La Mesa Woman's Club

A Member of GFWC, CFWC & Southern District – Area D



GAVEL TALK – NOVEMBER 2026

Pat Kelly, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		BIRTHDAY CORNER
NOVEMBER	**DECEMBER**	
Fri. 6th Executive Board 9:30 am	**Fri. 4th Executive Board 9:30 am**	
Wed. 11th General Meeting 10:00 am	**Wed 9th Christmas Lunch at Marie Callender's**	**No birthdays in November**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathy Tinsley



Hello my Club Sisters,

One of my favorite events we do is recognizing veterans and this year will be no different. Sandi and Lynn will be providing our program so I hope to see you on Wednesday, November 11th at our general meeting on Veterans Day.

Wishing all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Kathy

We have so much to be thankful for.

WHAT IS A VETERAN

A VETERAN – WHETHER ACTIVE DUTY, DISCHARGED, RETIRED OR RESERVE- SOMEONE WHO, AT ONE POINT IN THEIR LIFE WROTE A BLANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FOR AN AMOUNT OF UP TO, AND INCLUDING THEIR LIFE.

THAT IS HONOR…….

AND THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY WHO NO LONGER UNDERSTAND THAT FACT.



1st VICE PRESIDENT **Pauline Basaran**



Greetings:

I will share ideas for 2027 activities at the November membership meeting. If you have something you would like to see the club do, please let me know. We have activities planned for the 125th Anniversary, but there is plenty of opportunity to include other activities and or organizations.



125th - Reminder - we are currently collecting new, unwrapped, Toys for the Military families. Please bring to the November meeting or drop off at Keller Williams East County (12750 High Bluff Dr., Ste 300 San Diego or Aspire Martial Arts (2990 Jamacha Rd, Ste 180 El Cajon). Or call me to arrange for pickup.

As we approach the end of year, it is important to get everyone's volunteer hours, cash and in-kind donations. Here are the CFWC definitions of these items so you know what can be included:

• **Volunteer Hours** is the amount of time that members worked on approved programs and projects. Note: this includes time attending meetings and events

• **Dollars Donated** is the monetary amount given to programs and projects.
Note: These funds must have gone through the club/treasury in order to be reported.

• **In-Kind Donations** reflect the monetary value for goods and items provided to programs and projects.

We appreciate your help completing the forms - I will email out forms and have them available at the November meeting. This data is required by CFWC.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT **Marsha McDonald and Pat Spear**



All Member Orientation: All members are welcome to attend our second Member Orientation on Saturday, November 14 in the Disciple Room at Foothills Methodist Church, 3041 Avocado Blvd. We begin at 9:30 and will end at 10:30, so you have your day free. All new members have been invited, but we wanted to have active members to come join us. You can add so much personal experience to what we will be talking about. We are going to discuss how LMWC chooses projects to participate in from getting the idea to how it proceeds to completion. Why do we have to write reports about all our projects at the end of each year? Community service projects are the core of all of the Women's Clubs organizations, one of the main goals of our club and why most of you were interested in LMWC - to help serve our communities. We will be doing this soon to choose projects for next year. Please call or text Pat Spear at 619-867-2137 or Marsha at 619-403-2195 to RSVP, or sign up on the sign up sheet for the orientation at the November Board and General meetings.

Mentors:

Pat and I have a few members who would love to act as a mentor for a new member. We would love to have a few more! Please volunteer to help be a big sister for a new member. Let Pat or I know you are ready to help our new members feel more comfortable at our meetings, to answer their questions and to be someone they get to know firsthand.

Area D Conference:

Pat Kelly, Sandi and I attended the Area D Conference last weekend at the Carlsbad Woman's Club. It focused a great deal on Membership. We discovered that we are already doing many of the things they suggest clubs do to increase membership. One thing they did stress is that our members are like a family and we have to remember that each member is a valuable part of our club family. Cohesive clubs are just like cohesive families. They look out for each other. That needs to be our goal to keep our club strong.

3rd VICE-PRESIDENT **Mary England**

Mary is on vacation in Italy, and unable to submit an article this month. Let's all wish her a wonderful, fun and safe trip.

4th VICE- PRESIDENT **Lynn Thalman and Sandi Phoenix**



Lynn and I hope all of you enjoyed a Happy Halloween. *"We hope your cauldron bubbled over with happiness and sweet surprises"* Anonymous .

This year, the second Wednesday of November is **November 11, Veterans Day**. The fighting in World War I, between the Allied Nations and Germany stopped on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918. For that reason, November 11, at 11a.m. 1918 is regarded as the end of WWI, "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS". The observance of Veterans Day on November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day, which is a celebration to honor all Americas' veterans for their "patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good" (taken from Operation Home Front information).

This year, November 11 is also LMWC's general membership meeting. Because our general meeting and Veterans Day are on the same day the general membership meeting's program will be a special recognition to thank, honor, and celebrate our members who are military veterans. During the October general membership meeting, Lynn asked for the names of club members and family members who are veterans. We received nine names. These nine will share with us their story of being in the military and they will receive special LMWC recognition. **Each of the nine members and relatives will receive an email from Lynn and Sandi to explain what will be happening during this recognition. If by chance, we missed anyone and you are a veteran and do not receive an email by this Wednesday, November 4, please contact Lynn or Sandi right away so that you will be included in this special celebration**. We hope all members will attend and take part in honoring our member veterans.

We close this month's article with a wish for your Thanksgiving to be a day of making happy memories and enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving meal with family and friends.

Hugs, Sandi & Lynn

Corresponding Secretaries **Carol Klipp and Darcy Barghols**

This month I would like for you to ponder the word **MARVEL.** We marvel at the eclipse; we marvel at a rainbow and even the aurora borealis and the Kelvin Tides. But what do you marvel at daily? "C. K. Chesterton wrote **"We should always endeavor to wonder at the permanent thing, not at the mere exception."**

Meaning… The *permanent thing* refers to ordinary, daily marvels that sustain life, like the sun and nature. We take this for granted. The ordinary daily things. The *mere exception* refers to rare or unusual events as mentioned above (eclipse, disasters, things that come at unexpected times).

Let us, La Mesa Woman's Club, **MARVEL** at the numerous endeavors you have encountered and achieved over the last 125 years. From bustles to hustles… we have **ACHIEVED** and should look back and **MARVEL!**



Darcy Barghols

HOSTESS CHAIRMAN **Lou Turner**



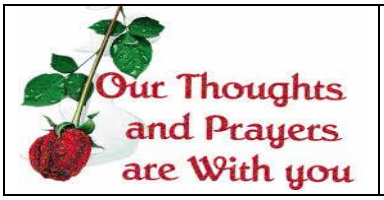
The hostesses for the Wednesday, November 11th General Membership meeting are Kathy Tinsley and Kathy Denham.

Bancroft Christmas Adopt-a-Child Marsha McDonald



It's that time of year again!! At the November meeting I will be bringing the list of children that Jessica Nobles, Bancroft's social worker, has identified as in need of adopting for the Christmas holiday. She has carefully chosen children whose families are not able to provide for them this year. She gives us information about the age and gender of each child, sizes and a wish list. If we should need more names, Jessica can always get us more. This is one of the most rewarding and fun projects we do all year Please sign up your name next to one or two children on the list at our November meeting.

Be sure to take the information about sizes, wishes and the code name of that child/ children so you remember what to shop for. There will be small blank sheets of paper at the table you can write on or just use your phone and take a picture of the sizes and wishes for your child from the list. On the table at our meeting there will also be an information sheet of how the process works, and the dates the gifts are due back to me. Don't forget the code name for your child/children. That's how the school identifies who those gifts are for. If you have any questions, please contact me.



Please keep ***Margaret Mendez*** in your thoughts and prayers. She was visiting family in Albuquerque and was admitted to the hospital for a nerve issue affecting her hands. She has been in a rehabilitation hospital, but expects to be back home by November 5th.



Kathy McLaughlin awarded Carol Klipp the Member to Member plate for her work with the Fresh Start program.



Lynn Parsons, guest speaker, explaining the Fresh Start program to help the homeless with food, clothes and toiletries.

FEDERATION DATES and MO RE:

The next CFWC Southern District meeting is Wednesday, November 16th at 10 am at the VFW Hall in Lakeside.

The CFWC Southern District Festival of Arts is Wednesday, February 24th, 2027 at the VFW Hall in Lakeside. The theme is a play or musical and our Board decided on "Singing in the Rain". More information to follow.

Area D Conference

Sandi Phoenix

Saturday, October 24th Pat K., Marsha, and I spent the day at the CFWC Area D Conference in Carlsbad. We brought three fruit trays and eight platters full of sweet morning treats with us, enough to feed 110 hungry ladies and paid for by the Southern District. Part of the purpose of the Area D Conference was for club members to meet CFWC officers. The first officer we met was Alison Eccleston, Area D Vice President. She chaired this conference and provided a warm welcome and introduced the guests. Mickie Reed from Indio, 2nd V.P. -Membership Chair announced that in July 2026, CFWC had 9,900 members. As of the conference date, CFWC has 10,122 members. She Congratulated all Area D clubs for this increase in membership. Mickie is a fun person to work with. Marsha and I got to know her at the CFWC Convention last May. Marsha took home a notebook full of membership ideas. A new membership program she emphasized is called "Rooting." It is a Retention program to promote retaining members for many years. It includes building comradery, a sisterhood, and a feeling of belonging to a family. Marsha and I are both 50+ year members and we understand that special feeling. She and Pat S. will be fantastic sharing this sense of family with us. Cindy Sanders, CFWC First Vice President started with the statement that 75% of libraries in California were started by women's clubs. LMWC relates to this also. Cindy shared that report writing guidelines and the Procedure/Yearbook are available on the CFWC website, www.cfwc.org. It is free to download and protected by a password. Each District President has the password. We had lunch together, drawing for door prizes, and time to shop the venders before driving home. It was a fun, informative, busy day. It is recommended for members and officers attend this workshop style conference



Friday, October 30th, LMWC presented a donation of $4,500 to the David and Donna Long Cancer Center at Grossmont Hospital. Pauline, Ellen, Marsha, Pat Kelly and Pat Spear represented the LMWC Foundation.

La Mesa Woman's Club Foundation's Board of Directors **Sandi Phoenix**

Dear members,
This Gavel Talk article outlines the election procedure for electing two new directors to the La Mesa Woman's Club Foundation Board of Directors, replacing two members who are stepping down. The Board will retain five members, the optimal number for our club's size.

- The election will be by ballot during the November 11, 2026, general membership meeting.
- Currently there are two nominated members for the Foundation Board of Directors. It is optimal to have four candidates nominated.
- Candidates must have been club members for a full year prior to the election and must agree to be nominated.
- Members may make nominations from the floor at the November meeting, including nominating themselves for the position.
- The two members receiving the most votes are elected. They will take office at the annual organizational meeting that will be held at 10a.m. Pacific Standard Time on the second Friday of November.
- The term of office shall be one year.
- The responsibilities of a La Mesa Foundation Board of Director include:
    - Read and understand the La Mesa Woman's Club Foundation Bylaws.
    - Attend all Foundation Board of Directors meetings including meetings with the Financial Advisor and the one annual organizational meeting held on the second Friday of November.
    - Coordinate with the Club Executive Board to ensure Foundation donations meet the club's objectives, align with the Foundation's purpose, comply with IRS regulations, and do not cause a conflict of interest. For example, only other 501(c)(3) nonprofits may receive Foundation donations.

It is hoped that this outline helps club members understand the Foundation Board of Directors' essential role in managing Foundation funds and guiding appropriate donations. Questions will be addressed before the election at the general membership meeting.