

Seventh District Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.
Minutes of Members' Council Meeting
Victor Parks and Recreation Center
March 4, 2026

- The meeting was called to order by District Director, Carolyn Peck at 10:05 am on Wednesday March 4, 2026.
- Group was asked to note the new American flag donated by the 7th District to the Victor Recreation Center.
- 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 was a new president, Joanne Ristuccia, of Lakeview Garden Club in attendance.
- There were no guests at this meeting. The hospitality of Katie Amato, Anne Johnston and Joanne Ristuccia was recognized by Carolyn Peck.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Recording Secretary: *Mary Ann Hetzer*

There was one correction to the December 3, 2025 minutes. In Anne Johnson's report, the reference to collection of Christmas lights by Fairport Garden Club was deleted and the following was inserted per Anne "There are several collection sites for the lights in the Village of Fairport including the Perinton Community Center." There were no other corrections or additions from the floor. The minutes were approved and filed.

Treasurer, *Pat Bartholomew*

Balance Forward	\$11,551.43
Debits	\$ 2,126.92
Deposits	\$ 634.00
Savings – Regular	\$ 7,003.96
Checking – Balance	\$10,058.51
Checking – Special Funds	\$ 4,285.00
CD – District	\$12,707.85
CD – Special Funds	\$11,666.00

1st Assistant, *Sue Toomey*

- Has confirmed that Byron Smith, Landscape Manager at George Eastman Museum shall be the speaker for the May 6th 2026 meeting at Webster Golf Club.
- She reviewed the revised menu.
- The venue was not changed despite a \$1.00 per person increase in the luncheon price since WGC does not charge for the use of the facility.
- If a member of your club is making a reservation and she is on the 7th District Executive Board, please indicate that on your reservation since the Executive Board members will be seated together at the head table for the annual meeting.
- Is brainstorming the reformatting of the September Meet and Greet. Sue has a committee working on creating a cost-effective functional format with workshops. If you would like to assist with the planning, please contact Sue.

2nd Assistant, Maryann Wagner – No report
3rd Assistant, Tanya Komorowski – No report
Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Greaves

If anyone is in need of a nametag, please let Sharon know. They are made in September.

Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Toogood

- Named several clubs who have yet to pick up their directories and would like to have them picked up.
- Reminded everyone of the importance of keeping their email address up to date.

Advisor, Carol Stahl – No report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Carolyn Peck

- Thanked everyone again for the goodies.
- Sadly informed us that Sue Broda's husband has passed away.
- An Awards chairperson(s) is desperately needed. Please consider this opportunity.
- Clubs' Activity Sheets:
 - 16 out of 25 have been submitted.
 - Thanks to all who submitted them.
- Silver Plate award from Sibley's Update - Mrs. Cortland Newcomb and Mrs. George Jackson were members of the Pittsford Garden Club. Diane Gribben suggested checking the Book of Recognition and there they were.
- In going through the Awards boxes, she came across awards for Judges Council, Country Gardeners of Webster, Lakeview and Newark garden clubs and distributed them.
- The "Buzz" newsletter was emailed to members. Anne Johnston informed everyone that the name was changed to "Buzzing Around the State" and is published twice a year and distributed to all members via Email by the State office in Albany. It is not SPAM.
- Deadline for State Recognition forms is March 15, 2026.
- Two conventions if anyone is interested in attending: State (Albany) 6/14-16 and CAR (Cleveland) 10/19-20
- The Budget will be presented in April by Pat Bartholomew. The vote will take place in May. Fundraisers will be added (none in 2026).
- We will hold a NGC Flower Show July 22-23. The theme is "Christmas in July". A tray demo will be presented today by Sandy Happ, Judges Council Chairperson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Garden Therapy – Jacquie Greene

- Would like to create a list of active community projects in which 7th District garden clubs are involved e.g. All Siegl Center, George Eastman Museum etc. Requests clubs to submit this info to her via email (jgreene127@rochester.rr.com). If a list is created, it could be a source for volunteers from outside your club to join in with these volunteer projects.

Civic Beautification Grants – Anne Johnston

-Grant awards were reviewed by Master LD Consultants Anne Johnston, Sandi Happ and Diane Gribben.

-There was only one applicant. Anne questioned why there were no other applications. Perhaps the rules need evaluating and revamping.

-Victor Garden Club was awarded \$402 for two Hanging Earth Planter Flowerpots attached to the sign for the new dog park at Harlan-Fisher Park. Mary Duprey spoke about the “Earth Planters” which they used.

-Blue Star Markers

-NGC is asking all 13 clubs to plant red, white, and blue flowers around the markers to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. If that is not feasible, a pot with these plants can be placed in close proximity to the marker.

-The Executive Board approved giving \$100 to each club with a marker to purchase these plants with the caveat that photos be taken of the finished project and submitted to Sandy Ebberts for publication in *The Herald* and to Dorothy Grant, NYS Chair of Blue Star Markers, to make a poster to share with the state. This should be done before the end of this summer.

-District Treasurer will present a check to each club at the April meeting. Please ensure that a representative is in attendance to accept the check. (Two of the thirteen markers are supported by multiple clubs, however, one check will be distributed per marker.)

-Reminder to maintain and water all summer.

-7th District Flower Show – July 23-24, 2026

-Theme is “Christmas in July”

-Anne Johnston will chair this show which is required every two years.

-Committee chairs are in place, the schedule is written and is to be printed late March.

-Extra help is needed for clerks, runners, etc. More info will be provided in April.

-Demonstrations by Judges Council for entries:

March: Sandi Happ (tray)

April: Liza Borton (TBD)

May: Beth Hickman (Nomenclature)

NYS Life Membership, Joyce Lyle

-There are 20+ life members.

-Application fee is \$100

-There will be a garden tour of Jen Timmer's garden on August 20 followed by lunch at a nearby country club.

World Gardening, Janet Lockhart

-*The Herald's* Spring issue which was distributed in March 2026 has Janet's report on World Gardening.

-Janet congratulated and thanked everyone for their support to bring clean water to people in the South West, Appalachia and South Sudan.

-Dig Deep received \$10,358.35 from NYS garden clubs and our 7th District donated \$3,131.

-Water for South Sudan received \$10,484.91 and our 7th District donated \$1,402.

-Over 20% of the total NY State donations came from our district.

-The new fiscal year began March 1, 2026. “Keep up the good work!”

Other Business

Victor Garden Club per Mary DuPrey is again taking pre-orders for 12” flowerpots of petunias and verbenas to be available for pickup in May 2026 at the Victor Community Center for \$25 each.

Rochester Garden Club is selling geraniums and plants on line per Beth Hickman. The website is rochestergardenclub.com

“*Your 7th District Garden Club at Work*” lawn signs are available. “Use them” per Dorothy Grant, Membership Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Hetzer, Recording Secretary