

# The Scoop

## October 2024

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sister Members of GFWC, here we are going into our second meeting, after the long hot summer! It is a pleasure to see the fall ornaments that depict Harvest time on the lawns celebrating the fall! I had the pleasure of riding down Main Street, Leesburg, to view the lovely display of scarecrows that were built on October 5. I want to thank Karyn, Jan, Sandy, and Jane who participated in the scarecrow event, to build our Lady of the Harvest. Great Job Ladies! Speaking of scarecrows there were three members who reported seeing the scarecrow in the last Newsletter. Sara Hamilton was the recipient of the extra luck of the draw ticket. Once again, Leesburg Police put on a National Night Event on October 1, at Ski Beach. My thanks to Arlene, Becky, Linda, and Lucille for representing GFWC! I am looking forward to attending Day in The Park dressed as a Clown, for the young children, who will be attending the Early Learning Coalition on October 17 at Ski Beach! Come and join us if you can 8-1! Finally, thanks to everyone who helped support the Quarter Auction held October 12th at Legacy Social Hall. See all of you real soon!



.....Rose Martens.....

## NOVEMBER MEETING

SPEAKER: Sally Palmer, Forward Path

HOSTESSES: Laura Hannam and Perri Cook

MEETING LOCATION: Ellen's Café (712 W. Main St. Leesburg)

Three Thanksgiving baskets will be donated to the Leesburg Elementary School. Please bring food item(s) for the baskets. Consider breakfast, lunch, and snack items along with the traditional Thanksgiving dinner items.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors approved the following new members:

Izella Erwin\*

Janice Pantoja

Patricia Blaschka

Cathie Cotton Stocking\*

Holly Grant\*

Norma Blodgett

Marissa Honka\*

\*Inducted at the October meeting.



A member get a member campaign is under construction. Stay tuned for details.

## Upcoming Events

October 17  
Day in the Park  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Ski Beach

October 19  
GFWC Annual District Meeting  
Clermont, FL

October 19  
Walk for Freedom '24  
12:00pm – 4:00pm  
Lake Sumter State College

November 4  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
10:30am – 12:00pm  
Ellen's Cafe on Main

November 11  
General Meeting & Luncheon  
10:30am – 1:00pm  
Ellen's on Main  
712 W. Main St.

December 2  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
10:30am – 12:00pm  
Ellen's Cafe on Main

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

January 6  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
10:30am – 12:00pm  
Ellen's Cafe on Main

January 13  
General Meeting & Luncheon  
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

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

Hello Ladies, We are in the midst of our very busy and exciting time of the year. As your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in charge of Fundraising, I want to share with you the fantastic initiatives in the works. I believe we are well on our way to achieving our fundraising goals:

- Provide value added events for all donors
- Engage as many club members as possible
- Raise enough money to cover our budgeted charity needs



Lucille DeSanto, **Quarter Auction** Chair, has exceeded all expectations on this Fall's fun-filled event. Despite the hurricane, the crowds came. Everyone had a tremendous time and lots of prizes were won. Many thanks to Lucille and her team for helping reach all of our club's fundraising goals.

**The Belk Charity Days event** – Our club has done well with this event raising several thousand dollars over the past few years. This year is a bit different. The actual sale days are November 8-11th. Belk has terrific sales throughout the store on these days and by purchasing a ticket from one of our members for \$5, the buyer receives \$5 off their purchase AND an additional 25% off all purchases through the sale days (11/8-11). For this event we have 100 tickets to start with and can get more as needed. Selling at \$5 each results in \$500 for our charities.



Our club will also sell tickets inside the Belk store at Lake Square Mall on the following dates. This works better when two people work together. If you haven't signed up yet, please text me at 407-595-3866. **I need a chairwoman for this project** to help schedule volunteers for the following times and dates.

- 10/19 10-1 at the main entrance
- 10/26 10-1 at the main entrance
- 11/ 2 10-1 at the center of the store
- 11/11 1-4 at the main entrance (Veteran's Day)
- 11/8-10 Actual charity days - times to be determined - During these three days we can have a table for as long as we want. We can use it to recruit members, highlight our programs, and sell Belk tickets - or stamps! Saturday we will be raffling off a gift basket and giving a short

club overview. This will be a great membership opportunity as we can ask for contact information if ladies are interested in joining.



New member Cathie Cotton Stocking has volunteered to chair the **Stamp Initiative**. The club is selling first class US postage stamps for 50 cents each in sheets of 20 (\$10 per sheet). They are very easy to sell since stamps have recently gone up to \$.73 each. Just mention the great deal this is at any event and people can't wait to buy them! A sheet sells for just \$10 for 20 stamps.

New member Pat Blaschka has volunteered to chair the **Flight of Honor** initiative. This is a Statewide President's Project to honor our Florida GFWC member Veterans. Each Club in GFWC District 7 was given a "launch tube" at the Presidents' Council meeting. We need to stuff the tube to help send them to Washington DC on a Flight of Honor. Our club currently has three Veterans, Bunny Davis, Concetta Germain, and Pat Blaschka. An anonymous donor has agreed to MATCH money raised by the club up to \$500. So, let's stuff the tube!!!



If you are interested in chairing one of these committees or volunteering to work with our chairs, please text me or contact the chairs directly.  
Barb Howell, 1st Vice President  
407-595-3866

## ARTS AND CULTURE



Thanks to all who contributed to the scarecrow build off in downtown Leesburg on October 5. Our participation in the build off helps build relationships within the community. From idea generation to building "Mother Nature Harvest, thanks to everyone.

### *Future Arts & Culture Events*

- November we will be decorating Thanksgiving Baskets for the several families associated with Leesburg Elementary School. Date to be determined.
- December we will be decorating gift bags that we will fill for the residents of MAYFIELD RETIREMENT CENTER. Date to be determined.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

We have a lot of exciting things happening over the course of the next couple of months! But first a quick wrap up on the National Day of Service Food Drive, as well as the National Night Out. A great big thank you to everyone who made donations and/or collected food and shoes from friends and family. With your support we collected just over \$2,500 in food, and many pairs of girls' shoes which came to a total value of approximately \$275.

Despite the rain on the day of our National Night Out, the show went on, and eventually the sun did come out. Thank you, Linda, Becky, and Lucille for joining me. It was a terrific opportunity to show the face of the GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg to the community and is something the Club should consider doing again next year.

### Now on to other events:

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Walk for Freedom Lake County – Lake Sumter State College. This is a day of global awareness and local action in the fight against human trafficking. There is no fee for this event, but we do have to register. Let's walk together. One step at a time we can do our part to help end this tragedy.

**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** - Veteran's Day Parade. We would like to take part in Leesburg's Veteran's Day Parade. If all goes as planned, one (hopefully two) of our veterans will ride in a convertible driven by a club member, and those of us who would also like to be in the parade will walk behind the car. This would be a fun way of showing the face of our GFWC Club to the community, but more importantly, showing our support to all veterans for all that they've done!

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Bell Ringing for Salvation Army at Lake Harris Publix. We all like to ring those bells, so please check your calendars now and mark the date for this very worthwhile cause. Look for the sign-up sheet at our November meeting.

We do hope you'll be able to be a part in one or two of these activities. If we don't pull together, we don't (won't) have a club.

***And one more very important thing: If you haven't already done so, please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.***

If you have questions about any of the above, please call Arlene Golden at 352-899-2035 or [gfwcgolden1@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcgolden1@gmail.com)

## INTERESTING TIDBITS AND INFORMATION....

Mt. Dora Woman's Club Annual Fundraising Yard Sale is on October 25 & 26 from 8am – 3pm. Proceeds from the Yard Sale benefit **ASHLEY'S HOUSE** which will be a home for women veterans who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. It will be a



transitional residence dedicated to empowering female veterans. Let's support this project.

**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](http://www.gfwc.org).

**GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF LEESBURG**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) – GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg  
Webpage: <https://www.womansclubofleesburg.com/>  
Email: [gfwcwc@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcwc@gmail.com)

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**GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF LEESBURG**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) – GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg  
Webpage: <https://www.womansclubofleesburg.com/>  
Email: [gfwcwc@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcwc@gmail.com)

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