



Orange Park Woman's Club

"Orange Peel"

February 2024



www.gfwc.org General Federation of Women's Clubs
www.gfwcflorida.org General Federation of Women's Clubs Florida
www.gfwcflorida.org/district4/ General Federation of Women's Clubs Florida District 4
www.orangeparkwomansclub.com Orange Park Woman's Club
www.facebook.com/orangeparkwomansclub Orange Park Woman's Club

OPWC EXECUTIVE BOARD



OPWC 2023-2024 President's Message – Dr. Donna A. Richardson



Greetings Orange Park Woman's Club members
and welcome to February.

January has been a cold month, but our ladies have been very busy. Our CSP's have been meeting and doing wonderful things for our community. I have attended many of them and enjoyed being a part of such energized, talented women with altruistic hearts. Our biggest fundraiser ever was Saturday night, January 20th, and the **Roaring 20's on the River Charity Gala** at the Club Continental was a huge success. All of our guests and members in attendance were decked out like 1920's flappers, while our male escorts were in hats, vests, and spats. It was truly a memorable night with the Clay County Community Jazz Band entertaining all night while many people enjoyed dancing and moving to the music. We are still tallying the profit we

made, but it is larger than any fundraiser we have ever had, so we will be able to give very generously to the many non-profits who request our assistance this club year. A huge "thank you" goes out to the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Sandy Keller, and all those who found restaurant and silent auction sponsors. *Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

And "Congratulations" to our **2023 Volunteer of the Year** – Mrs. Sue Nazario, our 2nd Vice President, and one of our hardest working members who gave over 500 hours of her time during 2023. Sue deserves this designation and we are so glad she is in our OPWC.

Now we are preparing for our **February 1st General Meeting and our GFWC Arts & Crafts Contest**. Many of our members have created artistic projects that will be displayed at the meeting. We will also be honoring Black (African American) History Month and have a special guest to help us do so. Please mark your calendars now and get ready to join us on Thursday, February 1st, at 10 AM. Come early for fellowship and refreshments. We will also be collecting new wash cloths to carry to the next District 4 Meeting in Lake Butler. The washcloths are for Camp Boggy Creek and the children who stay there throughout the summer months. Many of you already brought children's sheet sets, and they were much appreciated and well received. I cannot tell you how proud I am to be a part of such a wonderful, caring organization. I truly believe that our members continue **"Sowing Seeds of Kindness Every Day,"** without even knowing they are doing so.

The hearts of Service that we all share is a blessing to Clay County.

I hope to see you on Thursday, February 1st at 9:30 AM for socializing; 10 AM for business!

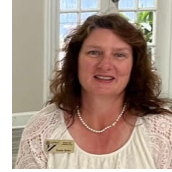
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Kay Earhart
First Vice
President



Sue Nazario
Second Vice
President



Sandy Keller
Third Vice
President

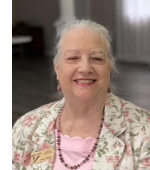


Lynn Rodgers
Recording Secretary



Norma Layton
Corresponding
Secretary

Jane Chafin
Treasurer



Diane Howard
Parliamentarian
(appointed)



News from our Officers

First Vice President Kay Earhart

The OPWC General Meeting will be Thursday, February 1, 2024. We have certainly had a taste of winter as January comes to a close although we know Florida winters only lasts for three or four days. It has been refreshing to make a pot of soup, build a fire in the fireplace, and read a good book! Our theme this month is to celebrate Black History Month with our guest speaker Pastor Ealey from Jacksonville. Martin Luther King made a speech on August 28, 1963 to a massive group of civil rights marchers gathered around the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Many of us have heard recordings of this speech either in school or on television; it ranks among the most famous in history. It will be a treat to hear Pastor Ealey deliver Martin Luther King's *"I Have A Dream Speech"* to us. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Second Vice President Sue Nazario

Marnie Buchanan is your February Luncheon Chairperson. Please check page 18 in your OPWC yearbook to see which month you are assigned for working on the luncheon committee. To our new members; if you are interested in helping out with the set-up and/or serving for any of the luncheons, please let me know. I would like to thank those of you who helped by donating and acquiring items for the January 20th Silent Auction as part of the Annual Charity Gala. We had 32' of table space filled with auction and raffle items. Staging everything in Charlotte Weaver Hall prior to the event was a big help in making sure that all the tempting items would fit in our designated area. It all worked out great! Appreciation is also extended to Lucy Pellegrini who assisted with the attempt to reorganize the Rummage Room during the week of January 15th. What a job! More work is needed, so listen for the next workday announcement.

Third Vice President Sandy Keller

Our *2nd Annual Charity Gala* was a huge success! We are still doing the accounting and reviewing of all the fun we had while *Roarin' 20's On The River* at The Club Continental. We had nearly 150 guests, all dressed up 20's style and ready to dance! Thank you to the planning committee for bringing it all together! The Hall Closet and Annabelle's Interiors sold tickets for us. Please thank them as you shop! We received \$51 from The Hall Closet for their shopping day dedicated to our support. Constance and I got our program printed for free by S&J Printing. We received a lot of great silent auction items from the community and Norma got a few band family members to help as volunteers. We could not have had such a successful



event without The CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY JAZZ BAND! Your input in evaluating this event is very important. Please share your thoughts with any member of the Fundraising Committee as we look ahead to the future. More information will be available at the February 1st General Meeting. In other news.... Sue is overseeing the Rummage Room reorganization to effectively store all the treasures being saved for our summer fundraising event. Please help us keep it organized. I plan on submitting a Grant application for Celebrate Clay (Reinhold Foundation) - due Jan 30. If anyone has experience with this, please let me know.

PARLIAMENTARY PLUS

Parliamentarian Diane Howard

Ladies, let's think of the head table at our General Meetings. The guest speaker, officers and parliamentarian are seated there. What is the large white wooden piece in the center? Podium or Lectern.....which one is it? I suspect most of you say podium rather than lectern. The Oxford Living Dictionary's definition of a podium is: *a small platform on which a person may stand to be seen by an audience, as when making a speech or conducting an orchestra*. The Merriam-Webster definition of a lectern is: *a stand used to support a book or script in a convenient position for a standing reader or speaker*. Now, which do we have? Stay tuned for the answer at our February 1st General Meeting. You may be surprised!!

GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Community Service Program (CSP) Advisor - Diane Howard

It's an exciting time to volunteer in a Community Service Program here at Orange Park Woman's Club. Take my word for it, but even better yet, come and see for yourself! Are these ladies serving our community and surrounding areas? You bet! Are these ladies making a difference in lives of all ages? You bet! Are these ladies meeting and making new friends? You bet! Are these ladies inviting you to join them? You bet! It's rewarding, it's fun and it's energizing! Come on!

Arts and Culture – Lucy Pellegrini, Chairman / Vicki McComb, Co-Chair



Any Arts & Crafts Contest projects being entered in the annual contest must be brought to the OPWC on January 31st between 9 AM and 12 PM for judging. If this is not possible, please contact Lucy Pellegrini and she will help you. The winning items will be taken to the GFWC District 4 Competition on February 16. Best of luck to all entrants.

On January 5th we had three OPWC ladies and one guest attend the King Tut, The Immersive Experience. It was absolutely fantastic, and then we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the European Street Café. Experiencing art opportunities in our own community together is a great way to socialize! If you are interested in attending a glass blowing class, please go online to burntglass.com, as soon as possible, and choose an item that you would like to make. Then let Lucy Pellegrini know so that the studio can determine the amount of time they will need to accommodate us. Finally, then we can firm up a date with them.

Civic Engagement and Outreach - Jane Chafin, Chairman / Peggy Himmelheber, Co-Chairman



Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee is working with “Rethreaded”, an organization based in Jacksonville that provides services to human trafficking survivors, to determine what OPWC can do to assist their efforts. More details will be shared in the near future.

We encourage all eligible voters to participate in the primary election. It is important that your opinion be heard and counted.

Education and Libraries - Rosanna Housend, Chairman



As we continue our support of Grove Park Elementary School, we are looking ahead to Teacher Appreciation Week. Our plan is to provide each teacher with a \$5 gift card from Red Owl Coffee Company, the coffee/tea vendor at our recent gala. (Excellent coffee

and tea!!) Please consider bringing a monetary donation for this project so you can place it in the coffee mug you will find at your table at the General Meeting on February 1st.

And continue bringing in magazines for placement in the laundromats and winter apparel for the students of Grove Park Elem. All contributions are greatly appreciated.



**Environment –
Constance Higginbotham, Chairman**



We hope everyone enjoyed their January goodie made from recycled greeting cards. On January 16th and 22nd we met and made coin purses and business card/gum/key chains holders from toilet tissue holders. We will have some of these at the February 1st general meeting. Be sure you get one.

Our February committee meeting is scheduled for the third Monday, February 19th at 11 AM. We will be making Easter baskets from gallon milk jugs, Bring your scissors and glue guns. Light refreshments will be served. Your creation is only limited by your imagination. If you enjoy arts and crafts, then here is something else for you to enjoy.

We continue to walk River Road along the St. Johns River and behind MooseHaven Retirement Home picking up litter three days per week. Contact Sandra Balestracci at 954-849-7113 for additional information, days, and time.

This month, we are collecting gallon milk jugs, paint, mod podge, glue, unused wrapping paper or tissue paper; ribbon; material; yarn; rick rack; and other sewing notions; empty boxes (cereal, cookies, rice, etc.); old magazines; soup and cat food cans (clean of course!); and any small plastic containers for our projects for the next few months. We are also collecting used towels and blankets for the animal shelter. See you at the meeting and thanks for your assistance in gathering items to recycle and repurpose.

Health and Wellness CSP – Katy Kearson, Chairman



Your donations of 15 boxes of cereal were graciously received at Ronald McDonald House (RMH) when we delivered them on January 15th. We will continue with this donation project for February so bring your cereal with you to the February 1st General Meeting. After leaving RMH, one committee member expressed concern about the parents of sick children sitting in chilly hospital rooms with their children. So...an on-going project until May, will be the making of lap blankets to alleviate the chill and provide comfort for the family members of these ill children. Blankets can be crocheted, knitted, quilted, or made from fleece or flannel. Sizes range from 36"x45" to 54"x72" so just do your own thing! We will also continue with our support of RMH with the collection of pop tabs and sealed plastic silverware.

Since February is *National Heart Month (and Valentine's Day!)*, everyone is encouraged to **WEAR RED** to our general meeting on the 1st. During our gathering time of 9:30-10 AM, Katie Dean, Account Executive from Apex Home Health Care, and a nurse from Apex will be available to take the blood pressure of our club members. It will be recorded on a BP card for your personal records. Katie is the wife of Justin Dean, a firefighter with the OPFD. In further awareness of National Heart Month, committee member Joy Lehr has prepared heart-shaped magnets with messages about the signs of heart attack which will be at each place setting at our club meeting. Thank you Joy for all your hard work.

We have been made aware of a need by Kathy Wray at the Clothes Closet & Food Pantry (CCFP) for canned chili, beef stew, soups and other hearty foods. Please consider donating and the items will be taken to CCFP.

Finally – remember to recycle your eyeglasses with the Lion's Club – we will take them for you!

PLEDGE TO OUR CLUB

Holding my membership in the Orange Park Woman's Club worthy of unflinching loyalty,
I will sustain its good work and guard its reputation.

COMFORT CORNER

From the Chaplain: Marnie Buchanon

Wonderful news - you have an additional day this year to SOW YOUR SEEDS OF KINDNESS! Yes, 2024 is a leap year, so there will be an additional day added to the shortest month of the year... February 29th. Planet Earth takes approximately 365.25 days to orbit the sun once. It's that .25 that creates the need for a leap year every four years.

From the Sunshine Chairman: Martha Avinger, Chairman

Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy Hartley, Peggy Himmelheber, Glenda Hofer-Hopi, Janet Risko, Martha Avinger, Roseanna Housend, Shelia Brammer, Carolyn Clark, Margaret Enney, Harriet Kicklighter, Constance Higginbotham and Susan Mills as they deal with their own illness, surgery or that of family members.

Appreciation is extended to Judy Hammond as she assumes the duties of Sunshine Chairman for Martha for the next month.

*The Sunshine Chairman sends out cards to let our members know we are thinking about them.
Please let me know if you hear of anyone who needs our comfort or support.*



Updates from the STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication and Public Relations

Sandy Keller, Chairman

As a member of the PR Committee, Constance Higginbotham is attending the Chamber of Commerce functions when possible. Our presence at these events is making a difference in our connections in the community. We are again attending the Clay Bridal Spectacular Expo at the Thrasher-Horne Center on February 11. Our presence as a vendor showcases our clubhouse as a venue for showers, weddings and receptions, and of course any other events!

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

Kay Earhart, Chairman

The OPWC Cherokee Book Club met on Monday, January 8 at 2 PM with six members present. We decided to select two books for our February 12th meeting, not requiring that both books be read...the reader can choose to read just one or both. The books are: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus and/or The Paris Spy: A Maggie Hope Mystery by Susan Elia MacNeil.

The Cherokee Book Club is connected to GFWC under the ESO umbrella. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. This structured reading program is both educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. Members can participate in ESO as part of a reading group (like Cherokee Rose Book Club) or on their own. The OPWC state report that is written and submitted each year, asks for the number of books read by the club members during the year, how many pages per book and how many hours to read the books. The Cherokee Rose Book Club members have been doing this, but, we really would like to include all club members in this collection of data from any of your reading sources. If you are a reader, please keep a running record of books you read and the number of pages in the book. We use a formula to determine the reading time based on the number of pages. We will ask for the list in December of 2024. Join the fun of reading!

House

Kay Earhart, Chairman

Work mornings were held on January 14, 15 and 16 to clean up the Board Room which had unfortunately become a storage room. Thank you to Kris Garrick, Yolanda Munoz, Sonia Guiler, Donna Richardson and Joy Lehr for coming to help. There is still much to do to arrange everything as a Board Room and OPWC business center. Plans are to move the business equipment, printer and file cabinets from Miss Lucy's Parlor (MLP). Since MLP is a rental space, it is important to always have our business machines and file cabinets accessible and thus will work better for us in the Board Room.

The antique clothes that were housed in the large white cabinet in the back-storage area of Charlotte Weaver Hall have found a new home with The Historical Society of Orange Park. We had not used them during their stay and the Historical Society will display them when appropriate in the Clark House. When the clothes were donated they were to be shared with both OPWC and the Historical Society. We send them on their way with our blessing.

The house just underwent an insurance inspection although we have already paid this year's insurance bill. We are in hopes that there will not be something costly to repair or fix, but we have not received the results of the inspection. Fingers crossed.

Rentals

Sandy Keller, Chairman

Rental inquiries are increasing! The phones and emails are keeping us busy. We could use two more people on the Rental Committee to help share the load of the work: answer phones, show the clubhouse, or manage the bookings data spreadsheet. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!!

We ordered one more table cart and an additional chair cart. Each chair cart holds 25 chairs. We rearranged the storage area to help keep things organized. Please follow the plan when returning furniture to its proper place. Spring cleaning came early to OPWC! A deep cleaning of the clubhouse was completed for our benefit as well as that of our renters.

We are discussing the potential of restructuring the Nonprofit rental rate for our community nonprofits.

Membership

Vicki McComb, Chairman

Wow! What a Gala we had on January 20th! So many of our members participated in one way or another, including many of our newer ladies! Congratulations to all who worked so tirelessly to make it a success!

Our club continues to grow with several ladies at the Gala indicating they wanted to join and get involved with our charitable efforts. Please welcome our seven newest members and add their information to your yearbooks/mini-books:

- Tammy Bettis-Schauer
- Charlene Calise
- Patricia Fiedler
- Misty Goff
- Robin Meade
- Susana Thompson
- Bren Froude-Wieber



Please join us for the next **Talkie Thursday** on February 8th from 2-4 PM at the clubhouse. This is an informal, “drop-in and stay however long you can” time to simply visit with whoever else shows up. It is a great way get to know each other. There are always snacks and lots of laughter!

*The next **New Member Meet and Greet** is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th from 5:30 to 6:30.*

This is a time to receive your Yearbook, learn more about the club and your role in it, and ask questions.

We hope to see you at one of these events!

Reporting

Marty Shelnett, Chairman

As you read this newsletter, your Reporting Committee is hard at work collating information, writing, reviewing, and tweaking the reports representing all the work completed by ALL OF YOU in 2023 in the Orange Park Woman's Club. Indeed, we have all been very busy throughout the year and now are reflecting on the many, many projects and activities completed to improve our club and community. The Reporting Process is designed to guide us in this reflection so we can best describe to others the impact that our efforts as a club have had on our greater community. This method of accountability and data gathering clearly shows how we are fulfilling our purpose of *"Living the Volunteer Spirit."*

Now that we have entered the new year, the record-keeping starts anew. Each club member is requested to record your activities, time involved, any donations given and the value of any in-kind items, i.e. school supplies, jackets, cereal for Ronald McDonald House, etc., and report it to your CSP Chairman or other committee chairman. Perhaps you may choose to keep a "tracking page" in your OPWC Yearbook, or a small spiral notebook to take with you to committee meetings; whatever works for you! Collecting the information throughout the year will expedite the reporting process at the end of the year. It is truly amazing to see the whole picture once all the pieces are put together!

(submitted by Norma Layton, Reporting Comm Member because Marty is BUSY with the reports!!)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES and MORE...

Historian / Scrapbook

Martha Avinger, Chairman

Thanks to those of you who have provided me with pictures for our many events. Please - ALL committee chairmen take pictures of every activity and include names. This is for the scrapbook to be submitted to state. We will need an accumulation of pictures for each page. So... have your cell phone cameras ready to catch our ladies in action!



OPWC MEMBER BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

Linda Henry
Vicki McComb
Jennie White Joy
Lehr
Mary Justino

Gale Miller
Marnie Buchanan
Linda De Rosia
Carla Bartlett

Happy Birthday Ladies!!

Wear RED to The February General Meeting!!!

OPWC FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time – Event – Place – Special Notes
Jan 31 – Wednesday	9-10 AM – Submit items for Arts & Crafts Contest – Charlotte Weaver Hall 10 AM-Set-up for OPWC General Meeting-Charlotte Weaver Hall-Lunch Comm
01 – Thursday	9:30 AM–social time, BP Check; 10AM-OPWC Gen Mtg, Catered Lunch -All Members
08 – Thursday	2 PM - 4 PM -“Talkie Thursday”- Miss Lucy’s Parlor – All Members & Guests Invited 5:30 6:30 PM – New Member Meet & Greet – Miss Lucy’s Parlor
11 – Sunday	OPWC @ Clay Bridal Expo Spectacular – Thrasher-Horne Center
12 – Monday	2-4 PM – Cherokee Rose Book Club – Miss Lucy’s Parlor
15 – Thursday	10 AM – OPWC Governing Board Meeting – Miss Lucy’s Parlor
16 – Friday	10 AM – GFWC-FL District 4 Meeting/Arts & Crafts Contest – Reservations required
17 - Saturday	OPWC Governing Board March Newsletter Deadline - email to Norma
19 – Monday	11 AM - Environment CSP Meeting – Clubhouse – All Members invited
29 – LEAP DAY	EXTRA DAY TO SOW MORE SEEDS OF KINDNESS

For the most up-to-date information on our MANY activities, visit:

<https://www.orangeparkwomansclub.com/events>

“Living the Volunteer Spirit”

OPWC FEBRUARY 2024 OPPORTUNITIES OF SUPPORT

FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ACTIVITIES

Participate as you are interested, able or desire!

(as summarized from CSP & Other Reports)

Donate children’s winter jackets, sweatshirts, sweatpants, etc.

Donate boxes of cereal, sealed plastic silverware, and lap blankets for Ronald McDonald House

Donate canned goods for Clothes Closet & Food Pantry

Donate blankets and towels for the Animal Shelter

On-going Collections: eye glasses, pop tabs, magazines, recyclables

The Orange Park Woman’s Club strives for high standards in moral integrity, sound judgment, and community service. As a member of the GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, we are a part of projects on a global level as well as in our local community. We are dedicated to strengthening our community and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

OPWC 2nd Annual Charity Gala "Roarin' 20's On The River" at The Club Continental



