**Minutes**

**GFWC December Board Meeting**

**December 10, 2022 at Cafe Fiore in Cromwell, CT**

**Call to Order:** Katherine DeBurra; State President, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. She said that she is honored to welcome everyone to the December Board Meeting honoring the National Event of Friendsgiving for GFWC and our Female Veterans. Kathy asked all of the Veterans in attendance to please stand, thanking them for their service and their continuing service to GFWC/CT.

**Inspiration:** Nicole Karalli; Member of the Terryville Woman’s Club and Veteran, gave the Inspiration of the Day which was a poem entitled *The Soldiers Night Before Christmas*. Each Member was given a copy.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Maureen Fernandes; Member of the Windsor Woman’s Club, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Collect:** Jean Keating; President of the Windsor Woman’s Club, led the Collect.

**Credentials Report:** Donna Farrell; Convention/Meetings Chairman and Veteran introduced the Aides in attendance: Sally Johnson & Maddy Marzullo. She then read the Preliminary Credentials Report: Past State Presidents-5; Club Presidents-13; State Board Members/Officers-12; Voting Delegates/Board Members-52; Total Voting-52; Total Non-Voting Delegates-0; Registered Guests-2 (one arriving later); Total Attendees-54; District with the Largest Attendance-Northwest; Club with the Largest Attendance-Newington/Wethersfield Woman’s Club.

A quorum was declared.

**Kathy Matusiak, Recording Secretary;** was asked to come up and report that the minutes of May Convention, the July Board Meeting and Fall Conference have all been written, edited, approved, filed and are on our website. She also asked for three readers for today’s meeting minutes. The following members volunteered; Sandy Barry; The Woman’s Club of Enfield; Sheila Macauley, Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield and Anne Edwards; The Women’s Club of Madison.

**Introductions of Past Presidents:** Jeanne Waseleski, JoAnn Calnen (Veteran), Nancy Kalyan, Helen Barakauskas, and Debbie Fiore.

**Introductions of Executive Board:** Anne Edwards, Member at-Large; Kathy Barnes; 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President; Heather Spencer, 3rd Vice President; Wendy Clery, Treasurer; Stephanie Capasso, Asst. Treasurer; Pam Lerner, Corresponding Secretary; Ashley Waseleski and Recording Secretary; Kathy Matusiak.

**Memorial Service:** Trish Brown Driscoll**;** daughter of Past GFWC/CT State President Jean Brown (2002-2004), was called up to light a candle for her mother. Past GFWC/CT State President Helen Barakauskas (2016-2018) was called up to light a candle for Leslie Apostalan Past GFWC/CT State President (2018-2020), who was a member of GFWC/CT for 52 years. Kathy read a commemorative memorial message about each of these wonderful Presidents who both passed away in November of 2022. Kathy DeBurra thanked Wendy Clery; 3rd Vice President for designing the beautiful photos and cards in remembrance of Jean and Leslie that everyone in attendance was invited to sign.

**Reports of Executive Committee Officers:**

**Anne Edwards, Member at-Large;** has received many positive comments and invited anyone to contact her to share comments or use a “*Maddy Memo”* and deposit them in the suggestion box.

**Ashley Waseleski, Corresponding Secretary;** noreport.

**Stephanie Capasso, Treasurer;** Financial Report distributed. The tax return has been filed.

**Pam Lerner, Asst. Treasurer;** reminded everyone that, if they haven’t paid their dues and submitted current rosters, they will be hearing from her after the first of the year. We need to pay our national dues soon after January 1, 2023 so the numbers we submit to GFWC headquarters need to be accurate. Pam said that clubs were sent updated forms to complete and return to her promptly with their payment for any new members.

**Wendy Clery, 3rd Vice President**; reported that we currently have 1,028 members, indicating that we now have the first full ocean out of five in her membership incentive initiative. The Club of Harwinton brought in 5 members and the Club of Terryville brought in 8. Wendy announced the following dates for 2023 District Days:

NW; Presidents Nicole Karalli and Maddy Marzullo, 4/1.

NC; President Donna Recknagel, 4/15.

SE; Presidents Carolyn DellaPietra and Shirley Kavanagh, 4/11.

SW; President Janet Jabieski and Asst. President Nancy Coraggio, 3/25.

Wendy invited Clubs set up times with her to do Social Media workshops. She stated she may ask for some help in some areas to find places to hold the workshops.

**Heather Spencer, 2nd Vice President;** urged clubs not to wait to write their reports until they are due. She needs them by January 15th.  She passed out a “Get Ready for Reporting” sheet with helpful information.

**Kathy Barnes, 1st Vice President**; announced that this Monday night will be the 3rd

monthly *“Leadership Office Hours”* via a Zoom meeting. The topic of the evening will be “How Am I Doing As A Leader?”. Club Presidents have been invited and are asked to share the information with their clubs to help them develop new leaders. Kathy briefly explained LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminars) after which she asked anyone who has attended a LEADS workshop to stand. She encouraged interested candidates to apply to represent GFWC/CT in Louisville, KY this coming June by February 15, 2022. Applications are to be emailed to President Kathy DeBurra and are on the website.

**Maddy Marzullo, Veterans Chairman**; spoke about *Wreaths Across America*. She said that each wreath is made of ten fresh balsam bouquets, each representing a special meaning and quality embodied by our Veterans. Monetary donations for this wonderful program were collected at each table. $220 will be sent to WAA.

**Speaker Program; Terry VandenDolder- Honoring Female Veterans and Friendsgiving—the National Event of GFWC.** Our guest speaker joined the Air Force in 1982 as the only woman in her flight class after which she served active duty for eight years and Reserve Duty for 20 more years. A current resident of Madison CT, Terry flies as a Captain, flying a triple 777 Jet on American Airlines- Internationally and her “base” airport is JFK (Kennedy in Queens, NY). She shared her military service and amazing experiences of becoming a pilot. She displayed a wonderful tri-fold board and models that has been displayed at the Air Museum in Hartford. The Members gave her a standing ovation to honor her heroism and bravery.

**President Kathy DeBurra’s Report;** reported that she has visited 7 Clubs (thanking them) and if she has not visited your Club she asked to be invited and she will assist you with programs or speak on a topic that you would like. She passed around 2 thank you notes -1 from the New Britain Museum of American Art for the money that we collected in the little yellow- “ARKS” – “AN ACT OF RANDOM KINDNESS” -in which was collected $200 to go for children’s programming and also to honor Advocates for Children’s Week in the end of October. Special thanks to Pam Lerner; Asst. Treasurer and Donna Recknegal; Advocates for Children Chairman for their assistance with this. The other thank you note was for the generous donations at the Fall Conference to the Prudence Crandall Center (Domestic Violence Assistance) and they thanked us for allowing them to do their great program. Additionally, she was invited to attend an awards ceremony that the Prudence Crandall Center held and recognized 2 of our CT Clubs for their long-time commitment to the Prudence Crandall Center and to the GFWC Signature Program of Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence Prevention. Congratulations was expressed to the Suburban WC of Greater New Britain and the Newington/Wethersfield WC. She reported that, Patty Meglio; Arts & Culture Chairman-suggested *The Trees of Hope* that benefits the Ronald McDonald House. A craft day was held at Kathy’s home and she and Donna Farrell set up the tree at the Maritime Center in New Haven after completion. The tree is pictured in the program and the last day to visit that wonderful event is tomorrow. To complete the tree-Clubs sent a Christmas card signed by their Club. Cards were beautiful and our tree had a huge impact on promoting all of GFWC/CT and the volunteer service to CT Communities! A note was placed on the tree and explained how to find out more about GFWC/CT. Trees donated are raffled off and all proceeds of the event benefit the wonderful Ronald McDonald House that support families while their loved ones are in the hospital. She announced and shared a message from JoAnn Bruno; WHRC Chairman and her History Challenge. A clipboard with copies if the message for the history challenge was at the registration table and the document is also loaded to the website.

**Expression of Thanks: Jeanne Kehoe, President of the East Hartford Woman’s Club**; offered the Expression of Thanks at 12:00/Noon followed by Recess, Friendship Time, and a Luncheon and Cookie Decorating Contest.

**Meeting Reconvenes** at 1:00.

**Senator Christine Cohen:** who was elected to the CT General Assembly in 2018 to serve the 12th State Senate District and who is a small business owner in Madison was our second guest speaker.

**Flag Folding Ceremony:** Donna Farrell, Convention Chairman and Terry VandenDolder demonstrated a Flag Folding Ceremony and the 13-folds meaning. JoAnn Calnen and Kathy DeBurra read the meaning of each fold and this explanation was distributed to the Members.

**Fundraising**: Sara Newell; Fundraising Chairman with the help of Sandy Barry and Members led the raffles.

Maddy reported the $220 was raised for Wreaths Across America.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Matusiak, Recording Secretary