

The Scoop

November 2024

**GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg
2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rose Martens

Greetings Sisters of GFWC. Another month has flown by. I am looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas, leaving behind our two hurricanes Helene and Milton! I am grateful to live in Central Florida, and not by the coast. Lots of events are coming our way. Food baskets for the homeless, Holiday bags for the residents of Mayfield Retirement Center, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, and the angel tree will keep us busy. I am asking each one of you to take a moment to reflect on whether you are doing your part to make this club enjoyable for all members. If you waiver in your response, or answer "no" then I challenge you to help with one of our upcoming events. If everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself. Please cooperate and be patient with members who are trying to make a change. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither was the Woman's Club of Leesburg. I bid you all a Happy Thanksgiving!



DECEMBER MEETING – ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

MENU: Turkey, Dressing, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, and Chocolate Cake \$15.00/person

HOSTESSES: Linda Way and Sara Hamilton

MEETING LOCATION: Rogers Park Building, 609 9th St., Leesburg

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A \$10,00 GIFT FOR THE ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE...ALWAYS A FUN TIME!

BOARD UPDATE

What does the Woman's Club of Leesburg President do? What are the roles of the Executive Board? What are the Community Service and Membership chairpersons' responsibilities?

Announcing the comprehensive guide for club leadership responsibilities!

This document, which will be released in the coming month, has been meticulously assembled to assist our officers and committee chairs in understanding their roles and executing their duties efficiently. It will serve as a cornerstone for maintaining the high standards and smooth operation of our club, ensuring that each officer and chair is well-informed and well-prepared for their responsibilities.

Going forward, as we step into a new term filled with opportunities and challenges alike, it is crucial that every officer and committee chair be familiar with the expectations outlined within this guide. It is also crucial

Upcoming Events

December 2
Board of Directors' Meeting
10:30am – 12:00pm
The Colored Easel

December 9
Holiday Party
10:30am – 1:00pm
Rogers Park Building

December 14
Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Publix at Lake Harris

January 6
Board of Directors' Meeting
10:30am – 12:00pm
The Colored Easel

January 13
General Meeting & Luncheon
10:30am – 1:00pm
Rogers Park Building

February 3
Board of Directors' Meeting
10:30am – 12:00pm
The Colored Easel

February 8
District 7 Arts Meeting
Orlando, FL

February 10
Holiday Party
10:30am – 1:00pm
Rogers Park Building

Birthdays

November

21 – Lisa Marie Provo
24 – Miriam Retzke

December

8 – Concetta Germain
9 – Perri Cook
13- Lucille DiSanto

January

6 – Jeanette Schultz
8 – Lorna Fogg

February

6 – Karyn Lambert
20 – Margot Saylor
Jane Ward
25 – Sandi Velardo

that all members be able to quickly identify who they should approach with questions or concerns in a particular area or who to reach out to, to help on a program or committee. Whether you are a returning member or new, this resource is designed to provide clarity and support.

For any inquiries or suggestions for updates, once the document is released, please do not hesitate to reach out to Laura Hannam, our dedicated Club Secretary. Your proactive engagement and commitment to excellence are what drive our club forward, fostering a vibrant and cohesive community.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Together, we will continue to achieve great things and uphold the traditions and values that make our club exceptional.

MEMBERSHIP

Perri Cook, Chair

Three new members were inducted at the November 11 meeting. Welcome and congratulations:



Janice Pantoja (Mentor: Laura Hannam)
Pat Blaschka (Mentor: Barb Howell)
Pia Sacchetta (Mentor: Zell Erwin)

FUN-RAISING

Barbara Howell, 1st Vice President

QUARTER AUCTION - The Quarter Auction was a huge success. This year it was held at Legacy of Leesburg Social Hall with over 180 participants. A big thank you for the untiring leadership of **Lucille DiSanto**, the incredible



work by our treasurer **Jane Ward**, and to all who volunteered and participated. Together we raised almost \$5,000 with half going to Forward Paths and half to Cornerstone Hospice. Denise Burry, Executive Directive of Forward Paths, spoke at our November meeting and accepted the check.

POSTAGE STAMPS – Our Postage Stamp Initiative is going strong. A big thank you to **Arlene Golden** – selling stamps at work, **Linda Way** – selling stamps to Legacy of Leesburg residents, and new member **Cathie Stocking** for selling stamps at our club meetings. We now have Christmas stamps

available at \$12 per 20 stamps and regular stamps \$10 for 20 stamps.



These are 1st class forever stamps that now sell for 73 cents each at the post office. So far, this initiative has given our club a net of almost \$2,000 for our charities. What I like about this initiative is it is also helping those who use stamps by providing significant

savings when they purchase. Just as an aside, this week alone, I was able to sell over \$150 at the Legacy garage sale, another \$150 at the Legacy Tea Society event, and \$226 at Belk Charity Day. In addition, **Arlene Golden** sold 400 stamps to someone at her office – **a savings of \$92 to the purchaser!** Imagine if each of you took some stamps to sell to your friends and neighbors or at events you participate in! This initiative is certainly making money for our charities.

FLIGHT TO HONOR - Pat Blaschka, a Veteran and new but returning member, is our new chair of the “Flight to Honor” Florida GFWC Veterans initiative. This initiative will send members from GFWC clubs throughout Florida to Washington DC with an all-female flight crew, have an all-female Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. The donations to the Flight to Honor are growing with over \$200 collected and a silent donor who is willing to match our donations up to \$500. At the November board meeting, the board voted to use \$200 from the Quarter Auction toward this GFWC Florida initiative. Our club is proud to say we have three Veterans, **Pat Blaschka, Bonnie Davis, and Concetta Germain**. Thank you for your service.



BELK CHARITY DAYS – Perri Cook took the lead on manning the table Saturday morning at Lake Square Mall Belk store to help recruit new members, sell Belk Charity Day Tickets, and sell stamps. My husband and I (**Barb Howell**) took the afternoon shift. Together we took in \$100 in Belk charity day ticket sales and received a \$50 Visa gift card from Belk corporate for our participation as well as selling \$226 worth of stamps!



WELLNESS EXPO - Our newest initiative “Keys to Your Wellbeing” was brought to us by new member **Marissa Honka**. She has coordinated 11 sites for wellness expos throughout Lake County. There are lots of vendors

that provide services to seniors. They have lots of information on their services and lots of fun giveaways. We will have a table at each to promote our club, let attendees know about our projects, and sell stamps! This is a lot of fun. If you would like to volunteer for 2 hours, **please message me, Barb Howell at 407-595-3866** with your preferred site:

| | | |
|------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1/14 | 11am-1 pm | Recreation Plantation |
| 1/20 | 1-4pm | Fairway Christian Church |
| 1/22 | 11am-1pm | Highland Lakes |
| 1/7 | 11am-1pm | Water Oaks |
| 2/11 | 1-3pm | Hope Lutheran Church |
| 2/20 | 2-4pm | Stonecrest |
| 3/7 | 11am-1pm | Pennebrook |
| 3/11 | 1-3pm | Mid Florida Lakes |
| 3/18 | 1-3pm | Continental Country Club |
| 3/28 | 1-3pm | Parkinson's Foundation |

ARTS AND CULTURE

Sandi Velardo, Chair

The Spirit of Christmas Bags

The Club will be decorating and filling 20 Christmas bags for residents at Mayfield Retirement Center. If you would like to help fill the bags, here are some suggestions:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Non-skid socks
- Greeting cards
- Postage stamps
- Hand lotion
- Small package of Kleenex
- Small Christmas decoration for room
- Calendar
- And anything else you think a senior might like to have.

Please bring your items to the December 9 meeting. We will fill the bags for the residents at that time. Delivery of the items to the Mayfield Retirement Center will be announced,

Gift bags will be decorated on December 5 @ 1:00PM at Sandi Velardo's house (5922 Candle Glow Place-Legacy). If interested, please contact Sandi at 904-655-1960 or scvelardo@gmail.com.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Arlene Golden, Chair

First things first. A great big thank you to **Pat Blaschka** and **Jane Ward** for joining Becky and me on the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee (CEOC). Your support is appreciated more than you know!

Upcoming Activities:

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT LAKE HARRIS PUBLIX, 27615 U.S. HIGHWAY 27

We have 4 shifts - 10 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. The first shift will find our volunteer sign, along with the bells and kettle at the customer service desk. The tripod will be inside the door of the store. At the end of the final shift, the Salvation Army kettle driver will come by to pick up the kettle and bells. If you need to leave before the driver gets there, take the kettle and bells to the customer service desk.

This is such a worthwhile way to spend a couple of hours together doing a very good thing. So, let's proudly wear our green GFWC Club shirts, and if you're game, a red Santa hat too, and ring those bells till the kettle's filled to overflowing. Don't forget to sign up.

GUARDIAN ad LITEM CHRISTMAS LIST

At the November 11th general meeting, Jane had a detailed sign-up sheet listing the ages, gender, and gifts that our ten little ones (ranging in age from 3 months to 4 years) are hoping "Santa" will be able to deliver this year. And remember, Santa doesn't do it alone-he has elves, and they all work together. So, to help lighten the load and have fun doing it, why not get together with one or two other club members and shop for a gift or two together?

Jane needs the gifts by December 9th (our next general meeting). Feel free to bring them then, or touch base with Jane to make other arrangements. And if you weren't able to make the November meeting, please do call her (352-638-8094) to learn more about the donations being asked for.

LOOKING BACK

Thank you, Becky, Linda, Lucille, and Sara, for taking part in the National Night Out and/or the Walk for Freedom events. It was so nice spending time together, but it would be great to have more of our GFWC-Leesburg ladies come out to share the fun with us.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Club to withdraw from the November 9th Veteran's Day Parade. We were disappointed, and hope that next year many of us will proudly "strut our stuff", whether that be marching in, or cheering from the side lines, to show all veterans our appreciation for their service.



Our Thanksgiving baskets project for the Leesburg Elementary School was highly successful. Special thanks to **Marissa Honka** who organized the event. The baskets were full with a surplus of items which will also be given to the school. Thank you to all the members who contributed to this effort. We are making a difference in other people's lives.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the course of the next month or so, the CEOC will be looking for projects that you would like to be involved with. Please remember, the Committee is not an island nor a dictatorship – we're members just like you. Your ideas/suggestions would be warmly welcomed so don't hesitate to share.

I'll close with that, but not before wishing you a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

GFWC NEWS AND NOTES

For the latest updates on GFWC International, National, and Florida news and happenings or to learn more about the organization, visit the website: www.gfwc.org.

GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF LEESBURG

Facebook: www.facebook.com – GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg
Webpage: <https://www.womansclubofleesburg.com/>
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The GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg newsletter is published August – May. Send submissions for the newsletter to bfadik@comcast.net by the 10th of each month (August - May). Newsletter is sent around the 15th of each month.