**Minutes**

**GFWC/CT July Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

**11:00am -2:30 pm**

**Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281**

**Call to Order**: Kathy DeBurra called the meeting to order at 11:13 am. Inspiration by Patricia Houser; Mystic Woman’s Club.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America lead by Jean Lowery; North Haven Women’s Club .

Collect lead by Kay Lamy; Thomaston Woman’s Club.

Credentials Report by Donna Farrell: Convention Chairman.

Credentials

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| Past State Presidents 4 |
| Club Presidents 9 |
| State Board Members/Officers 18 |
| Voting Delegates/Board Members 35 |
| Total Voting 35 |
| Total Non-Voting Delegates 0 |
| Registered Guests 0 |
| Total Attendees 35 |
| District with the Largest Attendance North Central |
| Club with the Largest Attendance East Hartford |

A Quorum is declared.

**Body of Minutes for July Board Meeting Minutes**: **July 26, 2023**.

President Katherine DeBurra opened the meeting with Introductions- EC Board/Past Presidents/First time meeting attendees were to stand and were recognized. (5 stood)

Aides-Maddy Marzullo, Sally Johnson, Sue Michaud.

Maddy Marzullo; State Veterans Chairman made an announcement about an opportunity to attend an Honor Flight sendoff on Saturday; September 2, 2022. Everyone is encouraged to try and attend at least one if you can find the time. Kindly contact Maddy if you are interested in attending. [maddymarz2@gmail.com](mailto:maddymarz2@gmail.com) or (860) 689-4395.

President DeBurra introduced Anne Edwards; Member at Large and Secretary Pro Tem- to announce that theminutes of the May Convention were written, edited and approved, and are on the website for information. (Website: gfwcct.org) 3 Readers were asked to read the minutes for this meeting. They were Jeanne Kehoe , Sandra Barry and Nicole Karalli who volunteered and the minutes will be sent to them to read and edit via email.

The two International Awards received at the National Convention in Louisville Kentucky for the State of Connecticut were displayed and the audience was recognized for everyone's participation. Awards: One in Civic Engagement and one in Arts & Culture. Winning reports that were submitted to International were available for Members to take and see the information submitted. Additionally, Kathy announced that the Brockettes National Club made a $100 donation in Leslie’ Apostalon’s name to GFWC/CT in Kentucky. Kathy had announced it at the recent EC meeting on July 20th and the EC Board approved her suggestion to donate those funds to the CT Food Bank in Leslies’ Memory on the National Day of Service; September 30, 2023. Leslie’s Presidents Project was *Food Insecurity* as is requested that Clubs do on the Day of Service by GFWC. Kathy asked that the members also approve this to share in the minutes of this meeting.

Moved by: Jeanne Kehoe and seconded by JoAnn Sullivan to approve the $100 donation given to GFWC/CT in Leslie Apostalon’s name for donation to the CT Food Bank on the National Day of Service; September 30, 2023. All in favor.

Kathy also announced that Pam Lerner placed an ARK (Act of Random Kindness) on the registration table to collect change to add to the Day of Service funds being collected. Postcards for all to take are on the tables along with tea samples that the Prudence Crandall Domestic Violence Service Organization in New Britain sent to offer Hope Tours of their facility. Kathy suggested everyone take one or more- to get ideas for the month of October which honors Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness; GFWC’s Signature Project. NERC updates. NERC Call is out and please sign up soon!

At the May Convention Members were asked to honor Peace and write cards to our GFWC Ukraine Club. Unfortunately, the Post Office was destroyed in the war. Kathy messaged the President of the Ukraine Club and got an email for her -scanning the cards to send to our Sister Club there. Those cards were very much appreciated, especially those written in the native dialect by some Members.

Officers Reports:

Member @ Large: Anne Edwards; Anne presented suggestions and solutions from the last convention. Thanking all for the advice and logistics on future meetings. Suggestion boxes are located at meetings to receive all future suggestions. Kathy Matusiak; Recording Secretary was not present at this meeting, so Anne; Member at Large and Recording Secretary Pro Tem volunteered for this meeting and will record the minutes. Three readers have volunteered to review the proposed minutes after the president's review as listed previously.

Anne made the following announcement on behalf of the GFWC/CT Corresponding Secretary; Ashely Waseleski. The announcement was read and documented as follows “On behalf of Corresponding Secretary Ashley Waseleski, I would like to share regrets from Past President Helen Barakauskas who could not attend today”. (Regrets of Helen Barakauskas were sent to Ashley.)

Assistant Treasurer Report; Pam Lerner. Pam has requested all club rosters be sent to her as soon as possible in an Excel format. Pam’s report: Excel is an easy compatible program used amongst most clubs. The Excel rosters will assist in providing uniformity for the GFWC/CT membership and financial documents for all clubs. Please send Pam all rosters by the end of August. The intention is to have compiled an updated Excel roster that can be used for club dues billings and provide a directory of Members in Connecticut*.* Please contact Pam if you need help in creating your Excel spreadsheets and she can send you a template.

Treasurer Report: Stephanie Capasso; Treasurer absent. Kathy DeBurra reported that she visited Webster Bank as they are updating their merger and online banking programs. She asked about a better rate on GFWC’s money. The interest rate was increased from 0.25% to 2.5 % and will generate approximately an additional $625.oo per year in our day-to-day funds. An Ameriprise statement was available for viewing at the meeting and if anyone would like to view it at home they may email Kathy and she will send it to them. Budget numbers and transactions are also available per request. (Webster is in a transition that limits some online access for reports for this meeting.) Please connect Stephanie or Kathy for further information.

Third Vice President: Nicole Karalli. Nicole was appointed 3rd Vice-President following May Convention at the Executive Committee Meeting of May 25, 2023 following the resignation of Heather Spencer. Nicole reported she is dedicated to growing new membership. Nicole is planning on implementing the programs Wendy Clery has started and both of the Vice-Presidents will work closely this year. Both Wendy and herself are planning to attend the SE July 29th District breakfast meeting. As Dean of Districts; Nicole announced Maddy Marzullo will serve as Northwest District President and Jenny Czyrko will serve as Northwest-Vice President for the remainder of this administration as Nicole took the 3rd Vice-Presidents position on the EC and is no longer the District President in the NW District. Nicole recognized the following District President or District Vice-President attendees: Jeanne Kehoe: Northcentral District Vice-President and Maddy Marzullo Northwest District President.

Second Vice President: Wendy Clery; as attached below.

*July Board Meeting, July 26, 2023 Second Vice President Report, Wendy Clery “Reporting- What is it good for?” Good morning, GFWC CT. It’s so good to see you all. I am honored to begin serving as your new second vice president, especially when I get to start by sharing about the wonderful job that our state chairman are already doing. At International convention in June, GFWC CT won awards for Civic Engagement and Arts and Culture categories. Congratulations everyone on your wonderful projects and, although they aren’t here today, thank you to our chairmen, Carin Mancini and Patty Meglio for their wonderful reports. Personally, I believe we have all the best reports and judging can certainly vary, but I have copies of their reports for any chairmen who would like them for reference. I also have some copies of a few well written club reports from last year, if any presidents would like copies. I’d also like to invite our attending chairman to stand and be recognized for their hard work. Our Legislative Action Chairman, Debbie Fiore. Veterans Chairman, Maddy Marzullo. Membership Chairman, Nicole Karalli. Leadership Chairman, Kathy Barnes. Now, I’d like to get everyone thinking about reporting for this year. I know it’s not everyone’s favorite topic, but I want to tell you why I actually enjoy it even when it can be pretty hard work. First, reporting gives us a chance to review our projects. We can go over the facts, see all the costs (in money, time, supplies), and evaluate to refine, build on, or even pass on a particular project. Without knowing all the numbers, it’s really hard to evaluate something properly. So, for example, if one member spent 50 hours on a fundraising project that made $50- it may not be worth spending that member’s time. If we don’t know those numbers, we can’t make an educated decision. Pulling together all of our projects and programs is also a wonderful way to see how they all add up into a bigger impact for our communities. Sharing with our club members can remind them that they are making a real difference and they matter. It’s a great way to show them thanks, as well as your supporters. Knowing all your numbers and sharing with your community is great for positive club publicity, too. It can help you gain supporters, as well as members, who are passionate about all the things that our clubs work on. It helps to show your club’s legitimacy, too. Being able to have detailed records of your work, funds, and donations allows people considering giving their support see exactly why they should do so. That positive publicity can also encourage other non-profits to consider collaborating with your club on projects. Adding our numbers in to the reporting for our district, state, regional, and national groups lets us be a part of the bigger picture. Along with all the other benefits of affiliation with GFWC, being able to point out our combined impact is such an amazing thing to share. Finally, reporting can lead to receiving awards. Now, I know that’s not why any of us do what we do, but recognition is encouraging. Many projects we do there aren’t even ways for us to be thanked and while that’s not something we even expect, it’s still good to recognize each other’s’ hard work and say thank you to each other. It can also add in to our positive publicity for our clubs. When we receive an award and share with our community, it’s a way for them to see how we fight to make things better and while it’s coming from our organization it’s still an outside source from our individual club. I am in the process of setting up in person as well as online workshops for reporting. I will be reaching out to all of the club presidents shortly to finalize dates and let you know locations. I would also like to offer some “office hours” so to speak at the end of the year for while you are writing reports for questions, tips, or whatever you may need. I’m really looking forward to working with you and I can’t wait to see what you’ve all been working on this year. Thank you for all you do.*

President Elect: Kathy Barnes Recognized and thanked Club Presidents and Co-Presidents; Jean Keating-Windsor, Janet Kropp-Mystic, Karen Allies-Manchester, Maddy Marzullo-Harwinton, Sandy Barry-Enfield, Cynthia Messikian-East Hartford, Kathy Aeillo and Madelaine Gross-Bethel. Kathy announced she looks forward to developing and recognizing all clubs on the Community Impact Program entries. She remined everyone of deadlines. The goal of this long-standing program remains the same with growing a network of relationships with club members and community groups as one of the major goals. Entries for Community Impact Program Awards are due March 1, 2024. She updated the Members on her Canine Companion dog-Risley.

Nominating Committee Report: Jeanne Waseleski Nominating Committee Member 2024-2026 reported for Helen Barakauskas; Chairman who was not in attendance. She passed out information that lists the process for applying for a position in the next administration. That information was also in the Meeting Call for today. If anyone is interested in applying for a position, please let a Nominating Committee Member know as well as your local Club President and Members. (Handouts distributed.)

Announcement of Congratulations to JEANNE WASELESKI! Jeanne was selected as this year’s winner of the Connecticut Jennie June Award! Her nomination will be forwarded to the New England Region Chairman. The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes an individual member for personal excellence. Club Members are nominated by their Clubs to compete at State, then regional and then national levels. The Members applauded Jeanne’s nomination.

Expression of Thanks-Joanne Sullivan; East Hartford before recess, friendship, and tea-time.

Laurie Masciandaro; Site Manager for Roseland Cottage began the tea-time with an introduction of the Roseland Cottage history, significance in the Woodstock community and attributes toward Connecticut history. Laurie welcomed and thanked the GFWC/CT members and their service to Connecticut communities. Laurie's presentation reviewed the Bowens family remarkable three generations’ home and owners lives along with how it continues to adjust in relevance for today's settings. Tours of the Roseland Cottage in groups of 12 were given following lunch. Exquisite grounds and house tours for all the members.

Scholarship Chairman: Beverly Regan. The Scholarship committee has reviewed and began updating the applicant's form. Beverly announced a special *Thank You* to Andrea Freibauer for volunteering to update the scholarship application. These changes will simplify and modernize a more user-friendly application for everyone. The application will be ready for this year’s application process.

Fundraising/Other Business:

Wendy Clery won the hat contest for the tea. Each person donated $2 to be a part of the contest. Wendy asked that the money be donated along with Leslie’s $100 and change in the ARKS on the day of service- September 30, 2023. Jean Kehoe donated money into the GFWC/CT funds for the New England Region Conference (NERC) Fundraising efforts.

Club program Announcements: Date of Service; September 30th. Each Club should sign with GFWC.

September 17th - Enfield 125th Celebration Tea -1-4 PM.

October 19th - Terryville Tea @ 6:30 PM .

October 22nd  -Windsor Tea to celebrate 60 years. 2-4 PM.

Adjournment: Jeanne Kehoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 pm. Seconded by Sandy Barry: All in favor

Respectfully submitted

Anne Edwards; Member at Large, Recording Pro-Tem

2022-2024 Administration