



The Laurel News and Notes

Newsletter of The Women's Club of Madison Member of General Federation of Women's Club of Connecticut, Inc

June 2022



Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at the Maritime Grill in Guilford. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. This is the annual end of year dinner and will also be installation of Officers for the 2022-2024 Women's Club of Madison. This is the last meeting until September. Thank you to Dawn Tiscia for organizing the dinner.

Congratulations to our new officers:

President – Lynne Sarro

Vice President – Liz Early

Treasurer – Donna Farrell

Assistant Treasurer – Gail Lennox

Corresponding Secretary – Sue Hermonat

Recording Secretary – Carol Musante

Congratulations to our own Kathy DeBurra, GFWC/CT President! Kathy will be holding the first State Board Meeting on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Cafe Allegre, here in Madison. The Call for the meeting will be coming out soon.



LEADERSHIP LINES from Katherine DeBurra; President GFWC/CT
threesams@sbcglobal.net or 203-245-2269

Dear Madison Club women friends!

I am honored and proud to serve as your GFWC/CT State President for the next administration 2022-2024. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is one of the world's largest women's organizations dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service. The theme for the administration is;

“Individually we are one wave-together we are an ocean!”

The impact that we have when working together is tremendous. I hope to guide our members into more Leadership roles and opportunities. Dedication and growth to Membership including new recruitment of members and retaining members is paramount. We do need to share our organization with the public and make them aware of our achievements and celebrate our success!

Women's Health and Wellness is of special interest to me and I would like that to be the State Project. Your options are vast and feel free to go in a direction that inspires you. The world has faced many challenges, especially related to health recently. When we have a healthy body, we have positive energy and can achieve many goals. So may you all be blessed with health and success!

I thank you for being my friends and sisters in Federation! Thank you again for all you do in the lives of others and placing your confidence in me!

Yours in Federation,

Katherine DeBurra, President

Our Club is transitioning in to new Leadership and I have some advice that served me well. A successful transition plan should begin with planning!

Create a structured process to ensure leadership and share knowledge and relationships. That flow definitely starts with communication. Just as we learned in Kindergarten...share -share and more share! Current leaders need to let go and share their information with the new leaders. Leaders are very proud of the accomplishments and feel very attached to the projects and the process they leave. No matter how long a leader has served, it is best for all members to have a plan for transferring knowledge and authority as well as "ownership".

To help share all the information that is stored in a leader's head, here is a transition checklist to get everyone off to a great start!

PART #1-OFFICER TRANSITION. It's important to know about your office position. Review your Club's history. Review your By-laws and Standing Rules. Review your future objectives and accomplishments from the last administration. Review and pass on records, binders or files with important correspondence. Review your job description, agendas and minutes. Review your financial records. You may need to visit the financial institution to change account information signers and officers. Review your Club's evaluation of projects, the achievements and challenges. Pass on membership lists and contact information. Contracts. Introduce officers and key contact people with their contact information.

PART #2-PREPARATION. Understand present and future programs. Develop a calendar with meetings, programs and events. Update your current website, social media pages and other contact information. Establish a structured meeting agenda, with places, times and promotion to encourage attendance.

PART #3-GOAL SETTING. Establish new officers, and Clubs' goal. Establish member goals. Present these goals to the members and prioritize goals with the entire membership.

Do you know the Mission Statement of GFWC?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.



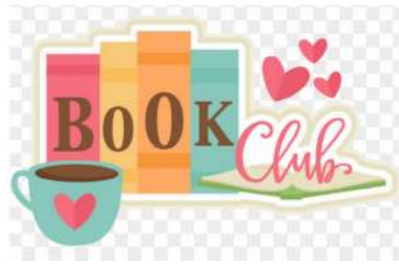
Dues are Due! Annie Edwards, Assistant Treasurer, has sent out reminders regarding Membership Dues. Checks are to be made payable to the **Women's Club of Madison** and mailed to **The Women's Club of Madison, PO Box 691, Madison, CT 06443.**

Thank you Kathy DeBurra and Annie Edwards for your hard work as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer these last several years.



Food Pantry – Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. You may bring your donations of peanut butter and jelly to the General Membership Meetings or drop off your donations at Phyllis' house, 8 Runnymede Lane.

Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!



Book Club - If you are interested in joining the Book Club or have any suggestions for future books, please contact **Josephine Mokriski**. She may be contacted at either josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or at 203-245-0706. More information to follow as to dates, time, and place. For July the group will be reading and discussing **Homefront** by **Kristin Hannah**.



Sue Hermonat is taking over as the Club **Corresponding Secretary**. If you know of a member who is ill, in need of a bit of cheer, or is celebrating a special event, please contact **Sue**. She will send a card from the Club, letting our member know that we are all thinking about her. Sue's email address is [**shermo1981@att.net**](mailto:shermo1981@att.net).

Thank you to **Pauline Hale** for all your years of service. Enjoy your "retirement"!



St. Jude Fund - Josephine Mokriski continues to collect money for the St. Jude Fund. She will be collecting at the meetings. If you would like to make a contribution, and are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Josephine at either 203-245-0706 or email her at josephinemokriski@hotmail.com . **Thank you Josephine!**



Attention All Walkers – Now that bikini weather is upon us, let's get outside, take a walk, and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Our Walking Group meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m. at East Wharf and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at Hammonasset Park. Contact **Barbara DeRosa** for details.



Knitting Club – Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting afghan squares may contact either **Barbara DeRosa** or **Denise Daly** for instructions. Barbara's email address is dderosa73@comcast.net or call her at 203-245-6063. Denise's email address is ddaly524@gmail.com or call her at 203-458-3309. **Thank you to Barbara, Denise, and all the Knitters!**



Donna Farrell and Gail Lennox are collecting tabs from soda and beer cans – just the tab, not the whole can or top. Please start collecting them. They will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. Please bring the tabs to the meeting or contact **Donna** or **Gail** directly for drop off information. Ronald McDonald house will receive all of the recycling money.

Gail also is collecting empty plastic prescription bottles for Doctor's Without Borders. Please remove the labels from the bottle prior to giving them to **Gail**. Bottles may be brought to the meetings or contact **Gail** for drop off information. These containers are not recyclable so here is a way to put them to good use.



Website – Check out our website at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com>. **Denise Rose** is doing a great job keeping the website updated. She is including a newsletter section, snippets from meetings regarding upcoming events, news from the State GFWC, information about the book clubs, etc. **Thank you Denise.**



The Women's Club of Madison will be participating in the Madison Lions Club Tag Sale on the Madison Green on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 9:00 to 3:00. This is a good time to do some "spring cleaning". Would you please consider putting aside some gently-used items for the sale? Put a suggested price on each item (subject to change during the day) and plan to bring them to the Green by 7:30 a.m. the day of the sale. If the items do not sell, they will be donated to a charitable organization or you may reclaim them at the Green by 3:00. If you have allowed us to borrow a folding table or two, please arrange to pick up your table(s) at 3:00. We will need volunteers to help in 2 hour shifts from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to set up, sell and clean-up at the end of the day. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the May Meeting. We have a lot of fun at the sale and it is a good way to generate positive publicity for our Club. Hope you can come and find a treasure or two!

Thank you to our Committee!

Karin Casey – 203-421-4754
Gail Lennox – 201-704-0939

Mary Davis – 203-245-8459
Anna Marie Lane – 202-245-0240

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Well, we did it. We survived two totally crazy years and came out stronger for it. In spite of a pandemic that shut down everything for months, you still managed to pull together and found ways to keep in touch and support our community and projects. In the Fall, 2021, we finally began to meet in person. (Did have a few hiccups in January and February.) How great to finally see everyone without a Zoom screen. Even had a lovely, holiday dinner in December.

Over these past two years you continued your support for Homes for the Brave, donating numerous clothing and household items and gift cards to the Bridgeport program and the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence, donating hundreds of new and gently used women's and children's coats, jackets, gloves and hats. In 2021 funds were disbursed to Nite in Hand, the American Legion, and ABC House. This year we disbursed funds to the EC Scranton Memorial Library, ABC House, Nite in Hand, and St. Jude's. Afghans were knitted, books read and discussed, and donations made to the Food Pantry. Members participated in Madison Clean-Up Green-Up and the GFWC/CT Walking Contest. And this year, we are back on the Green for the Lion's Club Tag Sale. Our wonderful Knitting Club was recently named a President's Pick, by Marian St. Clair, International President. For the past 22 years, the group has partnered with The Village, in Greater Hartford, creating and donating more than 1,000 child-size blankets for children who have been removed from their home due to an accident or other incident. In addition, blankets and afghans have been presented to the Madison Police Department, for children.

In 2021, the Club won district awards in five areas: Membership, Fundraising, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Environment, and Education and Libraries. In May 2021, at the GFWC/CT State Convention, the Women's Club of Madison received three awards - second place, large clubs, for Legislative Action and Public Policy and for Veterans' Project and first place, large clubs, for Leadership!

This year at District Day the Club took home awards for our Veterans' Project, Arts and Culture, and Membership. Our Club even provided a special guest appearance by none other than Julia Child, who did a rather interesting cooking demonstration. It was wonderful to have Barbara Birnie there to receive a proclamation and special pin in recognition of her 50 years of service to the Women's Club of Madison and her community!

At the GFWC/CT State Convention in May the Club received awards for Legislative Action and Public Policy; Women's History Resource Center; Advocates for Children; and Environment. We also received the Plummer Gavel Award, awarded to the club with

outstanding and continuous membership activity...and our own Anne Edwards, State LEADS candidate! Kathy DeBurra was installed as the GFWC/CT President. Way to go ladies!

Your accomplishments have been many and like the little Energizer bunny you keep going, and going, and going, letting no obstacle keep you from getting things done.

It has truly been a pleasure and an honor to have been your President for the past two years. I can't wait to see what you accomplish in the future!

Love and Hugs,

Pat

DATES TO REMEMBER

06/14/2022 – Flag Day

06/14/2022 – Annual Dinner

06/19/2022 – Father's Day

JUST FOR FUN

06/16/2022 – National Fudge Day

06/21/2022 – Summer Solstice

GFWC/CT MAY CONVENTION

The State Pin



Women's Club of Madison Awards



Anne getting pinned by Marion St. Clair



Kathy getting pinned by Marion St. Clair

