

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
Wyndham Garden State College Hotel in Boalsburg, PA.  
**June 8-9, 2026**

**GCFP President, Pat Wolanski**, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. **GCFP Chaplain, Margie Wolff**, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Tonya Young**. The roster was circulated on the first and second day of the meeting. **President Wolanski** declared that a quorum of at least 30 voting members were in attendance (Day 1: 68, Day 2: 63).

**President Wolanski** introduced the **former GCFP State Presidents** in attendance: Sharon Brown, Dot Yard, Angela Raitano, Joyce Milberg, Chris Leskosky, Sheila Croushore, and Leeanna Ryba.

## **REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS**

**President, Pat Wolanski**, reported since the convention in Erie, she attended the National Garden Club's Convention in St. Louis on May 4-6. National Garden Clubs continues to stress that its meetings and conventions are open to all members at any time. Several important topics were discussed at the convention, including the establishment of future committees and ways to recruit and maintain membership. Many of the topics mentioned at national closely align with the work we are focusing on as well. National conducted a survey which revealed that approximately 76% of its members are college educated and nearing retirement age. Much discussion centered on how organizations can better meet the needs and interests of those entering retirement while also attracting younger members, particularly those individuals in their 40's. There was also strong emphasis on developing teams to work with youth, as they are our future. One idea discussed was offering discounts for first-time convention attendees to encourage participation. It was also reported by the Second VP that six new clubs have recently been federated. There was considerable discussion about increasing awareness of local garden clubs, state organizations such as GCFP, and National Garden Clubs itself. Outreach remains essential. One suggestion was the creation of outreach committees specifically targeting non-affiliated garden clubs, as well as offering seed money to assist newly forming clubs. She also attended a meeting related to our schools' program, flower show, environmental, gardening and landscape design. National is establishing a new online portal that will maintain credentials of all of these schools at the national level. Members wishing to obtain information on their credentials through this portal will be asked to pay a \$15 annual fee. There was extensive discussion regarding this proposal, so it is unclear whether this has been finalized. Overall, much of the convention focused on leadership development, membership growth, outreach, and investing in youth programs – goals that align closely with the work GCFP is already striving to accomplish. She would like to thank all club presidents for submitted their reports. She has reviewed each one carefully, and conducted an informal survey, out of personal interest, to better understand where our clubs stand and where our needs may lie. From this overview, she found that club dues range from \$15 to \$100, with \$25 being the most common average. She also noted several trends across our clubs: approximately 16% engage in fundraising activities, while 100% reported efforts to attract new members – a very encouraging sign. In addition, 99% of clubs participate in planting within their community gardens. However, there are also areas that may warrant attention. About 55% of clubs do not publish a newsletter, and 72% are not active on social media. Only 39% have an awards chair. These findings suggest that there may be opportunities for growth in communication, visibility, and recognition. Based on this information, it may be beneficial for us to explore ways to support clubs in strengthening their communications – such as encouraging the development of newsletters and greater use of social media, or even assisting clubs in establishing a basic online presence where feasible (such as creating a website, even if basic to a one-page who we are, what we do, and contact information. Not every club needs a full website

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or paid platform. Rather, the goal is to lower the barrier so that clubs wishing to establish an online presence have an easier path to doing so. At the convention in Erie, we introduced roundtable discussions as a new format to encourage a more interactive exchange among district directors and presidents. Five key topics were explored: Succession planning and the development of future leaders; member retention and recruitment strategies; fundraising ideas; the creation of newsletters and effective communication tools; and the use of social media, and the awards program. The roundtables were very well received, and there appeared to be strong interest – particularly in the areas of newsletter development and social media. As previously noted, many clubs do not currently publish newsletters or maintain an active online presence. Member retention and recruitment and succession planning were also key themes throughout the discussions. All of the roundtables were well attended and highly interactive, and she hoped participants left with useful information and practical ideas to bring back to their clubs. We are now looking forward with much anticipation our State-wide Garden Tours. Many thanks to the organizers, and all who are participating to support this first-ever endeavor. Thank you all for all you do for the GCFP.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Tonya Young**, reported that her activities have been limited, first due to a fall in October, followed by shoulder surgery in March. It has been a very trying few months. She thanked everyone for the cards, calls, and wishes along the way. She is well on her way to a full recovery and truly appreciates your understanding and support throughout this process. She apologized for missing the October meeting and am very disappointed to have missed the Convention in Erie. She held out until the very end, but unfortunately, she was unable to sleep in a bed and remained confined to a reclining chair during that stage of my recovery. She has missed only one other convention during her time serving on the GCFP Board. It was the convention when Chris Leskosky was installed as president, and believe it or not, that absence was also due to shoulder surgery. Despite these challenges, she continued meeting with the District Directors and their assistants via Zoom. We have discussed a variety of topics, including ways to increase attendance at District Meetings and Conventions. Suggestions included increasing financial support from districts and clubs to encourage participation and improve affordability for upcoming officers. We also discussed flower shows and explored ideas to increase support and involvement among our members. Another important topic was working with disgruntled members to help keep our clubs strong and united. Technology support was a topic on which everyone agreed. Many districts and clubs need training, particularly because some commonly used programs will soon no longer be supported. This has become a priority. District Directors also shared ideas for encouraging greater support of GCFP projects and programs. Leadership training was identified as another significant need within our clubs. In addition to these efforts, she attended meetings regarding the 2027 Convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She presented design programs for two clubs, organized a Flower Show School Symposium to be held in August, and presented programs to two garden clubs. She also organized a design workshop at the Bloomsburg Fair, where many of our federated garden clubs participate. She had the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair of Botanical Arts for the Philadelphia Flower Show. In addition, she served as a proctor and member of the Master Panel for Flower Show School in Gettysburg. She also toured the hotel that will host the 2028 Convention. She is looking forward to meeting with the District Directors and continuing our work together.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mary Hetrick**, reported that it was this officer's pleasure to attend the 2026 GCFP Convention in Erie, PA. It was wonderful to welcome you all to her hometown. Thank you to Joyce Milberg and Bonita Herman and their entire committee for a very successful Convention. They certainly solved the Mystery on the Bay! This officer has also attended planning meetings

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for the upcoming 2027 Convention. She continues to attend Zoom meetings to assist The GCFP 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President' meetings with the District Directors. Other Zoom meetings have also been scheduled and hosted for the Design/Horticulture Webinar Chair, and the State Judges Council Chair. Arrangements for the meals for this Board Meeting have been completed. This officer has collected funds and will pass the checks to GCFP Treasurer today. She secured the same site for upcoming GCFP Board meeting on October 5-6, 2026. She has several invitations to Blue Star Memorial Marker dedications this summer. She is looking forward to the September tour of Pennsylvania 2026 with GCFP's President and First Vice-President.

**Recording Secretary, Deborah Davis**, reported that taken the minutes of the April 27-28, 2026 meetings which were approved and posted on the GCFP Website.

The **Treasurer, Vivian Hall**, reviewed details of Financial Statements received from **Financial Advisor, Cindy Layton**. The **GCFP Statement of Financial Activity May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026**, stated income from **Total Membership Dues** was \$48,140.50. Other Support, including the 2025 Convention Proceeds allocated \$21,374.25 to GCFP and \$7,124.75 to District XI, totaled \$28,499, with **Total Other Support of \$23,505.51**. **Total Interest** was \$554.64. **Total Income** was \$72,200.65. **Total Expenses** from Total General and Administrative, Chairman's Expenses, Keystone Gardener, Memberships, and Officer's Allowances were \$77,595.44, which resulted in a negative Variance of Income vs. Expenses of (\$5,394.79).

The **GCFP Asset Summary as of April 30, 2026** showed Total Checking and Savings equaled \$32,343.02. **Total Advances Receivable** pertinent to the 2025-2027 Conventions was \$4,100. **Petty Cash** was \$100. **Total Current Assets** were \$42,473.50. **Plant A Tree/Penny Pines including Investment Account** was \$22,292.03.

**Scholarship Funds/Natural Disaster Funds 2025** revealed total amount of 2025 scholarship awards was \$13,200 with total funds of \$9,311.00 with a shortfall of (\$3,889.00). Total funds transferred from Stifel Investments as of 7/31/25 was \$3,890.00. Funds remitted to NGC for Natural Disasters 2025 was \$3,056.

Treasurer, Vivian Hall, presented the proposed **GCFP Annual Budget for 2026-2027**. The Total Income and Total Expenses amounted to \$70,350.00. The Executive Committee then approved an amendment to budget increasing the stipend of the Corresponding Secretary by \$50 which then amended the Budget to \$70,400.00.

The **Financial Secretary, Sheila Croushore**, reported the GCFP Dues Account activity, Somerset Trust: She noted she has not heard from eleven clubs regarding dues.

|                              |               |             |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Beginning balance 05/01/2026 |               | \$100.00    |
| Deposits: Member dues        | \$28,870.00   |             |
| Affiliate dues               | \$0           |             |
| New Members 25-26            | \$95.00       |             |
| New Members 26-27            | \$480.00      |             |
| Total Receipts/Balance       | \$29,445.00   | \$29,545.00 |
| Disbursements                |               |             |
| Transfers to Treasurer       | (\$29,445.00) |             |
| Ending Balance 06/01/2026    |               | \$100.00    |

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**Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Narducci**, was present and had no report.

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS**

The Recording Secretary read each the following recommendations from the Executive Committee for Full Board approval. For each, President Wolanski explained the details and asked for a voice vote. The recommendations were:

**MOTION 1:** The Executive committee recommended that GCFP keep \$30,000 in a high-yield money market (FTYXX) and allocate \$7,000 into Vanguard Intermediate Treasuries (VGIT).  
**APPROVED**

**MOTION 2:** The Executive Committee recommended that the proposed GCFP Annual Budget for 2026-2027 be approved.  
**APPROVED**

**MOTION 3:** The Executive Committee recommended that the proposed GCFP Annual Budget for 2026-2027, as amended, be approved.  
**APPROVED**

**President, Pat Wolanski**, stated that the Awards Chair and the Awards Chair positions are unique within GCFP are required to attend the GCFP Convention and at any official event where awards are presented.

**MOTION 4:** The Executive Committee recommended a stipend of \$500 for the Awards Chair and \$350 for the Awards Vice-Chair to cover convention costs beginning in next year's budget.  
**APPROVED**

**President, Pat Wolanski**, investigated all the concerns expressed at the April Executive Committee meeting and has photos of the Remember Me Rose Garden. She has a letter explaining the purpose and mission of the Remember Me Rose Garden. She has budget information provided through Suzanne Oscilowski-Smith, Civic Development Chair, in collaboration with Mr. Cenk outlining projected needs and funding support for the project. The planting would be at the Welcome Center, still to be constructed, and would be in stages with Remember Me Rose Garden administration requesting reimbursement and providing proof for every stage before any GCFP money would be released which would be reviewed. President, Pat Wolanski, also stated that she would insist upon a sign giving GCFP recognition for their donations.

**MOTION 5:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP allocate up to \$10,000 to the Remember Me Rose Garden based on annual assessment. It was agreed that more information would be sent out. Subsequently, the Remember Me Rose Garden proposal was sent out with more information and it was passed by a majority vote via email.  
**APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE**

**President, Pat Wolanski**, stated there is \$22,292.03 money in the Penny Pines/Plant A Tree fund. She proposed using \$1,000 for the Flight 93 Reforestation Project using Penny Pines/Plant A Tree fund.

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**MOTION 6:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP donate \$1,000 to the Flight 93 Reforestation Project using money from the Penny Pines/Plant A Tree Fund.  
**APPROVED**

**MOTION 7:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP advance GCFP President Pat Wolanski \$1,800 for the printing of "Pennsylvania Public Gardens and Arboretums" book which will be sold at \$10 each and the money will be reimbursed back to GCFP.  
**APPROVED**

**MOTION 8:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP increase "Seeds for Service" money from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for the next funding cycle.  
**APPROVED**

**BYLAWS:** Dot Yard, Co-Chair of Organizational Studies, presented proposed bylaw amendments that need to be approved by the Executive Committee before being presented to the membership. **ARTICLE II** - New Title for SECTION 1. Renumbering of Objectives as SECTION 2. **ARTICLE II Mission and Objectives.** Section. 1 Mission Statement: The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania exists to promote gardening, civic beautification, floral and landscape design, and education for its members, while endeavoring to inspire, support and foster community involvement and stewardship of our natural resources. Section. 2 Objectives: The objectives and purposes of this nonprofit organization are as follows: (The remainder of this section is unchanged.)

**MOTION 9:** The Executive Committee recommended that the proposed amendments to the GCFP Bylaws be approved as presented.  
**APPROVED**

**President, Pat Wolanski,** presented a proposal that GCFP adopt a "GROW PA" which would be a permanent statewide initiative designed to support environmental responsibility, civic beautification, conservation, and educational gardening projects throughout Pennsylvania. It would provide opportunities to participate in meaningful projects, supported through a grant-based program, that improve local environments while increasing public awareness of GCFP and its mission.

**MOTION 10:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP adopt a "GROW PA" fund for Garden Clubs to apply through a grant application.  
**TABLED BY FULL BOARD**

**President, Pat Wolanski,** noted that Perkiomen Valley School District contacted her for assistance in planning and selecting plants for a proposed sensory garden. The school district was not requesting financial support; however, this experience led President Wolanski to recognize that other schools throughout Pennsylvania may benefit from the Federation with an Educational Enrichment Fund. Such a fund could provide grants to assist schools with projects focused on gardening, conservation, environmental stewardship, and outdoor learning. Grant amounts would be determined annually based on available funding and approved budget allocations with starting range of mini grants of \$250-\$500 and larger impact grants of up to \$1,000.

**MOTION 11:** The Executive Committee recommended that GCFP establish an Educational Enhancement Program which is a grant-based program to help local schools in any area of Pennsylvania.  
**TABLED BY FULL BOARD**

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## **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

**District I Director, Pam Walsh**, reported District I clubs continue to be busy with field trips to many of the public and private gardens that we, in the Philadelphia suburbs, are blessed to have so close to us. Chanticleer, Jenkins Arboreum, Longwood Gardens, Stoneleigh and Mt. Cuba are just a few that our clubs have visited or plan to visit during the early summer months. It is also the time of the year for luncheons, installations of new officers and several successful spring plant sales. Several clubs have planted their Blue Star Markers with red, white and blue flowers in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of our country and at least one club is planning a special event over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend to rededicate the marker. This year five of our eleven clubs are extremely busy preparing for the Garden Party. On June 20<sup>th</sup> the Springfield Garden Club and the combined clubs of Villanova and The Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd are hosting their tours, and on June 27<sup>th</sup> Uwchlan Garden Club and Spade and Trowel Garden Club are hosting theirs. We are all hoping for good weather and really excited to invite the public to join our parties! Our District I Annual Presidents' luncheon was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lanchester Landfill and Reclamation Center. Our eleven club presidents were honored, and individuals and clubs were presented with the awards that we given out at this year's state convention. After our luncheon, the presentation began with recycling information followed by questions and answers. A power point that showed all aspects of the 635-acre property was presented followed by a bus trip. We saw weighing stations that measure the weight of the vehicle when entering and then again when exiting determining the cost of the dumping, an area where yard waste is being turned into compost, bins for plastics, metals, and other recyclables, pipes that capture methane gases, and no there were not acres filled with trash. There was only one small area where the current trash was being dropped off and reduced using some incredible machines. They also open the area on weekends for the community to enjoy a small playground with a 35-foot slide, disc golf, and a nature trail. Their mission is to manage all discarded materials in the Lanchester Service area with minimum environmental impact and with an overall long-term goal of zero waste. It was a truly interesting and educational day and we were all impressed with the presentations and enjoyed the company of people from all the clubs in District I. District I has FUN!!

**District II/III Director, Claire Kukielka**, reported Ray Bradbury once said, "Don't tell me what you believe in. Show me what you do, and I will believe in you. District II/III is involved in so many fun-filled community projects that I will just list a few: We garden in a big way. Whether we are tending to Rose Gardens, public gardens, butterfly gardens, vegetable gardens we are feeding our communities either with food or the intoxicating fragrance of beauty. The Reading Garden Club just beautified the grounds of the Reading Public Museum just in time to host a bus tour of over 400 visitors from the Heartland Herb Society. We are mobile. Whether we are hosting our own pop up garden tours for members and the community or hosting large scale garden tours for the community. Who wouldn't want to attend a Star-Spangled Garden Tour? We also take road trips and bus tours to events such as the Philadelphia Flower Show or a bus trip to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden or even just drive to a local butterfly garden or Warwick Furnace Lavender farm. We are compassionate and encompass programs for people of all ages. Our youth garden clubs include stories and crafts and scouting events where we learn about Mother Nature and the importance of recycling. We read books with our youth including stories on how a seed grows into a plant. We also visit nursing homes providing programs making flower arrangements, planting flowers to beautify the grounds, and serving scrumptious snacks. Several of our recent Memorial programs included making individual planters out of tin cans and filling them with begonias. We also visit the Morning Star Memory Café four times a year and provide hands on

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crafts where not only the infirmed but the caregiver are included. We host tournaments and flower shows where we encourage flower design and horticultural exhibits. We also hold flower shows that draw crowds throughout the community. We are looking forward to two flower shows shortly. What a great cultural event- a Midsummer Night's Garden. We are looking forward to all the chaos and ultimate harmony that Shakespeare can conjure in this lighthearted show. We love to celebrate. Whether we are hosting Mad Hatter parties, April teas, or picnics you can guarantee there will be plenty of food and laughter. And of course, we will hold our little pinkies up in just the right way. We are party animals and have several clubs planning for upcoming up 90 and 100th birthday celebrations in the next year. We love to learn. We just held an education on sustainable ground covers by a Mt. Cuba professor. We listened to a class on Mycology: learning about mushrooms and mycology. We had a global birder and native plant enthusiast. We've had some great designers such as Chuck Cannon and our own Chris Leskosky. In June we heard from Rose Ebersole on Succulent Savvy and Design With 9. We had fun getting our hands dirty and it is gratifying for folks who don't think they can design to create a beautiful arrangement with minimal materials or expertise. We are entrepreneurial. Many of our clubs hold plant sales and swaps where we raise and sell plants and instruct our community on their care. We also feature crafts which are ever so popular. We are civic minded. BGC just planted a native redbud at City Hall for Arbor Day. Parkland Garden Club prepared 700 trees for distribution to local first graders. This included an educational program and a separate visit to the Lehigh Valley Zoo where our Arbor Day programs have provided 450 trees and shrubs to beautify the zoo. In conclusion, District II/III's great work shines as a beacon of light and contributes to the well being of our members and communities.

**District IV Director, Carla Kelly,** was absent but Assistant District IV Director, Melanie Markowski, recognized Joanne Baylis for heading up the 2027 GCFP State Convention and collecting great volunteers to help. She also thanked her for coordinating Flower Show School Course III which will occur October 26-28in Gettysburg. During the April Board meeting, District IV passed its 2026-2027 budget. During the budget meeting, they reviewed proposals to bring a professional marketing firm into Leadership workshops to help grow membership of our clubs and develop better marketing strategies. District IV received 19 awards at the 2026 GCFP Convention, including the prestigious Governor's Trophy Award and a Plant America Award to refurbish a club's native plant garden around their Blue Star Marker. District IV also dedicated another Blue Star Marker. For gardening with children, Garden Club of York is hosting a fun event in June for children of members of District IV. The event will help children prepare for entries at Horticultural Hall at the York State Fair. Many clubs have gone on field trips to local nurseries. Buying is only limited by the size of the vehicle to return home in with the plants. Various clubs are supporting red, white and blue theme of our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by planting appropriate-colored plants in their various club gardens. Multiple clubs in District IV believe in sharing their gardening knowledge with the public through horticulture therapy programs for seniors and youth and through gardening/nature talks for the public at local libraries. Club activities included brown bag bouquets, Rose luncheon, pounding flowers to preserve them; and programs on historical journal on American gardens, the charisma of hummingbirds, plus many others. Field trips included a bus trip to Mt. Cuba and car trips to Lavender Thyme Faire, plus others. Remember! We adore District IV!

**District V Director, Joyce Wenner,** was absent, but Assistant District V Director Joanne Fogelman, reported after a long cold winter and a very wet spring, the clubs of District V are able to complete their projects of Civic Beautification in their local communities, whether it be planting new gardens, hanging flower baskets in their downtown areas or helping with restoring older

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gardens. The clubs are also having plant and bulb sales and at the same time bring in new members to their clubs. The Duboistown and McEwensville Garden Clubs are coming together to have a small standard Flower Show this summer. The theme is "Let Freedom Ring". At the convention this year the clubs of District V received some awards: Newsletter award 3-12 pages for a medium club 1st place went to Standing Stone Garden Club. The Yearbook award for 20-44 members: Second place went to Standing Stone Garden Club. Scholarship awards were given to Katherine Laura Butzler sponsored by McEwensville Garden Club. Another scholarship went to Chloe Jayne Baughman sponsored by the Mifflin County Garden Club. An award went to Duboistown Garden Club for being a GCFP federated club of more than 50 years. A big congratulation to all the winners. The Annual Meeting for District V is being held this year in Troy and is being hosted by the Heritage Garden Club. This is the year we change officers in District V. The installation of new officers will take place at the Annual Meeting on September 2, 2026.

**District VI Director, Mary Lou Colussy**, reported that after surviving the winds across Lake Erie at the GCFP Convention, she buckled down to join some of the clubs in District VI this past month and outline activities in the remaining clubs. Some of the most outstanding activities include: **Blair GC**: hosting the Annual District Meeting on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> in Martinsburg with speaker Kate Claar. **Bedford County GC**: planning a Flower show on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the theme, "Red, White and Bloom" is a toast to America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday! **Evergreen GC**: Sad news for this club. They will no longer be sponsoring Tinsel time in December due to dwindling number of members, although they will remain diligent in their community efforts of fellowship and outreach. **GC of Johnstown**: Dedicated a Gold Star Memorial Marker on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 1:00 P.M at the Cambria County War Memorial. Will continue with their bi-annual Flower shows. This year will take place on July 24-25<sup>th</sup> entitled "America: From Sea to Shining Sea". **Indiana GC**: held their annual May Mart this year on May 16<sup>th</sup>, have a Greenhouse Crawl on May 30<sup>th</sup> with five greenhouses on the agenda and introduced a Bloom Buddy Program. Bloom Buddies are secret garden club members who exchange kindness throughout the year by sending birthday cards and small gifts to one another. **Patton GC**: planning a Flower show on July 20<sup>th</sup> entitled "Three Ring Circus". Also, their annual Plant Sale was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds go to the PGC scholarship fund. **Somerset GC**: will continue the planting and upkeep of the uptown beautification projects. **Weeders & Seeders of Ligonier**: maintain many community outreach projects throughout their area, including a program on terrariums for the seniors at Ligonier Gardens. In addition to all the activities, Marcy Cunkelman, past District Director, from Evergreen GC installed our newest member of the District Board—Andrea Falchek, from Somerset GC, who will be the new Assistant Director due to the resignation of Wilma Light, from Weeders and Seeders GC. In conclusion she wants to keep the lines of communication open between our district clubs. She believes District VI is the best because we work together and are available to all members when needed.

**District VII Director, Marilyn Backus**, reported District VII is located in eastern Allegheny and western Westmoreland Counties and currently has 274 members in 11 clubs. Since April 2025, the District VII Board's goal has been to increase membership by enlivening, and increasing, interest and options to participate in club activities. At the Erie Convention, 6 out of 11 of my presidents attended, and were very much impressed. Since then, District VII, as well as Districts VI, IX and X, were invited to participate in the Pittsburgh Area and Laurel Highlands Judges Councils' joint patriotic flower show on Friday, July 17, in the East Ballroom of *The Lamplighter Restaurant* in the Delmont-Murrysville area. The members will soon be contacted again, via Constant Contact, to view the flower show schedule and to consider entering their horticulture for judging before 9:30 AM. They will also be asked to consider registering for 11780 lunch buffet from noon to 1:30ish, which includes a live frontier court reenactment presented by Westmoreland

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County's Hanna's Town reenactors. Whether they attend the buffet or not, they are definitely invited into the adjacent room to view the free flower show staged with more reenactors from Murrysville and Elizabeth Township Historical Societies from noon to 3 PM. In the four district areas, we ask club presidents to schedule horticulture preparation tutorials from their local judges and exhibitors on topics such as cut specimens, arboreals, container grown plants, terrariums, collections, and/or floral designs, such as low profile, reflective, creative, angular, informal functional table settings and petite designs, so that any members visiting this and other area flower shows may better appreciate what they see. Burrellton and Pucketos Garden Clubs are finalizing their plans with six garden owners for their first ever garden tour for the PA Garden Party on Saturday, June 27. Burrellton, Forest Hills, Joyful Bloomers, Murrysville, and Verona garden clubs held successful plant sales. Burrellton has been working with Lower Burrell officials, Burrell School District, and Burrell high school students and scouts to take down and move the Blue Star marker and limestone monument to a new site due to the sale of the school where they had placed it. Joyful Bloomers planted a red, white and blue garden at the entrance to Kane Community (Assisted) Living Center and rededicated its Blue Star Memorial in McKeesport War Memorial Park. Monroeville planted red, white and blue at the Pitcairn War Memorial and its Park Building while Verona worked with a landscaper to refurbish its "Spirit of the American Doughboy" WWI Memorial, one of the few in the State, all just in time for Memorial Day. Murrysville named the winners of their Hummingbird Scholarship and Murrysville Garden Club Scholarship. Pucketos donated two concrete planters to the church where they meet, in memory of a former member who was 102 year old! With all humility, she says District VII is the next best thing to heaven!

**District VIII Director, Bonita Herman,** reported she needed to talk a bit about our convention. This was the first and only time she will be involved as a co-chair. My eyes were truly opened in all that must occur to put on an event like this. Thank goodness for Joyce and she prayed each night that nothing would happen to her! She was somewhat disappointed with the attendance of clubs and club members in the Erie area. But those that did, WOW! They really tipped the scale to the positive side. Because we had members and clubs that stepped up, including their husbands and friends, we got it done. And well done! She did not want to mention each person and their tasks, because she knows she will forget someone and that would not be fair. But they saw where the help was needed and pitched in, without complaints. These wonderful people and you know who you are; made Joyce's and my job easier so we could focus on our daily issues. And there were some for sure. Wildflower Garden Club of Leeper will be the hosting club for our state tour June 27<sup>th</sup>; Gospel Hill and Lawrence Park Garden Clubs will be celebrating 70 years as garden clubs; August 5<sup>th</sup>, Heather and Waterford Garden Clubs together will have picnic at Waldamere and tour the gardens there; Erie Judges Council will be having a flower show in July. Now it is time to get back into the swing of things and get my duties and goals completed before my term ends. And it is coming up quickly. As you know, this is my second time as District Director and even being the co-chair of the convention, she enjoyed, learned, appreciate and love all that the clubs are doing for their communities and for District VIII. Because..... DISTRICT VIII IS GREAT!!!!

**District IX Director, Stacey Ivoll,** reported that it has been just 39 days since Convention, so she is happy to report that not much has changed—and in our gardening world, sometimes no weeds are good weeds! The good news is that District IX remains strong, with nine clubs and more than 400 members. The less-good news, and one she suspects many districts share, is that finding members willing to step into leadership positions continues to be a challenge. Apparently, everyone loves to pick the flowers but fewer are eager to volunteer to organize and plant the garden. Thanks to the dedication of Karen Faust, District IX continues to make the Blue Star

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Markers program one of our top priorities. Without Karen, she was not sure where this program would be. The Southern Butler Garden Club will host the Annual District Meeting on August 27. Fortunately for me, Rose Romboski and Karen Faust have everything well in hand. Thank goodness my primary responsibility appears to be staying out of the way and showing up. In August, she will pass the leadership of District IX into the very capable hands of Assistant District Director Joanne Laverty. She knows she will do an outstanding job. Our clubs are looking forward to a year of growth and continued success. As for me, she looks forward to enjoying the view from the sidelines—while resisting the urge to say “YES”! District IX is superfine!

**District X Director, Martha Alexander,** reported: “My Director report I will give one last time and will speak it again in the style of rhyme. The tradition once started I must uphold, it’s a tale that simply must be told. And she proclaims about our dear District 10, we do marvelous things again and again. May and June in the garden are so very busy, and keep us all in quite a tizzy. We brought out our rakes, clippers, and hoes and to look at our gardens it really shows. Prepping for Garden Party tours is enormous work, sprucing up yards and ponds can make us berserk. Some gardens look regal in red, white, and blue. They can hardly await their garden party debut. Our garden work makes us oh so tired, but we perk up when they are so admired. Our Sprouts and Seedlings garden will be on the tour, with our community veggies, pollinator flowers and more. Our programs have been especially good. We plan them carefully as you know we should. A Day in the Life of a Game Warden” we learned as we sat, we discussed managing wildlife and their habitat. Spring ephemerals were all the talk, that led to bluebells, trillium, & hepatica on our walk. Learning about Asian jumping worms, raised the hair on our necks and gave us the squirms. his invasive species is spreading so quickly but we learned how to keep them out of Sewickley. Wildlife Works is a fine organization, dedicated to rescue and rehabilitation. They brought Artemis, a handsome barred owl, and Drux a box turtle with a bit of a scowl. Each showed us their very own special style, and taught us such creatures are meant to be wild. An inspiring talk taught us plant propagation; grafting, buds, layering, and conjugation. Our workshops we have for making design, should help our 3 flowers shows be sublime. The seeds we collect, nurture and stow become greening sprouts we water and grow. These tiny young seedlings grow hearty and tall, become beautiful plants sold to all. To fund our projects many must be sold, for altruistic work with young and with old. On grants and awards we’ve had a sag, but we’re moving forward and she must brag. With our awards and grants we will provide, the attention needed for our gardens to thrive. Money from Espoma and Plant America grants, provide so much to help our plants. The achievement award for our work with young sprouts, shows what we are really all about. Our District awards for yearbook and newsletter demonstrate how we keep getting better. The FS schedule and book of evidence won, were for a good show and a whole lot of fun. Our FS “Road Trip” went all the way, won a National Achievement Award, so they say. So Many Scholarships selected and given, to those who worked hard and have striven. Some data she uses to summarize, she’s sure will cause you to a look of surprise. We have raised our numbers out of the blue, our members are now 352. Of Blue Stars we had two and added one more, we’re saving again so now we’ll have four. Our sprouts and seedlings have burst right out, we’re gaining in number, so let’s give a shout. District fundraiser numbers are on the rise, as the fun increases we are up in size. We’ll have more entrants in our flower shows; we’re opening one up so anything goes. For new Garden tours we work so hard, we’re hoping that you will enjoy our yards. And she proclaims about our dear District 10, we do marvelous things again and again.

**District XI Director, Flossie Narducci,** reported that in reviewing the reports submitted by District XI Garden Clubs, several themes are apparent. Fund raising ideas include Plant Sales. Tohickon Garden Club offers practical advice on selecting seeds. Trevoise Horticultural Society

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not only starts plants from seed for their annual Plant Sale but also divides indoor house plants and perennials. Outdoor Gardeners create 50 gift baskets with goodies to sell at the Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival. Gardeners of the Crooked Billet not only sell plants but also crafts created at one of their meetings. Also popular are club excursions. Countryside Gardeners visited the Pearl Buck House and Garden. Trevoise Horticultural Society took members to Winterthur. Members from Tohickon Garden Club and Old York Road Garden Club visited renowned "Jenny Rose Carey's garden" where inspiration for gardeners of all levels of experience can be found. Jenny Rose Carey, gardener, educator, historian and author, was also invited as a speaker by the Trevoise Horticultural Society to discuss her book on "The Essential Guide for Bulbs". Other special topics included Jim Walker's "Deer Resistant Native Plants" at Countryside Gardeners. Paul Wesolowski, President of the Cactus and Succulent Society presented "Cactus 101" for the Swedesford Garden Club. Tohickon Garden Club invited David Winston to present an engaging program, "The Worst Weeds are Your Best Medicine" explaining common weeds and their historical and modern uses in herbal medicine. Tom Mazrik shared his love of peonies with the Outdoor Gardeners. With new members come new ideas. Gardeners of the Crooked Billet now have a "Show and Tell" at their meetings. They also created a new position in their Club - an Arbor Day Chair. The first tree planted was a redbud and a plaque acknowledging this donation by the club was installed by the Borough. Norristown Garden Club hosts a plant exchange and covered dish luncheon each Spring where members can share a plant from their gardens. "Bring one, take one - Bring two, take two". Norristown Garden Club has also worked with youth to fill above ground plots at Eisenhower Middle School. Old York Road Garden Club planted seedlings and bean seeds with the Kids Garden Group at Christ's Lutheran Church. For an Earth Day project, Four Lanes End Club had youngsters from Our Lady of Grace School make pinecone bird feeders. District XI is looking forward to participating in President Wolanski's Garden Party with Countryside Gardeners, Old York Road Garden Club and Norristown Garden Club.

**President Wolanski** recessed the meeting at 4:30 PM. She asked attendees to reconvene on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM. Social time was 5:30-6 PM and a dinner buffet began at 6 PM. District Directors and their Assistants met with the 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Tonya Young, at 8 AM on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, June 9, 2026, **Nominating Committee Chair, Joyce Milberg**, reported the delegates to the Nominating Committee for the 2025-2026 GCFP Administration from all ten GCFP Districts have assembled a slate which we believe will admirably and harmoniously serve the members of GCFP for the next two years. Each candidate has been vetted, is qualified for the position, is aware of and has graciously accepted our nomination to serve. Therefore, we unanimously MOVE for the acceptance of the following slate of Officers for the 2027-2029 GCFP Administration: President - Tonya Young, District IV; First Vice President - Mary Hetrick, District VIII; Second Vice President - Karen Wychock, District XI; Recording Secretary - Marilyn Backus, District VII; Treasurer - Sheri Lowry, District VI; Financial Secretary - Joanne Baylis, District IV. She thanked the GCFP President and stated that it has been my pleasure to serve as Nominating Committee chair. **A vote was taken and the following were elected unanimously: President - Tonya Young, District IV; First Vice President - Mary Hetrick, District VIII; Second Vice President - Karen Wychock, District XI; Recording Secretary - Marilyn Backus, District VII; Treasurer - Sheri Lowry, District VI; Financial Secretary - Joanne Baylis, District IV.**

**REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES** continued in alphabetical order following the listing in the 2025-2027 Directory Issue. The meeting opened at 9 AM on Tuesday. **NOTE: THESE**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED SEPARATELY ON THE GCFP WEBSITE UNDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION, THEN UNDER BOD MEETING MINUTES.**

**AWARDS**

The President distributed awards from NGC Convention to District I and XI and a Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl Award to District IX: She distributed a Certificate of Appreciation to Standing Stone Garden Club of District V, to Shaler Garden Club of District IX, to Emmaus Garden Club and Parkland Garden Club of District II/III; and a NGC Certificate of Commendation to GCFP for Distinguished Work.

The next GCFP Board meeting will be held on **October 5-6, 2026** at this hotel. She thanked everyone for a wonderful Board meeting.

President Wolanski adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Deborah Davis – GCFP Recording Secretary

Ref. Vivian Hall issued the Financial Statements and 2026-2027 GCFP Budget on May 30, 2026. Sheila Croushore provided the Financial Secretary's Reports on May 31, 2026.