

Seventh District Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.
Minutes of October 7, 2026 Members Council Meeting, Victor Parks & Recreation, Victor, NY

The meeting was called to order by District Director, Carolyn Peck at 10:06 am on Wednesday, .October 7, 2026. Carolyn welcomed everyone

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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Recording Secretary, Mary Ann Hetzer

There were no changes to the minutes of the September meeting and because there were no changes from the floor, the minutes stand approved and are filed.

Treasurer, Pat Bartholomew

The report for September 2026 was read:

Balance Forward	\$ 5,479.02
Deposits	\$ 75.00
Debits	\$ 1,207.37
Checking – Balance	\$ 4,346.65
Checking – Flower Show*	\$ 1,090.55
District Savings	\$ 7,005.01
District CD	\$13,128.54
Special Funds CD	\$11,933.85

*New account established by the Treasurer.

2nd Assistant, Maryann Wagner – No report

3rd Assistant, Tanya Komorowski – No report

Advisor, Carol Stahl – No report

Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Greaves

-If anyone is in need of a nametag, please let her know.

-Remember to sign in on the sheets at the front table.

-Please send in your club's reservations for the November 4 Semi-Annual meeting and Lunch as soon as possible before the October 26 deadline.

-Sharon has 7th District garden signs with her today for your use if you have a fundraiser or are working at a site. When displaying this sign, you are covered under FGCNYS insurance.

Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Toogood

Is having difficulty opening “word” and “pdf” attachments from Sue Toomey and wondered if others had the same experience. Several commented that they were. Debbie will investigate.

1st Assistant, Sue Toomey's report was read by Maryann Wagner and Carolyn Peck

-The Semi-Annual Luncheon invitation has been sent out and we are looking forward to a good turnout at the Webster Golf Club on November 4, 2026. The Guest Speaker will be Mollie Runyon, owner of Toad Hill Blooms, a fresh-cut flower farm in Fairport, NY. They grow using sustainable ecological practices to ensure a local option that is also kind to the environment. Their diverse catalog of perennials and annuals allows them to create beautiful designs which vary from one week to the next. They are not just growing and selling flowers at Toad Hill Blooms but are also cultivating joy, one petal at a time. We are looking forward to Mollie Runyon's presentation.

-Our September Meet and Greet with the new format was very successful, and we had over forty people in attendance. Lots of information was shared and very helpful pointers were passed on to all who attended.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Carolyn Peck

-Carolyn was pleased to announce that we have Awards co-chairs, Pat Bartholomew and Tanya Komorowski have agreed to take on this responsibility.

-The Publisher of *The Herald*, Sandy Ebberts, has resigned after ten years of publishing our newsletter. The December 2026 issue will be published by Wendy Monroe who is the Secretary at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia, NY. She operates an additional business of formatting newsletters. Further information will be sent to you.

-A list of all programs was published in the Summer edition of *The Herald*. If you have additional suggestions for programs, please contact Bonnie Bullivant who is in charge of the Speakers List. (Her contact information can be found on page 10 of our directory.) The Program List can be found on the District website. (The password is Lilac.)

-The Central Atlantic Region (CAR) convention will take place on October 19-20, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio.

-Carolyn distributed information about ways to increase club memberships.

-After the Committee Board Chair reports, there will be an opportunity to share some "Club Concerns", if there are any.

COMMITTEE BOARD CHAIR REPORTS

Nominating Chair, Joyce Lyle

-The former Nominating Chair, Pat Cargnoni, died in June of this year. Joyce is taking over her responsibilities. She would like to have a meeting of five representatives from the 7th District to provide names of candidates from their clubs to fill this slate of five:

1st Assistant Director, 3rd Assistant Director, Recording Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Historian. There would be only one meeting to take place on October 20, 2026. The vote would be held at the November Semi-Annual meeting. Joyce Lyle quoted "*Joining a garden club is not a spectator sport.*"

-Until an Historian is elected to replace Judy Mattiussi, whose health no longer permits her to continue in this position, Joyce will act as Historian in the interim.

-She requested that garden clubs let her know about members who have passed away and suggested that garden club memberships be listed in obituaries. Many have written their own obituaries in advance to make it easier for their loved ones who might not be aware of such affiliations.

Civic Beautification Grants – Anne Johnston

- Funds are available to be granted – \$2,000 plus any honorariums received during the year.
- Instructions can be found on line and will be forwarded to you by Debbie Toogood.
- Existing projects which you have rejuvenated as well as new projects are eligible to apply.
- Deadline is February 1, 2027.

Youth, Kathy Armstrong

- There are opportunities to benefit our youth.
- Information is available on the NGC Website <http://www.gardenclub.org> for information.
- The deadline is January 1, 2027

Book of Recognition, Diane Gribbons

The deadline for submission of Letters of Recognition was October 1, 2026.

None were received. There will be no announcements made at the November 4, 2026 7th District Semi-Annual Meeting.

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!

Club Concerns

Carolyn Peck opened the discussion to the attendees to share something noteworthy that they are doing with their clubs

- Gates Garden Club: The Lake House in Canandaigua offered a free tour of their gardens. It was wonderful. There is a public tour daily at 9 a.m. Private tours can be arranged by calling The Lake House directly.
- Perry Garden Club: They have a Meet & Greet at the Perry Farmers' Market. They gained three new members recently. One of their creative members, Judy Hipes, produced a tri-fold flyer handout describing their club's activities.
- Geneseo Garden Club: Set up a table set up at the Geneseo Village Fair
- The Herald – Joyce Lyle suggested a reminder to pass on the newsletter to each of their club's members.
- Victor Garden Club: They will be taking pre-orders for their flowerpots for 2027 at the November meeting. Mary Duprey reminded everyone to bring your checkbooks if you are interested.

The drawing for the centerpiece which the Hospitality Chairs provided was held and the winner was Marjorie Bouwens, the new president of Gates Garden Club won the centerpiece.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Hetzer, Recording Secretary