

CLUB CHATTER

The Woman's Club of Clayton

From Our President Karen Keeslar

September 2026



The Woman's Club of Clayton is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.



Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer! As we begin a new club year, I am excited to welcome everyone back and especially excited to take on the role of your Club President. I know I have much to learn, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve our club. I also know I have some very big shoes to fill following the fantastic leadership of Tricia Perna over the past two years. Tricia has done an amazing job leading our club, and I look forward to building on all that she has accomplished.

Most importantly, I am looking forward to seeing everyone again and getting back to the fun, fellowship, service, and activities that make The Woman's Club of Clayton such a special organization.

Welcome to Our September Luncheon!

Please join us for our first luncheon meeting of the new club year on Wednesday, September 9. Our meeting will be hosted by the Education & Libraries CSP, and I know they have some wonderful things planned for us.

Our monthly meetings are a great opportunity to catch up with friends, welcome new members, learn about our upcoming projects, and find ways to get involved. Whether you've been an active participant for years or are just getting started with the club, I hope you'll make plans to join us.

My President's Special Project: "These Shoes Are Made for Giving"

Each Club President has the opportunity to select a special project during her term, and I am excited to introduce mine: "These Shoes Are Made for Giving!"

This fall, we will host a 60-day shoe drive to raise money for community needs that are not included in our club's FY 2026-27 budget. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 by collecting gently used men's, women's, children's, and baby shoes.

But this project is about much more than shoes.

In the past, our club has been able to provide financial assistance to local families and individuals facing unforeseen emergencies — from losing a home in a fire to other circumstances that suddenly leave people struggling to meet basic needs. Unfortunately, our FY 2026-27 budget does not include funds for this type of emergency assistance.

That's where "These Shoes Are Made for Giving" comes in. By donating gently used shoes, you can help us turn something you no longer need into funds that can make a meaningful difference for someone in our community who is facing an unexpected crisis.

So, as you clean out closets this fall, please don't throw those shoes away! Gather your gently used shoes and help us reach our \$1,000 goal. Every pair can help us provide a little hope when a neighbor needs it most.

Let's put our best foot forward and make a difference one pair of shoes at a time!

A New Way to Stay Connected: MembershipWorks

— This year, we are excited to introduce MembershipWorks, our new online membership management system. MembershipWorks will make it easier for all of us to stay connected and keep track of important club information. Through MembershipWorks, members will be able to update their own contact information, view the club directory, access membership information, receive important communications, RSVP for events and meetings, and stay up to date on club activities. It will also give us a much more efficient way to manage membership records and communicate with everyone. We are still getting everything set up, so please be patient as we learn the new system together. Our goal is to make MembershipWorks a convenient, easy-to-use resource that will help us stay connected and make participating in the club easier than ever.

The Woman's Club of Clayton

109 Church St
Mailing Address:
PO Box 26
Clayton, NC 27528
twccnc.org



NC General Federation of
Women's Clubs
www.gfwcnc.org



Who Do I Contact????

Member Illness
Teresa Chicarelli

Clubhouse Rental
Carrole Dayton

Newsletter Content
Judy Ryan

Membership
Nancy Maynard

Bylaws
Angela Williams

Webmaster
Val Taylor

Clubhouse Repairs
Betsy Grannis
Dianne Carroll

Silent Partner
Maria Davis

Parliamentarian
Angela Williams



President's Address Continued...

Ways & Means: Mark Your Calendars!

The Ways & Means Committee has been busy planning an exciting lineup of fundraisers for the coming year. All of the committee's recommendations were approved by the Executive Board, and we are looking forward to another successful year of fundraising and fellowship. Be sure to mark your calendars for these three major events:

- Murder Mystery — January 15 & 16
- Taste of Carolina — March 20
- Spring Fashion Show — April 17

These events are important fundraisers that help support the many programs and community projects of The Woman's Club of Clayton. But they don't happen without the time, energy, and enthusiasm of our members!

Please consider signing up to help with one — or all three — of these events. Whether you can help with planning, preparation, decorating, ticket sales, serving, or working the event itself, there will be a job for you. It's also a wonderful way to meet other members and have some fun along the way.

Let's Make It a Great Year!

One of the things I love most about our club is that there is truly a place for everyone. Whether your passion is community service, education, conservation, the arts, supporting children and families, or simply spending time with wonderful women in our community, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

I am looking forward to a year filled with friendship, service, laughter, and making a difference together. I hope you'll share your ideas, volunteer when you can, invite a friend to join us, and most of all, enjoy being part of The Woman's Club of Clayton.

I can't wait to see everyone on September 9th!

Dues are Due!!! !!!

Dues are Due by November 30th

Day members-\$85 Night 'N'Gals-\$55

Members are encouraged to pay through the Member Portal on twccnc.org

Dues can be charged (includes processing fee) or

By check payable to The Woman's Club of Clayton and send to:

The Woman's Club of Clayton

PO Box 26

Clayton, NC 27528



MAY MEETING MINUTES *Deborah Fuller*

Blessing & Devotional: **Sandy Nesselrode**

President's Welcome: **Trish Perna**

·As we gather for our final meeting of this club year, I want to thank each of you. Together, we have accomplished so much for our club and community, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served as your President. Let's enjoy this time together as we celebrate a wonderful year and look ahead to the exciting opportunities to come.

Welcome Guests, New Members and Visitors: **Nancy Maynard**

·Nancy introduced new members: **Sharon Humphrey**, CEO; **M'lea Peak**, CEO; **Lori Knoll**, Education & Libraries; **Kelly Reitzammer**, Arts & Culture.

Business:

Minutes Approval: **Trish Perna**

·April minutes were approved without any questions or objections.

Budget Approval: **Trish Perna**

·2026-2028 Budget was approved without any questions or objections.

2026-2028 GFWC-NC Administration

·**Trish** announced the new GFWC state president, Cindy Hewitt, and the new presidential theme "POWER" (Partnerships, Outreach, Women, Empowerment, Resilience).

Silent Auction Results: **Trish** shared that \$596 was made.

Officer's and Committees Reports

1st Vice President: **Christie Latham**

·**Christie** told members to complete the TWCC CSP form (on tables and available on the website in member resources) if they would like to try a new Community Service Program (CSP) and return it to her by May 29, 2026.

2nd Vice President: **Nancy Maynard**

·**Nancy** recognized members with perfect attendance from September, 2025 to the current meeting. They are: **Jackie Evans, Margaret Lee, Nancy Conte, Maria Davis, Sandy Nesselrode, Susan Mancuso, Susan Johnson, Joni Koch, Margaret DiNublia, Betty Francies, Nancy Maynard.**

·**Nancy** recognized **Angela Williams** and **Patty Jo Johnson**, for 50 years of service. We are honored and privileged to have these two ladies in our group. They joined Clayton Juniors in 1976, and they transferred to the Women's Club of Clayton in 1988. Both have held offices in the club level as well as district level. Angela was also an officer at state level. You have made a difference in so many lives over the past fifty years and have inspired the rest of us to do the same. They were also honored at the state convention and received a letter from President Karen Throckmorton announcing their 50 years of membership.

Corresponding Secretary: **Susan Johnson**

·**Susan** shared a thank you note from a past scholarship winner, Benjamin Fishback.

·**Susan** shared that **Tina Zimmerman** is recovering well in the hospital and expected to come home next week.

·**Diane Carroll** thanked the club (in person) for their support following the recent passing of her husband, Jerry.

·**Betsy Grannis** thanked the club (in person) for their support for her husband, Michael as he recovers from cancer.

CSP & Special Projects

ESO: **Betsy Grannis**

Betsy shared that our club ESO won "Overall Winner for Large Club" and the "Club Creativity" awards at the convention.

·The following members received certificates for number of books read:

- o **Angela Williams**, third century level (three hundred books read).
- o **Jean Cornell** reached the first century level.
- o **Trish Perna** reached the second century level.
- o **Betsy Grannis** reached the second century and third century level.
- o **Margaret DiNublia** reached torch level certificate level.
- Even though our district is no more, our District Eight did won an award for the highest contributions to the legacy fund and the highest increase in district membership.
- During the convention, the Cary club asked if we would share information about their upcoming garden tour. There are cards on your table providing the details should you want to attend.

Health & Wellness CSP: **Marianne Sapsara**

·**Marianne** encouraged members to continue to donate food to the Blessing Boxes during the summer and to report donations to her.

Education and Libraries CSP: **Julie Ginsler**

- **Julie** shared that 200 bags were packed Monday to be shared with 1st graders at Cooper Academy and Wilson Mills. Each bag contains, books, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, markers, crayons and little stuffed reading buddy.
- **Julie** requested additional help to read and deliver book bags to Wilson Mills at 9:00 am, Thursday, May 15th.
- Margaret Lee** announced that Isabella Scholar, our Sallie Southhall Cotten Scholarship recipient, won the state-level scholarship, which provides a four-year scholarship.

Spring Fling Brunch & Fashion Event: **Sarah Brooks**

·**Sarah** shared that a check for \$6,000 was presented to Isaiah 117 House. **Sarah** reminded everyone that signed up for the special Dillard's shopping event to please confirm with her that you will be attending this event May 22nd.

Installation of 2026-2028 Officers: **Betsy Grannis**

- Betsy** thanked the past officers for their service.
- **Betsy** installed the following officers using an entertaining construction theme.
- o President: **Karen Keeslar**
- o 1st Vice President: **Christie Latham**
- o 2nd Vice President: **Nancy Maynard**
- o Treasurer: **Sarah Brooks**
- o Recording Secretary: **Kari Murray**
- o Corresponding Secretary: **Teresa Ciccarelli**
- o Past President: **Trish Perna**
- Karen** presented outgoing officers with beautiful flowers as a thank you for their service.



*Karen Keeslar, Dianne Carroll, & Sarah Brooks
presenting donation to Isaiah 117 House*



*Emily Stocks, Joni Koch, & Susan Johnson
donating snacks to Clayton Police Dept.*



Our New Slate of Officers



President: Karen Keeslar



1st Vice President: Christie Latham



2nd Vice President: Nancy Maynard



Recording Secretary: Kari Murray



Corresponding Secretary: Teresa Chicarelli



Treasurer: Sarah Brooks



Outgoing President: Trish Perna



SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 ESO
- 9/7 Labor Day
- 9/8 House of Hope Dinner
- 9/9 General Meeting
- 9/11 25th Anniversary of 9/11
- 9/11 Rosh Hashanah Begins
- 9/11 Bingo @ Senior Center
- 9/12 Puppet Show
- 9/14 Night n Gals
- 9/15 Exec Board
- 9/17 Constitution Day
- 9/18 Civitan BBQ Fundraiser
- 9/20 Yom Kippur Begins
- 9/22 Bunco
- 9/22 Autumn Equinox
- 9/26 GFWC Day of Service

Officers

President - Karen Keeslar
1st Vice President - Christie Latham
2nd Vice President - Nancy Maynard
Secretary - Kari Murray
Recording Secretary - Teresa Chicarelli
Treasurer - Sarah Brooks

Art & Culture

Co-Chairs: Angela Williams, Patty Jo Johnson

The Arts CSP stayed busy during the summer months. We delivered six no-sew blankets to Harbor House for the kids. We met and planned our projects for the coming year. We will be continuing some old projects and adding some new projects.

Patty Jo delivered blankets to Harbor House



Civic Engagement & Outreach

Co-Chairs: Susan Johnson, Joni Koch

The Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP had their kickoff meeting on July 29th, 2026 with five members present and two of the TWCC officers present. Our CSP plans to honor our first responders during this next year during National Law Enforcement Day in January and/or National Peace Officer Week in May. We will also honor our firefighters, hopefully during National First Responders Day in October. We also planned our November meal and program for our General Meeting. During that meeting we will collect items to Fill the Footlocker for our local Military Missions in Action program. More information will come about this program.

Members are reminded to bring school supplies to the meeting on September 9th, as well as items for our National Day of Service on September 26th. These items will benefit Harbor House in Smithfield which assists victims of sexual and domestic violence.

New members are always welcome into the CEO CSP! We can always use the extra help with our projects.



9/2 Maria Davis
 9/3 Karla Rajca
 9/4 Julie Ginsler
 9/8 Pamela Ballard
 9/10 Rosemary Confrey
 9/22 JoAnn Currie
 9/28 Kimberly Ann Lockag

Civitan BBQ Fundraiser

The Clayton Civitan Club will hold their BBQ Chicken Fundraiser on September 18, 2026. Plate includes ½ BBQ Chicken, Potatoes, Beans, & a Roll. See **Angela Williams or Betsy Grannis** for tickets. Checks may be made to Clayton Civitan. Plate Donation is \$12.00



Education & Libraries

Co-Chairs: Ginny Kinnerly, Julie Ginsler, & Maria Davis

Education and Libraries will host the September luncheon on Sept. 9. Our CSP continues to support Cooper Academy and Wilson Mills Elementary School. We will be collecting much needed items for back to school at this meeting. The top ten items our schools need help with include: hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, Kleenex tissue, dry erase markers (EXPO), glue sticks (Elmer), 24 pack crayons (Crayola), colored pencils (12 or 24 pack), head phones (over the ear, not blue tooth), Hi-liters and colored paper or card stock.

Our CSP kick-off meeting was a wine and cheese party hosted by **Julie Ginsler**. We are really excited about all the activities we will be doing with Cooper and Wilson Mills this year. In addition to the school supplies collection, we will be participating in Read for the Record, reading to the first-grade students, and celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday in March. We will also volunteer at the book fairs and help with proctoring.

The Revolutionary War Puppet Show performed on June 27 at the Johnston County America 250 Fair celebration was a huge success. Thank you so much to our creator and costumer Robin Sachsenheimer. And thanks to our puppeteers: **Ginny Kennerly, Betty Francies, Deborah Fuller, Dianne Carroll, Julie Ginsler, Marianne Sapsara, Patti Farmer Judy Ryan, and Karen Keeslar, M'Lea Peak, and our photographer, Kari Murray.**

The Silent Partner program was established years ago in partnership with Johnston County schools to help meet the special needs of local students. **Dianne, Karen and Maria** shopped for 2 little girls in need of clothes for the start of school. The Woman's Club members were very generous and your kindness allowed us to purchase much needed clothing and shoes.



Health & Wellness

Co-Chairs: Tina Zimmerman, Marianne Sapsara & Deborah Fuller

The Health and Wellness CSP held its kickoff meeting on August 4th, with nine members in attendance. We look forward to a dynamic year as we renew our focus on successful past projects and introduce new initiatives.

Debi Beal will continue recruiting members to prepare nutritious meals for the residents of House of Hope. Residents and staff are always appreciative of our visits and eager to see "what's under the foil." Sign-up sheets will be available at each meeting.

The Clayton Center for Active Aging will once again welcome **Judy Ryan** at its monthly Bingo game. We provide small prizes for the winners, and it is always rewarding to see familiar faces each month.

We will also continue supplying items for the Blessing Boxes around town. We are working with the Junior League of Smithfield to help keep these boxes stocked. **Marianne Sapsara** will have a donation bag at each meeting, so please consider purchasing a few extra cans of food during your next grocery trip. There is an ongoing need to help reduce food insecurity in our area.

We are planning a Sculpture Walk on October 7th. We will meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 a.m., enjoy a guided tour, and then continue to Clayton Steakhouse for lunch. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting.

Residents at Village Gardens & Senior Center will be pleased to receive Christmas gift bags from our team in December. Members will fill the bags with essential items and deliver them during the holiday season.

On January 30th, we will partner with the community for Rise Against Hunger at Horne United Methodist Church to pack 10,000 meals. This engaging service project helps provide meals internationally.

Kathy Ellen, who works with the American Red Cross, is excited to offer a free hands-only CPR class. The date has not yet been determined. While we hope you never need to use this training, you will be grateful to have it if the need arises.

We are so thankful for our wonderful co-chairs, **Tina Zimmerman, Marianne Sapsara, and Deborah Fuller** for their continued energy and leadership. We are so glad to have Tina back after a long hospital stay. Don't ever think that your prayers go unheard!



Gracie welcomes new grandbaby



Stepping Out!

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee has proposed changes to the existing bylaws. These changes have been approved by the Executive Committee. These changes will be voted on at the September meeting.

Existing Bylaw:

Article VI – Executive Board

Section A: The officers of the Club, Immediate Past President, Community Service Program (herein after referred to in these Bylaws as "CSP") Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Co-Chairs, Rental Custodian, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Chair, ESO Chair, and Board of Trustees shall constitute the Executive Board.

Proposed Change

Section A: The officers of the Club, Immediate Past President, Community Service Program (herein after referred to in these Bylaws as "CSP") Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Co-Chairs, Rental Manager, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Chair, ESO Chair, Hospitality Chair, and Board of Trustees shall constitute the Executive Board. The Historian(s), Art Festival Chair, and Chaplain will be ex officio members,

Rationale:

Change Custodian to Manager for a better description of job. (also change in Article VII, Section A, Article IX, Section A, Section L, and Section R.) Because of added responsibilities and approval of the Executive Board for planned events the Hospitality Chairman should be on the Executive Board. The Historian(s), Arts Festival Chairman and Chaplain are appointed by the club president. Some of their actions require approval of the Executive Board.

Existing Bylaw:

Section K. The Hospitality Committee shall consist of up to three Club members who coordinate meals and other services for incapacitated and recovering Club members.

Proposed change:

Delete existing bylaw and replace it with:

Section K: The Hospitality Committee shall consist of at least five members. The Hospitality Committee shall be responsible for coordinating meals and other services for members with medical issues or a death in their immediate family. The committee shall also recognize members' birthdays at regular club meetings, with birthdays occurring in June, July, and August celebrated at the May meeting. In addition, the committee shall plan and coordinate special club events. All special events must receive prior approval from the Executive Board.

Rationale:

Expand scope of duties and delete cap on number of members.

I would like to thank my committee members, **Betsy Granniis, Trish Perna, Christi Latham, and Teresa Chicarelli** for their input. I would also encourage each member to read the existing bylaws. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the bylaw committee members.

Angela P. Williams, Chairman Bylaws Committee

ESO

Chairs Betsy Grannis
& Patty Jo Johnson

The ESO book club will meet at the Woman's Club Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00. Come early for coffee/light refreshments and fellowship before the meeting begins.

If there are any new club members who might be interested in the book club this would be a great time to check us out. We will be discussing the yearly schedule and ideas for an ESO project that will be reported to GFWC-NC chair, **Lynn Wiss**.

Great news to share if you have not already heard, our ESO book club won the GFWC International ESO Creativity Award!! Extra thanks to **Brenda Gay and Robin Sachsenheimer**.

There will be a Zoom Book Group meeting September 22 and we will be discussing the book "Daughter of Egypt" by Marie Benedict. Consider reading this book and join the Zoom meeting. Zoom details will come later.

Personal Note: ESO book club would like **Betsy Grannis** to know she is in our thoughts and prayers now and days to come as she mourns her loving & devoted husband, Michael.

ENVIRONMENT

Co Chairs: Trish Perna & Becky Seroka

Environment CSP: Growing Together, Giving Back & Going Green

We are excited to begin a new year with the Environment Community Service Program (CSP)! **Becky Seroka and Trish Perna** are honored to serve as the new co-chairs, and we are looking forward to a year filled with opportunities to make a positive difference in our community and environment.

Our Environment CSP has several exciting projects planned for the coming year. There are many ways for members to participate, whether you have a green thumb, enjoy helping children learn, want to recycle, or simply want to lend a hand!

Egg Carton Collection

Help us give those empty egg cartons a second life!

Members may bring clean egg cartons to any general meeting. **Carrole Dayton** will collect the cartons and deliver them to Kim at the Farmers Market, where they will be redistributed to local egg producers.

It's a simple way to reduce waste while supporting our local farmers and producers. So, please don't throw those cartons away—bring them to the club!

House of Hope Vegetable Garden

We are pleased to continue our partnership with House of Hope by helping residents plant and care for the raised vegetable garden beds.

Members will have opportunities to assist with planting during both the fall and spring growing seasons. This project is a wonderful way to share our love of gardening while helping provide residents with hands-on experience growing fresh vegetables.

Wilson Mills Elementary Vegetable Planting Project

We are hoping to continue our vegetable planting project with Wilson Mills Elementary School this year.

Students will plant vegetable or sunflower seeds in cups that have been prepared with potting soil. Squirt bottles will be provided so students can learn about caring for and watering their new plants. Let **Trish Perna** know if you would like to assist with his project.

This hands-on project gives students the opportunity to experience the excitement of watching something grow from a tiny seed!

Plantmosphere Recycling Education

Environmental education starts early!

Carrole Dayton will be contacting Plantmosphere about its homeschool program to explore opportunities for teaching children about proper recycling practices.

We are excited about the possibility of helping young people understand why recycling matters and how small changes in everyday habits can make a difference. Contact **Carrole Dayton** if you are interested in this project.

Helping Seniors with Lawn Care

We are excited to partner with the Boy Scouts on a new community service opportunity to help seniors in our local communities who may need assistance with lawn care.

Together, we will work to identify seniors who need help maintaining their yards, with mowing being the primary focus.

This partnership will allow us to connect those who need a helping hand with Scouts who are eager to serve their community. Let **Becky Seroka** know if you are interested in this project.

It's a wonderful example of how organizations can work together to make a meaningful difference—one yard at a time!

Liberty Tree Project

Our Liberty Tree project will continue this year, with plans to plant an Eastern Redbud in the fall.

The Eastern Redbud was selected as our Liberty Tree, and **Susan Mancuso** will investigate the possibility of purchasing the tree through a resale nursery.

We will also explore whether the Town of Clayton or the Clayton Police Department can assist with digging the planting hole. If needed, **Trish Perna's** husband has volunteered to help with the planting.

The wording for the commemorative plaque will be determined at a later date.

Get Involved!

We hope you'll join us as we work together to make a difference through gardening, recycling, environmental education, and community partnerships.

Whether you can collect egg cartons, help plant vegetables, work with students, assist with a garden project, or simply share an idea, the Environment CSP is here!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of growing, giving back, and going green together.

Celebrating our
250 Anniversary

Happy
Birthday
America





Letters of Gratitude



Thank You Notes

Over the summer we received thank you notes from the following:

- Friends of the Library for Contributions in memory of Jerry Carroll and for Supporting Community Enrichment.
- Isaiah117 House for "your time, energy, and love by raising funds through the fashion show" House
- of Hope for "continued support through meal drop-offs, attending our Gala, or making donations."
- Able to Serve for gift of \$1200. "Because of your generosity, participants are learning how to cook a meal, manage money, learn new things, create lasting friendships, and give back to others."
- Boys & Girls Homes of NC for gift of \$350. "With your assistance, we are providing an environment that promotes health, healing, and hope."
- Boys & Girls Club of Johnston for gift of \$250 - 50th Annual Selma Railroad Days 5K Sponsor. "Your generosity ensures families can count on a safe, affordable place for their children after school and throughout the summer."
- GFWC-NC for gift of \$120.66 to the GFWC-NC Quarters Fund. "Your support helped GFWC of NC earn recognition in the Woman's Suffrage National Monument Foundation Freedom Giving Aide."
- Family of Jean Byrd Lee. "Thank you so much for your cards and prayers throughout the years that mom (Jean Byrd Lee) was sick. She thoroughly enjoyed receiving the cards and always spoke fondly of the club and the wonderful women in it"



Art Festival



I'm happy to announce my new role as Chair of the Arts Festival Committee!

I have to admit, I'm a little nervous about following in the footsteps of Susan Johnson, who has done such a wonderful job leading the committee for many years. Susan, thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and leadership—and thank you in advance for your continued support!

We have a great existing committee, and I sincerely hope our current members will stay involved. At the same time, we'll need to grow our team as we take on this year's Arts Festival.

Some Exciting Changes!

GFWC-NC has made changes to the competition categories and has added elementary school grades to the competition. This means we may have even more talented young artists and creators participating this year!

We want to be sure we are prepared to accommodate all of the students and give them the encouragement and support they deserve.

Join Us!

If you are currently serving on the Arts Festival Committee or are interested in joining us, please come to our first meeting:

Thursday, September 17

10:00 a.m.

The Clubhouse

Whether you have been involved for years or are completely new to the Arts Festival, we would love to have you join us!

Thanks in advance for your support. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and making this year's Arts Festival a success!

— Debi Beal

Arts Festival Committee Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Humphrey – Civic Engagement & Outreach

Lori Knoll - Education & Libraries

M'Lea Peak - Civic Engagement & Outreach

Kelly Retzammer – Art & Culture

Rebecca Howard – Environment

Beverly Dillon – Education & Libraries

Marie Maiorana – Environment

Carolyn Middleton - Education & Libraries

Ann Pluchos – Civic Engagement & Outreach

Charlena Powell – Art & Culture

Angela Stroud – Education & Libraries

Sandra J Swan – Art & Culture

Kimberly Ann Lackatos – Education & Libraries

Page Redmon- Environment



**CEO CSP delivering snacks to
Clayton Police Dept**



Health & Wellness Tea Party



Shopping at Dillards - Fashion Show Hospitality

Hospitality



Hospitality Committee: More Opportunities to Have Fun Together!

By Brenda Hill, Hospitality Committee

I'm excited about the expanded responsibilities of our Hospitality Committee this year! Hospitality has always been about caring for our members, and we're looking forward to expanding that role to include more opportunities for our club to connect, celebrate, and have fun together.

Over the past few years, the Hospitality Committee has organized meal trains to support club members during times when a little extra care and kindness was needed. We're proud to continue that tradition while taking on some new responsibilities that will help make our club experience even more enjoyable.

What's New?

The Hospitality Committee will now help coordinate:

- Member Birthday Recognition – Helping us celebrate our members on their special days.
- Club Social Events – Planning fun activities and gatherings throughout the year, such as Halloween and Mardi-Bra.
- Event Planning & Coordination – Proposed event dates will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

Once approved, the Hospitality Committee will coordinate the details, recruit event volunteers, provide information to the Newsletter Chair, and handle other event-management activities.

Come Help Us Plan!

The Hospitality Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 2, from 2:00–3:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse, and all club members are welcome!

You don't have to be a member of the Hospitality Committee to join us. If you have an idea for a fun social activity, enjoy planning events, or simply want to help make our club gatherings more special, we would love to have you there.

I'm really looking forward to this new chapter for Hospitality and to creating more opportunities for all of us to connect, celebrate, and enjoy being part of The Woman's Club of Clayton!



**THE WOMAN'S CLUB
OF CLAYTON**
Together, We Can
**BRING COMFORT.
BRING HOPE.** ♥

GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
Supporting Victims of Domestic & Sexual Abuse

HELP US SUPPORT
*Harbor House's
Sahari Center*

 **HARBOR HOUSE**
of Central North Carolina

The Sahari Center is a state-accredited forensic center that provides compassionate, trauma-informed care to individuals who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

Their team offers forensic medical examinations, evidence collection, advocacy, and support — all in a safe, private, and healing environment.



WE ARE COLLECTING
Much-Needed Items

- ♥ Toilet Tissue
- ♥ Paper Towels
- ♥ Paper Plates
- ♥ Plastic Flatware
- ♥ Trash bags (13 and 30 gallon)
- ♥ Cleaning products (Lysol; Pine Sol; toilet bowl cleaner, etc.)
- ♥ Washing Detergents
- ♥ Sweatsuits (all sizes) and undergarments (all sizes) to provide to patients that have completed a forensic examination.



Ways You Can Help ♥

 **BRING ITEMS TO OUR CLUB MEETING LUNCH**
September 9th ♥

OR

 **DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE CLUBHOUSE**
September 22nd
1:00 – 3:00 PM

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ♥
Your generosity brings comfort, dignity, and hope. ♥

Backpacking

Volunteers packing backpacks for school



International Day of Service

Supporting Harbor House's Sahari Center

As part of the GFWC International Day of Service, The Woman's Club of Clayton (TWCC) is joining clubs across the country in supporting organizations that serve victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

This year, TWCC is collecting much-needed supplies for Harbor House's Sahari Center, a forensic center that provides specialized services to individuals who have experienced sexual assault. The Sahari Center provides a safe, private, and trauma-informed setting where specially trained professionals can conduct forensic examinations following an assault. These examinations can document injuries and collect evidence that may be important to an investigation, while also connecting patients with advocacy, medical care, and other resources. The center's work helps ensure that victims are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect during an extremely difficult time.

How You Can Help

The Sahari Center needs everyday supplies as well as clothing and undergarments that can be provided to patients after they complete a forensic examination. TWCC members and friends are invited to donate any of the following:

- Toilet tissue**
- Paper towels**
- Paper plates**
- Plastic flatware**
- Trash bags - 13- and 30-gallon sizes**
- Cleaning products - Lysol, Pine-Sol, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.**
- Laundry detergent**
- New sweatsuits - all sizes**
- New undergarments - all sizes**

When & Where to Donate

Bring your donations to the Clubhouse:

Wednesday, September 9 - Bring items to the Club Lunch Meeting

Tuesday, September 22 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

We Also Need Helping Hands!

Can you spare an hour to help Harbor House?

We are looking for 5-10 volunteers at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, to help move some lightweight items from a room inside Harbor House to its on-site storage shelter.

No heavy lifting is expected-just a willingness to lend a hand and help us get these donated supplies organized and where they are needed.

If you can help on September 26, please let us know!

Every donation and every helping hand makes a difference. Together, TWCC can help the Sahari Center provide a welcoming and supportive environment for survivors and remind those who have experienced trauma that their community cares about them and their well-being.



VOLUNTEER

What to bring to the next meeting



For Environment CSP

Empty Egg Cartons

For Health/Wellness CSP

Dollar Store items for Bingo

For Education/Libraries CSP

Hand Sanitizer

Clorox wipes

Tissues

Dry Erase Markers (EXPO)

Glue Sticks (Elmers)

24-Pack Crayons (Crayola)

Colored Pencils

Head Phones (over ear kind)

Hi Liters

Colored Paper/Cardstock

For Harbor House

Toilet Tissue

Paper Towels

Paper Plates

Plastic Flatware

Trash Bags

Cleaning Products

Washing Detergent

Sweatsuits

New Undergarments

Non-perishables for Blessing Boxes

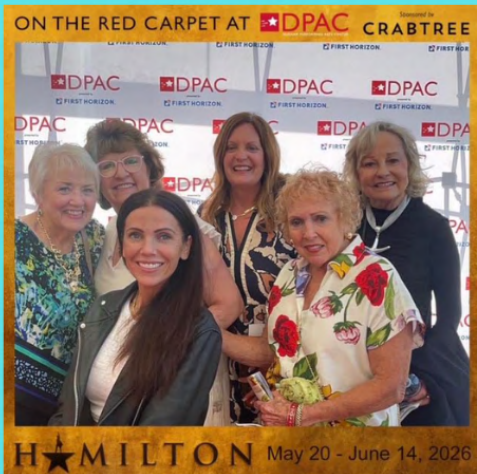


Please keep Joni Koch in your prayers as she recovers from hip surgery.

Prayers are needed for Tina Zimmerman as she continues to recover from transplant surgery.

Please keep Brenda Gay in you thoughts as she recovers.

Judy Ryan's husband Mike Pratt could use your prayers as he goes through skin cancer treatment.



TWCC Ladies at DPAC

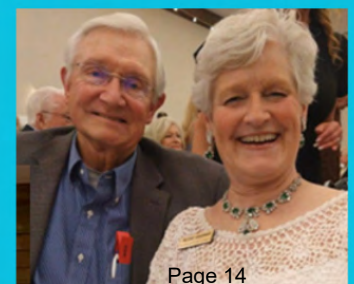


Delivering Snacks to Boys and Girls Club



Keep the family of Doris Grissom in your prayers.

Prayers for Betsy Grannis as she copes with the loss of her husband and sole mate, Michael



Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

a gift that lives on

Create a Lasting Legacy with Your Required Minimum Distribution

As members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, we are united by a shared commitment to community service, education, and philanthropy. If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to support our club's mission in a tax-smart way by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

If you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a QCD lets you direct all or part of that amount to a qualified charitable organization instead of receiving the funds yourself. When handled properly, the gift counts toward your annual RMD and is generally excluded from your taxable income.

For many retirees, a QCD is an effective way to give because it may:

- Satisfy all or part of your annual RMD.
- Reduce your taxable income.
- Help reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and Medicare premium surcharges.
- Make an immediate, lasting difference for organizations you value.

Supporting Our Club's Mission

Your QCD can strengthen the programs and projects that make our club such an important part of the community.

Your gift may support:

Educational scholarships

Community improvement projects

Arts and cultural programs

Literacy initiatives

Civic engagement and leadership development

- Other charitable outreach aligned with the GFWC mission

Every gift, no matter the size, helps our club continue its tradition of "Living the Volunteer Spirit." Recently, 2 TWCC members generously made QCD donations to the Scholarship Fund and Brick Project.

How to Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution

Making a QCD is straightforward:

1. Contact your IRA custodian and request a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
2. Ask the custodian to send the funds directly to The Woman's Club of Clayton, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. You may request the IRA trustee/custodian to specify how your donation must be used (e.g., Scholarship Fund, Christmas Kids, General Fund).
3. Complete the transfer by December 31 for it to count toward your current year's RMD.
4. Consult your financial advisor or tax professional to make sure the gift fits your financial and tax planning goals.

A Gift That Keeps Giving

For many of us, volunteer service has been one of life's greatest rewards. A Qualified Charitable Distribution offers another meaningful way to continue that service. By directing part of your Required Minimum Distribution to our charitable and educational work, you help ensure that future generations benefit from the programs, scholarships, and community projects that define our club.

Your generosity today creates opportunity for someone tomorrow.

TWCC Anual Social



Reading at Cooper Academy

