Oriental Woman's Club Meeting Feb. 4, 2025

Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. 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.

Ellen Blackmon also read an inspirational quote by Edward Everett Hale and welcomed guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag: Led by Lee Duer.

Inspirational Reading: Delayed till end of meeting.

Guest Speaker: Lori Altman, pharmacist and owner of Bayboro Pharmacy, gave an informative presentation on Foundational Health Supplements for Women. She described the "Fab Four" supplements that can help many women: magnesium glycinate, probiotics, omega 3/omega 6 fish oil, and multivitamins. She also spoke on the importance of collagen and Vitamin D/Vitamin K supplements.

General Meeting

Minutes of Previous General Meeting: These have been read and approved and posted on the website. Linda Parker, Anne Stackhouse, and Liz Tooley will read and approve the minutes of this meeting, compiled by Donna Crothers.

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

Sunshine Lady: Gay Webster will take over this role.

Program Reports

Membership: Sharon Morgan, membership chair, reported that the OWC 2025 Roster will be released this week and updated throughout the year with new members. She said OWC currently has 39 members. Two guests attended the Feb. 4 meeting, and four February birthdays were recognized.

Dessert of the Month Raffle: Maryellen Bickel will head this effort and gave five tickets apiece to all members to sell. Three more bakers are needed to provide a monthly dessert. The drawing will be held in December, with proceeds going toward purchase of an AED device. It was noted that this fundraiser raised \$2,200 in 2023.

Chowder Cookoff: Julie Wiegand noted the cookoff will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. She asked members to spread the word. The cookoff is in need of chefs, with less than five having currently committed. The increased cost of food seems to be a stumbling block. Bakers also are needed for cookies to be sold at \$1 per bag. Workers are needed for take-down after the event.

Arts: The Arts Program was thanked for the wonderful Student Arts Festival and reception on Jan. 26. Carol McAdoo thanked all cookie bakers and recognized several of the bakers, including a blue ribbon for "edible art" for Robin Warfield for her blue sunflower cookies. Honorable mentions went to Betsy

Hughes for her lemon cookies, Lee Duer for her decorated ginger cookies, and Kim Hutchins for her peanut butter balls. Elsie Roane will take down the artwork after today's meeting.

Community Life: The next American Red Cross blood drive will be held on Friday, Feb. 7.

Education: Scholarship applications go to the high school counselors via email on Feb. 14, with completed applications due by April 16. Next Arts and Education meeting will be held on Feb. 20.

Garden Program: Julie Wiegand noted the next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and members will make pine cone bird feeders. Some members also are attending a gardening symposium on Monday, Feb. 10.

Ladies of the Neuse: Marguerite Garrett and members will begin working on Croaker Festival trophies this month.

Old Business

Building Maintenance Manager: This position is still open.

New Business

Clubhouse Maintenance: Ellen Blackmon noted that all exterior doors must be unlocked when the building is in use, and doors and windows must be locked after use of the building. Remove all food and beverages from the refrigerator after any event. A snow and ice plan is in development.

Hostesses: Hostesses are needed for September and November, and signup sheets are on the back table. This is an opportunity for any member. Three members set up tables, prepare light snacks and drinks, and clean up. Thanks to the February hostesses: Marguerite Garrett, Marilyn Hollingsworth, and Ellen Blackmon. March hostesses are Maryellen Bickel, Carol McAdoo, and Jenn Walsh.

Tax Information: Joan Aubele brought tax information available on the back table, and it was noted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax service starts tomorrow.

Inspiration on Appreciation of Art: Marguerite Garrett offered an "Art Appreciation Primer" and explained to members how student art entries were judged.

Next Meetings: The next EC meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m., and the next General Meeting is on Tuesday, March 4, at 1 p.m., with a presentation from Sidney Phibbons, branch manager of the Pamlico County Library.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Crothers and Kim Hutchins