

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP)
Agenda and Minutes for the District VII Board Meeting, October 21, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Leeanna Ryba @ 10:10 a.m. Marilyn Backus served as Recording Secretary in Joyce Kareem's absence.

The following handouts were issued:

Meeting Agenda
GCFP Liability Insurance
Which Milkweed for the Monarchs?
Seeds of Service
Club President's 2014 Annual Report
A Model Patient by Dr. Pilar Fish
Get a Buzz-Worthy Garden (from Prevention.com-June 2013)

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

Welcome: Leeanna Ryba: Welcomed all 16 attendees!

Minutes: Joyce Kareem had issued the June Minutes by email to all Board Members. No edits were sent or raised at this meeting. The Minutes were approved as written.

Correspondence: Valerie Wilson: no report since there was no correspondence

Treasurer's Report: Haddie Weber presented the 10.21.15 Financial Report. The report was approved and will be filed for Review. There was approximately a \$400 profit realized as a result the annual meeting.

Haddie reported that no district dues were received from Rockledge GC, Gardens Ltd and Highland Park GC. Leeanna has contacted the clubs about this situation. The district dues are \$1.00/member and the club Treasurers should make the check payable to GCFP District VII.

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

Notify Jackie Stempfer @ jstempfer@comcast.net if there are problems receiving or opening the link.

Burrellton GC – Irene Karrs was not present and there was no report.

[GC of Forest Hills](#) –Kathy Koroskenyi was not present but Iris announced one new member.

[GC of McKeesport](#) – Jane Miller identified their best program of year was Crimson Creek Apiaries' Bee program with Linda and Norman Lachimia. She invites all to their big holiday sale at the Clubhouse (1400 Pinoak Drive in Renziehausen) of fresh greens and swags, kissing balls, crafts, Kid's Korner and raffle of theme baskets will be Dec. 3 (10-7), Dec. 4 (10-7), and Dec. 6 (12-7).

[GC of Monroeville](#) – Shirley Brody identified Steve Piskor's presentation as GCM's best program of the year. Shirley Brody will present the club's fourth 2015 program "Decorating with Fall Foliage and Flowers" to convey basic principles of traditional flower arrangement at the Monroeville Public Library on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7 PM.

Gardens Limited of Pittsburgh: Lois Lebovitz was not present and there was no report.

Greensburg Garden Center: Carla Rusnica was not present due to their club's meeting today and there was no report.

Highland Park Garden Club - Elisabeth Larman recommended the program of a member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society (see the Sept 2015 Newsletter at <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>), Cindie Bonomi's (cindiebonomi@yahoo.com), that demonstrates the art of turning small trees, bushes and some plants into the Bonsai form. The club is looking for a new meeting place.

Home Gardeners' Guild – Nancy Price was not present but Haddie reported that there is a 25% discount each on the 25th of each month at Penn Hills Lawn and Garden. The club is working on making decorations for the Festival of Trees.

Joyful Bloomers – Ann Stromberg was not present but Lana Kling reported their November meeting will be making decorations for their bee hive tree entry into the Festival of Trees. Their best program was the bee program of Crimson Farms' Stormin Norman held at the Reflection Garden of Kane Hospital.

Landscape Design Society of Western PA: Angela Raitano was not present but Leeanna reported the best program was Carolyn and Betty Monyok's hospitality and tour of the rose garden at Renziehausen Park. On December 1st the club will be traveling at 11 AM to Phipps for the Christmas Flower Show.

Murrysville GC – Barbara Cseh reported Marie Spangler's Gourd program and sale presented at their Presidents' Luncheon was outstanding. October 23-24 is one of their bi-annual flower shows at Redstone Highlands. The club welcomes other members to travel on a 6 AM bus to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 9, 2016.

Pucketos GC – Marsha Ewing reported 15 guests at their recent Presidents' luncheon. They will have a 11 AM presentation on "The Gardens of Italy" on Nov. 2. The best program was Kevin Guida's Kensington Ware: Its History and Its Beauty.

Rockledge Garden Club: Dana Overmyer was not present and there was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – Margie Wolff was pleased with the time the Presidents took to recognize their members with 18 Daffodil Awards and 40 Laurel Awards. The Daffodils are the District's Award of a daffodil, limited to 3 per club, and can only be awarded every three years to the same person for different service above and beyond their role in the club. It was discussed that a certificate should accompany the bulb in a package. The Laurel is an older State Award certificate designed by Judi Schaffer that essentially thanks a person for a role well done. She encouraged Presidents to think about next year's award applications that will be due in August since the awards are presented in September's annual meeting. The GC of Forest Hills won the Hummingbird Award for 2015.

Birds - Carol Kennedy provided an article, "A Model Patient" by Dr. Pilar Fish, Director of Veterinary Medicine about Charlie, a blue-fronted Amazon who lost a lot of blood due to cuts to the ends of two toes and a thigh. The bird was extremely cooperative while undergoing three months of antibiotics, reconstructive surgery, stitches and physical therapy to regain his normal health.

Contact Ann Stromberg in order to reach Carol who has computer issues.

Conservation – Open

Garden Therapy - Open

GCFP Flower Show Schedules – Angie Raitano, absent

Historian - Ann Stromberg, absent

Horticulture - Barbara Lotito reported on “Ketchup and Fries” which are grafted potato plants that have tomatoes growing on top. They should produce 500 small grape tomatoes and 5 pounds of fingerling potatoes per plant. Supersauce tomatoes are developed for 2016.

Judges Council – Iris reported that there will be a new handbook available in 2017. Joyce added that the council recently discussed how to write constructive positive and negative feedback to flower show entrants.

Membership - Lana Kling reported that 7 clubs had 38 new members who received two red tulips.

National Bee Project – Iris Cisarik encouraged club members to become directly involved in becoming a pollinator. She brought 2 mason bee lodges purchased online from the CrownBee website www.crownbees.com/adopt-a-bee , although a home made log with drilled holes will also work. She asks the Presidents to convey the information/articles regarding the Mason Bee Lodges, Burgh’s Bees meeting at Penn Hills Lawn and Garden on October 27, and “How to Raise and Manage Orchard Bees for the Home Garden” to their members.

Natural Disasters - Jane Miller reported \$11,000 in grants were awarded in 2013-2014 to the Garden Club of Fairhaven for Phase II of Dune Grass planting along the shore of Sea Bright, NJ to restore and preserve the area from future storm devastation; the Seaweeders GC of Bayhead and Mantoloking, NJ to restore 2 parks destroyed by Hurricane Sandy; and the West Hartford GC for the public Victorian Gardens of historic Butler-McCook House. In Feb. 2015 a grant of \$5,000 was awarded to Tupelo GC of Mississippi to help plant 28 Southern Magnolia trees in forests that were damaged by tornados in April 2014.

Program –Joyce Peterson (ALSO Information about GCFP Yearbook Awards)

GCFP Scholarship – Shirley Brody reports the deadline for applications is Feb. 1, 2016. It was discussed that students should proceed with the application now even if acceptance is not yet confirmed by the college since the due date is Feb. 1, 2016.

Tours – Judy Schaffer is checking into a Chautauqua House and Garden Tour for District VII.

Trumpet Vine - Jackie Stempfer , absent. Articles are due now for the Feb-Mar 2016 Trumpet Vine issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reports on the Annual District Meeting.

1. Finances - Leeanna stated that the price of our annual meeting was the lowest in the state. We had 86 reservations. She referred to the handout that stresses the need for ALL members to pay dues by required date to enable GCFP’s coverage for club Liability Insurance.
2. Format – Leeanna shared Chris Leskosky, GCFP 1st Vice President, annual meeting feedback given to all Districts at the Atherton/Harrisburg Meeting: The GCFP guests should be greeted at the door and assigned a page. (Haddie will get a list of protocol instructions for the page.) 2) The GCFP President should have a specific seat assignment. (The 1st and 2nd VP should sit at other tables separately in order to meet club members.) 3) Meeting ran until 12:00 noon, don’t schedule speaker until after lunch is served. 4) Presidents should open their reports with the salutation “Madame President” and their report should give a factual, real and informative snapshot of the club, what it did, how it did it and why. [Comment: See the Leadership Workshop handout written by Chris entitled “What is an Annual Report?”]

NEW BUSINESS

District Director's Project for 2016. Leeanna stated a goal that she would like to be able to say to the GCFP officers that every District VII club in 2016 has a pollinator garden. She encouraged clubs to start planning now and view the handout "Get A Buzz-Worthy Garden." Also view the article, "Which Milkweed for the Monarchs?" The garden could/should help the bees and monarch butterflies!

Proposal and Motion #1: Leeanna raised the issue of adding an allowance for the District Director to our by-laws since all other Districts seem to have this in place. A motion was made by Haddie W. and seconded by Barbara L.: "Effective immediately, an allotment (i.e., reimbursement upon submission of receipts to the Treasurer) of \$500.00/year will be made to the District Director for the activities (e.g., Convention, State Meetings) required by her role or position." The motion was accepted.

Proposal and Motion #2: District VII's Treasury has convention profit money available for donations. A motion was made by Lana K. and seconded by Joyce P.: "A donation of \$100.00 will be made to the GCFP Helene Detwiler Scholarship Fund." The motion was accepted.

Proposal and Motion #3: Penny Pines requests clubs to consider donations of \$34 or \$68 to the Allegheny National Forest, using the paperwork on the GCFP website. A motion was made by Joyce P. and seconded by Iris C.: "District VII will donate \$68.00 to Penny Pines." The motion was accepted.

SET THE DATES

2016 Membership Tea date (March) – **The Board has tentatively set the spring membership tea at Sampson Mills Presbyterian Church Hall on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.**

The State Convention in Happy Valley is April 10-13, 2016.

The next District VII annual meeting is September 15, 2016, tentatively at Hill Crest Country Club.

The 2016 District Board Meeting dates (2015 dates were 1/22, 6/18, 8/20, 10/22) **for 2016 are tentatively set for Wednesday, January 27 at Wilkins Penn Center Panera Bread; Tuesday, June 21 at Renziehausen McKeesport Clubhouse; August ? at ?; Tuesday, October 18 at Wilkins Township Panera Bread.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LEEANNA

1. The Joyful Bloomers invited me back to their September 2nd meeting at the home of Andrea Rice. I enjoyed my time with your club and learning to make a flower ornament for my garden.
2. I attended the Pucketos G.C. President's Invitational on Monday, October 12. Becky Schaffer's articles made from recycled materials were very clever and interesting.
3. On Saturday, October 17, I was a guest at Highland Park G.C.'s meeting. Shelly Danko – Day showed how to clean and sharpen garden tools. Two representatives from Eichenlaub Landscaping spoke on elements of hardscape.
4. I will be installing the 2016 officers of the Pucketos G. C. on December 7th. Thank you all for invitations to join in your activities.

CLOSING

Our next District VII Board Meeting will be held at Panera Bread at Penn Center (Wilkins Twp.) on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 10AM.

Benediction –Betty Monyok closed the meeting with Benediction and Leeanna adjourned the meeting at 12:12 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marilyn Backus - Assistant District VII Director