

Seventh District Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.
Minutes of 102nd Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Webster Golf Club, Webster, NY
May 6, 2026

- The meeting was called to order by District Director, Carolyn Peck at 10:04 am on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.
- 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.
- The centerpieces provided by Hubbard Springs Garden Club as well as the raffle baskets provided by Geneseo and Victor garden clubs were recognized by Carolyn Peck.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Recording Secretary: *Mary Ann Hetzer*

There were no corrections or changes submitted for the minutes of the April meeting. These were approved and filed.

Treasurer, *Pat Bartholomew*

Balance Forward	\$ 8,637.29
Debits	\$ 3,902.27
Deposits	\$ 744.00
Savings – Regular	\$ 7,004.48
Checking – Balance	\$ 5,479.02
Checking – Special Funds	\$ 4,285.00
CD – District	\$12,834.09
CD – Special Funds	\$11,666.00

Budget for 2026/2027 was presented for \$11,158 and unanimously approved by one vote from each garden club president or their representative who were present.

1st Assistant, *Sue Toomey*

- 125 attendees today.
- Requests sign up for centerpieces for May 2027, November 2027 and for raffle baskets for November 2027.
- For the September 2, 2026 Meet and Greet no lunch is planned. Snacks and water/ice tea available. It will be held 10:00-Noon at the Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Center. There will be breakout sessions for each club office to share ideas as well as discuss the responsibilities of each office.
- The November 4, 2026 speaker at the Semi-Annual meeting tentatively will be Stacy K. Ercan, the founder and creative director of Stacy K Floral, Inc., a Rochester, NY–based premium florist and event design studio.

2nd Assistant, *Maryann Wagner*

- The Summer Picnic for executive board members, board chairs and section chairs will take place on June 24, 2026 at 10 a.m. at Homestead for Hope at 2585 Manitou Road, Rochester 14606. Bring your own brown bag lunch.

3rd Assistant, Tanya Komorowski – No report
Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Greaves – No report
Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Toogood – No report
Advisor, Carol Stahl – No report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Carolyn Peck

- An Awards chairperson(s) is still needed. The position includes sending out a questionnaire, sorting results and presenting awards in the Spring. A few clubs could work together on this. Please consider this opportunity.
- A list of all programs will be sent to Club Presidents and will also be in The Herald
- Attended 8th District's annual meeting in Buffalo, NY in April. Very informative.
 - They do not collect club dues for their membership
 - The \$4 per member which the 7th District collects is used for example for printing newsletters for those without access to the internet, insurance, programs, miscellaneous expenses.
 - They decorate the Theodore Roosevelt House in Buffalo for Christmas and have contests.
- The NY State Convention is scheduled in Albany, NY on June 14-16.
- The Central Atlantic Region (CAR) convention is scheduled in Cleveland, Ohio, October 19-20. More information to come.
- We will hold a NGC Flower Show July 22-23. The theme is "Christmas in July". A demo will be presented today by Liza Borton, Judges Council and Flowershow committee member.
- Club memberships are decreasing. Please "step up" and take leadership roles to keep clubs enrolled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joyce Lyle

Flower Show

Donations are needed to support the show. Levels: Patron \$50; Supporter \$25 and Friend \$10. Donors' names will be listed on a poster displayed at the show.

Civic Beautification Grants

Grant awards were begun in 2015. More applications are needed for 2027.

NYS Life Membership

There are 24 life members, 10-12 actually attend. We will meet for a garden tour on August 20 followed by lunch.

Obituaries

A scrapbook is kept of death notices. If a member of your club passes away, please send a "hard copy" to Joyce for the scrapbook.

Books for Scholars, Andrea Zonneyville

- Try using Facebook to get new applicants.
- William Headly was the 2025 winner submitted by Hilton Garden Club. He sent an impressive thank you letter which was read to the members.
- 2026 award will be presented in June to Olivia Fields from Stoneybrook College submitted by Victor Garden Club.

World Gardening, Janet Lockhart

-Janet congratulated and thanked everyone for their support to bring clean water to people in the South West, Appalachia and South Sudan. It was a banner year for donations-- most ever collected. Of the \$4,533 collected, \$1,402 was donated to Water for South Sudan and \$3,131 for Dig Deep. The State collected \$20,842 and divided it equally. Twenty per cent of State donations originated from the 7th District.

-Circulating a World Gardening trophy which will be engraved and do next to Creative Gardens of Penfield to display for a year.

Other Business

Flower Show, Anne Johnston, Chairperson

-"Christmas in July" scheduled for July 23 at the Damascus Shrine Center, Bay Road Webster, NY.

-22 Committee members.

-Chairs: Sandy Happ, Horticulture; Candy Smith, Design classes; Maryann Wagner, Youth; Sharon Kubiak, Botanical Arts; Marlene Moran, Photography; Clerks, Sue Broda.

Liza Borton will demonstrate two horticulture entries (daffodil and dogwood); Beth Hickman will provide nomenclature information at the next meeting explaining the card which must include the genus, species, and variety. Botanical names are needed only for the horticulture entries to fulfill the education purpose of the show. Crafts for the show were available for sale today.

Club Awards, Carolyn Peck, Carol Stahl

One single citation document listing each of the individual citations which will be awarded and a single certificate document will be given listing each of the certificates awarded recognizing the great works of the clubs during 2025. Photographs were taken at the end of the awards distribution. The following awards were announced by Carolyn Peck and presented by Carol Stahl to the club president or to her representative (more will be awarded at the November 2026 meeting):

Bloomfield Garden Club

Citation: Civi Beautification, World Gardening

Certificate: Conservation

Colony Garden Club

Citation: World Gardening

Certificate: Conservation

Conesus Lake Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Youth, Special Projects, World Gardening

Certificate: Historic Preservation

Country Gardeners of Webster Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Conservation, Historic Preservation, Flower Show /

Critique/Special Projects, World Gardening, Youth

Club Awards (Continued – 2)

Creative Gardeners of Penfield

Citation: Civic Beautification, Conservation, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Garden Therapy, Special Projects, World Gardening

Fairport Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Horticulture, Garden Therapy, Special Projects, World Gardening, Youth

Four Seasons Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Garden Therapy, Horticulture, Historic Preservation, World Gardening
Certificate: Special Projects, Youth

Gates Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, Youth, World Gardening

Geneseo Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Garden Therapy, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, Youth, World Gardening

Greenbrier Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Conservation, Special Projects, World Gardening
Certificate: Horticulture, Youth

Hubbard Springs Garden Club of Chili

Citation: Civic Beautification, Historic Preservation, Special Projects, World Gardening

Lakeview Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Historic Preservation, Special Projects, Horticulture, World Gardening

Newark Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Garden Therapy, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, World Gardening

Rochester Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Garden Therapy, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, Flower Show / Critique, World Gardening, Youth

Sonnenburg Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, World Gardening
Certificate: Flowershow/Critique, Special Projects

Club Awards (Continued – 3)

Town of Ontario Garden Club

Citation: Conservation, Civic Beautification, Garden Therapy, Historic Preservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, World Gardening, Youth

Victor Garden Club

Citation: Civic Beautification, Conservation, Horticulture, Special Projects, World Gardening, Youth

The meeting adjourned for a buffet lunch at 11:23 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

The drawing took place for raffle baskets provided by Geneseo Garden Club and by Victor Garden Club.

Book of Recognition, Diane Gribbons

Letters of recognition were read followed by the reveal of the recipients names: The following were recognized by their clubs:

Klemwood – Joan Gerber

Lakewood Garden Club – Joanne Ristuccia

Sonnenburg – Vicky Munson

Town of Ontario – Laurel Ford, Crystal Brown, Pat Delperddange

Introduction of Life Members, Joyce Lyle

-There are 24 members, the newest being Janet Lockhart

-Christine Brightman and Pat Cargnoni are also Life Members of Central Atlantic Region (CAR) and National Garden Club (NGC). A trifecta!

Recognition of Past Directors, Carolyn Peck

-Past directors Carolyn Brown, Pat Cargnoni, Dorothy Grant, Anne Johnston, Joyce Lyle, Carol Stahl.

Guest Speaker, Sue Toomey

Sue Toomey introduced Byron Smith, Landscape Manager, George Eastman Museum He presented a program on “Managing the Historic Gardens of GEM” The projected photographs from Mr. Eastman's original gardens contrasted with pictures taken as recent as this morning. Many Q&A's followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Hetzer, Recording Secretary