

Oriental Woman's Club (OWC) Executive Committee Meeting

March 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Blackmon. Also present: Jean Chastang, Carol Young, Linda Caroon, Susan Jaeger, Maryellen Bickel, Susan Van Meter, Kim Hutchins, Jen Walsh, Gay Webster, Jody Riddle and Sharon Morgan.

Minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting (EC) have been read, approved, and accepted for file. Volunteers to read and approve the minutes of the current meeting are Carol Young, Gay Webster and Susan Van Meter.

Treasurer's Report Jody Riddle provides a separate treasury report that will be added to the binder.

- Jody reports there have been no money transfers in the past month and all bills that are due have been paid.
- Jean Chastang added that the \$2821.00 made from the Chowder cook-off fundraiser has been added to the scholarship savings account for now and the \$400.00 seed money has been returned to the account.

Correspondence: Gay reported that she sent a card to Joan Aubele following surgery.

Unfinished Business:

Executive Committee members are still encouraged to submit short personal bios for the newsletter by sending them to Jean Chastang. Once the Executive Committee has been spotlighted we will start with the club members.

Ellen reported that she has reached out to Craven Community College Small Business Center for help refurbishing our website. As of this meeting she is still waiting for a response.

Maryellen will send out an email to the ladies that volunteered to audit last years financial records, as stated in the by-laws. She also suggested Liz Tooley be included, since she was the treasurer for 2024.

New Business: See details of each program listed below.

Arts and Education: Carol Young reported that a review of the Arts event in January was performed and the question arose as to where the donations from the event went. Jody confirmed that the money was deposited into the scholarship account. The donations plus the amount allocated in the budget was divided among the five county art teachers. From this account \$375.00 will go to each school so they can use this money as a match for future grants.

- The question was raised about the time of the year the Art Festival is held, due to weather concerns. It is reported the timing revolves around the school schedule and January was the scheduled month, when the OWC was federated and has not deviated.

Community Life: Ellen was glad to announce that Shelby Mehring, the co-founder of the charitable initiative, "The Caring Cycle", a cause the OWC donates to, received a full scholarship to NC State University.

- Our next Blood Drive with the American Red Cross (ARC) will be April 4th. Gay, Maryellen and Jody are scheduled to volunteer. June 13th will follow the April drive with Susan Jaegar volunteering

to assist. It was also suggested that a drawing of the room setup be created so new volunteers will know how to set up tables.

Hostesses: Gay reported we still need 2 hostesses for September.

Garden Program: Ellen Blackmon reported in Julie Wiegand's absence, the March Garden Program was canceled due to a scheduling conflict with the presenter.

- The Chowder Cook-off was a success with the attendance number being 253 people.
- Road cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th at 10:00 am.
- A field trip to Swansboro to visit a plant nursery and have lunch is scheduled for April 25th.
- The annual plant sale is scheduled for May 3rd.

Ladies of the Neuse: In Marguerite Garrett's absence Ellen reported Marguerite plans to start making Croaker Festival trophies the week of April 2nd.

Building Maintenance: Susan Jaeger reported she is going to start off her new role by organizing the storage closet to determine what needs to be purchased or replaced and inquired as to the rules for buying replacements and the reimbursement policy.

- She inquired as to the repair limit before the Executive Committee needs to vote. Ellen gave guidance that any repairs or capital improvements in excess of \$500.00 need Executive Committee approval with the exception of emergencies, which can be resolved quickly via email correspondence.
- Susan researched the cost to have the floor epoxied and discovered the expense is far too great. Other options are being considered such as purchasing a floor buffer or simply covering the floor with a different product, such as luxury vinyl.
- Monday Girl spots that need to be filled are August, November and December. An announcement will be made at the General meeting asking for volunteers.

Membership: Sharon Morgan is planning to do a short "spotlight" on membership at the General meeting, highlighting the benefits of being an OWC member, with a call for volunteers. There is discussion as to where to move the volunteer signup table so that it will be in a place that will better capture the attention of members.

Newsletter: Jean Chastang reported she is still in need of a few Executive Committee members short bios for the newsletter.

Cemetery Fund: Linda Caroon reported April is the month she sends postcards to the families of those in the cemetery, since it takes around \$5000.00 annually to maintain. She also reports she receives random donations to apply toward expenses as well.

Fundraising & Events: Maryellen Bickel reported Dessert of the Month ticket sales during the Chowder Cook-off raised \$70.00 and she has all slots filled for dessert volunteers.

Inspirational Reader: Marguerite Garrett was absent with no updates reported.

Property Rental: Sharon Morgan reported property rentals are going well with regular inquiries.

- She reports the Rotary Club reached out to her inquiring about renting the facility for their weekly meetings. Sharon is exploring a rental agreement that would give them the space they need with a

contract they can afford and something that will cover OWC expenses, i.e. electricity, etc. Sharon will present her ideas at a later date.

Scholarship Program: Susan Van Meter reported she will be reaching out to school counselors next week for an update on scholarship applications.

April General Meeting speaker will be Sarah Dougherty's neighbor, a local bird enthusiast.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hutchins