Oriental Woman's Club Meeting

May 6, 2025

Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. by President, Ellen Blackmon. Ellen reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag: Led by Elizabeth Sabiston.

Inspirational Reading: Marguerite Garrett spoke on tools to make life better, including walking, which can alleviate chronic pain and also make us less self-centered.

Guest Speaker: Jamie Gibbs, vice president of student services for Pamlico Community College. Mr. Gibbs is a 1988 recipient of an OWC scholarship, which he said greatly enhanced his life. He said his goal at PCC is to "Meet students where they are and help them to get where they want to be."

General Meeting

Minutes of Previous General Meeting: These have been read and approved and posted on the website. Sharon Morgan, Ann Stackhouse and Gay Webster 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.

Membership: Sharon Morgan, membership chair, said OWC now has 50 members, 30 of which were in attendance at the meeting. No guests were in attendance, and seven May birthdays were recognized.

AED News: President Blackmon announced that the Dottie Gray Ambulance Fund, a local non-profit organization founded by the family of Dottie Gray, will pay for an AED in the Oriental Woman's Club building. Previously, the funds from the Dessert of the Month Raffle were to be used for the AED, so a new purpose for these monies must be found. Several possibilities were discussed but a decision was tabled.

Program Reports

Arts: Carol Young had no new items.

Building Manager: The date of the cleaning of the utility closet is to be determinded. Gay Webster volunteered to be Monday Girl during July. Monday Girls are needed for August, November and December.

Dessert of the Month Raffle: Maryellen Bickel was not present.

Community Life: The next American Red Cross blood drive will be held on June 13, and another will be held in August. Gay Webster also is serving as Sunshine Lady if any members need a card to cheer them up.

Education: Carol Young requested that members sign up for the June 3 Scholarship Luncheon and list the dish they will bring.

Garden Program: Julie Wiegand reported the Annual Plant Sale on May 3 brought in \$510, with only 20 to 50 plants left over and available to members for a donation. Linda Parker noted the next Garden Program meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, at the home of Elsie Roane so that members can explore her yard. Bring a sandwich and Elsie will provide beverages.

Golf Tournament: Sign-up sheets for donations or volunteering at the tournament are in the back of the room.

Ladies of the Neuse: Marguerite Garrett reported that the next workshop for making Croaker Festival trophies will be from 9 a.m. to Noon on Wednesday, May 7.

Old Business

Budgets by Program Chairs: Program chairs should submit budgets to the Treasurer before the May Executive Committee meeting on May 27.

Website Redesign: President Blackmon is working with Quamori Miller on the redesign of the OWC website.

New Business

Croaker Festival Parade Judges: One or two additional judges are needed to judge the entries in the Croaker Festival Parade.

Golf Scholarship Committee: More volunteers needed. There will be a signup sheet at the June 3 luncheon.

Hostesses: Thanks to the May hostesses who are Kim Hutchins, Jody Riddle, and Julie Wiegand.

Salsa Contest: Priscilla Seals won the Salsa Contest and received a Nautical Wheelers gift card.

Next Meetings: The next EC meeting is Tuesday, May 27, at 10 a.m., and the next General Meeting is the Scholarship Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3. This luncheon hosts the winners of the OWC's Hargrove Award for academic achievement and the Cathers Award for furthering education in the arts.

Community Events: Jim Kellenberger is sponsoring a fundraiser for Youth Navigating Toward Opportunity from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 24, at the New Village Brewery, selling barbecued chicken plates for \$15.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Crothers and Kim Hutchins