

# General Membership Meeting Minutes

Ellen's Café, 712 W Main Street, Leesburg, FL  
November 11, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

**President:** Rose Martens was absent for this meeting. Barbara Howell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, welcomed all and called the meeting to order @ 11:00 AM.

- Barbara Howell setup a Zoom call for any member unable to make the meeting in person.
- Everyone introduced themselves and provided their role within the Club for all the new members.
- The members stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Collect.
- The members were seated, and Wendy Churchville led the devotion.
- A quorum was present.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Barbara Howell

- Ways and means
  - Barbara Howell provided an update on the selling of U.S. mail stamps and indicated that there was a signup sheet for anyone else who wants to sell stamps. We sell them to people for \$.50 per stamp vs \$.73 at the Post Office. Christmas stamps are a bit more.
  - Barbara Howell stated that the October Quarter Auction was a huge success with over 180 participants. She gave a big thank you for the untiring leadership of Lucille DiSanto and all who volunteered and participate.
  - Lucille DiSanto stated that she was looking into having our next quarter auction at Arlington Ridge as we outgrew Legacy. We will decide date of next quarter auction after the new year. It was also identified that we need committee leaders for the next quarter auctions for activities such as coordinating items for the silent auction.
  - Barbara Howell went over the quarter auction profit and the disbursements that were going to be made to Forward Paths and Cornerstone Hospice.
  - Quarter Auction Fundraiser balance sheet – Provided by Jane Ward -- Filed for audit
    - Total Income: \$5,607.00
    - Total Expenses: \$896.95
    - Profit: \$4,710.05
    - Profit to be split between Forward Paths (\$2,355.00) and Cornerstone Hospice (\$2,355.00).
  - Barbara Howell went over the Honor Flight for Veterans that we are collecting for. The GFWC Florida President's Project, Flight to Honor, is a program that transports United States military veterans to Washington, DC to visit war memorials. The flight is planned for October 2025 and will be the first

all-female veteran's flight. There is no minimum that needs to be raised, but if every Woman's club in Florida raised \$900, the entire flight including crew will be paid for.

- Barbara Howell stated that only Perri participated in the Belk's one-day sale. She raised \$100. All other days were cancelled for this year. Members were informed that the Board of Directors voted not to do Belk's again because of the changes they are making to the program. Barbara has raised an objection to the Board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Linda Way

- Luck of the Draw was conducted by Linda Way.

**Secretary:** Laura Hannam

- Jan Davis introduced two amendments to the Minutes from the October General meeting.
  - Jan stated that Linda Way also attended the National Night Out, and
  - The Veterans Day car and driver was Pat Blaschka, not Pat Silverstein as previously stated.
- Motion to accept the minutes with the amendments was made by Lucille DiSanto; Linda Way seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Jane Ward

- Financial Report – Filed for audit
  - Total Deposits: \$17,629.96
  - Total Expenses: \$8,118.13
  - Net: \$9,511.83

**Investment Treasurer:** Jean Rudderow

- Investment Report – Filed for Audit
- Total for September 2024: \$330,986.47 after \$5,000 interest withdrawal.

**Report of Community Service Programs**

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Arlene Golden, Chair

- Arlene Golden gave a big thank you to Sara Hamilton, Pat Blaschka, and Jane Ward for joining Becky Fadik and Arlene on the CVivic Engagement and Outreach Committee (\*CE OC)
- Arlene Golden informed the members that participation in the first Leesburg Veteran' Day parade did not happen. All our vets were unable to attend. However, the Villages Women's Club did March in the Parade. We will try again next year. The Parade committee was very generous and gave us our \$25 registration fee back.

- Salvation Army Bell Ringing is scheduled for 12/14. Members signed up at the meeting for a shift. The first shift will find our volunteer sign, along with the bells and kettle at the customer Service Desk at Publix on the corner of Hwy 27 and 48. Bell ringers please wear your Green GFWC WCL shirt if you have one and festive flair, such as a Santa hat, reindeer antlers, jewelry, etc. Let's have fun while supporting a very worthy cause.
- Christmas Angels for Guardian ad litem – Jane circulated a signup sheet for 10 angel cards. All were signed up for by the end of the meeting. Bring unwrapped gifts in a bag. Put a copy of the Angel Tree card inside the bag in case the one on the outside gets separated from the bag. Tie the bag with the Angel Tree Card. Bring the bags to either:
  - The Board of Directors Meeting at 400 W Magnolia St, Leesburg, FL from 10:30 to 1:00 on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, or
  - The December General meeting at Rogers Park, 610 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Leesburg FL from 10:30 to 1:00, Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Arlene Golden thanked Becky Fadik, Linda Way, Sara Hamilton for taking part in the National Night Out and/or the Walk for Freedom events.

**Arts and Culture:** Sandi Velardo, Chair

- Planning a Melon Patch night out. Tickets will be \$24. Still need to pick a date.
- Going to be making Christmas Bags for the Mayfield Retirement Center Residents – Sandi asked if anyone had any ideas for what to put in the bags. Two suggestions were raised:
  - Christmas Cards that the residents can use to send cards to their family and friends.
  - Calendars

**Education and Libraries:** Dee Ream, Chair / Jane Ward, Co-chair

- Dee Ream talked about the Day in the Park on October 17 and thanked all the members who attended.
- Pat Blaschka discussed the quilts that were being made and would be delivered to the Leesburg Elementary school to help keep their children warm this winter.

**Speaker**

- Denise Burry, Forward Paths was the speaker at November's General Meeting
- Talked about the work they do with children aging out of Foster Care.
- They have recently opened the Cottages on Grove neighborhood in Eustice. It is a village of 600 sq. ft. tiny homes for the children/young adults.
- They are planning to do one of these neighborhoods in Leesburg in the future.
- Barbara Howell and Linda Way presented a check to Denise Burry for Forward Paths share of the Quarter Auction profit.

## New Business

**New member induction ceremony:** Led by Lucille Disanto and Laura Hannam. The following inductees pledged as new members:

- Jannice (JP) Pantoja
- Pat Blaschka
- Pia Sacchetta

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next General Meeting to be held at Rogers Park, 610 S. 9th Street, Leesburg FL, December 9, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m. – Social 10:30 a.m.

Laura Hannam, Secretary