

Seventh District Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.
Minutes of Members' Council Meeting and Christmas Coffee
Victor Parks and Recreation Center
December 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by District Director, Carolyn Peck at 10:10 am on Wednesday December 3, 2025.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Sargeant-At-Arms, Joyce Lyle, who also reminded members to silence their cell phones.

There were no new presidents or guests in attendance. The hospitality of Sharon Kubiak, Joanne Ristuccia, and Katie Amato (absent) was recognized by Carolyn. She also expressed appreciation to all who brought holiday cookies to share.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Recording Secretary: *Mary Ann Hetzer*

There were two corrections to the minutes of the November 3 Semi-annual meeting.

Carolyn Brown, Past Director, was also in attendance has been added to the list of past directors present.

A correction to Sue Toomey's report – there were no centerpieces needed for the December 2025 meeting.

There were no other corrections or additions from the floor. The minutes were approved and filed.)

Treasurer, *Pat Bartholomew*

Checking - Balance Forward	\$10,810.71
Debits	\$ 4,988.00
Deposits	\$ 5,287.00
Savings – Regular	\$ 7,003.44
Checking – Balance	\$11,109.71
Checking – Special Funds	\$ 4,285.00
CD – District	\$12,707.85
CD – Special Funds	\$11,551.43

1st Assistant, *Sue Toomey*

-Thanked clubs for signing up for centerpieces and raffle baskets. The signup sheets are available and have been updated. Assignments for May 2026 and September 2026 have been filled. Centerpieces for November are needed. Only raffle baskets have been assigned for that meeting. Openings are available for all 2027 centerpieces and raffle baskets. Sue requested anyone interested to see her after the meeting.

-Has confirmed a speaker for the May 2026 meeting but still need other speakers. Please let her know your recommendations.

-From the November basket raffle, the profit for Klemwood Garden Club was \$881.

-Someone from Conesus Lake Garden Club won the basket with lottery tickets. \$3 was won but the grandchildren had fun scratching the tickets.

2nd Assistant, Maryann Wagner – No report

3rd Assistant, Tanya Komorowski – No report

Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Greaves

As registrar, Sharon reminded everyone of the importance of signing in at each meeting.

Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Toogood

-The following clubs have yet to pick up their directories: Allyn's Creek, Bloomfield, Colony, Pittsford, Rochester and Warsaw. Please pick up your directory after the MCM meetings.

Advisor, Carol Stahl – No report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Carolyn Peck

-Thanked everyone again for the cookies.

-Today is past director Dorothy Grant's 80th birthday. She was not present to receive our best wishes.

-An Awards chairperson(s) is desperately needed. Please consider this opportunity.

-Clubs' Activity Sheets:

-All but 9 have been submitted

-Thanks to all who submitted them

-Silver Plate award from Sibley's Update

-It was suggested to Carolyn to check Obituaries:

o Mrs. Cortland Newcomb's first name is Carrol (double r is correct). She lived in Pittsford.

o Mrs. George Jackson (a very common name), she believes is the Elizabeth who also lived in Pittsford in 1976.

-The search continues.

-Wreaths Across America is scheduled for December 13. Reminded those who have Blue Star Memorials to participate.

-Next MCM meeting will be held at the Victor Recreation Center on March 4, 2026. There are no meetings in January or February 2026.

-Conesus Lake Garden Club is having their Greens Sale this Saturday, December 6 at Deer Run Winery in Geneseo. Country Gardeners of Webster's Holiday Sale will be on the same date at Webster Parks and Recreation building.

-Carolyn will give an annual report after the Committee Board Chair Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Civic Beautification Grants – Anne Johnston

-Grants deadline is January 31, 2026

- Judging of applicants is done in February 2026

- Awards are distributed in March 2026

-Speakers List: Bonnie Bellivant is in charge of the Speakers List and hasn't received updates. She would like to hear from clubs. Debbie Toogood has included the list on the 7th District website.

-Fairport Garden Club is facilitating the recycling of defective Christmas tree lights by providing a dropoff location at the Community Center on Turk Hill Road. Home Depot and Lowes may also be offering this service.

World Gardening, Janet Lockhart

-*The Herald's* December issue which was distributed on December 3 has Janet's report on World Gardening.

-Reminder: January 20, 2026 is the deadline for clubs' donations to be counted for the 2025-2026 year. The flyer has been distributed by Debbie Toogood to the Presidents of 7th District clubs. 7th District is the top district contributor.

-Reminder to include your donation to World Gardening in your club's Activity Reports for the year.

Janet thanked everyone for their support.

Youth, Kathy Armstrong

-Youth Contests:

-The deadline for all Youth contests is January 1, 2026.

-Entries may be submitted to 7thdistrictyouthcontests@gmail.com

-Contest information is available on the district website www.7thdistrictfgcnys.org
(search word: Youth) Password (case sensitive) lilac

NYS Life Membership, Joyce Lyle

-Article in *The Herald* re NY State Life Members

-Will bring applications to March 2026 meeting.

-Hoping to plan local event in 2026

-Betty Triest will assist Judy Mattiusi with historical memorabilia

-Debbie Toogood suggested a digital historic book so as to eliminate the need to print photos.

Parliamentarian, Joyce Lyle

Contact her to discuss and/or help with club disputes

Sergeant-At-Arms, Joyce Lyle

"Love doing it"

GIFT DRAWING

Executive Board members brought gifts to be raffled off to attendees of the MCM meeting. Items ranging from ornaments, candy dish, casserole carrier, rosemary plant, wine, holiday soap, diffusers were among the gifts won when their name was drawn from a bag by members of, 4 Seasons, Fairport, Geneseo, Greenbrier, Klemson, Ontario and Penfield garden clubs.

Sharon Kubiak donated a beautiful pine cone Christmas tree which was won by Janet Lockhart.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

-Wreaths at George Eastman Museum. Several clubs have donated wreaths for auction to benefit GEM. Online bidding available at eastman.org. Most public libraries have Buy-one-get-one-free admission tickets to GEM and other locations (e.g. RMSC, Susan B. Anthony House).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

Year 2025 in Review:

Carolyn highlighted some of the happenings of the 7 th District over the past year 2025.

-The Think Spring Luncheon was revived when people brought trays and we had a lovely lunch there and celebrated Carol Stahl's directorship.

-A New Executive Board was installed at the 101st Annual Meeting.

-In May. Mark Mclean was the speaker and 140 people attended.

-In June, Carolyn and four other members went to Albany, NY to attend the State Convention where she was to have been inducted as District Director, However, her brother had suffered a stroke so she rushed back to Rochester and was never formally installed by the State.

-The Board picnic was at the Shadow Pines Property but she did not attend because her brother had collapsed again.

-A Successful fund raiser, "Summer Fun on the Porch and in the Garden" in July added about \$5000 to our Treasury.

-There were Flower Shows- The Poet's Garden Flower Show, Color My World and Frightful but Delightful this past October.

-The Semi-Annual Meeting and Luncheon held in November was attended by 128 members.

Some other highlights:

- Young people have won awards and scholarships.
- 4 clubs received Civic Beautification grants.
- 24 clubs donated to Dig Deep and Water for Sudan, the most in the State.
- Wreaths were created and donated to the Eastman House Museum.
- 13 women were honored in the Book of Recognition.
- The Herald published lots of color pictures of the summer fundraiser.
- The Website has been redesigned and upgraded.
- Debbie Toogood worked long and hard on the new Directory and continues to do so.
- Clubs take care of more than 68 gardens and public spaces throughout our District.
- Clubs have given more than \$5400 in scholarship monies.
- This is all in addition to all that each of your club's monthly activities.

We have so much to be proud of!

-There was a round of applause!

Other Business

Holiday Poem Anne Johnston read a poem which Debbie Toogood will forward to the membership.

Victor Garden Club per Mary DuPrey is again taking pre-orders for 12" flowerpots of petunias and verbena to be available for pickup in May 2026 at the Victor Community Center for \$25 each. Debbie Toogood will email flyer in January.

Lakeview Garden Club is participating per Sharon Kubiak in the Olympia Craft Show (Maiden Lane) this weekend. 100+ vendors.

Members were invited to take home leftover treats. The meeting was ajourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hetzer, Recording Secretary