# Oriental Woman's Club General Meeting April 1, 2025

**Order** Was called by President, Ellen Blackmon. Ellen reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

**Oriental Woman's Club Vision, read by Ellen Blackmon:** Women together, making a difference. We are women committed to connecting and making a difference in our community through our service and outreach programs.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Anne Parker.

**Inspirational Reading:** Marguerite Garrett reminded us that acts of kindness should be a part of our daily lives and encouraged mindfulness.

**Guest Speaker:** Our speaker today was Sheryl McNair, Birding Instructor at Pamlico Community College. Sheryl shared her knowledge of local birds and their migration habits, their traits and behaviors and suggested ways to protect birds from decline. She also shared several apps that would assist in learning more about our local bird population.

## **General Meeting**

**Minutes of Previous General Meeting**: The minutes have been read and approved and posted on the website. Sarah Dougherty, Liz Tooley and Jennifer Walsh have agreed to read and approve the minutes from this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report from the previous month has been accepted for file and posted.

**Building Manager:** Susan Jaeger reported she is still seeking Monday Girl volunteers for the months of August, November and December.

## **Program Reports**

**Membership:** Sharon Morgan recognized two new members and one visitor. There were no April birthdays. Sharon also reviewed several volunteer opportunities and encouraged everyone to be involved.

**Dessert of the Month Raffle:** Maryellen Bickel reported that 55 tickets have been sold and tickets are still available to sell, if anyone wants to sell more. All slots for donating a dessert in 2026 are full.

Arts: No new items.

**Community Life:** Gay reported the next American Red Cross blood drive will be held on Friday, April 4.

**Education:** Updates have been included in the monthly newsletter. A signup sheet asking for volunteers for the June luncheon was on the back table. The scholarship luncheon typically includes 20 or so extra guests and is a very important function. We need volunteers for food, setup and cleanup.

**Garden Program:** Linda Parker reminded everyone about the May 3rd plant sale and asked for plant donations from all members. Yard of the month is in full swing with two volunteers still needed for July.

**Ladies of the Neuse:** Marguerite Garrett and members will begin working on Croaker trophies on Wednesday mornings at 9 am at Marguerite's craft room.

#### **Old Business**

**Trivia Night:** Trivia Night fundraiser on April 5 is filling up and appears to be a success already.

#### **New Business**

**Hostesses:** Thanks to the April hostesses who are Gay Webster, Sally Farrell and Deanna Russo. May hostesses are Julie Wiegand, Jody Riddle and Kim Hutchins. Julie reported the May theme will be Cinco de Mayo and asked if she organized a "salsa" tasting contest if anyone would be interested in

bringing their favorite salsa dish. This will be organized as several members seemed interested.

**Roster:** Marguerite Garrett continues to take member photos to accompany the roster.

**Golf Tournament**: The golf tournament fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd. Sally Belangia gave the members details about the tournament and outlined the various volunteer opportunities.

She also reminded us that the Rotary Club Boat Show is coming up in April and mentioned how the OWC volunteers always help make this Rotary fundraiser a big success.

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, April 29th, at 10 a.m., and the next General Meeting is on Tuesday, May 6th, at 1 p.m., with guest speaker Jamie Gibbs, Vice President of Student Services at Pamlico Community College.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hutchins