

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP)
Agenda and Minutes for the District VII Board Meeting, June 22, 2017**

The meeting at Monroeville Library was called to order by Director Marilyn Backus @ 10:00 a.m.

The following handouts were issued:

Meeting Agenda

Annual Meeting Registration Forms

Assorted NGC School and Award Flyers (specifically, GCFP Seed Money Application Deadline Feb 15, 2018; Plant America Community Project Grants Deadline Nov 1, 2017; Seeds of Service due to Director by June 15, 2018.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: In Chaplain Betty Monyok's absence, Shirley Brody read the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome: Marilyn welcomed all for their attendance.

Barbara Lotito: Marilyn announced in a May 15 email that Barbara won the high honor of a GCFP Gold Seal Award. Pat Morrison and others from the Murrysville GC visited Barbara on June 6 and conveyed our best wishes for a complete recovery. She also presented Barbara with the winning application made by the club for the GCFP Gold Seal Award, to accompany her gold medallion and certificate.

Assistant Director Margie Wolff circulated and/or explained:

- greeting card for Barbara Lotito
- Attendance List w/address contact list
- the District VII 2017 Public Events Calendar for updates
- Club Raffle Item/Basket rotation for District VII's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The three clubs asked to provide raffle items are GC of Burrellton, GC of Forest Hills and Joyful Bloomers valued at ~ \$40-\$50. Customized items, potted plants or items made by a club member seem to be highly desirable. The baskets are due @9:00 a.m. at Palmieri's Restaurant downstairs Banquet Room.

Minutes: Joyce Kareem: Members were sent the amended Minutes from January 25, 2017 Board meeting. Joyce Peterson made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Kathy Bauer seconded. The motion passed. Approved District VII Minutes can be downloaded from the Garden Club of Monroeville website - located under "District VII News."

Correspondence: Valerie Wilson sent Annual Meeting invitations to our new GCFP President Christine Leskosky, First Vice President Joyce Milberg and Second Vice President Sheila Croushore. She read Thank You cards from GCFP President Christine Leskosky in appreciation for the Shawnee Inn 2017 Convention ads congratulating her Presidency.

Also, a Thank You card was received from Joann Waddell – for placing our ad in the Convention (@Shawnee Inn) program book.

Treasurer's Report Leeanna Ryba presented the budget report. The report will be filed for audit. Additionally:

- Leeanna reported the opening balance as of as of December 19, 2016 was \$5,790.33 and the closing balance as of June 19 was \$5,809.14.
- She distributed copies of the District VII Membership Tea Report

- Leeanna detailed the Treasurer's guidelines surrounding the proposed 2017 District VII budget - specifically to be reimbursed, receipts are needed and must be approved.
- **Marilyn Backus, Margie Wolff, and Leeanna are all signers on the District VII checking account. Two of their signatures are required on each check.**
- Work is in progress toward a paperless account.

Director's Report:

Marilyn thanked all club presidents for sending their annual President's report to past president Sharon Brown and herself by the due date of Jan. 12. This enabled Marilyn to present statistics in the March/April *Trumpet Vine* and the Annual Membership Tea in April 2017.

Marilyn's report regarding the Membership Tea was listed on page 2 of the March/April 2017 *Trumpet Vine* and she was quite pleased with the turnout of 90. If there are any suggestions for improvement for next year's Spring Tea please send them to marilyncbackus@gmail.com

Marilyn thanked all District VII club Treasurers for submitting their 990 Short IRS Forms to Mary Jo Gardil before the deadline and all clubs are registered as 501© 3 organizations under the umbrella of GCFP.

Also, all clubs submitted their **GCFP/NGC** dues (\$10/person) to Lee Ann Stine by June 15 and are therefore covered by GCFP insurance. To keep GCFP insurance, it continues to be important that Club Presidents/Treasurers immediately notify Lee Ann Stine (GCFP Secretary) (GCFP2@aol.com) of any Adds or Deletes to their club membership roster (name and contact info as described on the Add/Delete Form) via email or postal mail.

District VII had a successful convention at Shawnee Inn. Barbara Lotito received the GCFP Gold Seal Award! Nine of our 13 organizations received 17 GCFP awards including Burrellton, Forest Hills, Greensburg, Joyful Bloomers, Landscape Design, McKeesport, Monroeville, Murrysville, Pucketos. All of the recipients of awards will be listed in the May-August 2017 *Trumpet Vine* issue that will be published September 1.

Attendees discussed the reasons why District VII **(the only District)** - did not share in the \$2,500 of GCFP Seed Money. August meeting will focus on this award – define and how to apply. The new Awards Book will be online.

Marilyn attended and enjoyed GC of McKeesport Pruning Day Apr 10, Rose Day June 10 and their Business Meeting that included Doug Oster on June 19. All three occasions were very informative and enjoyable. All District members should treat themselves and see the GC of McKeesport Gardens.

Marilyn also enjoyed her visit to a Saturday morning business meeting with Highland Park GC. President Susan Ryan and her club were planning their beautification project in the commercial district along Bryant Street, which subsequently incorporated investments from 8 business owners! Marilyn encourages this club to apply for the GCFP Seeds of Service Award and a Plant America Community Project Grant for this project.

Annual Meeting Planning

Marilyn gave updated information about the Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 26. Please distribute the registration form (which will also be sent by email) and encourage attendees to come. We are hoping for at least 80 attendees. The room accommodates 100 easily. Marilyn will send a jpg image to club presidents to distribute.

- Location is Palmieri's Restaurant Banquet Hall, 951 Old Frankstown Road (off of Rte. 286), Plum, PA 15239 ; Phone: (724) 387-2444; www.palmierisrestaurant.com

Tuesday, September 12 is deadline for reservations @\$22/person – sent to Marilyn.

- Doors open at 9 a.m. for Registration; Haddie Weber will be the Registrar. Marilyn's sister, Helen, volunteered to wait on those who need help getting buffet food/drink. There will be a menu of items that a person can circle for Helen at the registration desk. Marilyn will check to see if she can be there for coffee/roll between 9-10 a.m.
- Sharon Bryner will be the initial Greeter/Escort for the GCFP Officers. Club Presidents will form a greeting line to shake hands to welcome GCFP President Chris Leskosky, 1st VP Joyce Milberg and 2nd VP Sheila Croushore promptly at 9:15 a.m. upstairs at Palmieri's!
- Marilyn will assign "sitters" for the three Federation officials. These tables will be the first to go to the buffet.
- Business Meeting 10 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Before lunch, we will have a line of chairs on Marilyn's left for Presidents to be near microphone so they may sit while waiting to give speech, receive club awards and new member tulips. Margie and Lana will sit to Marilyn's right. This way, both reports and awards ceremonies will be combined into one.
- For their reports, Marilyn proposed that Presidents will answer this question within 3 minutes for the State Officers: **If your club disbanded tomorrow, who would miss your club and why ?** Use a display poster board that will be placed on an easel beside the President to show pictures/posters that depict your reply. Agreement on the proposal was reached.
- Lunch will follow the business meeting, followed by the program: "The Presentation of Sogetsu Ikebana" presented by Atsumi Sewell and Reiko Nakajima
- Margie Wolff will sell raffle item tickets for the baskets. Valerie will manage the 50/50 raffle ticket. Anna Zamule, GC of Forest Hills, will manage the used jewelry sale and Sharon Bryner will manage the Natural Disasters collection.
Marilyn will give all fund managers 2 cards to fill in with the amounts of cash collected and to give to Leeanna and to her. Iris will manage the raffle of the Sogetsu arrangements.
- Marilyn and Shirley will coordinate the centerpieces. Our tablecloths will be ivory with gold napkins. The banquet room is burgundy and gold.
- Presidents are to encourage members to bring garden related books or magazines for exchange - maximum of 3 – i.e. bring one / take one. A "Donations" cup will be set out.
- A few NGC items will be available for purchase. *Vision of Beauty* calendars are still available – via Marilyn @ \$6.75 plus purchasing and handling.
- For Exhibits: Marilyn will bring a map of clubs and meeting days?
- Marilyn will ask Judy Schaffer to bring poster display of Poetry/ Smokey Bear with Pucketos award winning entries featured.
- Haddie will bring her Bird display from the Spring Tea, poster showing 2018 Meadowlands Convention features and flowerpots for sale.
- Joyce Peterson and Iris Cisarik will create a display detailing the basics of floral arrangements, along with score sheets used by judges for scoring.

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 – Leeanna Ryba reported that:

- April: club planted a Serviceberry tree near the War Memorial @Steward Elementary in Observance of Arbor Day; information was shared about Arbor Day w/the Principal for students to use
- Member Charlene Mahu worked w/students from Burrell Schools to revamp area for new pollinator garden – students' "Day of Sharing" project. Middle school students' "Day of Sharing" featured our club

donating Stella D'Oro lilies which students planted at Bon Air Elementary School

- May: May Mart and flea market; donated items from deceased member Helen Shank were featured. Leftover items were donated to various sites.
- Planting of annuals included these sites: pollinator garden, VFW planting of 450 begonias by Girl Scout Troop 20133 and members, War Memorial, bandstand @Burrell Lake Park, window boxes @City Hall and Treasurer's Office, Braeview Park planter and Grace Church (the club's meeting place)
- "Fight for the Cure" pink garden is featured at the route 56 Triangle
- June: Student Landon Hacker, recipient of a Federation scholarship, was introduced to the membership

GC of Forest Hills – **Kathy Bauer's** report featured:

- May: successful plant sale and plant auction; Rotary Grant project, permanent garden at Avenues A & E, is in full swing
- July: club will participate in the annual Forest Hills Community Day with a raffle booth, items for sale and club information; general meeting will feature Mary Jane Martucci – "Arrangements for a Flower Show"
- August: Field trip to Frick Environmental Center and 8/25 Flower Show
- Ongoing: upkeep of Hillside Garden in Forest Hills Park and the ornamental grass beds and lily garden on Ardmore Blvd.

GC of McKeesport – Barbara Bradley reported these club events:

- May: participated in Elizabeth PA Memorial Day parade; wreath created by Carolyn Monyok was placed at the Point on Mon river
- Colonel Rick Elster presented the table of remembrance – dedicated to the POW and MIA soldiers.
- Barbara and Vice President Marsha Pratt were judges for the McKeesport Art Group; monetary contributions were made to the winner and to the Art Group – on behalf of the club.
- June: Rose Day in the Arboretum, 1-4:00 p.m. – attended by District VII Director Marilyn and approximately 125 guests – at no charge.

GC of Monroeville – Shirley Brody announced these features:

- Membership is now @17 members – increase attributed to change in meeting times to 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. held on the 4th Tuesdays of February – November.
- Val Marak, club's only original member passed away.
- April: Celebrate Arbor Day
- May: Protect Against Lyme Disease
- June: Field trip to Boyce Park Ski Lodge – meeting with staff of Allegheny County Parks Foundation and Park Rangers
- Future program planning: What Plants Talk About, Life of Birds, and NGC's Handbook Preparations for Entering Flower Shows
- Club sponsored repeat \$1000 Federation Scholarship winner Phillip Steven Mahr, majoring in Agriculture Science w/concentration in Turf Grass Management
- Member Marilyn Backus will work with teachers again on Youth/Student Outreach contests; member-teacher who led the 5th grade Poetry contest, Lisa Rettig, won the Diocese of Pittsburgh's 2017 Golden Apple Award

Cosponsoring programs with Monroeville Public Library:

- April: Straw Bale Gardening with Judy Schaffer
- May: Backyard Composting
- June: Happenings at Boyce Park by County Rangers
- July: Soil Testing for Heavy Metals by Jan Lauer

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

Greensburg Garden Center: Co-President - Margie Wolf announced the July 8 Garden Tour –also the

8/22 – Tea in the Butterfly Garden. Call to get tickets

Highland Park Garden Club : In **Susan Ryan** absence, Margie Wolf read the report:

- May: members filled 16 planters to beautify Bryant Street.
- Bryant Street Project: 8 businesses participated – paying club to provide planters, soil and flowers. Fee paid covers 3 years of plantings.
- June: plants and used items were sold at the Bryant Street Festival
- Summer: visits to local gardens of interest

Home Gardeners' Guild – Kathy Ingel - absent/no report Haddie announced the club's 10/1 fundraiser at the Youghiogheny Country Club.

Joyful Bloomers – Sharon Bryner reported:

- May: Kane's Garden of Reflection was refreshed with new plants; personal items for children were donated to McKeesport Carnegie Library
- June: Organized boutique @Kane where jewelry, scarves and handbags were sold
- July: finalizing plans for luncheon and tribute to Joy Johnson on 9/6 @ Renziehausen Park's Heritage Center. Cost is \$5.
- August: Compost with Me – guide to composting and planting.
- October: bird seed ornaments will be created
- November: Festival of Trees – creating tree ornaments
- December: participating in Festival of Trees – Nature's Noel will be theme of tree; annual holiday party
- Additionally club was recipient of the Penny Pines Certificate in memory of Joy Johnson, Garden Club Founder; club received 2017 Honorable Mention for yearbook; 4068 snuggle babies have been distributed since 2000.

Junior Gardeners:

- Conducted Mother's Day Fashion Show & Luncheon

Landscape Design Society of Western PA: In **Angela Raitano's** absence, Margie read her report which included:

- June: visited the Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown, and the Memorial Chapel and Children's Peace Garden in Shanksville
- July: field trip to Phipps for the "Super Natural" glass art by Jason Gamrath
- August: field trip to the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Groundskeeper William Webb will conduct the tour

Murrysville GC –Pat Morrison shared the following:

- April: three members attended and enjoyed the 2017 Federation convention
- May: complete sell out of Mother's Day weekend plant sale
- July: Great talk by Dave from Plumline Nursery
- September: club's Flower Show

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

- May: Garden Therapy presented a beautiful arrangement and bowl of lifesaver candles to the Citizens School of Nursing
- June: trip to the Depreciation Lands Museum for presentation about Western PA settlement
- August: members' fashion show featuring recycled, upcycled or repurposed outfits; annual tea
- Additionally, garden work continues at the Army Reserve Unit @Craigdaell Road, tall vase arrangements were delivered to area libraries and the Knead Café and donations were made to the Mechling Shakley homeless Vets center.

Rockledge Garden Club – James Lindsey – 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 – Distributed the Laurel, Daffodil and Hummingbird Award nominations – due 8/15. Awards will be presented at the September annual meeting.

Marilyn encouraged Presidents to nominate candidates for the Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturalists due August 1. President or Awards Chair of each club may write up the qualifications of the applicant and send to Judy Vehse at jlvehse@gmail.com, “Advisory, GCFP Horticulture Coordinator”

Marilyn contact Judy Vehse for complete information and will update the Presidents.

Additionally, Marilyn encouraged Presidents to complete:

- Application for the coveted GCFP Seeds of Service certificate - due June 15, 2018 – awarded every other year
- Application for NGC Seeds of Service
- Applications for NGC Nancy Hargrove’s Plant America Grants are due 11/1/17

Bee Gap – Iris shared *Jump into Science: Honeybees* – series published by National Geographic @\$6.95 for ages 4-8 yrs. Iris can place orders upon request.

Birds – Haddie Weber: no report at this time

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

Flower Show Schedules Consultant – Angie Raitano - absent

Gardening and Health – Marilyn Backus – Marilyn Backus provided a Mint dressing on the back of the Agenda handout that provides the following: healthy fats if using virgin, cold-pressed olive oil; alkalizing and mineral rich apple cider vinegar if the “mother” is present; magnesium when using fresh chopped parsley; natural antibiotic when using crushed fresh garlic cloves and/or onion tops and magnesium and good taste when using chopped mint of any kind. Store in a cruet for up to a week.

Garden Therapy – Judy Schaffer - absent

Marilyn acknowledged Judy Schaffer for her Mar/Apr *Trumpet Vine* article entitled “See You at the Fair.” Remember the fairs are scheduled:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allegheny: | Allegheny County Fair - | July 15-July 22 |
| Brookville: | Jefferson County Fair - | July 16 – July 22 |
| New Bethlehem: | Clarion County Fair - | July 23 – July 29 |
| Clearfield | Clearfield County Fair – | July 30 – August 5 |
| Butler | Butler Farm Show, Inc. – | August 7 – August 12 |
| Dayton | Armstrong County Fair - | Aug 13-19, 2017 |
| Greensburg | Westmoreland Agricultural Fair - | August 18 – August 26 |
| Meyersdale | Somerset County Fair - | August 19 – August 26 |
| Indiana | Indiana County Fair - | August 26 – September 2 |
| Ebensburg | Cambria County Fair - | September 3 – September 9 |

GCFP Club Yearbook Awards – Joyce Peterson announced she has received 10 yearbooks thus far – deadline is December 1.

GCFP Convention Coordinator – Judy Schaffer (absent)

Marilyn had 2 questions for the Presidents to discuss:

Currently GCFP annual Conventions are scheduled to begin on Sunday morning or afternoon (depending on whether one plans a local tour) and ends on a Tuesday afternoon following the Flower Show Judges luncheon and speaker (unless one continues afterward with a refresher course).

Question 1:

If GCFP Conventions were scheduled to open on a Friday evening and end on a Sunday afternoon starting in 2020, would more or less working and younger members attend a state convention?

Question 2:

Would this change make more or less older members attend a state convention?"

Please ask your members these questions and provide feedback to Marilyn by Sept 26.

After discussing these questions with the Presidents, Marilyn asked them to glean and share input from their club members

GCFP 2018 Convention Chairman (District X) – Haddie Weber announced April 15-17 as the dates @ Meadowlands, Washington, PA at the Double Tree Hilton. On Thai will be featured.

Historian - Ann Stromberg - absent

Horticulture - Barbara Lotito - ill

Pittsburgh Area Judges Council (PAJC) and Designers Guild (DG) – Joyce Peterson announced the 6/20 – Flower Show @ Greensburg Garden Center 1-2:00 p.m.

Membership - Lana Kling - absent

Natural Disasters – Sharon Bryner – no report at this time

Programs –Iris Cisarik encouraged all to attend the annual meeting – featuring “The Presentation of Sogetsu Ikebana”

Publicity and/or Photographer for District VII Tea and Annual Meeting: Gill Brody, Shirley’s husband, will be photographer.

State Scholarships –Shirley Brody

Shirley Brody reported there were 4 scholarship applicants from District VII. Both the Burrellton and GC of Monroeville sponsored winning applicants.

Burrellton GC:

Sponsored Landon Robert Hacker, a student at Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, who won The Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship for \$1,000.

GC of Monroeville:

sponsored scholarship applicant Phillip Steven Mahr, Penn State sophomore majoring in Agriculture Science w/concentration in Turf Grass Management, who won The Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship for \$1,000.

One of the other two applicants is Kristen Zolnierzak sponsored by the Forest Hills GC. She is currently a sophomore at Penn State Greater Allegheny campus majoring in Biology. She didn't win and will be encouraged to apply again.

Shawn Patrick McDonough sent his application on his own – without GC sponsor. He is an Alternate Winner – and would be sponsored by the GC of Forest Hills if the chosen student doesn't attend college. Shawn might be eligible to receive a \$500 scholarship from the Ingomar Garden Club.

Trumpet Vine Editor – Jackie Stempfer: In Jackie's absence, Marilyn announced her thanks for Trumpet Vine articles from Bird Chairman Haddie Weber, Awards Chairman Margie Wolff, and Membership Chairman Lana Kling, our GCFP Parliamentarian Angie Raitano, Judy Schaffer for her Jottings and Garden Therapy articles, Iris Cisarik for her National Bee Gap Project Info, Club Presidents Leeanna Ryba and Millie Pipman for their report summaries and Jackie Stempfer, Editor, issued for Feb 2017 and Mar/Apr2017 (issued April 23).

Jackie relies on the Club Presidents to inform their members that past and current Trumpet Vines are located at www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/TrumpetVine and/or to forward the email version of the district newsletter to all their club members.

Between the yearbooks, District Calendar and Officer Change forms sent to Marilyn, Jackie was able to publish all the clubs' information. She published the *Trumpet Vine* Schedule for Submissions below. Send reports, pictures of events or gardens, articles to Jackie Stempfer by the Deadline Date at jstempfer@comcast.net or 469 Bulltown Road Murrysville, PA 15668-9510

| 2017 ISSUE | DEADLINE | PUBLISHED |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| March April (post Membership Tea) | April 15 | May 1 |
| May-August: (post Convention & June/August Board Mtgs) | August 15 | September 1 |
| Sept-Nov: (post Annual & Oct Board Mtgs) | Nov 15 | December 1 |
| 2018 ISSUE | | |
| Dec 2017-Feb 2018 (post Jan Board Mtg) | February 15 | March 1 |
| March April: (post Membership Tea) | April 15 | May 1 |

Unfinished Business

Remember (per Marilyn's June 2 email) to send your photo (and copy Marilyn) from your club's Greening Project that supports the theme "PA Garden Clubs Beautify Their Communities" for the NGC 2018 Convention in Philadelphia to Marjorie Stilwell Sears stilwellmarj@aol.com @ 215-450-7195 (may call or text). She needs:

- the name of the garden club
- District in which located and name
- contact info of chair who is responsible for the Community Planting Project

- a photo (depending on the number of responses, photo will be 5 X 7 or 3.5 X 5.); and description of an ongoing project, as well as any future projects that can showcase your club, (emailed photo attachments are welcome).

Let's try to get all of our 12 clubs and affiliate to send a picture! Inform Marilyn of your club's completion of this request.

New Business

Leeanna proposed adding a deadline date (June 15) to the District VII Standing Rules for the District dues (\$1.00/club member). After discussion, the following motion was made by Leeanna and seconded by Barbara Bradley.

Amend the Standing Rules of District VII to reflect June 15th as the deadline for club dues. The motion passed.

Announcements

- It is not too late to attend the excellent 4-hour leadership workshop at Hampton Inn in Grove City at \$5/club president and \$15 for non-presidents. Lunch and coffee are provided. It is a special option to visit Wendell August Forge afterward. Registration Deadline is July 5, 2017. (see Handout Table and www.pagardenclubs.org/education)
- Register for the Federation's Flower Show School Course II: Wednesday-Friday, July 12-14 for \$135 with exam OR take a One-Day Program on Wednesday or Thursday for \$65 at Grove City, PA. (see Handout Table and www.pagardenclubs.org/education)
- Register for the Federation's Environmental School Course 1: The Living Earth on Monday-Tuesday, Aug 28-29 in Mechanicsburg, PA. (see Handout Table and www.pagardenclubs.org/education)
- Register for the Federation's Gardening Study School Course I on Monday-Tuesday, Oct 16-17 in Exton, PA
- Next Board Meetings (with subsequent changes in venue) dates are August 15 and October 19, 2017 at McKeesport Club House. Both meeting times are 10:00 a.m. – Noonish. Staying for lunch helps defray the cost of using the clubhouse!

CLOSING

Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Kareem, Recording Secretary