

Lake Placid Garden Club General Meeting, May 13, 2026

The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 25 in Lake Placid. There were 56 members and three guests present. The meeting began at 12:00.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members and guests were welcomed by President Doris Rohner.

The three LPGC Scholarship recipients, Hope Driggers, Cynthia Balderas and Avery Morgan were guests.

The birthday song was sung.

There were clipboard signups for Civic Beautification and for the Kokedama class 9:30 on June 10 at Jan Vedernjak's and for the ice cream social June 12.

The centerpieces which featured all edibles were provided by Candy Wolfe. The Legion provided lunch. The desert was provided by Mary Greeley.

President Rohner told members that two LPGC members, Paula Fabik and Stephanie Moreo were each honored with an award at the Lady of the Lakes ceremony at the Masonic Lodge May 5.

The invocation was spoken by Donna Ferchen.

The club broke for lunch. Lunch included chicken tenders, cole slaw, potato salad and green beans. Deserts were red white and blue cupcakes.

Stephanie Moreo introduced the LPGC 2026 Scholarship winners - Hope Driggers (Vocational/Technology), Cynthia Balderas (Academic) and Avery Morgan (Academic). Each thanked the club and talked about their future plans. Continuing Scholarships were also awarded to Nissa Budharj and Malani Melendez.

The 50/50 winner of \$100 was Stephanie Moreo who donated her winnings back to the LPGC.

Winners of Opportunity Table offerings were Sue Rood, Janet Earnshaw, Candy Wolfe, Larry Landress and Robin Shear.

Winners of the Centerpieces were Beth Pease, Dorie Roa, Carol Coyle, Lisa Hartman, Mary Greeley, Mary Meisenheimer, Mary Flummer, Martha Stevens, Kathleen Hartman, Jeanne Dietl, Josie Landress and Pam Rosenberg.

Sue Rood and Kathie Hutson participated in the Fuss and Brag segment.

Sue Rood, creator of the annual yearbook, reminded members to notify her in writing about any changes in their profile by July 15.

Recording Secretary Joyce Miles confirmed there was a quorum present.

Laura Krumm moved the meeting agenda with two additions be approved. The motion passed.

Stephanie Moreo moved the April 13 General Meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Nominating Committee Chairman Marcia Price reminded members that the club relies on volunteers. There are still some vacancies to fill – the lunch coordinator, a Co-Treasurer, a chairman for the Caladium Festival and someone to coordinate civic beautification at the American Legion.

Treasurer Donna Ferchen gave the Financial Report which was accepted subject to audit. There were reports of donations from the Masonic Lodge for \$150 and \$200 from the Noon Rotary.

The 2026-27 Budget was presented to and approved by members at the April meeting. The LPGC By-Laws indicate the vote must take place one month after the budget is presented so the vote needed to be retaken this month to ratify April's vote. Donna Ferchen moved the club accept the prepared budget. The motion carried.

The Sunshine Committee reported that 100-year-old member Trudy Ricketts was at the Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center and would appreciate cards.

Deb Gunderlock told members that 68 members had renewed their membership by paying their dues. 39 members have yet to do so. If dues are not received by May 15, a \$5 fee will be added. Members need to pay their dues in order to have their name included in the yearbook.

New Member Beth Pease was welcomed.

Karen Denning, Robin Shear and Jan Vedernjak reported on the 2026 Holiday Home and Garden Tour. 5 homes and a garden have been successfully lined up. They will begin selling ads soon. Jan asked members to provide a plant for the HH> Boutique and to consider donating a "treasure" for the "Trash and Treasure sale held at the Boutique.

Vicki Maxwell reported on the April 22 Plant Study which featured Florida-natural plants in her yard. She encouraged members to have their yards certified. The next Plant Study will be May 15 when Jan Vedernjak hosts a Kokedama workshop at her home.

Jennifer Marsh is in charge of a June 10 Ice Cream Social held at 1:00 at the Masonic Lodge.

Karen Denning told members that Acorn Project volunteers meet at Royce Ranch the third Thursday of each month. The May gathering will be the last until fall. There are two time slots to be filled – 8-9:30 and 9:30-11. Volunteers will be weeding and planting.

Marian Chambers gave a report on Garden Therapy held at the Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center. She read a poem, "Ode to a Yogurt Cup" which she wrote.

There will be no Youth Gardening in May. Projects are being planned for next year.

Donna Ferchen reported that the plants at the American Legion Garden were deprived of water and died because the Legion neglected to set the irrigation timer.

At the District IX Spring Meeting held on May 7, the LPGC was honored with certificates for Garden Therapy, Youth Gardening and the Blue Star Garden. The Lake Placid Garden Club also was awarded the Deep South Garden Club award which included a check for \$75.

President Rohner gave a moving tribute to the club describing her tenure as president. She then awarded three "Circle of Trust" awards, based on support, communication and exceptional helpfulness. The recipients were Sue Rood, Stephanie Moreo and Donna Ferchen. Each received lovely plants.

President Rohner was praised for her leadership and for her exceptional service in instituting a club website and club newsletter. She received her President's pin. Further, she was awarded the Pillar of Pride award by previous President, Sandy Rosch.

Sharon Diaz conducted the program. The theme for the installation of new officers is the same as the previous year – new beginnings, friendships and joy. 2025-26 officers were recognized and thanked for their service. It was noted that the club has 36 standing committees, each important to the club and requiring the time and effort of members.

These new officers were installed -

Danny Green, President

Kathleen Hartman and Lisa Hartman, Co-First Vice Presidents

Robin Shear and Jan Vedernjak, Co-Second Vice Presidents

Joyce Miles and Shannon Johnson, Co-Recording Secretaries

Laura Krumm and Mary Meisenheimer, Co-Corresponding Secretaries

Donna Ferchen, Treasurer

Deb Meyer reported the Masonic Lodge Garden and the Library Courtyard potted plants will need to be monitored and perhaps weeded and watered

Incoming President Danny Green was given the gavel by President Rohner. Danny delivered his Presidents message.

The meeting ended at 2:00.

Joyce Miles, Recording Secretary