**MEETING GFWC/CT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**July 16, 2022 at Café Allegre, Madison, CT**

**Call to Order:** Kathy DeBurra, State President, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**Inspiration:** Helen Barakauskas, 2016-18 Past State President, gave the Inspiration.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the Unites States of America:** JoAnn Calnen, 2010-12 Past State President, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the Unites States of America.

**Collect**: Nancy Kalyan, 2012-14 Past State President, led the Collect.

**Credentials:**

Donna Farrell, Convention/Meeting Chairman, read the preliminary credentials. Past State Presidents-6, Club Presidents-10, State Officers-7, Board Members-33, Total Voting Delegates-56, Registered Guests-3, Total Attendees-59. District with the largest attendance Southeast and Club with the largest attendance The Women’s Club of Madison-12.

**Introductions:** Kathy D. thanked Donna for her attention to detail at the meeting including the “Fan of GFWC” and the specific arrangements of the meeting set-up. Kathy introduced the members of the Executive Committee (Heather Spencer and Stephanie Capasso were absent). She then introduced the Past State Presidents and the Aides, Maddy Marzullo, Sally Johnson, and Sue Michaud

**Guest Speaker: Welcome to Madison.**

Kathy D. introduced the Peggy Lyons; First Selectwoman of Madison, who delivered a welcome speech to attendees.

**Reports of EC Officers:**

**Anne Edwards**, Member at-Large, said that she believes in tradition and sisterhood. Since her predecessor, Maddy Marzullo, had mentored her for this position, she created the “*Maddy Memo”* for members to use to make suggestions, and to submit comments and concerns. In her role as this year’s LEADS candidate, Anne attended the International Convention in New Orleans in June 2022. She explained that one of the things she learned about was St. Jude. She shared a form that should be used for donations in order to ensure that GFWC receives credit. (It is on the gfwcct.org website) She also summarized what she learned about Education, Communication, Libraries and Reading.

**Ashley Waseleski**, Corresponding Secretary,said that she maintains the master list of contact information for Connecticut clubs in addition to sharing all vital communication with members. She shared her email address ([ashleywaseleski@gmail.com](mailto:ashleywaseleski@gmail.com)) and her cell phone number (860-202-8598) and asked that she be notified of any changes in club contacts. Ashley received regrets from Pat Coyle, Suburban Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain and Heather Spencer, Second Vice President, who could not attend due to Covid exposure.

**Kathy Matusiak**, Recording Secretary, asked anyone who speaks to please state their name and club name clearly and to leave their report at the dais. She asked for three volunteers to read today’s meeting minutes, and the following women volunteered: Mary Davis, The Women’s Club of Madison; Maureen Fernandes, The Windsor Woman’s Club; and Sandy Barry, Woman’s Club of Enfield.

**Pam Lerner**, Assistant Treasurer, said that her job is to collect dues and to collect monies for meetings and conventions. In order for her job to go smoothly, she asked that members meet all deadlines. Forms will soon be sent out to clubs to update their rosters. Dues will be due on September 1st, and she cannot send invoices unless she knows how many members are in each club. Pam stated that there are 65 registered today.

**Stephanie Capasso**, Treasurer, is not present. The budget will be presented later at the meeting.

**Wendy Clery**, Third Vice President, introduced the District Presidents and Assistant District Presidents in attendance. They are: Southwest – Janet Jabieski, District President and Nancy Coraggio, Asst. District President; Southeast – TBD, District President, and Shirley Cavanaugh, Asst. District President; Northwest – Nicole Karalli – District President, and Maddy Marzullo, Asst. District President; and North Central – Jean Kehoe, District President, and Donna Recknagel, Asst. District President. Wendy mentioned that Deb Strahanowski, the current International GFWC President has challenged all clubs over a two-year period to increase their membership by fifty percent, adding that there is a lot of great information in the Club Manual and the Membership Toolbox. She shared 3 handouts including, *Franks & Beans -* (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Businesses) as resources. Her goal is to help create new clubs and to work with existing clubs that are not federated. Wendy introduced two members of the Brookfield club who are considering having their club become federated. All handouts from her presentation are on the website; (gfwcct.org.) (Under Membership and tools)

**Heather Spencer**, Second Vice President, was not present, but her report read by Kathy D. stated that the State Project is Women’s Health and Wellness. Heather plans to set up initial meetings with club presidents and co-presidents to discuss reporting strategies. Distributed were copies of directions on how to access the GFWC Member Portal which is a great resource to all members. (on the gfwcct.org website) Kathy introduced the Special Committee Chairmen, in attendance – State Project, Women’s Health and Wellness, Elizabeth Early; Convention/Meetings, Donna Farrell; and Fundraising/Ways & Means, Sara Newell and Rainey Pavarini (absent); Standing/Permanent Committee Chairmen & Members– By-Laws, Maureen Fernandes; Finance Committee, Zunny Martinez, Chairman, and Katherine DeBurra, Kathy Barnes, Heather Spencer, Wendy Clery, Pam Lerner, and Jeanne Waseleski. Memorial Scholarships – Beverly Regan, Chairman, and Kathy DeBurra, Kathy Barnes, and Pam Lerner; Legislative Affairs & Resolutions – Deborah Fiore, Chairman (New England Region Chairman); Community Service Program Chairmen – Advocates for Children, Donna Recknagel; Environment, Carolyn Kurtich; ESO, Judith Lefelar; Health & Wellness, Sheila Macauley; and Veterans, Maddy Marzullo.

Advancement Area Chairmen – Communications & Public Relations, Wendy Clery, Patricia Thal, Anne Edwards (EC) and Katherine DeBurra (EC); Fundraising, Sara Newell and Rainey Pavarini; Leadership – Kathy Barnes; Membership – Wendy Clery; and WHRC – Jo Ann Bruno; Other Executive Board positions – Arts & Crafts Chairman, Kathy Aiello; Newsletter Editor, Patricia Thal, and State Manual Editor, Ashley Waseleski.

**Kathy Barnes**, First Vice President, introduced the Club Presidents in attendance: **Southwest District**, Bethel Women’s Club, GFWC -- Kathy Aiello and Madelaine Gross; Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield, Inc. – Georgeann Kishner, Milford Woman’s Club, Inc. – Paula Wilson, Newtown Woman’s Club, GFWC, Inc. –Pat Bailey; and Ridgefield Women’s Club – Diana Pietrangelo; **Southeast District,** GFWC Hamden Woman’s Club – Zunny Martinez; Killingworth Women’s Organization-GFWC – Nancy McCormick; The Women’s Club of Madison – Lynne Sarro; Mystic Woman’s Club GFWC – Janet Kropp; Northford/North Branford Woman’s Club GFWC/CT – Elizabeth Boissard and Mary Ellen Collett; and GFWC North Haven Women’s Club – Pam Lerner. **Northwest** District, GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Club – Maddy Marzullo; Suburban Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain – Pat Coyle; Woman’s Club of Greater New Milford – Alicia Inch; Terryville Woman’s Club GFWC – Jeanne Waseleski; Thomaston Woman’s Club – Tina Duffy; Waterbury Women’s Club, GFWC – Geri Thomas; and Woman’s Club of Woodbury Kris Matwejic; **North Central** District, East Hartford Woman’s Club – Jeanne Kehoe; Ellington Women’s Club – Jessica Pierson-Regan; Woman’s Club of Enfield – Sandy Barry; GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman’s Club – Pearl Bouchard; Manchester CT Woman’s Club – Karen Allies; GFWC Northeastern CT Woman’s Club – Marg Roach; Somers Woman’s Club – Goldie Hyde; Suffield Woman’s Club – Dian Friedman and Renee Wood; Windsor Woman’s Club of CT and GFWC – Jean Keating; GFWC of Windsor Locks – Kathy Williams.

**International Convention Update:** Deborah Fiore, Immediate Past President (2020-22), spoke briefly about her experience at NOLA from 6/24 to 6/29. She stated that the highlight for Connecticut was the installation of our new State president and officers as well as Anne Edwards, LEADS candidate. Debbie announced that we received the following 3 awards at the International level: Janet Jabieski, *Living the Volunteer Spirit* photo award second place; Woman’s Club of Greater New Milford, Advocates for Children Program for Creativity; and Debbie Fiore, the Charlotte Brown Emerson award.

**Budget 2022-23:** Kathy D. passed out the budget (see attached), declaring that we have a quorum and can vote on the budget. Lynne Sarromade a motion to accept the budget, and Jo Ann Bruno seconded the motion. A correction was made on the date, 7/01/2022. It was corrected to read 6/1/2022 (to reflect the fiscal year from 6/1 to 5/31). Nancy Kalyan asked if $7500.00 is enough for Officers’ Expenses, and Kathy DeBurra responded it is in the bylaws, as the suggested amount at this time. The budget was accepted as presented.

**Recess and friendship time:** followed by the luncheon at 12:30.

**Expression of thanks:** Jeanne Waseleski, Past State President (2006-2008).

**Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker:** Connie Bombaci**,** Inspirational Author featured on “Dateline” – wrote the book:*Hogan’s Hope*and spoke about her experience with a rescued deaf pup, who she says being different makes us special and worthy of love and acceptance. With hope, she says, anything is possible.

**President’s Pick Project Idea:** Barbara DeRosa from the Women’s Club of Madison, spoke about the knitting project that she and fellow member Denise Daly co-chaired. This was one of Marian StClair’s; Immediate Past GFWC International President’s most favorite projects which was featured in *News & Notes,* May 19, 2022 edition. Barbara handed out directions to make an afghan square for the blankets. Each square is a simple project and then “put together” to form a completed blanket. This project has donated to the *Village for Families and Children* in Hartford for 20 years. Club members have been involved with this project for more than 22 years and completed almost 2,000 blankets.

**Kathy Barnes:** reported on the timely specific focus of leadership, *Leadership Transition,* *Pass the Gavel and More,* emphasizing the need to have a plan for transition for a smooth administration to take over duties. (see attached*).* Her handouts are also on the website for reference.

**May Convention Update:** Deborah Fiore, Immediate Past President updated everyone on the May Convention and special focus on March of Dimes Care packages which were delivered and appreciated for the families experiencing the NICU journey. This project was done at the May Convention.

**Fundraising & Announcements**: Sara Newell, Fundraising Chairman facilitated the raffle drawings.

**Adjournment:** At 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Kathy Matusiak,

Recording Secretary, 2022-2024 Administration