

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP)
Agenda and Minutes for the District VII Board Meeting, January 25, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Director Marilyn Backus @ 10:12 a.m.

The following handouts were issued:

Meeting Agenda ([on screen](#))

Membership Tea flyers

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

Welcome: Marilyn welcomed all for their attendance. She introduced:

- Barbara Bradley, President of McKeesport Garden Club
- Kathy Ingel, President of Home Gardeners Guild
- Nina Damato, Vice President of Murrysville Garden Club, reporting for President Pat Morrison
- Amy Shugerman Glasser, Vice President, Garden Club of Forest Hills reporting for President Kathy Bauer
- Sharon Bryner, President of Joyful Bloomers Garden Club, and Chairman of National Disaster
- Ruth Carol, Vice President of Joyful Bloomers Garden Club

Assistant Director Margie Wolff circulated and explained:

- Attendance List w/address contact list
- District's 2017 Public Events Calendar
- Food donation list and Club Raffle Basket rotation for Spring Membership Tea, March 23, 2017. The three clubs to prepare baskets are GC of McKeesport, Home Gardener's Guild and Gardens Limited @ cost of \$40-\$50/basket

Minutes: Joyce Kareem: Members were sent the amended Minutes from October's 2016 Board meeting. Judy Schafer made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Amy Shugerman Glasser seconded. The motion passed.

Correspondence: Valerie Wilson read Thank You cards from GCFP President Sharon Brown, First Vice President Christine Leskosky and Second Vice President Joyce Milberg. The cards were in appreciation of their invitations to our district's 2016 Annual Meeting.

Chairmen were encouraged to submit their contact information to the Corresponding GCFP Chairman as requested.

Treasurer's Report Leeanna Ryba: In Leeanna's absence, Margie Wolff read the proposed 2017 District VII budget. After discussion, the following motion was made and passed:

- Motion to spend a maximum of \$300.00 for the [programs](#) for the March District VII Spring Membership Tea [and the September Annual Meeting](#) was made by Iris Cisarik and seconded by Barbara Bradley.
- The budget was accepted.

Director's Report:

Three club presidents' annual reports have been received – including Landscape Design of W. PA, Pucketos GC and GC of Forest Hills. This report is a GCFP request that equips the State President with statistics on the health of the organization and Marilyn would like to summarize the state of our district for the next Trumpet Vine newsletter. Please send the Annual Report, emailed to the Board on Jan. 12, as soon as possible – to Sharon Brown and to Marilyn.

Thanks to Chairmen, Presidents and Jackie Stempfer, Editor, for the Jan2017 *Trumpet Vine*. Remember that Jackie relies on the Club Presidents to ensure that the TV is forwarded to all their club members.

District VII Minutes can be downloaded from the Garden Club of Monroeville site - located under District VII News.” **Send Jackie your yearbooks so that she can publish your program and officer information in the next edition (due date March 13).** Joyce Peterson suggested that Jackie notify the district of publication deadlines for the entire year.

Also Presidents were directed to complete the “14-Officer Change Form” at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org/president-s-packet.html>. Send it to Lee Ann Stine for GCFP.

Marilyn displayed the Federation’s website and explained the easy navigation to important links.

President’s Report:

(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 most recent issue for each club’s past and upcoming club events @ http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet_vine_gcfp_district_vii. The District VII (Open) Event Calendar and past Trumpet Vine issues are also located here.

Burrellton GC – Leanna Ryba – absent; no report

GC of Forest Hills – Kathy Bauer: In Kathy’s absence, Iris read for Amy (suffering with a sore throat). The club’s activities include:

- meetings are held the first Thursday of each month – March – December at Hope Lutheran Church
- members enjoyed a holiday celebration in December with carols, traditions and lunch
- a decorated tree was entered into Juniper Village’s Festival of Trees
- two former members recently passed away – Peggy Regina and Diane McDowell
- during the winter meeting hiatus, members will gather on January 26 for a luncheon at DeNunzio’s Restaurant
- happily, the club was awarded a \$500 Rotary Club Grant to improve and beautify the borough owned vacant lot at the intersection of Avenue A and Avenue E in Forest Hills
- March: “Prehistoric Plants” - presented by member Karen Lukas
- April: “The Living Wall” by Bill Goff from Penn State.
- May: Plant Sale and Plant Auction are scheduled for May 6 and May 17 respectively.

GC of McKeesport – Barbara Bradley reported:

- club will continue to maintain 3 acres of land – including 400 ft. perennial bed, 1500 roses, butterfly garden and water feature and pond
- 2 new members joined in 2016
- Native plant garden to be dedicated in 2018
- April 8: club will participate w/the Pittsburgh Rose Society to prune roses
- May 29: will participate in Memorial Day parade, Elizabeth PA
- June 10: Rose Day at Renzie Garden
- Teas at the Garden: June 8, July 13, August 10 and Sept. 14. Contact Georgianna Papple @412.563.6755 for reservations
- club is currently looking for ways to publicize the club

GC of Monroeville – Shirley Brody reported these activities:

- 18 members
- meetings are held @Monroeville Public Library – 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on 4th Tuesday of the month – February – November w/December being the club’s Christmas luncheon
- co-sponsoring programs with Monroeville Public Library – free and open to the public
- February: will celebrate 58 year charter member Val Marak’s 102nd birthday

- Sponsoring scholarship applicant Phillip Steven Mahr, Penn State student majoring in Agriculture Science w/concentration in Turf Grass Management. Phillip received a Federation scholarship for his freshman year.
- Conversation and Civic project: entrance garden, University Park @Beatty road and College Park Drive – maintained for 58 years

Gardens Limited of Pittsburgh: Lois Lebovitz / Ilene Venig – absent/ no report

Greensburg Garden Center: Carla Rusnica –absent / no report

Highland Park Garden Club : Susan Ryan In Susan’s absence, Elisabeth (Betty) Larman gave this report:

- January: “Houseplant Show and Tell”
- February: “All about Soil” (possibly “Grow Pittsburgh”)
- March: “Plant Choices to Discourage Critters in Your Yard” by Angela Yuele, Horticulturist for Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- April: “Embracing the Shade” – getting to know more about plants that thrive in the shade
- May: “Gardening with Bees” by Burgh Bees
- June: Garden Visit

Elisabeth shared that her club is seeking advice for budgeting and rules.

Home Gardeners’ Guild – Kathy Ingel shared these activities:

- December: participated in **McKeesport’s** “Festival of Trees”. A second place ribbon was awarded in the category of “Adult Original”
- December: Christmas party at the Youghiogheny Country Club; new officers were installed
- Monthly: visits to residents of St. Angelo’s Manor – making crafts, summer tea, planting flowers and Christmas party w/gifts for residents
- Garden Therapy Committee will expand outreach program working w/students at McKeesport High School – planting seeds and enabling students to harvest their own vegetables
- 2017 programming will include variety of speakers, tours and “do it yourself projects”.

Joyful Bloomers – Sharon Bryner reported:

- Club theme: “Branch Out Into Nature”; meetings held @Kane Regional Center
- January: members planned programs for 2017
- February: “Spreading Seeds of Service” – making Valentine placemats for Kane residents
- March: “Nature Nurtures” – making picture frame wreaths for new wing @Kane’s Memory Care Unit
- April: “Spring into Nature” – field trip to Greensburg Garden Center Flower Show Symposium
- May: “Nature Under Glass” – making terrariums w/bird feature (celebrating Bird Day, 5/4)
- June: “Planning a Celebration” – laying groundwork for Founder Joy Johnson’s tribute in September

Landscape Design Society of Western PA: Angela Raitano – No report at this time.

Murrysville GC –Pat Morrison: In Pat’s absence, Vice President Nina Damato reported:

- Theme: “Plant it Forward”; plants and flowers will be shared for acts of kindness
- Club is recruiting new members
- Garden Therapy is planning crafts for the elderly to share w/family and friends
- May: annual plant sale during Mother’s Day weekend
- September: preparing for club’s Flower Show
- Junior Group: dynamic Group Leader is stepping down; new leader will be named

Pucketos GC - Millie Pipman: In Millie’s absence, Margie read the report:

- Garden Therapy placed seasonal vases in targeted locations
- Delivered a snowflake art project to children residing at the HOPE Crisis Center – followed by a Valentine craft project.

- Valentine treats will be delivered to the Applewood Nursing Home
- March: meeting at the Knead Café in New Kensington – a café that provides meals for those in need. Café founder will give presentation.
- November: Veterans’ project recipients will be the men and women at the local reserve unit

Rockledge Garden Club - Dana Overmyer – absent/no report

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Marilyn has encouraged the Standing Committee Chairmen to not only report to the Board, but to occasionally provide very short educational articles, built off of their reports, to the *Trumpet Vine* so that all District VII club members can grow through the Federation and various Standing Committees.

Awards - Margie Wolff announced Feb. 1 as the deadline to apply for the 2016 District’s Blue Rosette Award. This award is for the outstanding District VII Garden Club. A Book of Evidence is required. The form is found on the State’s website.

Laurel, Daffodil and Hummingbird Award nominations are due in August 15.

Birds – Haddie Weber announced that National Bird Day is January 5 each year, as it's scheduled to coincide with the end of the annual Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count has been going on for more than a decade.

Haddie also shared www.pixcontroller.com/eagles for information about the Pittsburgh Hays Bald Eagle Nest.

Conservation & Recycling – Is there anyone in your club who will occupy this important, open Chairmanship?

Flower Show Schedules Consultant – Angie Raitano reported Gardens Limited will have a Flower Show. No schedules have been received.

Gardening and Health – Marilyn Backus announced **avocados** as the number one breakfast food – eaten daily and when soft – because of its brain-healthy protein, fats and Vitamin E.

Garden Therapy – Judy Schaffer submitted an article for *Trumpet Vine* entitled “Owls – Whoo Knew?” Additionally, Judy recommended two books that clubs can use for fundraisers:

Herbal Treasures – by Phillis V. Shaudys @\$20; and

A Magical Winter – by Carl R. Sams @\$20

Contact Judy for additional information.

GCFP BEE-GAP National Bee Project – Iris Cisarik stated that an article on bees will appear in the next *Keystone Gardener*. Iris provided articles related to bees.

GCFP Club Yearbook Awards – Joyce Peterson announced that yearbooks should be sent after the April convention. Paying attention to details was stressed – even avoiding any writing in the books. Joyce will send GCFP additional Yearbook guidance for posting on the website.

Marilyn will investigate the availability of forms needed for submission.

GCFP Convention Coordinator – Judy Schaffer announced that Shawnee is set for this year’s convention. The specifics for the Trash to Treasure contest have not yet been identified.

GCFP 2018 Convention Chairman (District X) – Haddie Weber stated that plans are in motion. GCFP Convention, “A Floral Tri- Fecta”, hosted by District X, will be at the DoubleTree Hilton, Meadowlands, Washington PA.

Historian - Ann Stromberg delivered the following message about her duties:

- Keep a record of accomplishments and activities of all District VII clubs for 2017-18
- Collect from members evidence items including pictures, news articles, awards (except Laurels and Daffodils)
- Create and organize a meaningful scrapbook that displays all the clubs' stories during Marilyn's term.

Ann will accept submissions for the scrapbook at the 3/23 Membership Tea and at the 9/26 Annual Meeting. Feel free to contact her at ann.stromberg@yahoo.com, cell @412.401.0644 or via mail @ 813 Bethany Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

Horticulture - Barbara Lotito shared that seed catalogs prices have increased. It may be wiser to buy at reputable garden centers. Barbara also advised waiting another month before starting seeds.

Pittsburgh Area Judges Council (PAJC) and Designers Guild (DG) – Joyce Peterson announced: June 30 - Flower show in Greensburg, 1-2 PM. All are welcome!

Membership - Lana Kling advised clubs to **consider** inviting the public to meetings when a speaker is presenting – as a way of attracting new members.

Natural Disasters – Sharon Bryner –no report. She will get advice for her role from Jane Miller.

Programs –Iris Cisarik gave updated information about the Membership Tea, March 23:

- location is Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church, White Oak – 9 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- registration begins @ 9:00 a.m. ; meeting @10:00 a.m.
- lunch will follow the business meeting, followed by the program
- program: "What the Judges Look for in Designs" presented by accredited PAJC judges Mary Jane Martucci and Marie Mueller
- Thursday, March 16 is deadline for reservations @\$5/person – sent to Marilyn
- each Board member is asked to bring a dish for at least 50 people
- Anna Zamule, GC of Forest Hills, will be asked to manage the jewelry sale
- Trash to Treasure – "The Tuzzle" – judges independent of District VII are needed
- Marilyn and Iris will coordinate the centerpieces
- Used Horticulture-Related Book and Magazine Exchange / Sale

Iris announced that Maggie Lin and Atsumi Sewell from the Pittsburgh Chapter of Ikebana International will be the presenters at the District's Annual Meeting, September 26, 2017.

Publicity and/or Photographer for District VII Tea and Annual Meeting: Please call Marilyn @412-389-2113 if there is anyone in your club with an iPad or iPhone who is willing to be a volunteer photographer at the Spring Tea.

State Scholarships –Shirley Brody reported that the GC of Monroeville sponsored scholarship applicant Phillip Steven Mahr, Penn State sophomore majoring in Agriculture Science w/concentration in Turf Grass Management. Phillip received the Doreen Dew-Kaufman" Federation scholarship for his freshman year. Thus far, Phillip is the only District VII applicant.

Trumpet Vine Editor – Jackie Stempfer: In Jackie's absence, Marilyn announced 3/13 as the next deadline for information submission.

Unfinished Business

Marilyn opened discussion on purchasing District and/or local ads for upcoming events. The following motions were passed:

- Motion to advertise for District VII in the 2017 Program Book for the GCFP State Convention, at Shawnee on Delaware, PA, with a \$200.00 maximum was made by Iris Cisarik and seconded by Sharon Bryner. Ideally ½ page black and white ad. (Angie Raitano is designing the Ad for 2017 Convention.)
- Motion to advertise for District VII in the 2018 Program Book for the National Garden Club Convention in Philadelphia, PA, with a \$100.00 maximum was made by Barbara Lotito and seconded by Betty Monyok. Ideally ¼ page black and white ad.
- Motion to advertise for District VII in the 2018 GCFP State Convention, Meadow Lands, Washington, PA, with a \$200.00 maximum was made by Angie Raitano and seconded by Judy Schaffer. Ideally ½ page black and white ad.

New Business

- Marilyn encouraged clubs to enter the Trash to Treasure contest, “The Tuzzle” that will be judged at the Tea. The winner will go to the State Convention for judging. Rules for contest are on GCFP website and should be in the Keystone Gardener.
- Presidents are to encourage members to bring garden related books or magazines for exchange or sale to the Tea - maximum of 3 – i.e. bring one / take one, etc.
- Marilyn will meet w/maintenance person to help set up for the Tea.
- Margie Wolff will sell raffle tickets for the baskets; a volunteer is needed for the 50/50 raffle
- **There will be new and updated educational exhibits at the Spring Tea**, i.e. composting, amphibians, bird days, benefits of the Federation, youth poetry contest, etc.

Announcements

- The Greensburg Garden Center is sponsoring a trip to "Holland--Flowering the World" on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Members cost \$120 and non-members are \$130. Call (724) 837-0245 for details and reservations.
- District VII Annual Meeting at Palmieri’s Restaurant on 951 Old Frankstown Road, Plum, PA 15239, Tuesday, September 26.
- Register for Flower Show Symposia at Greenburg Garden Center, April 4th & 5th. Cost is \$145 for two days with two lunches or \$75/day including lunch. March 10th is the deadline w/o late fee. Barbara Lotito, Registrar, emphasized that this Symposium is **not** just for judges. All are welcome!
- Register for the Federation’s Environmental Studies School in Mechanicsburg, April 10th & 11th.
- Reserve your room and roommates at Shawnee Inn for the GCFP Convention April 23-25. Call 877-790-1532 or 855-515-1090. The registration form is available on GCFP website and should be in Keystone Gardener.
- Next Board Meetings (with subsequent changes in venue) dates are: June 22 @ Monroeville Public Library, August 15 and October 19, 2017 at McKeesport Club House. All meeting times are 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

CLOSING

Chaplain Betty Monyok gave the closing prayer at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Kareem, Recording Secretary