

KEY NOTES

Federation Motto: "In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity"

Suzanne Gibson
President

May 2026

Joanna Fox
Editor

Board Of Directors

Suzanne Gibson
President

Linda Urry
1st Vice President

Kim Barnes
2nd Vice President
Membership

Diane Capetola
3rd Vice President

Roseanne Miller
Treasurer

Judy Streeter
Recording Secretary

Denise Mulcahy
Correspondence
Secretary

Sharron Semento
Parliamentarian

Delores Deen/Donna Biba, CHs
Arts & Culture

Jerry Hardwick
Civic Engagement & Outreach

Kim Barnes
Environment

Cheryl Higgins
Education & Libraries

Tracy Draper
Health & Wellness

Linda Urry, CH
Fundraising

Therese Haberle, CH
ESO Book Club

Cathy Kautz/Maureen Melvold,
CHs Hospitality

Denise Mulcahy, CH
Communications

President's Corner

Dear Sisters,

You are the most awesome and giving women I have ever had the pleasure to know. It has been an honor to serve as your president the past five years.

Thanks for the memories.

Spark The Fireworks Grand Finale!

Suzanne



MAY PROGRAM

- ◆ Annual Business Meeting
- ◆ 2026-2028 Officer Installation
- ◆ Master Key Recognition

May Dates to Remember

- May 1 Center Street Kitchen
- May 6 Registration 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- May 9 Walkie Talkie
- May 10 Mother's Day
- May 12 MLK Senior Center
- May 20 Book Club
- May 26 MLK Senior Center
- May 27 Executive Board Meeting
- May 29 Center Street Kitchen



Annual Membership Dues

As our 2025-2026 season comes to a close, it's time to renew your membership for the 2026-2027 season. Annual dues of \$60.00 are due by May 31, 2026. If you joined after January 1, 2026 you do NOT have to pay again. If you are unsure, please contact me.

You may pay at the May meeting (cash, check, or credit card), through the Members Page on our website, or by mailing a check payable to

GFWC-MDWC to:
Roseanne Miller

Whether you're enjoying the sunshine here in Florida or spending your summer elsewhere, I hope it's a wonderful and relaxing summer.

Hugs, and safe travels wherever you're headed!

Roseanne
Treasurer



As our 2025-2026 season comes to a close, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Suzanne for an exceptional five years of service as our President.

At this time, we congratulate her on her appointment as District 7 Director and extend our best wishes for success in her new role.

Roseanne Miller



Community Service Programs



ARTS & CULTURE

Delores Deen and Donna Biba, CO-CHs

We meet in the Community Room of the W. T. Bland Library on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Please join in!

Ushering at the Icehouse Theater. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meetings for the May 28th showing of Theater People or The Angel Next Door. Contact Donna Biba. You can always volunteer on your own by calling the Ice House Theater box office at (352) 383-4616.

We have scheduled a guided tour of the historic Sydonie Mansion on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The mansion was once said to be the most significant residential structure in all of Florida! It is located a short drive away near Zellwood. Purchase your own tickets on their website www.sydoniemansion.com. Tickets are \$25.00.

Make sure you have signed up with us (there will be sign up sheet at the May meeting) so we can help coordinate rides. We plan to meet at Harbor Freight at 9:00 a.m. that morning for the short ride to the mansion.

It was so much fun when we gathered at Eden Abbey on April 16th for painting, coloring and socializing. Rocks, shells, bookmarks, pots...all received our artistic flair! We plan to do this again!

The 18 first place winners of the District Arts and Crafts Competition will move forward to the state competition held in Orlando on May 2nd. Good luck!



EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Cheryl Higgins, CH

The Mount Dora Woman's Club participated in the W. T. Bland Library annual Easter Event. We had 5 volunteers spread plastic eggs for the children to collect.

We are currently collaborating with the W. T. Bland Library to host a Happy Birthday to America event in July. More to come as the details unfold.

Finally, we will be planning for the annual school supply drive so be on the lookout for details over the summer.

Our next meeting is May 18th at 2:00 p.m.



Volunteers pictured left: Diana Scott, Cheryl Higgins, Steve Streeter, Donna Biba, Mary Groeller, and Donna Biba's friend.



ENVIRONMENT

Kim Barnes, CH

On April 10th, Kim Barnes, Delores Dean, Gail Goldberg, Alison Horvath, Diana Johnson, Mary Ann Quick, and Irene Rosenberg teamed up with Florida State Foresters and Seminole State Forest volunteers to plant 1,000 pine seedlings. This effort was part of the GFWC Florida 2024-2026 Environment Community Service Program goal of planting more than 8,000 trees statewide. The seedlings were funded through the club's 2025 game night—turning a fun evening together into a lasting gift for the environment. Kudos to Irene - this would also not have been possible without her relationship with the Forestry Service and time spent working with the nursery to purchase and deliver the trees.





CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH
Jerry Hardwick, District 7 Point Person

The team is continuing to meet immediately following the Fundraising group at the W. T. Bland Library at 12:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday each month.

We currently are working on a mid-summer Game Time Event. New members are welcome to join us!

2026-2028 Master Key Award

The Master Key Award is a special award for an outstanding member during 2024-2026. The person has shown leadership and initiative, and has participated in volunteerism, membership recruitment and club involvement.

During the month of April, members nominated individuals whom they believe met this criteria. The Master Key Committee has reviewed all input, and will announce the Holder of the Master Key at the May 6th meeting.



The GFWC MDWC has generously donated \$4,800 to Elks Children's Therapy Services raised through our February 12th Quarter Auction. The monies raised were equally split between the Haven and the Elks Children Therapy Services.

Our donation to the Elks Children's Therapy Services, was specifically designated to be used for their Autism testing, and help a family forever.

Pictured from left: Cindy Bennett, Colleen Gallant, Director of Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, and Maureen Melvold.



FUNDRAISING
Barbara Little, Sub-Committee CH

A Season of Success—and a Future Full of Possibility

Ahhhh—the sweet sigh of success. And this one is truly well earned.

In just six short months, our community has accomplished something remarkable: four major events and more than \$50,000 raised for local charities. That's not just impressive—it's inspiring. It speaks to the energy, generosity, and teamwork that define who we are.

It all began with a two-day yard sale that brought neighbors together and set the tone for what was to come. From there, we opened the doors to six beautifully decorated homes for a two-day tour that showcased both creativity and community pride. The excitement continued with our lively 80-basket quarter auction—full of fun, laughter, and plenty of “ka-ching” moments. And then, we capped it all off with a standout Patriots Weekend: two days, 141 registered players, 196 matches, 20 vendors, and a celebration that truly brought it all together.

Each event was a success in its own right. Together, they tell a bigger story—one of collaboration, dedication, and heart.

Now is the perfect moment to pause and reflect. To appreciate the countless hours, the behind-the-scenes effort, and the shared commitment that made all of this possible. Every volunteer, every participant, every supporter played a role. This is a collective achievement, and it's something to be proud of.

As we look ahead, the future is just as exciting. The Events and Fundraising Committee is evolving—finding new ways to “divide and conquer” so that everyone can contribute in the way that suits them best. Love planning events but prefer to skip the fundraising ask? There's a place for you. Thrive on bringing in donations and support? We've got you covered. Passionate about outreach, communication, or marketing? Your talents are needed and valued.

There's room for everyone to shine.

As summer approaches and things begin to slow down, take a moment to reflect on what you love about being part of this incredible club. Think about the friendships, the shared purpose, and the impact we're making together. Most of all, take pride in what we've accomplished—and feel excited about what's still to come.

Here's to a job well done—and an even brighter year ahead.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tracy Draper, CH

The Health & Wellness Committee is on a roll and will keep meeting throughout the summer months. Please email me if you would like to become a part of this committee.

For May, please note the following activities:

- Center Street Kitchen and MLK Senior Center are meeting at their usual times <https://teamup.com/c/h8cscm>
- Walkie Talkies will meet at the Cassia Trailhead (Seminole State Forest) at 9:30 a.m., on May 9th. Bring bug spray, water, and a hat. The topic of conversation will be nutrition.
- We are still collecting eyeglasses for the Lions Club to be delivered in mid-May. Bring some to the May meeting so that we can help more people see better.
- We are also collecting soft fabric (lightweight flannel or lightweight fleece) to make receiving blankets as we continue Grace's Project. So far, we have over 40 sewn blankets and 20 or so more to cut and sew. Size: 45" x 36".
- Lanette's business, Mail Express, Mount Dora, is a collection point for empty egg cartons. Local farmers have leftover eggs and donate them to a Food Bank in the Deltona area. Ask your family and friends to save them for you to bring to the May meeting, or drop them by Mail Express located behind Wendy's in the same strip mall as Lampu Steakhouse and Subway.
- Roseanne Miller will be hosting a fundraiser for the MLK Senior Center sometime this summer. Stay tuned for details!

We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of serving others and learning how to better care for themselves. Together, let's live Healthy and Well!



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a club member going through a rough patch and who could use some TLC, i.e., a ride to the doctor, help with meals, a call, or a visit, please let a Hospitality/Sunshine Committee member know so we may bring some sunshine their way. Contact Cathy Kautz.



MEMBERSHIP

Kim Barnes, CH

We are excited to announce that Noelie Meier joined us in April. Hailing from California, Noelie enjoys puzzles, walking, and working out.

Please introduce yourself to her at an upcoming meeting or event.

Congratulations to Denise Mulcahy and Kathleen Drotar who received their 5-year pin.



Installation of new members: From front to back: Jeri Wosika, Marie Burke, Sue Cumberland, Peggy Grow, Missie Jordan, Jeanette McIntosh, Lanette Scantlin, Mary Ann Quick, Rita Von Pusch, and Cheryl Wosika.



GFWC MDWC Book Club

Therese Haberle, CH

Hope to see you Wednesday, May 20th, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the W. T. Bland Library. It's a "free read" so anything goes!

Mark you calendars for Wednesday, July 15th for a mid-summer meeting as well. Hope to see you!

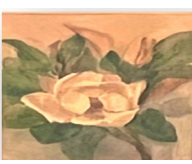


Correspondence Secretary

Denise Mulcahy

If you know of anyone who needs a ray of Sunshine, please send me their name and address so I can contact them with a note from MDWC.





Announcements



- Kim Barnes 5/03
- Suzanne Gibson 5/03
- Missie Jordan 5/13
- Nancy Kennedy 5/14
- Linda McGuire 5/22
- Sharron Semento 5/31



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Noelie Meier



Diane Capetola

Originally from New Jersey, Diane relocated to Florida in 2015. She first settled in Rock Spring Ridge, Apopka, where she lived for a year and a half before making Mount Dora her home. In 2018, after seeing an advertisement in the Triangle, she joined the Mount Dora Woman's Club.

Diane is the mother of two daughters, Christine and Katherine, and stepmother to Darren, who lives in South Carolina. She is also the grandmother of two granddaughters. Her partner, Dave, is a professional bass fisherman whose tournaments take him across the country.

In July 2024, Diane experienced the heartbreaking loss of her daughter Christine to ovarian cancer. The compassion and support she received from Club members deeply moved her, and she remains profoundly grateful.

With more than twenty years of experience as an executive assistant, Diane brings strong organizational skills to her role as 3rd Vice President. She oversees the Club's annual reporting to GFWC Florida and manages the collection of volunteer hours, in-kind donations, monetary contributions, and event narratives from committee chairs, officers, and members.

Diane enjoys volunteering to help people in need through fundraising for organizations such as Forward Path, the Christian Center, and LovExtension. At home, she finds joy in growing a variety of herbs—and even more joy in cooking with them.



GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club members and guests - March 2026 meeting





Paddles for Patriots Pickleball Tournament April 11th & 12th



Party for Patriots- On the Patio at Eden Abbey Brewery—April 12th

