

GFWC Membership Meeting Minutes

Rogers Park, 610 9th Street, Leesburg, FL

April 14, 2025

Open: Barbara Howell, Vice President

- In the absence of President Rose Martens, Barbara Howell opened the meeting at 11:03 AM
- A quorum was present
- Barbara welcomed the members and guests.
- Bunny Davis led the devotion
- The members stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the GFWC Collect.
- Barbara introduced special guests, Carla Connelly, GFWC District 7 Director, and other visiting guests.
- Sandra Velardo moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting Karyn Lambert seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.
- Jane Ward presented the Treasurer's report with an amendment to reflect interest accumulated. Report was filed for audit.

President's Message

- GFWC State Convention will be April 24 through the 26th at the Rosen Hotel in Orlando. Registration is \$50. Members were encouraged to attend.
- Bow tying and tissue cutting for the Leesburg Elementary Mother's Day jewelry event at Leesburg Elementary will be April 17 at 9:30 at the Legacy kitchen. Members were asked to bring their own scissors to curl ribbon. Nine hundred ribbons are needed for the event. Due to the generosity of the members, the club will be furnishing jewelry for every student to choose a gift for their mother or special person for Mother's Day. The Leesburg Kiwanis Club will also be there to help.
- Barbara recognized five members celebrating birthdays in March.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

- Arlene Golden stated the club will be placing flags at the National Cemetery in Bushnell on May 25 for Memorial Day. A group to place the flags and a group to retrieve the flags will be needed on May 31. Members choosing to place the flags need to bring a large screwdriver to make a hole in the ground for the flag. A car pool will be available.

Installation of Officers

- Carla Connelly, GFWC District 7 Director, led the ceremony for installation of the 2025-26 Executive Board with a candlelight ceremony.

Other Business

- Luck of the Draw, led by Sara Hamilton, in the absence of Linda Way, 2nd Vice President. There were two opportunities to win this month. Arlene Golden won the 50/50 drawing of \$55 and Cathie Cotton Stocking won a begonia donated by member and April Hostess, Sandra Velardo
- Special thoughts and prayers were requested for three members and their families.
- Carla Connelly addressed the members, introducing herself and describing her position. There will be a District meeting in Pine Castle on May 17. The members were encouraged to attend. A State Leadership Conference will be held This fall. The new executive board is encouraged to attend.

New Member Induction

- Wendy Montroy and Ailaina Corrado were inducted into the Leesburg GFWC by Membership Chair Perri Cook and her team member Janet Schroko, in a candlelight ceremony. The members welcomed them at the end of the ceremony.

New Business

Jan Davis asked anyone wishing to help with the End of the Year Tea at the May General meeting, please sign up and meet after the current meeting is adjourned to set a date for a planning meeting.

Barbara Howell announced that member Karyn Lambert won the Flight of Honor Quilt Raffle, made and donated by Pat Blaschka.

The Board of Directors voted to have themes highlighted for each month in the new year starting in September. When possible, each committee is encouraged to work the theme into their monthly program.

The meeting recessed for lunch of baked potato bar, salad and dessert provided by Debra Davis Catering Company

The meeting reconvened at 12:40.

Charity Presentations

Two separate checks for \$3,500, were made to Ashley's House and Leesburg Elementary from the proceeds of the March Quarter Auction.

Kathryn Wilgus, NC, Navy, Retired, Vice President of Village for Veterans accepted the check for the transition house for female veterans in the area. Founder and CEO Marie Bogdonoff, described the services provided by the Villages for Vets, and specifically Ashley's House for homeless female veterans.

Florence Katzenberger, Family School Liaison, at Leesburg Elementary accepted the check and outlined the needs and future plans for Leesburg Elementary, describing how much the

donations from the GFWC are needed for the more than eighty homeless families at Leesburg Elementary.

A motion was made by Pat Blaschka to adjourn the meeting. Sandra seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Minutes presented by Jan Davis in the absence of Secretary Laura Hannam