

Oriental Woman's Club (OWC) Executive Meeting

Sept. 30, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Blackmon. Also present: Maryellen Bickel, Linda Caroon, Jean Chastang, Kim Hutchins, Carol Young, Susan Van Meter, Donna Crothers, 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: Susan Van Meter, Gay Webster and Carol Young.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jody Riddle presented the new OWC 2026 budget.

It was decided the increase in Mini Grant funding to teachers in 2025 would not be extended to 2026 but will be decided case by case.

Treasurer Riddle questioned whether the \$500 Girls on the Run scholarship would be given in 2026, and it was stated that OWC is waiting to hear if we will be contributing to the scholarship.

There will be no expenses for an Easter basket project in 2026 as it has been eliminated.

The arts festival expense listed in Section 90 is for the Student Arts Festival, but Ellen Blackmon asked that a listing be added for the Fine Arts Festival, including expenses for a Towndock banner ad and cleaning costs.

Regarding scholarships, Susan Van Meter said the Education Committee has decided that if a scholarship exceeds a student's tuition costs (usually at Pamlico Community College), the leftover funds should go to the student. Jody Riddle made a motion to accept this new rule, seconded by Jean Chastang, and unanimously approved. Jean will add this to the bylaws.

Correspondence: Ellen reported receipt of two letters from the Caswell Developmental Center for Adults, which OWC no longer supports.

Unfinished Business:

Jody Riddle and Marguerite Garrett are on the committee to query membership regarding office vacancies but another member is needed. Sharon Morgan will announce this at the October General Meeting.

New Business:

The field camera and private property signs as suggested by the Town Manager have been installed.

In the case of inclement weather, OWC meetings follow the same schedule as the Pamlico County School System.

Arts and Education: Carol said schools do not want the date changed for the Student Arts Festival (Jan. 29, 2026), so a snow date will be implemented. Starting time will be changed from noon to 1 p.m., continuing to end at 3 p.m.

Cemetery: Linda Caroon reported that a total of \$1,010 has been collected this year with no expectations of more to come. Linda may ask that grounds spraying be reduced from two times a year to one.

Community Life: Gay Webster reported that we will collect Caring Cycle donations at the October general meeting. The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is Oct. 17, and Gay said donors are needed.

Fundraising Chairman: Maryellen Bickel said baked goods for the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival sale should be delivered to the booth at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, or to the club from 2:30 to 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3. The prebagged cookies will sell for \$1 per bag. Dessert of the Month tickets also will be sold. Workers are needed for the booth.

Ellen Blackmon noted that the golf tournament is OWC's biggest fundraiser, but this year, it cost \$1,800 in expenses. Julie Wiegand got an extra \$100 in profits from the sale of the leftover barbecue.

Garden Program: Julie Wiegand said the next event will be container design at Harborside Garden Center on Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. The recent road cleanup was successful.

Hostess Manager: Gay Webster reported all months in 2025 are covered. For 2026, she will assign months to members who did not hostess during 2025.

Membership and Rentals: Sharon Morgan said October is an active month for rentals but the WINOs group has not yet been able to renew its contract for 2025-26. Apparently there will be no Trivia Night during October as no request has been made for the building. It was recommended that we hire someone to buff the floor to improve its appearance.

Newsletter: Jean Chastang asked that all articles for October be submitted by Thursday, Oct. 2, or the morning of Oct. 3 at the latest.

Jean also discussed pricing of Cookies by the Pound for the Nov. 8 Fine Arts Festival, and it was decided to increase from \$8 per pound to \$10 per pound given the increasing cost of ingredients.

Upcoming Meeting: Tonya Jordan, medical director of Hospice of Pamlico County, will be our speaker, followed by a fashion show of clothing purchased at the Hospice Store.

AED: Jody Riddle reported having some difficulty obtaining the AED device donated to OWC by the Dottie Gray Ambulance Fund, and Maryellen Bickel said she would help.

Window Coverings: There was discussion of the expenses involved in installing shades on the club windows to help darken the room for video presentations. Kim Hutchins also has offered to make valances for the windows, and a design was selected.

Ellen reminded members to call the Google phone at 252-699-0307 to keep it activated.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Crothers