

Seventh District Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.
Minutes of September Meet and Greet, Victor Parks & Recreation, Victor, NY
September 2, 2026

--The meeting was called to order by District Director, Carolyn Peck at 10:05 am on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. Carolyn thanked everyone for attending in spite of the severe weather forecast.

--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.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - *Carolyn Peck*

--Carolyn announced that the Executive Committee reports would be dispensed with to allow for time for Breakout Sessions.

--There were no corrections to the minutes May meeting so they were approved and filed.

--The following Treasurer's report submitted by Pat Bartholomew was not read but added to the minutes for the record.

Balance Forward	\$ 4,908.44
Debits	\$ 0
Deposits	\$ 849.00
Savings – Regular	\$ 7,005.01
Checking – Balance	\$ 5,757.44
Checking – Special Funds	\$ 4,285.00
CD – District	\$13,086.15

--Changes is 7th District's membership: Warsaw Garden Club left after 73 years (Federated in 1953). Colony Garden Club (Federated in 1951) is considering leaving. According to Bylaws, funds in each club's treasury must be disbursed to organizations not individuals. (Later in the meeting, Joyce Lyle read a portion of Greenbrier Garden Club's Bylaws about the distribution of funds as an example of the wording.) It is vital to keep Bylaws up to date.

--Publisher of *The Herald*, Sandy Ebberts, has resigned. Beginning with the September 2026 issue, the publisher will be Wendy Monroe who is the Secretary at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia, NY. Further information will be sent to you.

--Susan Krobusek, President of Sonnenberg Garden Club, announced their club will have a fundraiser on September 24, "Design Show and Raffle" at the Carriage House featuring floral design demos by National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judges. Flyers were distributed with information.

--A memorial service will be held for Jim and Mary Kofron at Vay Schleigh & Meeson. Mary held many positions in the District over the years as well as being a Flower Show Judge. She will be remembered for her outstanding wit and the stories she shared.

1st Assistant, Sue Toomey

-Sue set aside ten minutes for attendees to meet and greet someone they did not know.
-For the September 2, 2026 Meet N Greet no lunch was planned. There are two luncheons scheduled for this fiscal year so there will be other opportunities to enjoy lunch together.
-There will be one-hour breakout sessions for each executive office to share ideas as well as discuss the responsibilities of each office. Tables were set up for groups to meet with the following board members: President and VP, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer, Yearbook, and Membership. Job responsibilities were available at each respective table. Poster-size sheets were at each table to record something positive to be shared with the large group. The information on each sheet was reviewed when everyone reassembled. President/VP reviewed by Maryann Wagner, Secretaries by Debbie Toogood, Treasurer by Pat Bartholomew, Yearbooks by Tanya Komorowski, and Membership by Dorothy Grant. Sue Toomey will summarize the information on these posters and distribute to the membership. Joyce Lyle quoted "*Joining a garden club is not a spectator sport.*"

Other Business

Meet and Greet History, Past President Anne Johnston

Anne was asked to report on the history of the annual September meetings. She included information as far back as 1981 when there was held a Presidents' Coffee, an opportunity to meet your District Director and Board. Formal invitations were mailed and the expectation was that the club president would attend. These meetings were held Sibley's Upstate Room where the Presidents Council Meetings were also held. Other meeting places were in Palmyra, The Century Club, Monroe Golf Club, the Baptist Church, 12 Corners Presbyterian Church, and Burgundy Basin Inn. This paused in the Covid era when no in-person meetings were held. When in-person meetings resumed, Shadow Lake was the venue for a lunch without a business meeting. With inflation, however, cost was prohibitive and discontinued for 2026. Membership has declined from 77 members in 2002, 47 members in 2012, and 23 members in 2026.

Blue Star Markers – Dorothy Grant, Chairperson

-Pittsford Garden Club Co-President, Jo Anne Shannon, has begun the process for a Blue Star Marker in Pittsford.
-Dorothy encouraged other clubs to get markers. The process takes a few years; seven months to get the plaque. She suggests you contact your respective towns to find a location and then contact her for more information.
-If you are dissolving your club's Federated membership, keep funds set aside to maintain your marker. This is allowed by Federation Bylaws.

Book of Recognition, Diane Gribbons

Letters of recognition are due by October 1, 2026 to be read at the November 4th 7th District Semi-Annual Meeting at Webster Golf Club. Sue Toomey added that the speaker will be Molly Running, a florist extraordinaire.

Hospitality – Carolyn Peck acknowledged and thanked Katie Amato and Sharon Kubiak Hospitality Chairs, for the treats we all enjoyed and were encouraged to take leftovers home!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Hetzer, Recording Secretary