Oriental Woman's Club (OWC) Executive Committee Meeting August 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Maryellen Bickel. Also present: Jean Chastang, Carol Young, Linda Caroon, Marguerite Garrett, Susan Van Meter, Kim Hutchins, Gay Webster, Jody Riddle, Sharon Morgan and Julie Wiegand.

Minutes from the last Executive meeting (EC) have been read, approved, and accepted for file. Volunteers to read and approve the minutes of the current meeting: Carol Young, Gay Webster and Julie Wiegand volunteered.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> Jody Riddle provided a separate treasury report that has been added to the binder.

Jody reported all bills have been paid and the ledger for June, July and August have been balanced.

She also reported a CD was purchased at First Citizens Bank on June 10, 2025 for the funds donated to the Carol Herman Mini-grant fund. This was at the rate of 3.75% for 152 days. Funds will mature on November 9, 2025.

Jody shared with each program head a spreadsheet of last year's budget so a budget for 2026 can be prepared. The proposed budget needs to be prepared and ready for a vote during the September meeting.

Over the summer break a special request to increase the 2025 Mini-Grant award to \$1200.00 was made as the Education Committee found six outstanding applications out of the 18 that should be funded. A decision was made today to keep this as a one time increase instead of making it permanent for 2026.

<u>Correspondence:</u> Maryellen shared a card sent to the OWC thanking us for the contribution to Girls on the Run.

<u>Unfinished Business:</u> See details of Unfinished Business below.

President, Ellen Blackmon had her first meeting with Quamori, a current high school student, to go over updating our outdated website.

Maryellen Bickel plans to update the wording on the Dessert of the Month flyers displayed around town, changing the wording from announcing the funds would be used to purchase an AED for the clubhouse to a more generic purpose since the AED was donated to the club. It was decided to change the flyer to say, "the funds will be used for Oriental Woman's Club activities and community needs".

New Business: See details of each program listed below.

Maryellen Bickel announced the OWC needs a Nominating Committee. The request for an Executive Committee member to be a part of the Nominating Committee was made. Jody Riddle volunteered. Two additional volunteers will be sought at the General Meeting.

<u>Arts and Education</u>: Carol Young reported she participated in a reception for the mini-grant recipients that was well attended.

<u>Community Life:</u> Gay Webster reported our last Red Cross blood drive was a huge success. 27 people originally signed up to donate blood, however, 37 showed up.

<u>Hostesses</u>: Gay Webster reported that all hostess slots have been filled for 2025.

<u>Garden Program</u>: Julie Wiegand reported the Garden Program will resume in September. A clean-up day is scheduled for Friday, August 29th to spruce up the beds in front of the building.

<u>Ladies of the Neuse</u>: Marguerite Garrett reported the Croaker Festival hats sold out this year and yielded the club \$420.00.

Marguerite shared that she is exploring a plaque honoring past presidents but also shared she may reframe what we have in the clubhouse currently to a more consistent theme, i.e. cohesive black frames and re-mat the pictures of past presidents currently on display.

<u>Building Maintenance</u>: Susan Jaeger was absent today but reported she has information about flooring for the clubhouse. She plans to share the estimate with the EC.

It was reported that Mr. Woodard cleaned gutters and Bob and Julie Wiegand changed the air filters.

There is concern with the raised concrete on the sidewalk. A temporary sign has been erected but since this can be a liability to the club a solution needs to be found to eliminate the tripping hazard.

<u>Membership</u>: Sharon Morgan reported there are several members that have upcoming surgeries planned that needs recognition and plans to announce again all of the summer birthdays at the next General meeting. Sharon asked for someone to cover the membership desk since she will be having surgery. Susan Van Meter volunteered.

<u>Newsletter</u>: Jean Chastang asked for any contributions to the newsletter be submitted to her before Thursday.

<u>Cemetery Fund</u>: Linda Caroon gave an update that the cost of fire ant treatments at the cemetery is \$250.00 bi-annually. The suggestion was made to ask if this can be reduced to once a year, in April. She also reported she has collected \$1010.00 toward the cemetery fund.

<u>Fundraising & Events</u>: Maryellen Bickel announced we will be selling baked goods at the Ol' Front Porch celebration in October. She plans to have Dessert of the Month tickets to sell at the table. A signup sheet for baked goods will be available at the September General meeting. She also reported we have sold 89 tickets to date.

Jean reported the results of the Golf Tournament fundraiser. A total of \$5511.00 was made and after all expenses were covered the final net was \$3708.90.

Inspirational Reader: Marguerite Garrett continues to find new inspirations to share with the group.

<u>Property Rental:</u> Sharon Morgan reported that she plans to update the Rental Agreement with language to restrict vaping with the no smoking statement, no firearms and no pets, to exclude service animals. A motion was made to make these changes and seconded by the attendees and approved.

Sharon reported rental income through July was \$2456.50.

Scholarship Program: Susan Van Meter had nothing to report.

Our guest speaker for September is Steven Hollowell, Clerk of Courts, Wills and Estates.

Reminder to call our Google phone monthly to keep it activated. The number is 252-699-0307.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hutchins.