



La Mesa Woman's Club
**A Member of GFWC, CFWC &
 Southern District**



Pat Kelly, Editor

GAVEL TALK - JUNE 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		BIRTHDAY CORNER
JUNE Fri 2nd Executive Board 9:30 am 1st Friday Bridge 11:00am Mon 12th Hospitality Tea 11:30am No Evening Assembly Meeting Mon 19th Joint Day & Evening luncheon meeting 12:00 pm	JULY Fri 7th Executive Board 9:30 am 1st Friday Bridge 11:00 am Mon 10th Hospitality Tea 11:30am	 Elaine Ayres - 9th Nora Maxwell - 18th

President's Message



I hope everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day!

Our next meeting is June 19th at 12:30. Our speaker will be three time San Diego spring board diving champion Cody Dreesen. Cody will show us videos of his diving and explain what he is doing and how he trains to be able to do difficult dives. Cody has two Junior Olympic dive meets coming up in July. We'll have lunch arranged by Angie and Nora. After lunch several special awards will be presented including La Mesa Woman's Club "Member of the Year."

The club will be dark during the months of July and August with the exception of bridge, board meetings and our July fund raiser "Summer Social."

Clubhouse Maintenance

We are looking for several types of maintenance help. A general help person to do some of the heavier work inside and light gardening and cleanup outside. CMC is looking for a company to do cleaning after events. This is essential. Judy has booked several events during the month of June and we have to find a reliable cleaning company.

Carol Dreesen

CFWC and GFWC Conventions

Sandi Phoenix and I attend the CFWC Convention. We enjoyed some interesting and informative workshops. As a first timer everything was new for me. The entire event was very professional with a twist of humor. La Mesa Woman's Club was honored as one of the clubs that joined the federation over 100 years ago. La Mesa Woman's Club joined the federation 103 years ago. The Membership Vice President, Pam Ament introduced each club president one at a time. Toby Kahan, CFWC President introduced each club by name including the year they joined the federation. The presidents walked through the audience to the cheers of friends and attendees. We were presented with a scroll and certificate honoring our club. I was proud to represent La Mesa Woman's Club and all the members who came before us. My next endeavor will be to attend the GFWC Convention with Barbara Nelson, Southern District President.



In lieu of my usual article reporting club information this month I want to share something else with you. I had the privilege of serving on this year's scholarship committee, and I was so impressed by the high caliber of applicants. Not only were the students exemplary in their academic achievements, school activities, and community service, these seniors can write! I'm sharing four particularly well-written essays. I think you'll agree with me that we can feel proud and grateful for these talented and resilient young people. Enjoy!

"My life came to a complete halt when my dad was unexpectedly diagnosed with stage-four kidney cancer during my sophomore year of high school. My dad was my protector, advisor and best friend. He supported everything I did and taught me about working hard to achieve goals, always with passion and commitment. I had to experience the excruciating process of watching my dad deteriorate from cancer, and in less than three months, cancer stole my dad.

Just as I began grieving, I was knocked down again and again. Twenty-nine days after my dad died, my uncle died from cancer. The following month, I lost my aunt and grandfather to cancer. Over the course of three short months, I lost four family members. I felt like the whole world should have stopped, but it didn't.

So I worked tirelessly, amidst grieving, to maintain a 4.0+ GPA. My dad made a good living to support our family I, but now my mom, who stayed home raising three children, is overwhelmed keeping up with household expenses and finding a way to afford my college education.

Things changed instantly and left us in a position we didn't expect and couldn't plan for. I now need to push myself beyond obstacles I didn't have before in my pursuit of becoming a veterinarian."

"As an Iraqi, I had a traumatic childhood. Since my father was an interpreter for the American Army, my mother, sister, and I were targeted by terrorists. As a child, I lived in constant fear for my life and my family's life. A group of terrorists attacked my elementary school while I was raising the Iraqi flag. At the age of six, I witnessed the death of my teachers, friends, and security guards. The effects the shootings had tremendously impacted my childhood. My mother, sister, and I then moved to Egypt. Public schools did not accept us since we were foreigners. We had to pay for a private school, but eventually it became too expensive, so we had to stop. While my father still worked in Iraq, our house was destroyed by a group of terrorists. My father was in

serious danger, so he decided to immigrate to the United States because of the freedom and the opportunities for a safer future. After not seeing my father for years, we decided to immigrate to the United States. I am now truly appreciative of all the opportunities and am happy to be able to pursue my dream of becoming an oncologist."

"Success is not measured by material possessions or social status; it is measured by how you touch others' lives. During a mission trip to Guatemala with local United Methodist Churches this past summer, I had the joy of installing wood efficiency stoves in the homes of the indigenous people and bonding with the children in those families. At the end of our week's work, all of the women and children who received new stoves gathered in a home to celebrate the new opportunities the stoves were to bring them. As the ladies and their children filed in, our team relinquished our seats at the center table and began serving our guests. Later I was told that, for most of these women, this was the first time they had ever been served a meal. At the end of the meal, through a translator, the women expressed their sincere gratitude for the gifts of the stoves and for serving them. To the Guatemalan women, it was not just another meal--it was an extraordinarily profound moment where people from polarizing cultures served one another in body and spirit. Watching the hardworking and impoverished women eat in thanksgiving is when I realized that I want to serve people for the rest of my life."

"'She doesn't look undocumented.' I was puzzled hearing this as I walked past a group of girls. I had mixed emotions: I didn't know whether to be flattered or offended. What does an undocumented person look like? It isn't something you can see or even put into a complete visual description.

Despite my situation, I've become the ideal American teenage girl: I made the varsity soccer team my freshman year, I'm a civil rights activist, I dance my heart away at countless performances, and I've always been an honors student. I'm president and founder of my own club and secretary for multiple other clubs. My life has revolved around soccer, dancing, and any random new hobby I want to try. I've experimented with many instruments: the guitar, piano, ukulele, and even my own vocal chords. I consider myself a free, adventurous girl seeking different ways of expressing her creativity. I feel American, but I'm not American; I'm Mexican but I don't feel Mexican. Even though 16/17 years of my life have been American, that one I year has made me an outcast and has made my senior year dreadful."

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Lou Turner



Last week we were asked to collect donations for an additional 10 Care Kits in connection with the Step Away from Abuse domestic violence program with the Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Station. I emailed members and asked for specific toiletries and other personal care items and your response was quick and overwhelming! In two days, members contributed everything we need. We ask that you deliver your items, on Mondays, to the clubhouse and leave them with our rental manager, Judy Burgess.

On Monday, June 12th I will collect and bag them according to specifications. Carol will take them to the GFWC National Convention in Palm Desert this month where this program will be highlighted. All our care kits will be returned to us and we will donate them to the Step Away from Abuse program. Thanks to all our members for continuing to support this worthy project.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our June 19th luncheon and meeting. Please invite a friend or two as possible new members. Then, have a relaxing summer!

3rd VICE-PRESIDENT

Sandi Phoenix

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR LMWC SUMMER SOCIAL MINI FUNDRAISER: Save both dates for now: Friday, July 28 and Monday, July 31. Our committee meets this Friday, June 2nd to plan our summer event. Please remember for now, by the end of July we will want to beat the heat and our cool clubhouse will be open for our social mini fundraiser. It promises to be another fun event for our members and guests. See you there. Hugs to you all.

4th VICE- PRESIDENT

Jean Adams

Hi everyone! Welcome to our Joint meeting and lunch on Monday, June 19th. All Day and Evening members are welcome. We will be having a wonderful lunch at 12:00 and a great speaker following lunch. Cody Dreesen is Carol's grandson and three times S.D. Diving Champion. It will be a wonderful meeting and our last meeting until September. I hope to see all of you there. Please be sure and call Angie or Nora with your lunch reservation. Thanks!

EDUCATION REPORT

Margie Howard

Out of the 39 scholarship applications five winners were selected. The applicants were outstanding. Their GPA's, SAT's were very high. Their essays were well written & there were glowing endorsements from their counselors & teachers. The students also were involved with school activities & community service.

The winners for the \$1000 scholarships are:

- Jillian Dawson, Grossmont High School—presenter—Betsy
- Gabrielle Root, Helix Charter School—presenter—Betsy
- Ellen Thompson, Mt. Miguel High School—presenter—Pat
- Jennifer Fox, Valhalla High School--presenter—Margie
- Kalen Jennings, El Capitan High School—presenter—Sandi

Please keep these winners secret until after the Senior Assemblies in May & June.

Committee: Sandi Phoenix, Betsy Quinn & Margie Hartman

Much thanks to the 2017 Scholarship committee for their many hours & days of reading & selecting the winners.



Scholarships

Two of our Five Scholarship Winners:

Left is Kalen Jennings, scholarship winner from El Capitan High School.

On the right is Jennifer Fox, scholarship winner from Valhalla High School with Margie Hartman, presenter.



SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

I want to add my thoughts to what Carol may write regarding the CFWC State Convention that she and I attended May 18 – 21. I have attended several CFWC Conventions in the past. This one was, by far, the best I have attended. It was very professionally done. The workshops were informative, entertaining, interactive and well attended. All workshops provided full packets with notes, so members could participate without missing any take home information and always started on time and finished within the time allotted. Registration was only \$20, which kept everything affordable for everyone. The meals were separate from the programs, so if you did not purchase meals, you did not miss award presentations or keynote speakers. The theme was “Into the Woods”. All State Chairmen dressed in costume to go with this theme. The storyline was a little silly, but cute and provided humor and continuity to all the awards. Speaking of awards, congratulations to Southern District for receiving several awards this year; more than I remember in the past. There were also several vendor exhibits. These vendors knew their target audience. The merchandise and the reasonable prices made it worth shopping and productively filled the minutes between sessions. I wish I would have known how professional this convention would be because I truly would have encouraged more of you to attend. It was worth every minute. Because of this experience I am going to highly encourage everyone to attend the Area D Conference coming Saturday, October 28th.

Sandi Phoenix



Carol and Sandi at the CFWC Convention.

Workshops: I attended 3 workshops, “Bylaws & Leadership”, “Writing a Fundraising Report 101” and “Membership/Mediation”. Following are some workshop take home points:

Parliamentary Procedure principles: 1. The organization is first. Decisions of the organization supersede those of individuals. 2. All members have equal rights. 3. Only one proposal may be before the assembly at a time. 4. Only one member may have the floor at a time. 5. A proposal is the item under discussion, never the person who introduced it. Personal remarks are always out of order.

Leadership tips: 1. Sharing responsibilities keeps members interested and enthusiastic about your club. 2. Encourage new members to join in activities. Let their fresh ideas help with planning. 3. Be generous in showing your appreciation! 4. Clear, concise and regular communication keep members informed and moving forward. 5. Great leaders don’t tell how to do something; they are engaged alongside members showing how. 6. Empower by equipping members with skills and inspire them to act.

Membership/Mediation: “When we argue, as Dues Paying Members, we are buying that Argument. We need to act, lead and listen always with Mediation in our hearts, minds and on our tongues. Think before you speak and see all sides to a story, seek to understand.” Pam Ament, CFWC 2nd V.P.

Parts of membership: 1. Members: Without Members, there is no club. 2. Bylaws & Standing Rules: Without Bylaws & Standing Rules there is no order. 3. Involvement: Without Involvement, there is no action. 4. Representation: Without Representation, there are no Member Rights, nor is there communication with other levels of Federation. 5.

Leadership: Without Leadership, there is no commitment or accountability.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO SAVE THIS DATE:

1. Area D Conference, Saturday, October 28, 2017. Cost, \$28. Location, Yorba Linda Community Center. What is Area D? On the Federation ladder, the first rung is the local club, our La Mesa Woman’s Club, the next rung is the District, our Southern District. The next rung is the Area. California is divided into four Areas. Ours is Area D. A CFWC Vice President is the Leader of each Area. Our Area D V.P. is Stephanie Stark. What can you expect at the Area D Conference?

1. A business meeting where you meet State Officers and learn the about CFWC activities and what our State organization is asking our clubs to support.
2. Attend workshops presented by State Chairmen. You will learn more about community service projects and probably, membership, computer/IT skills and more.

2. Saturday, August 19, 2017, Chula Vista W.C. clubhouse, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, light refreshments will be provided. This will be a Leadership skills building workshop 101. The presenters are Bea Velazquez, Carrie Stafford and Martha Pritchard. If you would like to attend, please call me, 588-1923 to register.

HOSTESS CHAIRMAN – Day

Nora Maxwell

Roz and I will be the hostesses for the Joint Day and Evening Assembly meeting on Monday, June 19th. The lunch will be from Honey Baked Hams, and will cost \$10 each. Please RSVP to Angie or me so that we are sure to order enough food for everyone. Hope to see you all there!

HOSTESS CHAIRMAN – Evening

Angie Lombardo/Roz Kennedy

There will not be an Evening meeting again until September. Please plan to attend the joint lunch meeting on Monday, June 19th. Thank you JoAnn Knutson and Sandi Phoenix for providing the refreshments last month.

JUNE Bridge Dates:

Friday, 7th	1st Friday Bridge	11:00 am
Monday, 10th	Hospitality Tea	11:30 am



Anyone interested in being a substitute for any of the bridge groups, please call Esther Jones at (619) 583-5010.

Hospitality Tea: This month *Esther Jones*’ table will provide the refreshments.



June 14th – FLAG Day



First day of SUMMER – June 21st

**La Mesa Woman's Club
5220 Wilson Street
La Mesa, CA 91942**