Oriental Woman's Club Meeting March 4, 2025

Call to Order at 1:33 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag: Led by Olga Herman.

Inspirational Reading: Marguerite Garrett spoke on the topic of awe and how "seeing what's right in front of us" can provide more uplifting experiences, enhancing creativity and gratitude.

Guest Speaker: Sidney Phibbons, branch manager of the Pamlico County Library, spoke on the many services offered by our library. As one of five branches in the Craven-Pamlico system, librarians can usually find any book requested. But other services range from the Libby App, which provides audio books and ebooks, to Universal Classes in knitting, foreign languages and more. The new Pamlico County Library will open by June 1 or possibly before, and will measure 10,000 square feet compared with 6,300 square feet for the current facility.

General Meeting

Minutes of Previous General Meeting: These have been read and approved and posted on the website. Betsy Hughes, Julie Wiegand and Carol Young 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.

Building Manager: Susan Jaeger will take over this role.

Program Reports

Membership: Sharon Morgan, membership chair, recognized a new member, Elizabeth Sabiston. She also noted that two guests attended the March 4 meeting, and three March birthdays were recognized.

Dessert of the Month Raffle: Maryellen Bickel noted that Dessert of the Month tickets will be sold at the Chowder Cookoff this year. Proceeds from the raffle, which will be drawn in December for dessert delivery in 2026, will go toward purchase of an AED device. T.W. Harris, chief of the Pamlico Rescue Squad, has suggested an AED that will work seamlessly with the rescue squad's equipment, and the cost is more than \$3,500. Funding from a grant may also be sought.

Chowder Cookoff: Julie Wiegand noted the cookoff now has 11 chefs competing. Categories for awards are: non-profits, restaurants, junior/aspiring, and individual or team. The cookoff will be

held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. Music will be provided by Ken Belangia and Pamlico County students, including the student ukulele group. Still needed are more bakers and also cleanup people. Cookies or similar dessert items will be sold at \$1 per bag, and should be labeled if they contain nuts. They can be brought to Julie on Friday (hours to be determined) or before 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Arts: No new items.

Community Life: The next American Red Cross blood drive will be held on Friday, April 4. Gay Webster said volunteers are needed starting at 11 a.m. Gay particularly would like a few more volunteers to learn the sign-in process for blood donors.

Education: Next Education meeting will be held on March 20 to plan for the June luncheon and teacher mini grants.

Garden Program: Julie Wiegand noted the next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on March 18, with Mike Russo, husband of member Deanna Russo, and Pete Flood giving tips on vegetable gardening. Both were integrally involved with Oriental's Community Garden. Our next Highway Cleanup effort will be held on March 26 at 10 a.m. and volunteers are needed.

Ladies of the Neuse: Marguerite Garrett and members will begin working on Croaker Festival trophies on Wednesday mornings, once the weather is warmer.

Old Business

Snow and Ice Policy: Susan Jaeger will work on creating this policy.

New Business

Audit Committee: A third person is needed to join Maryellen Bickel and Betsy Hughes to review financial records. Gay Webster volunteered to help with the audit.

North Carolina Symphony: The North Carolina Symphony will be performing the Mozart Jupiter Symphony in New Bern at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 22, at the Riverfront Center. OWC members have been invited to attend at half price for \$38 per ticket if a minimum of eight members purchase tickets.

Hostesses: Thanks to the March hostesses who are Maryellen Bickel, Carol McAdoo, and Jenn Walsh. April hostesses are Gay Webster, Sally Farrell, and Deanna Russo.

Lost and Found: Carol McAdoo has a Tupperware item left from the Arts Festival.

Oriental History Museum: OWC members are invited to the Oriental History Museum from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, March 7, and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, for an exhibit on the women who helped to make Oriental great. Consider becoming a member or a docent at the museum.

Trivia Night: OWC will sponsor a Trivia Night fundraiser on April 5, with the doors opening at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$50 for a table of six. All funds raised will go to the Pamlico Schools. Baked goods and beverages will be sold, but participants also can bring their own. Sponsors of the event include: the Oriental Rotary, First Citizen's Bank of Oriental, Tidewater Real Estate, Lowe's Home Improvement, Pamlico Gifts, Piggly Wiggly, Harbor View Day Spa, and Izzy Go Golf Carts. Members are asked to donate items for the Silent Auction and also the White Elephant Table.

Roster: Marguerite Garrett took photos to accompany the roster.

Next Meetings: The next EC meeting is Tuesday, March 25, at 10 a.m., and the next General Meeting is on Tuesday, April 1, at 1 p.m., with a presentation from Olwen Jarvis, a bird enthusiast.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Crothers and Kim Hutchins