

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

Suzanne Gibson
President

October 2025

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President's Corner

Dear Members,

Once upon a time, after COVID and the resignation of two Presidents, I found myself engulfed in darkness. I was afraid, unsure, and bewildered, and yet, I was supposed to be the leader.

Then I saw several sparklers that illuminated my path to the unknown. Those sparklers were Judy Streeter, Roseanne Miller, Alison Horvath, Therese Haberle, Cathleen Arciero, and Mary Groeller. They educated me on GFWC and encouraged me to continue on my journey. Armed with the slogan "Let's Get Fired Up", I continued down the path and realized that my every step was lit by more sparklers, and their brilliance was now dissipating the darkness.

More than 4 years later, with the help and support of now many sister sparklers, I am very near my destination, but before I go, "We just gotta ignite the light, And let it shine, Just own the night, Like the Fourth of July".

Thanks for the razzle dazzle, but we are not finished yet!

It's time to "Spark the Fireworks"

Suzanne

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct 1 Registration 11:00 a.m.
General Meeting 11:30 a.m.
Lunch 12:30 p.m.
- Oct 3 Center Street Kitchen
- Oct 4 Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Oct 8 MLK Senior Center
- Oct 16 Rock Painting
- Oct 22 MLK Senior Center
- Oct 29 Executive Board Meeting
- Oct 31 Center Street Kitchen
- Oct 31 Halloween



6th Annual CHARITY Yard Sale

Benefitting Lake County Schools
Families in Transition



The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a nonprofit organization that brings together local women's clubs in a collective effort to strengthen communities and enhance the lives of others through volunteer service. The GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club is a 501(c)(3) organization.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Guest Speaker:
Kristin McCall
Grant Manager



Hosted by Education and Libraries



Community Service Programs



ARTS & CULTURE

Delores Deen and Donna Biba, CO-CHS

The Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Foxtail Coffee in Tavares at 1:00 p.m. (across from the Library). Please join in!

The categories for the January Arts & Crafts Competition are on our website. We look for examples of your hobbies and creativity in order to get to know and support you! The Committee is considering ideas for our members to participate in a group project. More on that to come.

The Bra-VO project at Artisans downtown was announced for September. Canvases were purchased for \$5.00, and the finished art was returned for sale or auction in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.

Yada Yada Empty Bowls project was scheduled for September 13th and 24th. Members painted bowls to be used in a November 14th fundraising event in support of Lake Cares Food Pantry.

Another "On The Rocks" rock painting party is scheduled for October 16th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Eden Abbey. Sign-up will be at the October meeting.



Also, the signup for the next ushering opportunity at the Ice House Theater production of "It's a Wonderful Life" will be available.

Arts & Culture Opportunities - invite a friend and attend! Jazz in the Alley in Deland on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; Art in the Alley in Mount Dora on 2nd Friday from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



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.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Jerry Hardwick, District 7 Point Person

I thought October would never come! It will be fun seeing old and new friends again, and soon!

Our speaker for the November Meeting is scheduled to be Julia D'Arts, a fellow GFWC member from the South Lake Club (Clermont). Julia's topic and her expertise in education is in Domestic Violence.

Looking forward to the holiday season, we will again be participating in the program to include the distribution of Wreaths Across America beginning at 10:00 a.m., December 13th, at Pine Forest Cemetery in Mount Dora. In addition, members may sponsor a wreath (s) for \$17.00 each, and include a name in dedication on the wreath.

HAPPY FALL EVERYONE



EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Cheryl Higgins, CH

The Committee started with a bang - the Left Right Center fundraiser raised \$800 (great partnership with Environment CSP), and the October luncheon will feature a school supply drive and a Families In Transition speaker. Please reference the emails sent for the list of school supplies needed.

We welcome two new members, Carol Saady and Sue Chelseth.

Our plans for the 2025/26 year will include continuing support for the W T Bland Library, Sorrento Elementary, a March book drive, and evaluating other opportunities, such as supporting additional libraries, the Triangle Community Alliance, and collaboration with other committees for events.





ENVIRONMENT

Kim Barnes, CH

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 13th, at Foxtails in Tavares at 10:00 a.m. Please join us as we finalize our plans for the upcoming cycle.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Left Center Right fundraiser a success. Our share of the money raised will cover the cost of the 1,000 pine seedlings we are planting in early 2026 in Seminole State Forest.

We continue to collect plastic bags, used batteries, and paper tubes at each meeting. Look for the receptacles in the event sign up area.

- The plastic is brought to Trout Lake Nature Center, which, in return, receives benches made from recycled plastic from Trex. Each composite bench requires 1000 pounds of plastic, which Trex estimates as 41,000 plastic bags.
- The batteries are brought to Staples, one of a handful of entities that also accept alkaline batteries for recycling. During the first six months of 2025, we collected and recycled over 1,000 batteries.
- The paper tubes are offered to teachers, gardeners, and other programs that are able to use them.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tracy Draper, CH

Let's kick off our Fall with the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease!

When: October 4, 8:30 a.m.
Where: Ski Beach Park, Leesburg, FL

Afterwards, we will go for coffee to discuss ideas for this new year.

[Register Here](#)



WAYS & MEANS / FUNDRAISING

Linda Urry, CH

The Ways and Means Committee was busy this summer assisting the CSP chairs in raising money to support projects for this upcoming season.

Education and Library raised money for Families in Transition, Environment raised money to buy saplings to plant in the National Forest, Civic Engagement raised money for Wreaths Across America, Health and Wellness raised money for the Senior Center, and Arts and Culture raised money for a future project.

Thank you to all who supported these awesome Summer endeavors! You are the best!

Left-Right-Center Charity Fundraiser held on August 19th



Pictured Left: Linda Urry, Sue Mason and Gail Newton

A Note from Roseanne Miller, Treasurer

We're looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting, October 1st, at the Country Club!

Whether you're joining us just for the business meeting or staying for lunch, please take a moment to register at the welcome table when you arrive. In the past, sign-in was only required for lunch attendees—but this time, the Membership Chair has asked that we keep track of everyone joining us. A brief stop at registration helps us stay on top of things and maintain accurate records.

Our meeting time has changed. Registration and Social Time begin at 11:00 am, the Business Meeting will start at 11:30 am, and Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm.

Can't wait to see everyone there!



ESO

Therese Haberle, CH

Mark your calendar for our bimonthly ESO Book Club meeting! Wednesday, November 19th, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the WT Bland Library.

What, you might ask, is "ESO"? It stands for Epsilon Sigma Omicron, the GFWC's honorary educational society. ESO stands for "enlighten your own pathway".

Come chat, share what you've been reading, and enjoy the conversation, whether you've read anything or not! The November meeting will be a "group read".

First, a Florida classic: "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith. It's "historic fiction" and a moving and stimulating read. Also, "Three Days in June" by Anne Tyler. Hope to see you there!



HOSPITALITY

Cathy Kautz, CH

Thank you for the success of the salad social! Our gracious hostess, Joanna Fox, and our dessert goddess, Maureen Melvold did a super job.

Thank you to all who attended and donated the yummy food. We love to do this for our members for a kick off to a season of fundraising.

The hospitality team will have a joint meeting with Way and Means at the W T Bland Library on October 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please plan to attend if you are on my team. We will have a crafty experience.

Please RSVP to Cathy Kautz

Salad Social held on September 3rd



Pictured left: Judith Shepp, Sharron Semento, Linda McGuire, Gail Mahan, Mary Ann Quick, Kathleen Drotar, and Diane Cole



MEMBERSHIP

Kim Barnes, CH

Welcome to our three new members who joined us over the summer!

In May, we welcomed two former accountants. Mary Ann Quick is a Tavares resident, originally from Connecticut. She is also Kim Barnes' mom. Also, please say hello to Carol Saady. Carol lives in Sorrento, stays busy with grandchildren, Legos, and sewing. She was referred by Cheryl Higgins.

Then in September, we added Lanette Scantlin to the mix. Lanette co-owns a business with her husband and loves gardening and traveling. Kim Barnes and Linda Urry met her at a Mount Dora Chamber breakfast.

The Membership Committee will be increasing our emphasis on getting to know new members and working to make sure they feel part of the club. This was an area highlighted in the survey.

Please reach out with suggestions to improve the new member experience, or better yet...join the Membership Committee to put them in place.



Members volunteered to packed 208 bags of groceries at LovExtension. From left: Suzanne Matthews, Linda Krupski, Founder of LovExtension, Donna Biba, Joanna Fox, Gina Kuster, Linda Urry, Maureen Melvold, Gail Mahan, and Tracy Draper.



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



Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marisha Ramsay	10/02
Lynn Kirman	10/09
Sandy Chandler	10/14
Diana Scott	10/15
Betty Smith	10/18
Cathy Kautz	10/23
Joanna Fox	10/28



TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Mary Ann Quick
Lanette Scantlin
Carol Saady

Beach Bag Bingo fundraiser benefiting local charities was held on July 17th



1st table: Uta Pergler, Alison Horvath, Diane Cole, Lynn Kirman, Susan Moore, Linda Urry. 2nd table: Karin Pierson, Suzanne Gibson, Maureen Melvold, Linda Hezlip, Sue Chelseth. 3rd table: Betty Smith, Diane Capetola, Cathy Kautz, Delores Deen, Judy Streeter, and Donna Biba

SPOTLIGHT ON



Uta Pergler

Uta was born in Germany and came to this country when she was 3 years old. Her family settled in Chicago, Illinois where she was raised. Uta and her husband, Chuck, moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and lived in that area for 40 years. In 2018, she and Chuck moved to Tavares, Florida.

Uta received a degree in education from Northern Illinois University; however, she pursued a career in business. When her children were young, she worked as a part-time teller in banking. She retired as a District Vice President of Bank of America. Uta also ran her own mortgage processing business. She has two children and five grandchildren.

Uta joined the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club in April, 2022, and has participated on the Ways & Means and Hospitality committees. She is looking forward to joining the Health and Wellness committee this year.

Her favorite pastime is acrylic painting; however, she also enjoys walking, swimming, boating and yoga.

Shake Rattle and Roll Bunco held on September 19th



Pictured Left: Denise Mulcahy and her sister, Pat Mulcahy

