse for the Cambria Heights Middle School with a grant from Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, and donations from local clubs and businesses. In May, the club met at the greenhouse for a tour, and provided seeds for the students to plant and grow vegetables and flowers for the club's "corner lot" and plant sale. The money raised at the plant sale funds scholarships for graduating seniors. This year, they made over \$3,000.00. Indiana Garden Club held a very successful May Mart and took an outing to Phipps Conservatory to see the new spring show, "Under the Sea". They also ventured to Piney Creek Nursery in Martinsburg to shop for new plants. The Garden Club of Johnstown installed a new president in April and continued work on their upcoming flower show in August. The Somerset Garden Club also held a plant sale netting \$1,500.00 and continued their work at Children's Aid Home. They are bulldozing a large area and will be placing sod so kids, aged 13-17, have a nice place to come out during lunch. During June and July, they also work with the students in their garden area. The Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier held a "Vegetable Gardening 101" program for their club. They had a very successful May Day Basket Contest with local merchants and businesses participating. The highlight of the day was a May Pole Dance performed by a local dance school. They answered gardening questions at the Ligonier Country Market and presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a high school student. Their May Meeting was a progressive garden tour with visits to member gardens.

**District VII Director, Sharon Bryner**, reported that since the Lancaster Convention, the clubs of District VII have been active and busy striving to increase membership with interesting speakers, tours and events. The GC of Monroeville held a plant sale at a local park to invite people to attend the club's next meeting. Murrysville GC had an annual picnic with a plant auction. They are planning a flower show and will be touring local wetlands. The Joyful Bloomers GC held a plant and bake sale on June 5<sup>th</sup> and were recognized with a certificate for their exceptional service to the residents and community of Kane Regional Living Center in McKeesport. The club will take part in the McKeesport Community Days this week to increase membership. The GC of Forest Hills held a successful plant sale on May 4<sup>th</sup> and participated in their Community Days with a tour of a pollinator garden and an "Ask a Gardener" booth. Pucketos GC is holding a Sparkle and Glitz Tea on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with the program "History of Gems and Jewelry". They are also planning a field trip to the garden of Kevin Prall, who was awarded "Americas Best Front Yard" by Better Homes and Garden in 2019. Unfortunately, Rockledge GC decided not to continue with the GCFP. The new board members of Verona GC are working to acquaint and establish themselves with the GCFP.

**District VIII Director, Rosie Lawrence**, installed new officers for some of their garden clubs. The Elk Valley Garden Club made Mother's Day corsages for the female residents of Pleasant Ridge Manor West in Girard, PA. Club members and Girard High School students will work together on Wells Park and Lake City Clean-up Day, October 17,<sup>th</sup> by pulling weeds, removing debris and spreading mulch. The Garden Club of Clarion County will be celebrating their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a "Tea Party" on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist church in Clarion, PA. The Kane Garden Club will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September. The Presque Isle Garden Club had a Japanese "Kokedama Workshop" in April. Rosie attended the Titusville Garden Club meeting program, "Floral Arrangements" by Jamie Wilson of Gustafson Florals Shop, on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Benson Memorial

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Library in Titusville. In July, their meeting will be a “Floral Challenge Class” with a make & take floral arrangement at the home of former GCFP president, Joyce Milberg, in Tionesta. The Warren Garden Club had an Arbor Day Celebration on April 26<sup>th</sup> and donated a “sugar maple tree” planted and dedicated at their local park by the Warren mayor. In May, the Wildflower Garden Club had their first “Blooms & Brunch Workshop” fundraiser at Zacherl’s Farm and Greenhouse in Shipperville, PA to make and take a container with plants from the greenhouse. On July 27-28, the club will host a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, “Summertime in the Alleghenies.” The club is planning a bus trip in September to Thousand Island, New York and surrounding areas. District VIII’s Annual Meeting will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Cross Creek Resort.

**District IX Director, Claudia Bernardo**, reported that Kennedy Garden Club joined the GCFP and became part of District IX last month. They are the second club to join the District within the last 13 months. They are a dynamic club that will be a great addition to the District. Many of their clubs have revitalized how they recruit and retain new members. This year, several clubs will host some evening meetings to attract members who are still in the work force. Claudia’s club initiated a mentoring program after they surveyed the members who joined in the past 2-3 years. They found that new members were overwhelmed by all that the club does. Six of the eleven District clubs hosted successful plant sales in spite of rain. Instead of a plant sale, Moon Township Garden Club hosted a Plant Give Away of native plants and a Plant Exchange. Their Environmental Committee offered a recycling challenge and recycling informational tips and videos at their monthly meetings. In April, a number of their Clubs participated in either Arbor Day or Earth Day celebrations that included presenting seed packets to kindergarten students. An educational program about Monarch butterflies was presented and the children were given seed pots and milkweed seeds with instructions on how to raise Monarchs. One club hosted a tree raffle as part of their community Arbor Day celebration, and another hosted a program about the Urban Forest in Your Neighborhood. Programs being presented this year are about pollinators, landscape design and Blue Star Markers, while workshops include making kokedama balls and pumpkin floral centerpieces. They are helping to design and plant raised garden beds at an assisted living facility. Several District IX clubs hosted Horticulture Therapy programs at senior nursing facilities. For National Garden Week, clubs hosted plant giveaways, make-your-own hanging basket workshops, posted “Pollinator Fun Facts” in their public gardens, and hosted children’s programs such as “Plants are Food Factories”. For National Pollinator Week, a program on “Perennial Powerhouse Plants” is being presented to the public. Claudia encouraged all clubs to host community events and community outreach committees to attract new members and generate interest in gardening.

**District X Director, Deborah Davis**, reported that District X had a successful Spring Tea and program on the Spotted Lantern Fly presented by Dr. Michelle Dunnes. The District presented \$100 Civic Beautification Grants to Giant Oaks, Great Meadows, Martha Washington, Mon Valley, Uniontown and Valley Garden Clubs. District X is working for a Blue Star Marker for the I-70 Claysville Welcome Center. Munhall awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a Steel Valley High School senior and donated to Carnegie Library of Homestead, the Lions Club of Homestead, and the Memorial Garden of Messiah Lutheran Church. Giant Oaks also awarded a scholarship to a student from Bentworth High School and a second scholarship in memory of Janet Fuchs to a Fort Cherry High School student. This club also does monthly favors for the Peters Township’s Meals on Wheels and its ongoing activities include bottle cap recycling and garden-related activities with residents of McMurray Hills Manor. Great Meadows maintains flower beds at Wharton Township building and around their Blue Star Memorial. Great Meadows also teaches an after-school program and a summer program at East End Community Center. They provide horticulture therapy at a local senior center and started collecting bottle caps. Mon Valley will work on the Old West

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School grounds and has plant excursions planned. Martha Washington maintains the LeMoyne House garden, the Veteran's Memorial Garden and has scheduled a second plant sale and a flower show. Pleasant Hills has scheduled a plant sale at Mowry Park and their Let Freedom Ring Garden is under a major beautification project while the club continues their plastic recycling project. Town & Country gave two \$1,000 scholarships and maintains gardens at Flenniken Library, Rices Land triangle and Carmichaels town square. Uniontown will plant a garden for the Uniontown Library and maintains planters at the Uniontown Courthouse. Valley has a standard flower show planned for July and is revamping the gardens at the Mon Valley YMCA.

**District XI Director, Ines (Honey) Bawduniak**, reported that District XI held successful plant sales and planted and tended club gardens. Honey appreciated seeing so many her District XI club members attending the April Convention since her district will be hosting it next year. At their May District meeting, they voted for the slate of new officers who will be inducted at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon in September. The District will present a GCFP Zoom program, "Using Armatures in Floral Design with Barbara Leiby," available to all GCFP members on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Many of their clubs are having memorable garden tours.

**REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS (in alphabetical order following the Keystone Gardener's "State Chairmen" listing in its Summer 2023 Directory Issue)**

**501 C-3 Exempt/990 Reporter, Mary Jo Gardill**, was absent but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Mary Jo cheered, because this year the 990s were filed by the clubs and districts in a relatively timely fashion. After the first week, one third were received and a second third were received after the second week. The last third was a challenge, but with the help of the district directors, by May 31<sup>st</sup>, all were signed, completed and received. It is a great benefit for garden clubs to be under the GCFP umbrella for the 501 C-3.

**GCFP Advisory Committee Chair, Sheila Croushore**, reported that because many of its members live out of state, the advisory committee met on May 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom with 6 of 11 members in attendance. There were no recommendations.

**Awards Chair, Marilyn Small**, reported that the **Awards Co-Chair, Sheri Lowry**, and she were pleased with the awards participation from clubs and districts, and enjoyed presenting these awards at the Lancaster Convention. They hoped that recent wins and honors will prompt individuals to submit applications again this year and that other clubs will participate for the first time. There will be a few minor changes to the "GCFP Awards Manual," mainly some deadline dates, so check the updated documents on the website under "Awards," which should be posted to the website by mid-July. For a copy of the list of changes, email Marilyn at "GCFPAwardsMSmall@gmail.com." For the 2024 Awards year, recall that successful applications adhere to the requirements, scoring rubrics, and instructions found in the Award manuals and supporting documents located on the GCFP "Awards Page" of the GCFP "pagardenclubs.org website." Do not allow any application to get a low score or to be disqualified, because instructions were not followed. A very important requirement is that a signed copy of the "Photo Release Form" for all members of your club must be on file with your club, and a signed release for any photos of children or other non-club people in your applications. This form can be found on the website under "Forms Library." This is particularly important for youth awards -- the form must accompany the application. It is important to be aware of applications that are to be submitted electronically, and those entries that are sent to a specific chair for that award. The "State Awards Committee Chairs" list is on the "Directories" page of the GCFP website. Note it is password protected and the District Directors have the



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password. District Exceptional Horticulturist, Forget-Me-Not, and Laurels are due this summer by August 1<sup>st</sup>, so check with the District Director for specific details related to your district for these awards.

The **Bee Gap Chair, Bonita Herman**, was absent and sent no report.

The **Birds, Butterflies & Conservation Chair, Marcy Cunkelman**, was absent but her report wondered how many people know that there are southern butterflies that migrate north. This year was a great migration year, like 2012, for the Red Admiral Butterfly that made the radar light up with so many migrating at the same time across the United States to Canada. The Monarch, American Lady and Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Cloudless Sulphur, Dainty Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Fiery Skipper, and Sachem fly north, go through several life cycles and then migrate back to the south in the fall. Like birds, butterflies have their own flight patterns. When the different ways of flying and habitat are studied, butterflies can be more easily recognized.. It is well known that the Monarch uses milkweed as host plants. The last generation leaves mid to late September for their journey to Mexico and returns to North America late February, depending on the weather. Some arrived early this year in PA in late April and early May. The American Lady, with two large spots on the hindwing, uses pussytoes and pearly everlasting as native host plants. The caterpillars hide in the webbing of the leaves for protection. The Painted Lady uses host plants such as thistle, mallow and many others. Like the American Lady, the caterpillar will form webs in the leaves. These are the most common butterflies used for raising in school. The Painted Lady will have 4 small spots on the hindwing. Cloudless Sulphur is a very large, about 2 inches, lemon-colored butterfly. It has a direct flight pattern and seeks the native wild senna and partridge pea plants. Both the Dainty Sulphur and Sleep Orange, found in open spaces like fields, meadows and parks, are less than an inch in length, and both use senna for host plants. Last year, Marcy had caterpillars on her popcorn plant, which is a variety of cassia. The Fiery Skipper and Sachem are small orange and brown skippers who use various grasses as host plants. Skippers look similar until the pattern on the open and closed wings is studied. Sometimes, rarely seen "surprises" arrive after severe storms or hurricanes. Marcy recalled seeing her first Longed-tailed Skipper, a striking butterfly with teal blue coloring and long tails, similar to a swallow. It was on lantana, one of its favorite flowers in Florida and along the east coast, and uses legumes, especially beans, for host plants. She encouraged all to add more native plants, especially caterpillar host plants, to see a greater variety of butterflies and moths. Ask other gardeners to share their plants or seeds, since the more that are planted, the more butterflies and moths will be seen! Questions may be sent to Marcy by email to [plant4nature@gmail.com](mailto:plant4nature@gmail.com).

The **Blue Star Memorial Chair, Karen Faust**, was amazed to see the veterans, over 90 years old, return to Normandy, the site that changed the War (and their lives). More than ever, GCFP needs to show support for those veterans and all those before and after them with Blue/Gold Star Markers. Five years ago, on the 75<sup>th</sup> D-Day Anniversary, a Blue Star Marker was dedicated at Normandy. Many veterans arrived home from war and service with little to no fanfare. Now is the time to honor them with our public display of thanks! Leslie Anthony reported in her absence at the April Convention that our goal is to have a Blue Star Marker at every Welcome Center entrance into Pennsylvania. A Gold Star Marker is currently on order for the western entrance of I-80 at Mercer PA. Depending on the completion of the renovations at that rest stop, this marker will be dedicated in late 2024 or early 2025. Three weeks ago, at the Martha Washington Garden Club, Karen discussed with the District X Director, Deborah Davis, the Marker Program and the proposed location of the District X Blue Star Highway Marker. Penn Dot representatives showed where they recommended placing the marker for visitors at the Claysville Welcome Center on I-70 from West

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Virginia. So, all the Welcome Centers on the North and Western PA borders will have the Marker, which leaves just four more: two on the Eastern Border (Delaware Water Gap I-80 West and Northampton I-78 West) and two at the border with Maryland (Fulton I-70 West and Franklin I-81 North.) Karen noted these markers can be best sponsored by a district or a collaboration of two or more districts, and will be contacting District Directors in these areas. Last August, Somerset Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Marker at the entrance of Patriot Park in Stoystown, near the 9-11 Site. Patriot Park memorializes those servicemen that have given their lives since September 11, 2001. American flags cover the property and a Gold Star Marker will be dedicated there this summer. Lastly, and on a very somber note, Karen extended her respects for a wonderful GCFP Member and former Blue Star Marker Chair, Sandra Manthorpe, who passed in April. Karen had the privilege of meeting and dining with Sandy at the 2022 Malvern Convention. Sandra and her husband, Spencer, spearheaded the efforts to involve Penn-Dot and develop a flourishing Marker Program.

The **Blue Star Memorial Central Assistant, Jane Howe**, reminded all that the Blue Star Memorial Markers honor all servicemen and women who have fought, are fighting and will fight to save our country's freedoms and is a visible sign of our love and gratitude when, each spring and summer, a club clears winter debris, dead plants and overgrown plantings, and shines the memorial itself. New plantings bring beauty to the sites. Any club wanting to dedicate a new memorial can find the information on the GCFP website or contact Jane or Karen Faust with any question. Refurbishing, Replanting, Remembering: Please make your memorials sparkle and honor our Veterans.

The **Book of Recognition Donations Chair, Joyce Hoek**, reported that since October 2023, three people were honored in the Book of Recognition, and donations totaled \$85. Donations are appreciated and will be used, as needed, for the GCFP expenses. The donation form can be found on the GCFP website under "Forms." The form helps her to know the name of the donor, whether a thank you is expected or a canceled check is sufficient, whether a notification should be sent to the person honored or to a family member and their address. She asked all to consider a donation to the Book of Recognition in appreciation for, or honor of, or in memory of, a member. The names of those honored will be published in the Keystone Gardener.

The **Civic Development Chair, Martha Alexander**, reported that Civic Development includes conservation education, and she has chosen to focus on that area. Her goal has been to develop and write her best garden related lessons for other groups to use in teaching Junior Gardeners. An introduction to one of our larger lessons reads as follows: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds. These six plant parts are an introduction to a larger lesson taught to junior gardeners at the East End United Community Center in Uniontown. For her Conservation Education project, Martha documented some of the lessons taught to the boys and girls at the after school and summer classes, and gave them to the Webmaster to post on the GCFP website. These include lessons on Winter Sowing, the Life cycle of a Monarch butterfly, and Eat a Rainbow. The club also taught hands-on skill lessons in the garden. Their three goals are to share their love of gardening and to cultivate garden and life skills that help children bloom as individuals; to grow in the young girls and boys an appreciation for nature and knowledge of environmental stewardship through discussions and activities; and to encourage kids to learn healthy eating habits. Through instruction and the experience of eating a rainbow of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, they are learning to include them in their diet and grow them in their gardens. The hope is that their complete lessons plans will help other clubs who work with children.

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The **Club Newsletter Awards Chair, Joyce Peterson**, reported that there was some confusion about how many newsletters to send in 2023. She received only one newsletter electronically with one application. (Previously, clubs were asked to send three newsletters.) Most of the clubs still sent three, by mail, but only one newsletter was to be judged in 2023. For 2024, the clubs should electronically send their best newsletter, according to the Rubric, with one application, and any pertinent information, to Joyce by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Some clubs have more than 24 pages in their newsletters. The postage is too much and unnecessary. The winners of the newsletters judged as first place in 2023 were then asked to send their newsletter to this Awards Chair electronically, thereby knowing that they won first place before the State Convention in April. Joyce opined that club members like to be surprised at the Convention.

The **Club Yearbook Awards Chair, Iris Cisarik**, reminded District Directors, Presidents and Program Chairman of all the garden clubs to apply for the club yearbook award. This is the easiest contest to enter. The deadline is December 1, 2024. It requires two application forms but only one yearbook. The application is available in the awards manual, but she asked all to remember to send her hard copies only. Typically, she receives only about 40 yearbooks from over a hundred GCFP clubs. Her address is 1138 Wightman Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217.

The **Convention Coordinator, Judith Schaffer**, reported the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Convention Chairs met with her via Zoom on June 4<sup>th</sup>. For this committee, Zoom sessions provided the time needed to fully discuss important issues. Problems discussed were:

- hotel management changes at last minute and how it affects convention planning
- extensive planning needed for tri-refreshers, yet poor member attendance
- deadlines not being met at all levels, which causes ripple effect for Convention planning
- charging \$5.00 registration for volunteers at convention, which causes bad feelings. Why?
- increased food prices charged by hotels, which make event costs vary by locations. Costs will go up and down in future!

Recommendations are:

- create a State Registrar board position to handle conventions
- set up a PayPal state convention account
- update the Convention Manual – last done in 2020

The **2024 Convention Chair, Joyce Crider**, was absent but Delores Nolt read Joyce's report that the 2024 GCFP Convention, Petals & Patchwork, was held at the Doubletree Inn by Hilton, Lancaster, PA and hosted by District IV on April 7- 9, 2024. Tonya Young, Dolores Nolt, and Joyce wanted the attendees to see the beauty of Lancaster County. A wide range of topics related to gardening and the environment, such as, speakers on plants to enliven our gardens, environment, sustainability, stormwater management, victory gardens, the movement towards planting more vegetable gardens, an amble through the US Arboretum, pollinator plants and, the perfect ending to the Petals and Patchwork Convention, the Judges Council program on "A Harmony of Floral Designs inspired by Quilts." The Great Northern American Eclipse on Monday afternoon was an extra event provided by Mother Nature. Everyone who registered received a pair of eclipse glasses and many went outside for a view, perhaps a first for a GCFP Convention. The convention was well attended by 303 registrations, which included 143 Full and 21 Tri-refresher attendees. A total of 60 were from District IV, the host. The Sunday afternoon early arrivals had workshops on Herbal Vinegar and Alcohol Jewelry. Joyce extended a special thank you to their major sponsors Longwood Gardens, Roads Scholar and PHS and asked all to patronize them. Bartlett Tree Experts were there and had many handouts for us. Joyce thanked all the garden clubs from District IV for 50 volunteers and the whole committee who donated their time. A special thank you was extended

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to Carla Kelly for obtaining sponsors, The Garden Club of York for the beautiful centerpieces under the leadership of Ann DeMille, to Kay Yniguez and Pam Paules for managing the raffles and ways and means, to Treasurer Carol Feister, to Program Editor/Registrar Betsy Smith, Flower Show Chair/Schedule Writer Nancy Fulk, to Cate Hand for obtaining the Lancaster City Police as the Colorguard, and to Dolores Nolt for the Tri-refresher. The Committee hopes to give the state approximately \$14,000 profit. Joyce thanked all for attending and supporting District IV.

The **2025 Convention Chair, Karen Wychock**, invited all to a revolution, a “Gardening Revolution!” District XI will be hosting the 2025 GCFP Convention in King of Prussia on April 6-8, 2025 at the Alloy Hotel, located off the PA Turnpike. The convention will be a mix of gardening and American history. The convention committee worked for two years to secure a location and invite a variety of speakers to take part in the convention. To take advantage of the King of Prussia location, the Committee will offer trolley tours of the Valley Forge National Park on Sunday. They also plan two workshops on Sunday - a botanical arts framed piece and an origami workshop to create beautiful paper flowers. Renee Tucci, the main speaker/designer on Sunday evening, will complete floral designs that will be raffled. Her latest book, *Framing Floral Techniques*, will be available for purchase. On Monday, everyone is asked to dress in their best Colonial wear or to dress in red, white and blue and to lunch with Martha Washington, because her husband had something to do with the American Revolution. Martha will speak about her “behind the scenes” role in the American Revolution. Clarissa Dillon of the Thomas Massey House will discuss colonial kitchen gardens. The committee continues to plan for the 2025 convention. Please join this “Gardening Revolution!”

The **2026 Convention Chair, Joyce Milberg**, was absent and sent no report.

The **Environmental – Keep PA Beautiful (KPB) Chair, Judith Swanson**, outlined the fall initiative for KPB as a program supportive of the Great International Coastal Clean Up, Sept 1 to Nov 30 because ticks, snakes and vacations typically interfere with PICK UP PA anti-litter campaigns in the summer months. This initiative is eligible for free supplies such safety vests, gloves, trash bags, and grabber sticks with a piece of a pool noodle that helps them to float to “water rescue” trash. Judi encouraged individuals and clubs to sign up at the website online @ [KeepPabeautiful.org](https://www.KeepPabeautiful.org) to clean up their own “Mini Coastal Waterway,” aka, local stream bank.

**Environmental - Trash to Treasure Co-Chairs, Marsha and Naser Chowdhury** reported that their committee is in process of developing the Trash to Treasure (T2T) contest theme for the 2025 GCFP Convention at Valley Forge, PA. Valley Forge is well known for many historical events including the 1777-1778 winter encampment of the Continental Army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War. The T2T contest design will incorporate some of the rich historical components of Valley Forge.

**Financial Advisor, Cynthia Layton**, was absent but sent her financial report to the GCFP Treasurer. **Flower Show Awards and Ribbons Chair, Rosemary Gish Ebersole**, and **Flower Show Evaluation Chair, Mary Jane Martucci**, were absent and sent no reports.

**Flower Show Book of Evidence (BOE) Evaluation Chair, Deb Stumpf**, reported that the BOE judging was complicated last year by the fact that all the books had to be submitted digitally. She commended the six clubs that submitted books. However, not all were on the same page about what was sent digitally and what needed to be included. She created a handout of BOE guidelines and is working with the Awards Chair to have these included in the GCFP Awards Manual so that any submitted BOE is not disqualified from NGC competition due to some omission. She provided

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“Tips for Preparing a Digital Flower Show Book of Evidence” at the back table of the meeting room. National WILL NOT accept any paper for the BOE in 2024. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2024. She hoped all flower shows this year are successful.

**Flower Show Judges Council (JC) Chair, Mary Hetrick**, was present and had no report.

**President Ryba** recessed the meeting at 4:15 PM so that the Nominating Committee and the Advisory Committee could meet 4:30- 5:30 PM. She asked attendees to reconvene on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM. Social time was 5:30-6 PM and Dinner buffet began at 6 PM. The continuing Meeting opened at 9 AM on Tuesday.

### **REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS, continued**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Pat Wolanski**, reported that she continues to receive email inquiries from members and outside organizations that range from how to join a local garden club or join a flower show school to fundraising opportunities and technical upgrade offers. She responded to most questions directly or referred them to the appropriate person for follow-up. In April, she attended the State Convention in Lancaster and congratulated the organizers for hosting a wonderful event that provided opportunities to listen and learn from excellent speakers and fostered connections in friendship. She met with the District Directors monthly to discuss a range of topics addressing their interests, concerns and responsibilities. Currently, they are discussing collaboration and how to work with other districts and garden clubs to increase meeting attendance and enhance relationships. Nancy Cuttic, District I Director, and Marilyn Small presented a Powerpoint at their last meeting, on “Becoming a Federated Garden Club”. The information in this PowerPoint demystifies our hierarchy and highlights the benefits of being a member of our federation. They offer this information, customized to your district, upon request. Our Districts continue to offer monthly presentations via Zoom. On May 15th, District IX presented Hugelkultur which was well done and well attended. The next District XI presentation, “Designing Armatures,” is on Wednesday, June 19th, at 6:30 PM. She encouraged everyone, especially floral designers and Flower Show Judges, to attend this presentation. On July 18th, at 6:30 p.m., is a presentation on “Founding Gardeners”, and on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., District II/III will offer a presentation on the “State of Plastic Recycling”. She asked all to mark their calendars and support our districts by attending these special presentations using the Zoom link distributed prior to the presentation date. Many District Directors will soon change leadership positions and she thanked the outgoing directors for their dedication and efforts for the GCFP and their Clubs. She looks forward to welcoming and working with the new District Directors who will be taking over these important roles. She continues to serve on the 2025 State Convention committee “A Gardening Revolution”.

The **Central Area Judges Council (CAJC) Chair, Tonya Young**, reported the CAJC has 28 members. In November, they studied and point scored two design types, Transparencies and Armatures, as a group. In March, they held a small standard flower show and incorporated these two design types in their show. Members of the council successfully planned and executed a flower show during the April 2024 GCFP Annual Convention held in Lancaster, PA. Several flower shows are being planned by clubs in District IV in July and September. A new club joining the Federation, Linglestown, will host a flower show as well. The CAJC judges have been busy, and several have assisted the Littlestown Garden Club prepare for their upcoming flower show. They led instruction in procedure, design, and horticulture. Tonya is also pleased to report that CAJC judges have been sharing their knowledge with garden clubs through programs and design workshops. Any garden club interested in having a flower show may contact any CAJC member for assistance. CAJC is

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anxious to assist with workshops on horticulture and design, schedule writing, and general flower show procedure. This council is focused on education and is actively discussing judging issues, design types, horticulture, and encouraging more flower shows. In July, they will concentrate on Hosta; both judging and growing. CAJC council has been very active and members continue to expand their knowledge to become better judges.

The **Erie Area Judges Council (EAJC) Chair, Tom Huston** reported that the EAJC met on May 29, 2024 in Warren, PA at Mama Janes Restaurant. The objective of the meeting was to complete the plans for the October 2024 NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show, "Our Beautiful Earth." Tom is proud to say their willing members have filled all the Design Sections in this challenging show. The three sections are the elements of Air, Earth and Water. Designs will range from six inches to nine inches to twelve inches as indicated in the Schedule. Mary Hetrick and Dot Yard have been instrumental in tweaking the schedule to give Designers freedom of expression and the chance at awards. A Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, "Summertime in the Alleghenies" is scheduled this year by the Wildflower Garden Club. The EAJC will also help several local fairs this year who have requested Judges for their horticulture. In other business, it tries to keep up to date with our more experienced Judges who are no longer active with the rest of the group and were happy that one of them join us for lunch! Their next meeting will be July 31<sup>st</sup> in Erie at Bullfrog. The Judges have been asked to bring one design done for a Flower Show that had a disappointing result, or to create a design for the upcoming Flower Show that you REALLY wanted to do, but the section was already full!

The **Laurel Highlands Judges Council (LHJC) Chair, Charlotte Crissey** reported their club met in December at the home of Mary Jo Gardill for a potluck luncheon. Events of the previous six months were discussed including our successful joint council flower show with Pittsburgh Area Judges Council (PAJC) and ways to help clubs know that judges are available to mentor any club seeking help to plan and execute a flower show. Members were asked to review the LHJC Working Procedures and be prepared to edit them in the spring. At an April 24, 2024 meeting at Perkins Restaurant in Johnstown, the Working Procedures were discussed and maintained as written. The nominating committee for the selection of officers for the 2025-26 term will be appointed at the fall meeting. As Chair of the Flower Show Book of Evidence Evaluation Committee, Deb Stumpf described the difficulties encountered in judging the Book of Evidence using the new digital format and plans to streamline the process. Several members presented horticulture and designs for evaluation. The next joint flower show with PAJC is June 25<sup>th</sup> in Greensburg. Local flower shows were Johnstown (August 23-24), Patton and Blair Garden Clubs.

The **Northeast Area Judges Council (NAJC) Chair, Barbara Campbell**, reported that NAJC judged the large garden exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show and held a Small Standard Flower Show, "Heavenly Gardens" in March. Contact Sharon Richardson or Barbara if anyone wants to attend a visit to Jenny Rose Carey's Garden on July 17<sup>th</sup>. NAJC members include 5 Life, 5 Master, 3 Emeritus and 4 Student Judges. The NAJC is doing financial outreach to encourage clubs to have flower shows: Hazelton Garden Club will hold a Standard Flower Show, "KaBloom" on July 13<sup>th</sup> with the help of \$100 from this JC and donated \$250 to Emmaus Garden Club to support its design workshops.

The **Philadelphia Area Judges Council Chair, Valerie Burgess**, and **Pittsburgh Area Judges Council (PAJC) Chair, Mary Ann Artman**, were absent and sent no report.

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The **Flower Show Judges Credentials Chair, Nancy Cartwright**, reported GCFP currently has 84 Accredited FS Judges in Pennsylvania. The numbers are as follows: 13 Accredited, 15 Life, 56 Master and 48 Emeritus Judges. There are 67 Judges in Good Standing until December 2025, 16 Judges in Good Standing until December 2026, 1 Judge in Good Standing until December 2027. There is one new judge, Marilyn Backus. There are two deceased judges, Susan Irwin (4/2024) and Sandra Manthorpe (4/2024). The next Flower Show Symposium is in Cranberry, PA on August 5-7, 2024. Anyone wanting to attend for credit are to send their completed Form 13, 15L or 15M listing their exhibiting and judging credits via email or snail mail to Nancy Cartwright before July 8, 2024. A copy was distributed after the last Symposium but replacement forms can be found on the NGC website.

The **Flower Show (FS) Schedule Chair, Margie Bucci**, was not present but sent her report which was read by the Recording Secretary. Margie called attention to the GCFP Awards Manual's FS Schedule Award on page 17, and the GCFP FS Schedule Award Application Cover Sheet on page 27. The Scale of Points for evaluating a FS Schedule in *The Handbook for Flower Shows* has been updated to Form 29 (7/22). There are many updated requirements. There are very helpful sample schedules and "How to Write Awards in a Schedule" on the NGC website. To find them, click on "Flower Show School", scroll down a little, then click on "NGC Flower Show Page," scroll down over half the way down the page, then click on the bold print "How to Write Awards in a Schedule." Please apply for this award as soon as the flower show is over and don't wait until the deadline.

The **Flower Show Schools Chair, Joanne Baylis**, found a hotel and venue for the next GCFP Flower Show School. After a meeting on June 6, 2024 with the GCFP Judges Council Chair and Treasurer, and both GCFP Vice Presidents, Joanne is pleased to announce the offering of Flower Show School Course I on April 28-30, 2025. It will be held at the Gettysburg Fire Department Social Hall. Hotel accommodations will be at the Hampton Inn in Gettysburg, PA. She is still finalizing some details, so look for more information in the upcoming months, not only on course I, but for the other three courses as well. She asked the Board to please promote Flower Show School to their garden club members.

The **Flower Show Student Judges Credentials Chair, Claire Leichliter**, was absent but sent a report read by the Recording Secretary. There were currently 23 student judges in the GCFP. One took the judges' exam this April and three successfully completed their schedule assignment and received excellent grades. Sixteen received schedule assignments, so Claire awaits the 13 more schedules to be evaluated. She updated the student judge list for the GCFP website. She expects the judge's councils to reach out to offer students membership and judging and exhibiting opportunities. The current student judges are Martha Alexander, District X; Marilyn Backus VII; Joanne Baylis IV; Carolyn Bock VIII; Rachel Collins XI; Nancy Cuttic I; Maryann DeSanto I; Wendy Fox I; MaryJo Gardner XI; Lisa Guiffrida XI; Tammy Gravisande XI; Ginger Hunsicker XI; Janet Hurlbrink XI; Jane Irvin-Klotz XI; Denise Klein I; Claire Kukiela II/III; Anita Lehman XI; Teresa Miller I; Caren Puschak XI; Sharon Richardson I; Leanna Ryba VII; Carolyn Schreffler I; and Christine Tarlecki I.

The **Flower Show Symposium Chair, Tonya Young**, reported that Pennsylvania will host a Symposium on August 5, 6, 7, 2024 at the Double Tree by Hilton Pittsburgh-Cranberry. The information has been posted on the GCFP website. The hotel is lovely and is conveniently located off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Horticulture instructor, Pam Braun, will instruct on both Aroids, and Ferns and Friends. Her allied topic is Manipulated Plants: Botanical Arts. The Design instructor, Claudia Bates, will instruct on the topics of Design Diversity "Name my Type" and Spatial Thrust.

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Her allied topic is "Expression vs. Interpretation." The cost is \$315.00 which includes one dinner, two lunches and two continental breakfasts. Tonya addressed the cost of the symposium by saying all have experienced price increases in our daily lives and Symposiums have increased like everything else. The upcoming 2024 Symposium is Tonya's third. When she organized the 2019 Symposium, the full registration cost was \$175.00 and that price did not include breakfast. The 2022 Symposium cost was 230.00. In 2024, the cost is \$315.00. This 37% increase is mostly due to travel expenses and food costs. Instructor fees and paper supplies have also increased. To increase attendance and to encourage more flower shows, a letter has been sent to all club presidents for distribution explaining the benefits of attending symposiums and reminding all members of GCFP and the public that they are invited. The Cranberry DoubleTree has a similar "number of room night stays" requirement as the Wyndham Hotel. Tonya hoped many will attend in August, and she appreciates your support and understanding.

The **GCFP History & Historian, Judy Jackson**, had no report but she expressed her concern that she received no historical records from her predecessor.

**Gardening School Credentials Chair, Mary Jo Schlomann**, and **Habitat for Humanity Donations Chair, Lisa Merschiltz**, were absent and did not send reports.

The **Horticulture Coordinator, JoAnn Celaschi**, advised Club Awards Chairs and Presidents that the time to submit nominations to her for this year's Exceptional Horticulturist award is August 1, 2024. This is a non-competitive award given at each district's September Annual Meetings. The three qualifications for the award are Experience (The candidate should grow numerous types of plants, trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and houseplants and should be able to discuss how best to grow them;) Education (The candidate should have attended one of the schools provided by the National Garden Clubs. This is not required but the candidate should be familiar with the schools and programs of the NGC, flower and gardening catalogs, horticulture magazines and other sources of horticulture information;) and Sharing (The candidate should share their knowledge and experiences with growing plants with friends, garden club members as well as civic organizations. The candidate should have served club and community when called upon and should be able to represent the GCFP as a knowledgeable source of horticulture information.) No separate formal application exists to nominate a member for this award, but a written description of the candidate's qualifications for this award should be sent by August 1<sup>st</sup> either by snail mail to JoAnn Celaschi, 1216 Lookout Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022-2028 or by e-mail to [celaschi@hotmail.com](mailto:celaschi@hotmail.com). Photographs are not required but please identify the club and district of anyone submitted for this award.

The **Horticulture Hints Chair, Grace Mitchell**, had a dream. Since June is the month for roses, she dreamed of having a lovely garden party and inviting many of her favorite people, who just happen to be roses. This is recycling at its best because she had a party several years ago, and it was so much fun that she is doing it again! The first arrival was Elizabeth Taylor, who looked stunning in shocking pink blossoms with smoky edges. Cary Grant was not far behind, with his blooms of bright orange with gold tones and a spicy fragrance. Julie Andrews appeared with her masses of double pink blooms. Doris Day was a floribunda with bright golden blooms and great fragrance. Della Reese, a hybrid tea featuring large magenta blossoms on long stems, was next. And Barbara, whose deep lavender buds opened to layers of lavender tones, could have been her fave. They were reliving their singing careers, when who arrived but Neil Diamond, a hybrid tea with unusual pink blooms speckled with white. With him was Dick Clark, our DJ, who had creamy petals edged with vibrant cherry pink. Our caterer was Julia Child, a floribunda of butter yellow with licorice fragrance. Fashionably late arrivals were Marilyn Monroe, whose long buds opened to



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creamy apricot. Her blooms were full, large and long lasting. And no party would have been complete without Dolly. Her buds were coppery orange-red, and her blooms are very full, very large, and last forever. Finally, she invited Pope John Paul II, a hybrid tea with luminous pure white blossoms. Finally she could party!

The **Horticulture Therapy Chair, Maryann DeSanto**, reported Horticulture Therapy was introduced by the British scholar Linato Mecca in 1699, and has considerably evolved in recent decades. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dr. Benjamin Rush was the first to document the positive effect working in a garden had on individuals with mental illness, while the 40's and 50's showed it also benefited hospitalized war veterans. Horticulture Therapy has improved memory problems in patients with Alzheimer's disease, by helping them to focus and gain confidence. One type of Horticulture Therapy is flower arranging. This activity transcends the constraints of all ages, regardless of skill levels, abilities or age. Flower arranging helps socialization with a range of individuals that can be done sitting, standing, in a wheelchair or at the bedside. It improves motor function and promotes the mind-body connection. Cutting and arranging flowers gently engages the joints, and improves dexterity and muscle memory. Horticulture Therapy floral design visits can be most rewarding when helping residents with their designs becomes a personal visit at a facility. Working one on one with residents provides not only assistance with their design, but intimate conversation encourages them to share their own childhood memories of gardens and flowers. These thoughts bring back pleasant thoughts of their first exposure to horticulture, along with the people in their lives associated with those memories. Not only flowers, but the scent of fresh greens, can remind them of a glorious spring day, or the wonder of pine in winter's holiday season. Fresh floral and greenery have been known to boost mood and foster a sense of well-being. Floral arranging has proved to be a relaxing and therapeutic activity for all. Please consider adding a Horticulture Therapy program in your club. All who are involved will reap the rewards that come with sharing the love of horticulture with others.

The **Insurance Chair, Lorraine Dupre**, was absent and did not send a report.

The **Keystone Gardener (KG) Editor/Advertising, Karen Wychock**, reported that the next printed version of the KG will be the 2025 Convention issue. It is scheduled to be mailed in January 2025. Deadline for submissions is November 1, 2024. Karen reminded everyone to check the GCFP website for specific directions when submitting information to the printed version of the Keystone Gardener (KG). When on the GCFP website, click on the "More" tab on the right hand side of your screen. Look toward the bottom of the document list to find three documents related to the KG. Information on style and format can be found there to make her job so much easier if just a few steps are followed. The advertising rates are also posted in the same location. When submitting a document to the Keystone Gardener booklet, please put it in a WORD document. When sending submissions by e-mail to Karen Wychock, state in the Subject line: "Keystone Gardener Booklet submission." This helps with security issues, since Karen will not open an email if she does not recognize the e-mail address. Identify anyone who is in a photo (from left to right), and state the event, or activity, photographed.

The **Keystone Gardener (KG) Online Editor, Marilyn Small**, reported that the May KG newsletter was packed and thanked everyone who submitted committee reports, club and district reports, and to Sharon Richardson for her pollinator article, which was perfectly timed for pollinator week in June. Marilyn received a beautiful violet poem from a Norristown Garden Club member. Anyone having something to say is asked to put it in writing and send it to her. Her goal when taking over the KG Online was to make the newsletter cohesive with a good flow of articles and to include some

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information that is not necessarily submitted by others. President Ryba blessed her with artistic freedom. The next issue in July is coming fast with a deadline date of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn asked Board members to consider whether their committee report is sufficiently newsworthy for all members. If so, please send it to Marilyn Small by June 15<sup>th</sup> in a MS Word document. If any club or district has done or is doing something interesting and newsworthy, please send that information also. Pleasant Hills Garden Club wrote about their Trex recycling project for a free bench, and the Gettysburg Garden Club about their Blue Star Memorial Marker Commemoration. There is also the "Keystone Events" section for any major upcoming club or district events or flower shows that should be advertised. The next issue after July is November. She thanked Marilyn Backus, Jane Dodson, Angela McDonnell, Judy Warn, Karen Wychock and Dorthy Yard for their proofreading.

**Landscape Design Laurel Highlands Council (LDLHC) Co-Chairs, Sheila Croushore and Sue Konvolinka**, had no report.

**Leadership Workshop 2023 (Zoom) Chair, Kay John**, was absent and sent no report.

The **Liaison to PA Horticulture Society (PHS), Flossie Narducci**, and **Life Memberships, State/Regional/NGC Donations Chair, Jan Olsen**, were present and had no reports.

The **Membership Chair, JoAnne Fogelman**, reported the good news that Kennedy Garden Club in District IX has joined GCFP. She received 58 inquiries from NGC regarding people interested in information about joining a garden club in PA since October 2023. JoAnne sent these inquiries to the District Directors to be passed on to the nearest garden club. District XI had the most (14) inquiries. One person's inquiry was sent to both District II/III and District V since the person is in District II/III but closer to a club in District V and is noted as 0.5 (1/2) of an inquiry. Each district had the following number of inquiries: I (7), II/III (6.5), IV (5), V (5.5), VI (5), VII (3), VIII (4), IX (8), X (0), and XI (14).

The **Memory Book Chair, Rose Rombowski**, and **National/Regional Projects Chair, Eileen Hoover**, were absent and did not send reports.

The **Natural Disasters, USA Donations Chair, Kathy Crossman**, reported that donations of \$563 were received between October 10, 2023 to April 6, 2024 from GCFP Districts X and Littlestown Area, Shaler, Harrisburg Area, Spade and Trowel, Gettysburg and Hazelton Area Garden Clubs. Contributions from April 6, 2024 - June 10, 2024, in the amount of \$432, were received from Hanover, Bethlehem, Biglerville, Parkland and Town & Country Garden Clubs. All checks were forwarded to Vivian Hall, GCFP Treasurer. Natural disasters continue to affect all parts of our country and there is a constant need for our assistance in restoring gardens and parks. Last year, National Garden Clubs (NGC) was able to provide grants in total of \$7,723 and continues to receive new applications for aid following hurricanes, tornados, and floods. GCFP can take pride in knowing our continued generosity is helping to restore hope to our fellow gardeners! Kathy has emailed requests to all directors to encourage their clubs to consider a contribution to NATURAL DISASTERS, USA during the upcoming club year. The need for aid from this fund is ongoing. District Chairs and Club Presidents are asked to remind their treasurers that contributions to these funds must be made payable to GCFP with the notation "*Natural Disasters USA*" on the lower left memo line. She also encouraged all Club Treasurers to include their email address with their contributions so that she may send their receipt electronically.

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The **Nominating Committee Chair, Diane Hughes**, announced the nomination of the following members for the 2025-27 slate of GCFP Officers: President-Elect (Patricia Wolanski), First Vice President (Tonya Young), Second Vice President (Mary Hetrick), Treasurer (Vivian Hall), Financial Secretary (Sheila Croushore) and Recording Secretary (Deborah Davis).

The **Organizational Studies Chair, Sharon Richardson**, was present but had no report.

The **Pennsylvania Resources Council Chair, Mary Lou Colussy**, reported PA Resource Council was thrilled to receive the 2024 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for its glass recycling program! Last year, PRC's innovative program enabled 50,000 households to drop off 2 million pounds of glass bottles, jars and jugs for recycling that, alone, reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 166 tons. "We encourage everyone to recycle glass, since glass can be recycled endlessly," explains PRC Deputy Director, Sarah Alessio Shea. "A glass bottle can go from recycling bin to store shelf in just 30 days. At PRC, we work hard every day to prevent waste and conserve the environment," said PRC Executive Director, Darren Spielman. "We are proud of our glass recycling network, which keeps an endlessly reusable resource in use and out of the trash. It's one great example of our environmental impact in Pennsylvania." PRC's "From Bins to Bottles" glass recycling program features "pop-up" and permanent glass drop-off collection sites in communities with no access to glass recycling bins. The award announcement explained, "This program met a critical community need when these communities were faced with the loss of glass recycling in their curbside single-stream recycling programs. Last year, the project collected over 1,000 tons of glass to be recycled." According to PRC Glass Program Coordinator, Ethan Woodfill, "Glass is still one of the most recyclable materials we generate in our homes, and the market for glass recycling is very strong. When you take the time to use glass-only drop-off sites, nearly 100 percent of the glass collected is recycled into new bottles, jars and jugs." Awardees were evaluated for their degree of environmental protection, innovation, partnership, economic impact, consideration of climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice, as well as outcomes achieved. "This year's Environmental Excellence honorees showcase the innovative ways we can protect our environment and shape a more sustainable future here in Pennsylvania," said DEP Interim Acting Secretary, Jessica Shirley. "Together we will spur the next generation of environmental stewards and these projects represent our ability to work together and preserve Pennsylvania's natural resources." PRC gave a shout-out to program partners like CAP Glass, Owens-Illinois Glass, Michael Brothers Companies and the Borough of Dormont! Learn more at <https://ow.ly/eU3K50Rtqhh>

The **Penny Pines Donations Chair, Barb Andrus**, reported that the donations collected since October 10, 2023 to May 10, 2024 from thirteen garden clubs is \$1,034.00. Many donations were in memory of, or in honor of, one of their garden club members. She has worked diligently with GCFP Financial Advisor, Cynthia Layton, since December to renew the required SAM (System of Awards Management) number that is good until February 13, 2025, within the current GCFP Agreement with Allegheny National Forest (ANF). April Moore has reported this summer they will continue the maintenance and enhancement of six native plant-pollinator gardens across the ANF. Plantings of the native perennial species include the black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia goldsturm*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) and tickseed (*Coreopsis sp.*). Work in the gardens will be completed by the ANF staff and the Youth Conservation Corps – an intern-opportunity for high school students through the generous funding provided by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Since the last major forest fire, ANF personnel are assessing the area but there are no reforestation needs at this time.

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More information can be found on Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Garden Club Federation of PA. The Penny Pines donation form is online at [pagardenclubs.org](http://pagardenclubs.org) under FORMS.

**Personnel Chair, Betsy Smith**, did not report.

The **Pollinator Restoration Program Chair, Leslie Anthony**, did not attend the meeting but the Recording Secretary read her report. Leslie announced that National Pollinator Week is next week, June 17-23! National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what can be done to protect and thank them. Why not buy them flowers? GCFP is composed of ten districts representing 107 garden clubs. Think of the impact our 4,700 members could make during Pollinator Week if each bought one new flowering native plant for our backyard pollinators and one new plant for our community gardens. To learn more about pollinators and native plants, check the Center for Pollinator Research website that brims with information about our state pollinators and recommends plants and practices that will boost the pollinator value of property. See that it is as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4 to get a garden Pollinator Friendly. Our beautiful community gardens are situated in highly visible, public locations throughout our state that can serve to educate the public about pollinators and native plants, especially if they are certified. Then, she asked that certified gardens to be featured in the Keystone Gardener and district newsletters along with more articles about pollinators, plants and pollinator friendly gardening practices. She asked if other clubs like Shaler Garden Club have a pollinator or environmental advocacy committee? During Pollinator Week her club members are presenting a program, open to members and the public, about native plants and pollinators. They are also going on a field trip to a local garden center to hear about their native plants. The committee also wrote plant and pollinator articles for the club newsletter and helped fellow members work towards certification. At the state and district levels, she wants to see more recognition given to clubs and members who make a difference for the pollinators. Leslie remains honored to serve on GCFP Board with the Pollinator Restoration Program and continues to applaud the ingenuity and dynamics of this great organization.

The **President's Project – We're Keeping PA Beautiful Awards Chair, Barbara Campbell**, was present but did not report except to state that this program ceased on May 1, 2024 and awards will be presented at the September Annual district meetings.

The newly appointed **Program Resources Chair, Diane Quinn**, was present and had no update to her Keystone Gardener Online newsletter article. For those who did not see it, she announced the Program tab for a list of Club Program topics and speakers compiled from GCFP clubs is on the GCFP website and was password protected by the Webmaster. She thanked the District Directors for contacting their clubs for this information.

The **Protocol Chair, Haddie Weber**, stated it is an honor for her co-chair, Rebecca Lebeda, and herself to be Protocol Chairmen. As stated in the Protocol Handbook, their duty is to recognize that Officers and Chairman have special seating, introductions, and receiving lines. At this past convention, "Petal & Patchwork" on April 7-8-9, 2024 held at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton Hotel Lancaster, there were approximately 170 personal invitations given to these individuals at the registration desk. These invitations were prepared as requested by our GCFP President, Leeanna Ryba. This was a way to say "Thank you" to those who have served on her board. An invitation was prepared for each event for which the President requested special seating by coding the envelope with stars on the envelope: one star for Sunday Evening, two stars for Monday Luncheon, three stars for Monday evening. This helped the individual to know when there was an assigned seat. She was happy to report that all cooperated with this request. For the upcoming convention,

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Haddie sees the need to receive a complete list of the Flower Show Judges who need special seating for special recognition. There were special signs for judges seating. Rebecca and Haddie will be at the Registration Table to give your invitation(s) from the GCFP President. She thanked all for their cooperation.

The **Publicity Press Book Awards Chair, Becky Zaeger**, and **Sage and Roses Donations Chair, Vivian Abel**, were absent and sent no reports.

The **Scholarship Committee Chair, Sandra Hendricks**, reported she received sixteen applications for 2024 GCFP Scholarships. All were reviewed and 13 winners were chosen and 3 alternates were notified by letter. The winners were announced at the state convention in Lancaster and certificates were issued and given to their sponsoring garden clubs. Applications were received from the following Districts: 1 from Perkiomen Valley Garden Club (I); 1 from Biglerville Garden Club, 3 from The Garden Club of York and 2 from the Gettysburg Garden Club (IV); 1 from Mifflin County Garden Club and 1 from McEwensville Garden Club (V); 1 from Indiana Garden Club (VI); 2 from The Garden Club of Forest Hills (VII); 1 from Titusville Garden Club (VIII). Sandra shared some articles, cards, and calls of gratitude from several of the scholarship winners.

The **Scholarship Donations Chair, Linda Southerling**, was absent and sent no report.

The **Seed Money Committee Chair, Marjorie Sears**, was absent but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Marj has promoted plants from seeds because it is so cost effective when dealing with perennials. She realizes, however, sometimes the seed solution just doesn't work. For five years, Burpee has been her go-to supplier for seeds and sometimes they are just too busy with their own orders, so our timing is important. They gave the Board a Coupon Code but it was cheaper to buy Burpee Seeds from Amazon or in-person at Ocean State Job Lot stores. This year, despite their giving away 500,000 packs of seeds to PHS for their garden projects, Marj was able to obtain sponsorship bags for District XI's 2025 Convention, as well as seed packets for the 2024 Convention, seeds for Great Meadows Garden Club gardens, 400 packs of seeds for Parkland's House Tour in July and at least 1,000 packs of seeds for Four Lanes End Garden Club's participation in the Langhorne Memorial Day Parade. After June 13th, she will meet with Burpee to discuss GCFP's needs for 2025. She asked all to consider their needs for 2025 from Burpee and to notify her now since it is much easier to obtain seeds ahead of time, rather than next winter when Burpee is too busy filling orders. Marj's contact information can be found on the Seed Money Application for one more year. Please apply for extra cash with a Seed Money Application. The seeds from Burpee are a bonus.

The **Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair, Betty Grossheim**, was absent but Judy Schaffer read her report. Betty stated that during her first year of chairing the Pennsylvania Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest, she was excited to receive the entrants from garden clubs across the state, but was disappointed that her mailbox wasn't fuller. This year she hopes to receive more entrants, but one may ask why should every garden club in Pennsylvania sponsor the Smokey /Woodsy Owl Contest in their community. The reasons are:

- 1) It is beneficial that children from the first to fifth grades learn about the importance of preventing wildfires and removing litter from communities while receiving recognition from the local club. Her local club had a forest ranger and Smokey Bear visit the school to teach students important procedures to follow that were enjoyed by all and very educational.
- 2) By sponsoring this contest in schools, scout groups, families, libraries, and community groups, the local garden clubs received recognition and visibility, thus opening doors to new members.

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- 3) It gives students a chance to win at the state, regional and national level even after receiving recognition from their local garden club. Who doesn't like to win a contest?
- 4) It is a fun, but important activity for all concerned from sponsors, students and parents. With increasing fires and litter, all need reminded of our part in preserving our land.

Betty encouraged all clubs to participate in the 2025 contest. Information can be found on the National Garden Clubs or the National Forest Service websites. This includes the history, contest rules, teacher resources, forestry resources, contest timeline, and available free merchandise to use as prizes. The website is easy to use and very helpful. Look to the Summer Keystone Gardener for more details about procedures to follow. Late summer is the time to start planning with a student group to schedule a program and creative time to complete the posters. Betty can be reached via her email at [sophiesmom1991@yahoo.com](mailto:sophiesmom1991@yahoo.com) and she looks forward to helping others in any way possible.

The **Tours Chair, Sharon Richardson**, was present but sent no report.

The **2024 Tri-Refresher Chair, Delores Nolt** reported the 2024 Convention Tri-refresher started on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with a short bus ride to Lancaster County Central Park. There were 15 tri-refresher participants and six other people in the class. Lisa Sanchez presented an hour presentation on integrated pest management at the Environmental Center. Lisa led a walk on the Wildflower Trail where spring ephemerals and wildflowers were blooming. At Sunday dinner, Karl Gercens presented "Dessert Plants for Your Garden." He offered many plants of all sizes that bring color all year long, mixed with more mature green specimens to enhance gardens. Derek Stoner presented "Wildlife Gardening" and focused on plants that bring birds, butterflies, bees and pollinators to our gardens. Monday afternoon, Charles Cresson presented "Succeeding with Unusual Bulbs in Your Gardens." Charles covered the history and the importance of knowing the background of each bulb. Dr. Richard Olsen presented "An Arboreal Amble," which traveled the world looking at unusual trees and their value to the environment. Andrew Bunting gave the Monday luncheon presentation focused on the native plantings in the city of Philadelphia by Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, which purchased vacant lots and made unsightly areas into beautiful gardens.

The **GCFP Webmaster, Vina McLeod Rudolph**, was not present but her report was read by the Recording Secretary. Vina is in the process of updating the website to reflect current forms, and Chairmen. This chair requested all Board Members to review the forms and information related to their position. If updates are needed, please contact Vina via email, [gardenfairie@mac.com](mailto:gardenfairie@mac.com) and be very specific. She will update the master file, and the website. She received 4 District Annual Meeting Calls as of today and will make the registration forms fillable and post them to the Districts' page of the website. She has also posted flyers for Club Flower Shows, Plant Sales, and Garden Tours/Walks. The password for the protected files on the website remains the same as 2023. Based on a few conversations the Webmaster had with users, she has a great tip to share: Do not use the Caps Lock button for the first 3 characters of the password because it won't work. The Caps Lock button only works for the alphabetical keys. Use the Shift key for the alternative characters on the number keys to work. If there is a problem on the website, please send Vina an email with your phone number.

The **Youth Activities Co-Chairs, Chris Hawthorne and Barbara Oswald**, were not present but their report was read by the Recording Secretary. National Garden Clubs has not decided the new theme for the Youth Poetry Contest but suggested contacting them (or Chris and Barbara) in the middle of June for details. These Co-Chairs were happy that 9 garden clubs submitted entries this year. They emphasized the importance of typed, and legible, accurate student names, grades and

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sponsoring club names. They will discard any illegible entries. On a more unpleasant note, they were very upset with the quality of poems received this year. The poems were dark and terrifying. They could not finish reading some of them because they were so disturbing. The Co-Chairs respectfully requested that dark and inappropriate (i.e., no or wrongly titled, not theme-related) poems are discarded before sending them to the Youth Activities Committee for judging.

The **Zoom Educator, Sandra Benedict**, was absent and sent no report.

**NEW BUSINESS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The President also made the following announcements:

1. NGC Fall Board meeting will be held September 19, 2024 at NGC Headquarter in St. Louis, MO. It will be a hybrid meeting. Members may attend in person or via Zoom. The Path to Success will be dedicated at this time.
2. Clubs or individuals may purchase pavers for the Path to Success. There are three lines, 18 characters on each paver. More than one club may go together on a paver. The cost is \$250.00. PA clubs' pavers will be placed near the GCFP paver in the path. Deadline is Nov. 30, 2024.
3. CAR-SCG Conference will be hosted by New Jersey on October 22-23, at the Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ. Details will be coming on the CAR-SGC website.
4. Instead of meeting with Club Presidents before the Fall Annual District Meetings, there will be a Zoom President's meeting on August 22 at 7 pm.
5. THANK YOU to all who attended the GCFP Trip to England on May 13<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. A very special thank you goes to Sharon Richardson for arranging the trip through EF Tours.
6. Our password is the same as the previous year and is known by the Directors.
7. GCFP's Headquarters address is PO Box 2054 Lower Burrell, PA 15068-1454.

**Chaplain Margie Wolff** offered a closing blessing. President Ryba adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM and called for the Full Board to reconvene at the Wyndham Garden State College Hotel on Monday, October 7-8, 2024.

Marilyn C. Backus – GCFP Recording Secretary

Ref. Vivian Hall's Email was sent on June 5, 2024 and contained the GCFP Asset Summary as of 4/30/2024, GCFP Statement of Financial Activity 5.1.2023 - 4.30.2024, GCFP Annual Budget 2024-2025, GCFP Scholarships 2024 and an associated letter request to the Combined Finance/Investment Committee.