




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



GAVEL TALK - DECEMBER 2025

Pat Kelly, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		BIRTHDAY CORNER
DECEMBER Fri. 5 th Executive Board 9:30 am Wed. 10 th Xmas lunch 11:30 am at Marie Callender's	JANUARY Fri. 2 nd Executive Board Wed. 14 th General Meeting 10:00 am	 Carol Graves 11 th Beth Miller 21 st

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marsha McDonald / Sandi Phoenix



Thanksgiving was two days ago, and the holiday season has begun. I'm sitting in our RV in the middle of a beautiful grove of pine trees in the Arizona forest near Flagstaff. There are patches of snow still on the ground. The sky is a baby blue color, and the air is brisk, VERY BRISK. Most of my family has returned to their homes and I have quiet time to write my last "Gavel Talk" article as La Mesa Woman's Club Co-President.

These have been two very memorable years for me. Years that I hold close to my heart and will never forget. I am so proud and honored to have shared the President's responsibilities with a special lady and close friend, Marsha Mc Donald.

I want to thank each member personally for your support and challenges that provided me with happy memories, growth, and learning experiences during the past two years. Together we accomplished valuable charitable projects that support our club's Mission and Marsha's and my theme of "Bloom Where You are Planted". It was wonderful to be part of the growth of established members and to encourage newer members to accept positions of responsibility that will enhance and expand LMWC into new areas of achievement.

I want to express my heartfelt thoughts of appreciation to your Executive Board for their support and leadership that guided us through this term of transition from a grassroots club to a strong, growing organization with a bright future.

I also want to thank and recognize your Financial Committee. This group of members deserves outstanding recognition for volunteering countless hours with our tax attorney and our financial advisor to accomplish our primary goal of establishing the La Mesa Woman's Club Foundation that will support and enhance our 123-year legacy.

In closing, I just cannot find all the words to express my feelings. Thank you all for making these past two years so memorable. I wish you a joyous Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a safe, healthy New Year.
Sandi





I am sitting in the airport in Sacramento headed home after a week with Erin and family. A wonderful holiday with lots of good food and activity almost every day. I tried writing this there but finally gave up. Too many distractions to get in the way any concentrated thinking!

The past two years have been a blur of activity. We have been a club in transition - from our clubhouse, from our financial status to our focus and goals for the future. The result was a deluge of meetings, planning sessions and decision making in between all our club meetings, projects and activities. Thank goodness I was able to travel through it all with my dear friend Sandi. It made it all the more enjoyable.

So many to thank for this experience. First Sandi. Her guidance and leadership helped guide all of us through the tough times. She and I couldn't have had a better Executive Board. You were there to help make the big decisions to help our club grow stronger and the flexibility to make the changes we needed to make. Thank you so much! Bless all the members of the Foundation's Board and helping us create our Foundation to best serve our club and our community for all the years to come. Not an easy job as we were entering unknown waters. And last but certainly not least - for sure!- all of you members. You were there to help guide us where you wanted the club to focus for the future. Your enthusiasm, flexibility and great new ideas helped us more than you know.

We have learned so much from our financial and legal experts and their patience with our frequent calls for clarification and help

It's been a wonderful challenging year and I have learned so much from the experience. I can't thank you all enough. My wishes for a special holiday season with loved ones and another adventure as we delve into the new year together ♥

Marsha

1st VICE PRESIDENT- DEAN

Pat Spear



***MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR***

LA MESA CHAMBER SENIOR BASKETS and TOY DRIVE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: Thank you to all who participated in these projects. Your donations were much appreciated. Please turn in any additional in-kind information for this project and any other projects by our December 10th luncheon.

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for supporting LMWC community service projects the last two years. We should all be proud of what we accomplished in our community and beyond. Our final in-kind giving will be our Toys for Tots donations and the Bancroft School Holiday Families Project. Remember to bring these gifts to our holiday luncheon on December 10th along with the statistical information for your purchases. I look forward to the year ahead as Pauline, our incoming 1st Vice President, leads us in our continued service to the community. I know she can count on all of you for support.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for the cards and messages I received with words of encouragement and prayers after my little accident. I am thankful to be recovering well, and I look forward to attending our December luncheon.

Blessings to you all.



Season's Greetings to everyone!

Hopefully, your Thanksgiving was a special one this year and you had time to enjoy family and friends.

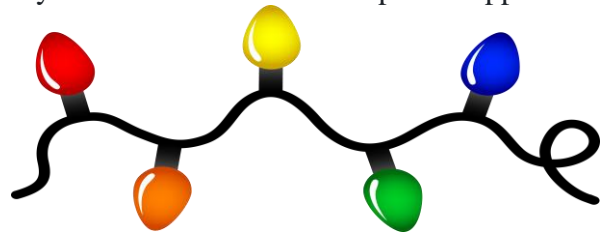
*This month is our annual Christmas luncheon and Installation of officers on Wednesday, December 10th at Marie Callender's beginning at 11:30am. As of today, I have 23 reservations, so we'll have a nice turnout to honor two 60+ year members, Angie Lombardo and Linda Sotelo. Angie and Linda will become **Honorary Members** at our luncheon. We are so pleased to honor these two ladies for their continuous support and dedication since 1964.*

A reminder that annual dues for 2026 are due by December 31, 2025. Dues remain at \$50 per person. Please contact me, Lou Turner, with any questions. Text or call: 619-985-7290. You may respond by mail and send your \$50 check to: Lou Turner, 4325 Avenida Gregory in Spring Valley 91977. Make checks payable to: La Mesa Woman's Club and write 2026 Dues on the Memo line.

Please remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy for **Toys for Tots** annual toy drive coordinated by our U. S. Marines. Also, if you adopted a **Bancroft Elementary School** student, Marsha McDonald will be collecting at our luncheon. As always, we thank you for your continued support over the years. Deadline for our Christmas luncheon is Friday, December 5th. Please RSVP to me, Lou Turner, call or text 619-985-7290 or email: lnjturner@cox.net and let me know you want to attend.

In January, we welcome a new member who is a friend of Kathy Tinsley's and her name is **Kathy Denham**. You will meet her on December 10th. Welcome to the La Mesa Woman's Club, Kathy.

Happy holidays to all with many thanks for your continued membership and support!



Happy Christmas from your Program Chairs, Kathy and Darcy

*We saluted November 2025 with our tradition of honoring fourteen very deserving Veterans with handmade quilts from the **Quilt of Valor Quilters**. Once again, it was a very memorable afternoon. Kathy, Margaret and I, along with their family and guests, enjoyed a lovely luncheon provided by Mary England for the Retired Veterans.*

A tradition we have done and hope to continue.



At our general meeting, Margaret invited a Veteran to be wrapped.



Mary England, Kathy Tinsley, and Darcy Barghols were able to attend several Fundraisers over this past month. The first was Fresheria, at a ribbon cutting ceremony. Freshiria is a new takeout on Baltimore and Lake Murry that sports a vast selection of tortas, sandwiches, wraps and juices. It was delightfully fresh.



Then Kathy and our new member Kathy Dunham and I attended Debra Childers Boots and Bling, a western fashion show held at the Wieghorst Museum in El Cajon. Debra was smashing!!!



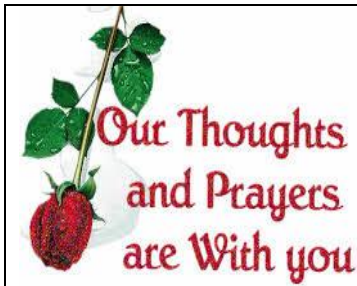
Lastly, Kathy and I joined Mary England and Debra Childers at El Torito as a Military fundraiser offering up children's toys.

HOSTESS CHAIRMAN

Lou Turner



There are no hostesses required for the December general meeting as we meet at Marie Callender's for our annual Christmas luncheon.



Angie Lombardo is at the Jacob Health Care Center trying to regain her strength and endurance after several setbacks. Please continue to keep Angie in your thoughts and prayers for a full recovery.

Pat Kelly and Pat Spear have both recovered from recent health issues. Thanks for all of the positive thoughts and prayers.



With the holiday season upon us, we'll be skipping movies this month.

Wishing you all a safe and merry holiday!

Hope you have fun with the trivia questions.

Christmas Trivia Questions

1. Which three reindeers have a name starting with D?
2. What three gifts did the wise men give the baby Jesus?
3. In Charles Dickens's classic *A Christmas Carol*, what is Scrooge's first name?
4. The events in which famous ballet takes place on Christmas Eve?
5. In *A Christmas Story*, what gift does Ralphie desperately want?
6. In *It's a Wonderful Life*, what happens every time a bell rings?
7. In *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947), which department store does Kris Kringle work for?
8. In *Frosty the Snowman*, what brings Frosty to life?
9. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
10. In *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, what is the name of Rudolph's elf friend?
11. In which town was Jesus born?

Answers

Dasher, Dancer and Donner (referred to as Donner in the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer")
Gold, frankincense and myrrh
Ebenezer
The Nutcracker
Red Ryder BB gun
An angel gets its wings
Macys
A magical hat
Paris
Hermey
Bethlehem

FEDERATION “DATES TO REMEMBER”, MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Sandi Phoenix

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13: Holiday Lunch with Southern District President, Karen Reed, Marie Callender’s, 12:30 – 3p.m., \$30 per person Contact Sandi if you plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17: Southern District Exec. Committee Zoom meeting, 10am

FEBRUARY 25, 2026: Southern District Festival of Arts

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026: Southern District Convention, Bankers Hill Club

MAY 2026: CFWC Convention, Ontario, CA JUNE 2026: GFWC Convention, Scottsdale, AZ

At the recent General Federation of Women's Clubs meeting there was a brief discussion on *artificial intelligence* which brought up questions regarding: Why Join GFWC?

As mentioned in the meeting, artificial intelligence is a powerful tool, it is best understood as a personal assistant—not a replacement for people. AI can help organize club tasks, streamline processes, and provide quick information, but it lacks the heart, intuition, and lived experience that our club men and women bring. Our true resilience comes from the ability to adapt, to create, and to care for one another.

Impact: Be part of projects that change lives locally and globally.

Leadership: Develop skills and take on roles that grow confidence and influence.

Advocacy: Add your voice to issues that matter, from community wellness to conservation.

Connection: Build lasting friendships with people who share your passion for service.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs is more than an organization—it’s a movement of people united in purpose. Together, we do more, reach further, and build a brighter tomorrow.

Information can be found in the Fall 2025 California Club Magazine by Lu Arredondo

