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# GFWC/CFWC CALIFORNIA CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMENS CLUBS

*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**

**2024**



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### *A Message from the Editor*

In this issue we explore the role of artificial intelligence in our philanthropic lives. Moving from our fear of it to using it in our daily lives - sometimes without even realizing it. I recall watching my two-year old granddaughter (now age 6) taking pictures with a cell phone. It has become so engrained in our culture that I didn't give it a second thought. That is, until today. I cannot help but chuckle to think about my first exposure to technology. I was definitely not age two. I was in college when I used email for the first time, in my mid-thirties when I had my first cell phone - that looked and weighed as much as a small brick! I used a real map and Thomas Guide to navigate to places I had never been. Alexa did not tell me the weather - I went outside to see the weather and watched the news on my television set. I can remember when having 4 channels was all the rage. Marketingpros.com reports that the average household has 206 channels with over 900 permitted channels. It boggles my mind how you even begin to make choices. Our cars, our laundry machines, and our phones all talk to us and even auto correct our conversations. Just last week my washing machine told me that the weight of my load would reduce the clean cycle to 85%. I, of course, obliged the machine and took some towels out to get me back to a clean cycle of 100%. My hubby is getting ready to install a device that lets us use a code and our biometrics to enter the house - good bye keys. I think technology is great but not perfect - there is a lot to be said for personal interaction and engagement, a lot to be said for knowing how to get things done manually - the old fashion way; and, a lot to be said for slowing down and "...smelling the roses." If all that were not enough, we can always begin a chat about Virtual Reality (VR). Has anyone had experience with VR? As for me, I can barely keep pace with my live version of reality!

How has technology impacted your life, your philanthropy, your club? Share your stories with Clubwoman and we will print them in the next issue.

The stories in this issue may be technology-centered, but the underlying focus remains a mix of resilience, creativity and the very best of Federated life.

Enjoy!



### Reporters



**Judith Yoakum**  
Managing Director



**Cathie Hollins**  
Senior Reporter



**Colleen Janssen**  
Reporter



**Alycia McCord**  
Reporter



**Jennifer A. Nickel**  
Reporter



## *A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Dear Members and Friends:

I sincerely hope you had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family, enjoyed the music and warmth of a cozy fireside, and even a good book.

Reflecting on how artificial intelligence is used in our daily lives as Federated members, I couldn't help but think how easy this is to discuss.

Every week when I write a quick bytes article to Debbie Pietraszko I use the little microphone button on my i-phone and record the article. Then I review, recheck it, and send to Debbie for printing to you all on Monday mornings. Very easy.

Daily I review many emails and text messages from members with questions from themes to reports, numbers of members in Federation, GFWC questions and all are answered via email or text back through my digital computer or via phone. I send the Call for a Board meeting or convention to Mary Sprague, CFWC Past President, and she reviews, corrects and sends out to everyone for attending our Board meetings and conventions. This is all done digitally to you as intelligent beings.

We are truly in the digital age and as for me I get help from my grandchildren when I need an update beyond my process thoughts or call the IT guy to advise.

How do you keep up with AI?

California Federation contacts the 19 Districts and 44 Chairmen, the 13 Executive Committee members, club questions and answers; all are handled digitally with the help of a trusted computers, laptops, and smart phones. Imagine trying to keep in touch with our 10,204 members personally without these tools?

I am grateful for advancement in the digital world and especially for continued contact with members and friends to keep communicating with each other on a daily basis. Imagine the workload at the club level without AI.

I hope to see many of you at the February Boards in Milpitas, CA. This will be a great LEADS and Leadership meeting. Please join us.

Love and Aloha,

*Barbara*

GFWC California Clubwoman is a magazine designed to inspire, educate, inform, and entertain individuals in the work of humanitarian service. It is a lifestyle magazine that features content about health, club life, culture, and community development. \*\*\* NOTE: The views and opinions expressed in the magazine in articles and Advertising are not the express views of the General Federation and should not be seen as endorsements.

# Leadership Notes



**Sonya Matthies**  
1st Vice President  
Dean

We live in a time where Artificial Intelligence (AI), which was founded in 1956 as an academic discipline, is all around us. Gradually, it has moved forward through increased funding and interest. According to Wikipedia Artificial Intelligence is defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to the intelligence of humans or animals.

Through smart home systems that use Artificial Intelligence we can monitor appliances and become aware of the energy they use and adjust as needed. Our watches have proven to be extremely helpful in notifying us of

meetings and appointments during our busy days and also can be programed as alarm clocks when we are away from home. These personal watches are also used as means of communication and keep us aware of things going on around us, our friends, and organizations. Think back to watching “Dick Tracy” using his watch to communicate, it seemed mind boggling back then but is a reality today.

As members of the GFWC California Federation of Women’s Clubs we are always busy striving to make a difference in our communities and beyond. It can be hard to remember all the meetings or deadlines on our calendars but thankfully we now have the ability through AI’s to program reminders on our phones. It seems the future is here and embracing Artificial Intelligence will aid us in many ways...who knows what’s next?

Here we are at the end of 2023 – almost a quarter of a new century. Many things have and continue to change. Could we have imagined new innovations that make our life easier? And, do we remember “HAL” from the sci-fi movie that was not a very nice character?

As we think about Artificial Intelligence, what comes to mind? The everyday items such as helpful tips from “Siri” or “Alexa”? What about automatic reminders that pop-up on our phones, or our computers? Do we rely on the reminders we voice on our phones and automatically get the information – at a time, place, or date we’ve asked for?



**Wendy Curran**  
2nd Vice President  
Membership

Ready – or not – we are living with AI in our daily lives. We even set reminders on our TV sets to schedule programs to record so we won’t miss out. Oh, and let’s not forget the timer we set to wake up in the morning. We’ve come a long way, baby ... and with all this new ability, what will the future look like?

The future is still available for our making. Using AI to assist us can make each of us more productive. When we utilize AI to help in our everyday lives we are moving forward. Yes, we do have to protect ourselves from becoming too reliant and complacent. There are new challenges we will face about how much AI is enough and when or how to make changes, for the good of us all.

# GFWC Program Chairman

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**Advocates for Children  
(GFWC Special Program)**  
Kelly Davis

In my journey to make a positive impact in 2024, I'm driven by a deep desire to advocate for children and combat the issues of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. As Kelly Davis my commitment to volunteering stems from a profound sense of gratitude for the fortune I've experienced in life, compelling me to give back in any way possible.

Recognizing the pivotal role that clubs and individuals can play, I aim to inspire a collective effort toward safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable children. As we deliver into the realm of child protection, organizations like DCFS, Covenant House and CASA emerge like beacons as beacons of hope, tirelessly working to provide shelter, support and advocacy for those who need it the most. Below is a little information about each. They need your support.

The DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services, advocates is a Child Protective Services (CPS). It is a branch of your social services department that is responsible for the assessment, investigation and intervention regarding cases of Child Abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse. Child protection services protect children from caregivers who may be harming them.

COVENANT HOUSE located in Los Angeles and Oakland and most of the US. Covenant House is over 50 years old and is privately funded agency, providing shelter, food, immediate crisis care and other services to homeless youth age 14-25 designed to transition them out of homeless and runaway youth into independent adulthood. In a lot of cases their Vans pick up youths moments before the traffickers. They feed over one hundred thousand children across America.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is another vehicle to investigate. Casa volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary work. Be the voice for a child in foster care. Make a difference and change a child story. CASA ensures the children and youth in foster care will have a voice and an advocate. Volunteers are appointed by judges to advocacy that makes a life-changing difference for children and youth for children and youth that have experienced abuse or neglect, many of whom are in foster care. Wait I don't expect you all to run out and become CASAS. I only want to make you aware of these organizations.





**Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention (GFWC Signature Project)**  
Marcia Willett



“Just One” update. No one could be more overwhelmed than I am to see the wonderful support clubs have given the CFWC project “Just One”. We set a goal for ourselves that we would install 10,000 decals during the 2022-24 administration. As of December 1, 2023, we are only 1,732 decals from making this goal. We have approximately 5 months left to achieve it.

Surprisingly, some clubs still do not know what this project is about or how they can participate. If you are a club president or district president, please encourage your Domestic Violence Awareness Chair to reach out to the clubs in your district and urge them to participate if they have not yet done so. If every club in our state – there are 216 of them according to the current state yearbook - each put up 8 more decals we will easily make our goal. I have 1,732 decals in my office ready to be placed in a public restroom for the cost of \$1 each. I know we can do this.

Remember someone out there needs help and does not know where to get it, but if they see the decal the number is there for them to call. The decal you put up could be “Just the One”.



## Community Service Programs



**Civic Engagement and Outreach**  
Diane Waterhouse



Civic Engagement and Outreach is community involvement. It helps create the empowerment to bring positive, measurable change in your community. This Community Service Program helps remind us that we are part of a larger society and are responsible for undertaking actions that can help create a better quality of life and help foster a sense of community-locally, regionally, and nationally. This program highlights and encourages citizenship, crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness, assisting the needy, hungry, and homeless as well as our military and veterans.

The main components of Civic Engagement and Outreach are:

- Citizenship
- Crime Prevention, Safety & Disaster Preparedness
- The Needy, Hungry & Homeless
- Our Military Personnel & Veterans, which includes support and aid to Women Veterans

The project ideas and affiliate organizations are too numerous to list here. This wealth of information is available on the GFWC Member Portal.

# Advancement Programs



**Legislation and Public Policy**  
Carol Burkhart



Although General Federation of Women's Clubs is not a political organization, we support legislation at both the Federal and State levels. The legislation we support must align with our adopted resolutions. We contact our legislators and ask for their backing on legislation that our organization supports. Legislation Action Center is one of the best benefits from GFWC which enables members to send emails to legislators asking for their support on legislature with just a few clicks on a computer.

Currently, GFWC Legislation priorities cover a wide range of concerns. Some of these priorities are:

- **Equal Rights:** The Equal Rights Amendment has been a very long process spanning one hundred years. The equal rights amendment was signed in 1972, but here we are today still wanting gender equality for men and women.
- **Pay Equality:** Historically there has been a lot of legislation regarding equal pay starting in 1915. The California Pay Transparency Act, SB 1162, effective January 1, 2023, requires companies with fifteen or more employees to disclose pay ranges in postings.
- **Farm System and Reform Act 2023:** This Act requires that foods for sale have the country of origin on the label and expands requirement for commercial livestock. California, as the nation's largest agricultural producer and exporter, provides input to the Farm Bill which is usually renewed every five years.
- **Global Vaccinations:** This is a concern of our organization. Many clubs support Shot @ Life, helping people around the world by providing immunizations.

Members of GFWC/CFWC help people in our State, our Nation, and the world. By contacting our legislators, our collective voice is heard and we make a difference.



**Women's History & Resource Center**  
Priscilla Bolinder



**American Women Quarters Program:** The U.S. Mint has released the names of 5 American women who will appear on quarters in 2024.

- Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a poet, writer, activist, and the first African woman to become an Episcopal priest.
- Patsy Takemoto Mink was the first woman of color elected to the U. S. House of representatives.
- Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only woman to receive a Medal of Honor for her work as the first female U. S. Army surgeon during the Civil War.
- Celia Cruz, popularly known as the "Queen of Salsa", was exiled from Cuba for renouncing Fidel Castor's regime in 1960.
- Zikala-Sa, a member of the Yankton Sioux Nation, was an author and activist for Indigenous rights.

You might like to learn more about these women before the quarters are released.

# Contest and Special Committees



**Community Impact Project**  
Jane Thomey

The Community Impact Program (CIP), introduced 70 years ago, is GFWC's longest standing program. It was created to encourage significant projects that lend a helping hand to those in need, involves community partnerships, and requires additional funds and planning implementation. Generous dollar prizes further the winning project. The contest period spans two years, but a project that was completed within that time period whether it was six months, a year or the full two years is eligible. It is important to note that a club can simultaneously report an Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. The hours and dollars must be included in the annual statistical report.

The form to document the project is included in the GFWC Club Manual under the Awards Section. Unlike the requirements for narrative submissions, up to 10 photos documenting the important aspects of the campaign may be attached either as prints or by email.

GFWC will award \$100 to each State winner. The State winner competes for the \$2500 prize, one each in five categories. California is in Category 1. The prize money will be used to support the winning projects. Your efforts benefit your community and your club and both are winners!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions as you prepare your reports.



**Bylaws**  
Joyce Opjordan

Parliamentary Law? What is it and why do we use it? Simply put it is good manners—everyone has a right to speak and express their opinion, one person talks at a time, and the will of the majority prevails. The rules are based on the rights of the majority, minority, members, absentees, and all these together. Parliamentary procedure is the method used in conducting meetings.

With parliamentary procedure meetings are organized. An agenda is followed, reports are heard, business is conducted, and the meeting is adjourned. Without parliamentary procedure meetings could become sessions where nothing is accomplished OR sessions dominated by a few members who speak loudest and longest.

There are many books and articles written about the subject of parliamentary procedure. GFWC/CFWC uses Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th) edition as its resource when items questioned are not covered by the bylaws and standing rules of the organization. A brief form of the book is also available. The brief version will cover most issues raised in your clubs.

If you can't find the answers to your questions in your Bylaws & Standing Rules remember to ask someone! Your club, district, and state parliamentarian are here for you!



## Photography and Writing

Olma M O'Neill

Have you ever wanted to dabble in writing a short story? Have you ever wanted to express yourself through a poem or photograph? Do you have that one photo you took that just draws you and others in? This is your opportunity to tap into your creative side and share it with a supportive and encouraging group of individuals. You don't have to be an artist or have artistic talent. All you need is a desire to create! Here are some creative writing prompts and photography inspiration ideas to motivate and inspire you:

### Creative Writing Prompts:

- Write about a time when you were alone and what you found.
- Imagine the adventures of a woman who could move about alternate realities.
- Write a story where your pet is the lead character. Write as though he or she can speak for themselves.
- "The next day, I couldn't stop thinking about what was beneath the surface of the pond."
- Write about someone or something you saw that took your breath away.

### Ideas to Spark your Photography Inspiration:

- Simply, go for a walk.
- Find new perspectives – what reflections can you see in the window of one of your favorite buildings, or on the surface of a favorite lake? How does a flower in your favorite garden look at close range?
- Remind yourself why you fell in love and try to capture that feeling in your photos.
- Go shoot without an agenda.
- Spend time photographing with others.

If you are a Federated member, its time to share your talents with your fellow Federated members. All work must have been done between January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

For more information regarding guidelines and deadlines, please visit <https://www.cfwc.org/forms/>

Some examples of 2022 winners are in the sidebar.



# CWCC Celebrates a Campbell Christmas

"Unleashing their Federated Spirit during the holidays"

Country Woman's Club of Campbell (CWCC) supports the community in every season. This year during the Christmas holidays at the Carol of Lights the club shared two tables in front of the Campbell Press. The club members helped with "Letters to Santa" and helped children make tree ornaments and bookmarks.



The holiday spirit continued at the Ainsley House Teas and Tours. Member Cherri Fontana volunteered three days of her time to help at the event.



The festivities continued at the annual Christmas Bazaar. The participants enjoyed baked goods, shopped for vintage Christmas decorations, homemade items, and more. Christmas music was provided by the Del Mar High school band and carolers. Proceeds went to the club's Endowment Fund to support scholarships.



From there the club moved on to a "Bubbles Tasting" fundraiser at Tessoro's Barra Di Vino, Tasting included 4 different sparkling wines paired with small bites, all while supporting a great cause. All proceeds go to the Campbell Union High School District (CUHSD) scholarship program.



Fei-Fei Li, Co-Director of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and IT Professor at the Graduate School of Business is quoted as saying ***"Artificial intelligence is not a substitute for human intelligence; it is a tool to amplify human creativity and ingenuity."***



# Orange County Visionaries

## MARCIA WILLETT

By Colleen Janssen



### CFWC Chairman Recognized by the LA Times

One of our own was selected for recognition by the Los Angeles Times. Marcia Willett, California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) Chairman of Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, was featured in the Los Angeles Times B2B Orange County Visionaries publication.

On October 10, 2023, Willett, along with other honorees, was present at the Hive and Honey in Irvine to meet and greet each other, where advance copies of the publication were distributed to honorees.

Willett was included in the Education and Nonprofit section, along with others who are making a difference through innovation. Her photo, along with a short description of the Just One program, shared her



goal to install 10,000 decals throughout the state.

The article covered her current role as a CFWC chairman, her program to help victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, the text of the stickers, and her hope to save as many victims as possible.

In correspondence from Heidi Lawrence, Account Executive B2B Publishing; Education, at the Los Angeles Times, "The publication is dedicated to recognizing the most influential leaders within the ever-growing OC market who exhibit excellence in their respective fields".

The publication will, "...reach over 40,000 paid Times OC

subscribers in the region, of which 75% are upper management or C-suite level executives, and over 90% have a net worth of over 2M. Additionally, the publication will also appear on the LA Times B2B publishing site accessible to over 40M monthly online visitors and shared on the weekly B2B newsletter reaching nearly 14K subscribers."

This is tremendous exposure and recognition for Marcia Willett's Just One program, and the California Federation of Women's Clubs. Please join us in congratulating Marcia on her achievement.

# Using Technology to Help your Club

By Jennifer Nickel



Consider incorporating technology into your meetings to help ease the workload! Most of us are familiar with Zoom after the Covid shutdown, and use Meetup.com and VolunteerMatch.com to recruit potential members (amongst other social media sites), but at the 44th Biennial National Convention of the National Association of Parliamentarians in Atlanta on September 6-10, the hot topic discussed between meetings was the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ease the amount of work involved in meetings. One commonly used technology was AI to help create minutes. Simply taking a digital recording of a meeting and uploading the recording to an AI site can create a typed transcript of the complete meeting in seconds. The Recording Secretary can simply then edit the transcript deleting excess information

After learning of this notion, I decided to give it a try and see if it could help me with my work load. While college students now must certify submitted work is their own and not that of Artificial Intelligence, and submitted work is run through computer analysis checking work for plagiarism and AI authorship, AI can be useful for many tasks such as transcribing interviews or classes for reference. After researching various AI websites, I opted to try Amazon's AI at [aws.amazon.com](https://aws.amazon.com). Amazon offers 60 minutes of transcription free each month and negligible pricing thereafter with an easy access console to keep on top of costs. The service is available in a host of languages and includes specialty vocabularies such as medical transcription services.

Transcription is only the beginning of the ways AI technology can help clubs. We have all seen AI graphics. Imagine using AI to create a unique image to promote your club events or themes. Simply tell its image creating software the parameters of what you would like to see and it will give you several images meeting your criteria that you can choose between.

We have all received robocalls (which are generally hated by all). Given that the personal touch is what we like about GFWC, robocalls are unlikely to be widely used but consider the possibilities for routine reminders such as a meeting beginning in an hour or to remind members the meal reservation must be made that day for the upcoming meeting.

At the NAP Convention, parliamentarians wondered how soon it will be before AI can provide live/remote parliamentary services for meetings providing accurate information such as when a motion might not be in order. While preliminary efforts are rudimentary at best, technology may soon make the need to have someone versed in Roberts Rules of Order a less compelling need. In viewing demonstrations of AI knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order at subsequent NAP meetings, at present it appears only able to repeat text set forth in Roberts Rules of Order. Present AI does not appear to recognize these concepts nor able to apply the relevant rules. (For example, you can ask an AI app to identify ranking motions and it can tell you. However, if you make a motion, AI appears presently unable to tell you the type of motion, much less be able to identify its ranking or whether it may be in order or out of order.)

While the Amazon AI I tested was incredibly easy, fast, free and the results did in seconds what it probably would have taken me week to transcribe myself, AI seems a huge boon as a tool to assist (but not replace) a Recording Secretary. The effort involved in editing a

## Using Technology to Help your Club (continued)

document is far less than creating a new one. I simply needed to identify the number of speakers and AI did the rest. While I chose English as my language, one could opt for “language recognition” for meeting where multiple languages are used. So far, transcriptions have been accurate with the possible exception that sentences generally end in a period regardless if they are clearly a question. Verbal disfluencies (the “ums,” “uhs,” false starts, stutters, etc.), can be easily removed in bulk using the “replace” function of your word processing program.

Another useful technology innovation is voting software. With the proper credentials, members can cast votes that are untraceable in elections (officers / people) or meetings (motions, etc.). At the NAP Convention, there were roughly slightly less than 350 voters who seemed to feel passionately about every issue, seeming to be split almost equally down the middle on most issues with a spread between winning and losing of about 10 votes on most issues. While this shows how engaged members can be with a tightly run meeting/organization, the idea of having to sit through what in all likelihood would have been a count off for the plethora of business that was achieved would have been unendurable, inclining even the most dedicated members to be reluctant to attend meetings.



The software used at the NAP Convention was Election Buddy. Members cast votes on their cell phones and exact results are almost instantly available. This is free when there are fewer than 20 people voting. There are small reasonable charges available on a per meeting basis or subscriptions. Free trials are available.

If you have yet to jump on the technology bandwagon, the world has progressed with this likely to be the way of the future. Knowing how to use technology and the vast variety of websites is literacy. The study skills many of us used to learn are in the past. It is not unusual for technological literacy in using social media, podcasts, zines, etc. to pose the biggest hurdles in communication for those of us “of a certain age.” Finding new members requires the ability to communicate. Being technologically literate to communicate with millennials may arguably be as important as knowing the alphabet when communicating to those of us over 60.



Reminder to ask Artin Printing about the CFWC Discount.

# Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

## Our Western States Region Adventure

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By Cathie Hollins and Diane Waterhouse



Take the train they said, it will be fun they said... Well, "they" don't know that Amtrak does not operate on time anymore!

### TRAIN OF THOUGHT...

We were scheduled to meet at the Amtrak Station in Sacramento, California at 11:49 p.m., Wednesday August 24, 2023, to catch the Coast Starlight to Chemult, Oregon. Diane was traveling by train from Wasco and bus from Stockton and of course, her train was delayed because of unidentified "Police Action". We ended up departing around 12:30 a.m. on Thursday August 25. And oh, my goodness, we were so lucky to be seated at the top of the stairs with a wonderfully bright light, chilly breeze, and lots of traffic up and down the stairs! Have you ever tried sleeping on a train? Sitting upright and having a human freight train chugging away in the seat in front of you? Well, you get the picture.

It was dark for most of our trip, but once the sun began to rise, we were treated to some gorgeous countryside! On the train, you see landscapes not visible from a car. We traveled through farmland, forest, a beautiful lake with a lovely mountain view and sad remnants of forest fires.

The train arrived in Chemult, Oregon around 9:00 a.m. Thursday August 25, and we were greeted by Cathie's cousin Harold. He graciously offered to drive down one ½ hours from Redmond, Oregon to meet us and drive us to the conference center at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond. We arrived in Redmond, and after a brief driving tour, we had breakfast at Christie's Kitchen. It was delicious. Even more delicious due to the fact that neither Diane nor Cathie had eaten since dinner the night before and it was now pushing 11:00 a.m. Oh, did we forget to mention that we had not had coffee yet either! We devoured our breakfast and copious amounts of coffee and then headed to our destination. We said our goodbye's to Cousin Harold, and he was on his way. We would be seeing him again on Sunday for the drive back to the train.

## Planes, Trains, and Automobiles (continued)

We were fortunate to have reserved a townhouse, complete with three bathrooms, a fridge with an icemaker (amazing how wonderful that was!) and a gorgeous deck from where we were to enjoy our morning coffee and first night's dinner. The only drawback to being in the townhouse is that it was a mile from the conference center and any source of food! However, being the resourceful clubwomen that we are, Door Dash to the rescue! Safeway supplied our meal that night, coffee, and breakfast foods for the next few days.

Our third roomie, Sonja Hults, joined us around 12:30 a.m. Friday morning, from San Diego, her original plan was to meet up with us in Sacramento and take the train too but, her job started a week early and threw a wrench in to that plan. Hence, the plane reference in the title! The main thing was, she was finally here with us!

This was Diane and Cathie's first Western States Region Conference. After two days of meeting new friends from different states, learning what each state does, having presentations from clubwomen, and special guest speakers, it was time to pack our bags and begin the journey home.

Cousin Harold arrived at Eagle Crest around 4 p.m. Sunday August 27th to drive us back to Chemult. We were treated to a delicious dinner, with a gorgeous view, in Bend, Oregon at Greg's Grill on the beautiful Deschutes River where we watched people in kayaks, canoes and innertubes floating down the river. Then it was off again to Chemult.

### ... OUR TRAIN WAS NOT ON THE FAST TRACK!

Chemult, Oregon does not have a train station, they have a train platform. Yes, there was a cover to protect from the elements, but it would have been lovely to have a bench to sit on especially when your train runs one ½ hours late, it is dark and there are no restroom facilities! We did not tell Harold that the train was delayed because we knew he would insist on staying with us and he had an hour and a half drive back home! Shhh! Our ride south was quiet and uneventful. It was actually quite pleasant, but it would have been helpful to know that there was a leg rest that raised up from under the seat... just saying!

Cathie was greeted in Sacramento by her Uncle Henry, and they headed back to Angels Camp, CA. Diane, unfortunately, had to wait over an hour in Sacramento for her bus ride to Stockton, to catch her train back to Wasco. She said she did not feel very safe at the Amtrak station in Stockton (at least they had Amtrak Police present!) where she had to wait nearly an hour for the southbound train to arrive.

Her long day finally ended in Wasco around 3:30 and then finally home to Shafter.

### Our train adventure will not stop us from riding the rails again!



# GETTING THE JOB DONE IN NEW WAYS

By Colleen Janssen



When the pandemic hit in 2020, nonprofit organizations everywhere scrambled to find new ways to effectively help their clientele, continue raising money, and stay focused on making a difference. Women's clubs were no exception.

Many clubs attribute their successful transition from pandemic to post-pandemic growth on the efforts they made to stay in touch with their membership. Rather than going dark, they learned to operate using Zoom, along with phone calls, and careful in-person interaction.

Learning to use Zoom effectively was a big challenge for clubs during 2020.

Many clubs experienced resistance from members to using this new way of communicating. Many of the oldest members did not have a computer, and no one knew how to use Zoom. Many club members just wanted to wait out the pandemic, then come back together when it was over. Few thought it would last as long as it did.

One example of a club that decided early on to tackle the issue was the GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress. Located in Orange County, the club had 80+ members, many of whom were retirement age. The club now boasts 123 members, many of whom were recruited during and since the pandemic.

When the world shut down in March 2020, their club's leadership decided to use Zoom for board meetings. The biggest challenge was that no one had ever used the Zoom platform. It was necessary to learn it quickly and keep things going.

One member became what they called their Zoomologist, hosting the Zoom meeting tasks. The club quickly realized that some of their members would be left out when general meetings resumed, and they were determined to address the problem.

Over the summer, the Zoomologist announced that the club would be holding a Zoom Bingo. Suddenly, the resistant members were calling their kids and grandkids to help them get onto a computer to play Bingo. The club held multiple events, many of which had a theme such as Tiara Bingo, where all attendees wore a tiara. They averaged \$600-\$700 at each event, and all funds raised were donated to charity.

## GETTING THE JOB DONE IN NEW WAYS, (CONTINUED)

Additionally, the club's Legislation & Public Policy meetings were held each month using Zoom. This gave members the opportunity to communicate with each other, chat a bit, and have some fun. By the time the September club meeting was held, members were trained in using Zoom, and happily attended.

Zoom general meetings continued until in-person meetings were possible in mid-2021. Once the club started meeting in-person, the Zoomologist brought two laptops to the meeting, and live-streamed everything to those who attended from home. This allowed at-home members to vote on Motions through raised hands. They could also ask questions and participate in meeting discussions. This continued for a year, until meetings finally went fully in-person.

The Legislation & Public Policy meetings continue to be held over Zoom today. The committee members feel they are more effective, and can have more guest speakers by offering the ability to attend online. They even hold their city council candidates forum using Zoom.

Holding meetings by Zoom has been used at the Orange District level, too. Board meetings, chairmen training, report writing trainings, and more, are held on Zoom, with the meetings recorded, then shared with those who attended, and those who could not attend.

This has offered members the ability to watch and/or rewatch meetings when additional information or instruction is needed. It also allows new chairmen and others to catch-up, by watching what happened at past meetings or trainings.

Clubs, districts, state-level meetings, trainings, workshops, fundraisers, and more, were and are still utilizing Zoom or other platforms to get the job done. If you haven't tried it, you may find giving it a try just might help you get the job done, too.



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if you are looking to help youth in need, have your club host a book party and deliver the books to foster youth, child care centers, shelters, and clinics for the disadvantaged. They are always looking for new books and new activity books to keep the youth engaged in during challenging times.

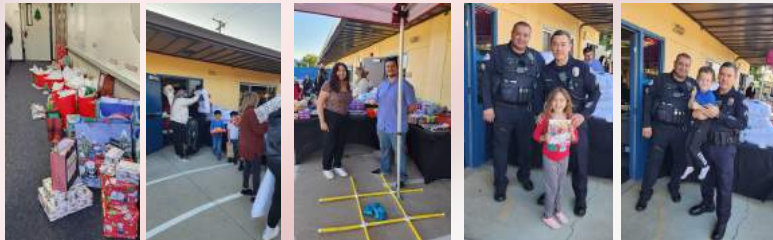
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# Club and District News



**GFWC SoCal Volunteers** partnered with West Covina Unified School District, Lions, Rotary, True Polygraph LLC, West Covina Police Department, and Emblem Club to provide 100 Foster youth with Christmas Presents, gift cards, food, stocking stuffers, suit cases, hygiene products and 100 pillows. Members served as Santa, Mrs. Clause, and elves. Youngest members, Joy Tadian age 6 and Joshua Tadian age 4 helped pass out toys showing that we are never too young to volunteer!

#StrengthUnitedIsStronger



To usher in the Thanksgiving holiday, the **Eureka Woman's Club** recently held a gratitude workshop. The Rev. Angelica Taggart, who serves at the Eureka Center for Spiritual Living shared scientific studies about the benefits of gratitude. "In addition to the good feelings it imparts, gratitude has been proven to ease fears and create new neural pathways," she said.

Diane Williams, digital artist, photographer and creative arts instructor at Scrapper's Edge, led the group in making handmade greeting cards with a stamped message of either "Thankful for You" or "Grateful for You." In keeping with the spirit of the event, Williams donated the \$70 materials fees to the Eureka Woman's Club Milk Fund, which has donated fresh milk for children dining at the Eureka Rescue Mission and St. Vincent de Paul for more than two decades.



**GFWC Federated East Valley** collects 212 pairs of socks for CFWC "socktober" project.



**Imperial Beach** celebrates 90 years in Federation and hosts a Bazaar



On Thanksgiving Day, 2023, **GFWC Peninsula Hills Women's Club** celebrated its 40th consecutive year of serving a Thanksgiving Dinner, with all the trimmings, to seniors who would otherwise spend the holiday alone. Two current Redwood City Council Members, Diane Howard and Elmer Martinez Saballos together with former Mayor, Brenton Britschgi attended the festivities and presented a city proclamation to Judy Archibald who envisioned the project forty years ago. Judy, still an active member of PHWC, flew in from her current home in Iowa for the celebration. All members of the club participate in this annual event together with many community volunteers.



# Club and District News



Four new members inducted into the **Coronado Woman's Club** on November 1. Let's all welcome Laramie Logan, Andrea Ullman, Rebecca King, and Carol Stanford.



On November 4, 2023, volunteers led by Connie Biggers of the **GFWC Oak View Women's Club** and member of **Ojai Valley Woman's Club**, worked to clean the grounds and headstones at Nordhoff Cemetery in preparation of December 16, 2023, which is Wreaths Across America Day. More than 45 volunteers came to assist in the cleanup, including members of the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, GFWC Oak View Women's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, the 8 & 40 Nurse's Scholarship group, Rotary West, Rotary Club of Ojai and Nordhoff High School students as part of the Interact organization.

Flags were placed on the graves of all the Veterans (approximately 175 are buried at Nordhoff Cemetery) and on Wreaths Across America day, a wreath will be placed on the graves of all veterans to honor their service.

Apologies to the Julian Woman's Club who submitted these great photos from their 4th of July celebration. They were inadvertently left out of the October issue.

The Julian Woman's Club was honored this year as the Grand Marshals of our 4th of July parade. The club float was built, painted, and decorated by members and honored a century and more of great American women. The ladies dressed as Betsy Ross, Annie Oakley, Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt, Louisa May Alcott, Sally Ride, Juliette Gordon Low, Rosie the Riveter, and the club president as Lady Liberty. The club received the highest awards - The Golden Nugget Award and Best in Theme Award. They also showed the community how much fun they are!





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