

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP)**  
**Agenda and Minutes for the District VII Board Meeting, January 27, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Leeanna Ryba @ 10:06 a.m.

**The following handouts were issued:**

Meeting Agenda  
Chautauqua Bird Tree & Garden Club handout

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Chaplain Betty Monyok read the invocation - followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Welcome:** Leeanna Ryba gave a welcome and thanked all for their attendance.

**Minutes:** District Director Assistant Marilyn Backus had issued the October Minutes by email to all Board Members. No edits were sent or raised at this meeting. The Minutes were approved as written. Marilyn was thanked for recording the October minutes in Joyce Kareem's absence.

**Correspondence:** Valerie Wilson read a thank you note in regards to the District VII donation of \$100.00 to the GCFP Helene Detwiler Scholarship Fund. Leanna announced that the scholarship is still not fully funded. She encouraged club presidents to have their memberships consider donating.

**Treasurer's Report:** Haddie Weber read the current financial report. The report was approved as read and will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

**(NOTE: Each Club is asked to submit a short written report of their club's recent or upcoming activities to the Director and/or Secretary prior to or after the meeting.)**

Please view the Trumpet Vine's latest issue for each club's past and upcoming club events @ [http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet\\_vine\\_gcfp\\_district\\_vii](http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet_vine_gcfp_district_vii)

Notify Jackie Stempfer @ [jstempfer@comcast.net](mailto:jstempfer@comcast.net) if there are problems receiving or opening the link.

**Burrellton GC** –CoPresident Irene Karrs reported on:

- ✓ 9 programs planned for the year - including composting with worms, painting flower pots, squirrels in the garden, adult stress painting and garden tools
- ✓ Irene encouraged all to utilize the skills of their own club members - as 4 members are presenting programs for Burrellton

**GC of Forest Hills** –In Kathy Bauer's absence, First Vice President Amy Shugerman Glasser read the report - announcing these club activities:

- ✓ ended 2015 with a lively holiday party
- ✓ donated \$1668 to 16 worthy organizations
- ✓ participated in Juniper Village's Tree Decorating Contest
- ✓ organized a January winter luncheon for members
- ✓ planning the club's annual plant auction, plant sale and programs

**GC of McKeesport** – Jane Miller reported:

- ✓ the club's 4 Teas during 2016: 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8
- ✓ Aprils' workshop: Pruning in the Rose Garden
- ✓ May 14: Fleatique at the Clubhouse, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ✓ June 11: Rose Day in Renzie Park, 1 - 4 p.m.

**GC of Monroeville** – In President Shirley Brody's absence, Vice President Marilyn Backus announced these events:

- ✓ February: planning for the year - theme, yearbook, programs, as well as celebrating 101 years old member Val Marak's birthday
- ✓ Co-planning programs with the Monroeville public library
- ✓ celebrating total of 8 members

**Gardens Limited of Pittsburgh:** Lois Lebovitz - absent; no report

**Greensburg Garden Center:** Carla Rusnica. - absent; no report

**Highland Park Garden Club** - Elisabeth (Betty) Larman reported:

- ✓ club is seeking a new meeting site
- ✓ January: Zen Gardening by Elisabeth Larman
- ✓ February: Permaculture by Juliette Jones Olshoc
- ✓ March: Pruning and Cuttings by Brian Larman and Rachel Kudrick
- ✓ April: Better Fertilizers by Horticulturalist Rachel Kudrick; Chicks in the Hood by Christine Cato
- ✓ May - Pest Control by Horticulturalist Rachel Kudrick; Weeds and Invasives

**Home Gardeners' Guild** –Nancy Price reported these club events:

- ✓ Theme for the year: "Sprouting with Success"; goal: showing concern for members
- ✓ preparing for planting at the St. Angelos Manor
- ✓ field trip to Phipps
- ✓ providing food to those in need
- ✓ lost 3 members but gained 3 new ones
- ✓ October: annual fashion show @Youghioghney Country Club

**Joyful Bloomers** –In Ann Stromberg's absence, Lana Kling reported:

- ✓ February: Bee in my Heart - preparing valentines for Kane residents
- ✓ March: Bee Dazzled - preparing club's entry for the Trash to Treasure competition
- ✓ April: Bee Zany - "Bee Foolish Fashion Show" @Kane

**Landscape Design Society of Western PA:** Angela Raitano - present but no report

**Murrysville GC** – In Barbara Cseh's absence, Vice President Par Morrison announced the following:

- ✓ December: Installation of Officers
- ✓ March: covered dish luncheon
- ✓ May 5-7: Plant Sale
- ✓ Ongoing plans for revising By-Laws, programs and garden tour

**Pucketos GC** – Millie Pipman sent her report to Leeanna but report was not located in time. It will be included in the next Board meeting's minutes.

**Rockledge Garden Club** - Dana Overmyer: absent; no report

**Seed and Weed Garden Club** - Carol Cinna / Connie McMaster: absent; no report

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Awards** - Margie Wolff distributed information about the Laurel, Daffodil and the Golden Bloom Perennial Bloom awards.

**Birds** - Carol Kennedy: absent; no report

**Conservation** – Open

**Garden Therapy** - Open

**GCFP Flower Show Schedules** – Angie Raitano announced clubs having Flower Shows: Valley Garden Club, Greensburg Garden Center, Ingomar, Giant Oaks and the Judges Council.

**Historian** - Ann Stromberg: absent; no report

**Horticulture** - Barbara Lotito reminded members that it's not time yet to fertilize houseplants.

**Judges Council** – A July 14th Flower Show is being planned.

**Membership** - Lana Kling - no report

**National Bee Project** – Iris Cisarik encouraged all to plant pollinators. The spring 2015 issue of the *National Gardener* lists 15 native plants and trees that support native bees. Look for an article about bees- written by Iris - in the spring edition of the *Keystone Gardener*. Check the Federation's website for speakers and additional resources.

**Natural Disasters** - Jane Miller - no report. Leeanna encouraged all to contribute to this fund - starting at monthly meetings.

**Program** –Joyce Peterson reported that the annual Membership Tea is set for March 29 @ Sampson Mills Presbyterian Church Hall. Jayme Visnesky from the Penn Hills Law and Garden Center will be the featured speaker: "New Plants for the Season".

**GCFP Scholarship** – Marilyn Backus reported for Shirley Broady. Phillip S. Mahr, last year's Doreen Dew-Kaufman Scholarship winner from District VII applied for the GCFP scholarship for 2016. Phillip is sponsored by the Monroeville Garden Club.

Angie reminded the Board about the CAR - National Garden Club Scholarships for college students @ <http://ngccar.org/ngcscholarships.html>

**Tours** – Judy Schaffer reported that the Chautauqua Bird Tree and Garden Club sponsors various activities. Their House & Garden Tour is every 2 years. The next one is Tuesday, 7/12/2016, 12-5 p.m. Information was distributed.

**Trumpet Vine** - Jackie Stempfer announced that the March publication would be a one-month edition. She asked that clubs email their yearbooks to her as soon as possible. This will enable Jackie to extract information as needed for publishing.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Leeanna reminded the Board of the goal that every District VII club have a pollinator garden in 2016. She expects all clubs to fulfill this goal.

Check the *National Gardener* magazine for free milkweed plants for non-profits - deadline approaching!

The District VII annual Membership Tea, March 29, 2016 at Sampson Mills Presbyterian Church, White Oak, PA is confirmed.

- Each District VII Board Member is asked to provide 4 dozen sandwiches or cookies. A sign-up sheet was distributed.
- After discussion arose about the various dietary preferences members have, Haddie recommended that the order form reflect preference choices.
- The Garden Club of Monroeville, Highland Park Garden Club, and the Landscape Design Society are each asked to donate themed raffle baskets with a value of \$40.00 - \$50.00. Please let Marilyn Backus know the theme your club has selected to avoid repetition.
- Each club is encouraged to bring their Trash to Treasure entry to the Tea. The winning entry will be entered in the State Convention competition. Rules are on p.6 of the *Keystone Gardener*.
- Iris will handle the 50/50 raffle.
- Anna Zamule will handle the jewelry sale; no additional jewelry is needed.
- The centerpieces will be related to Jayme's talk. Nancy Price will man kitchen.
- There will be at least three exhibits: Bees (Iris), Straw Bale Gardening (Judy) and Frogs (Marilyn).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

District VII Annual Meeting date is Thursday, September 15, 2016. The Board agreed to return to the Hill Crest Country Club. Leeanna will move forward with the plans.

Leeanna displayed the new CAR life member pin. The cost is \$9, including shipping

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LEEANNA**

GCFP 2016 Convention will be held at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA April 10-12. Details are in the 2015-16 winter edition of the *Keystone Gardener*.

Gardening Studies School, Course IV, will be offered April 26-27 at the Bedford, PA Travelodge.

Environmental Studies School will be held at King's Gap State Park. Class Two will be offered in April or May, 2016.

Our next District VII Board Meeting will be held at Renziehausen Park, McKeesport, on June 21, 2016 @10a.m. Let Betty Monyok know if lunch is requested @ \$10/person.

#### **CLOSING**

Benediction –Betty Monyok closed the meeting with Benediction and Leeanna adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joyce Kareem, Recording Secretary