## Oriental Woman's Club Meeting Oct. 7, 2025

**Call to Order** at 1:32 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 Donna Crothers

**Guest Speaker:** Ellen Blackmon welcomed our guest speaker, Tonya Jordan, executive director of Hospice of Pamlico County. Tonya is in her eighth year as director and has spent 19 years working with hospice. She emphasized that Hospice of Pamlico serves terminal patients and their families and focuses on comfort and quality of life. Its services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are entirely free to the patient. Hospice of Pamlico County and Craven Hospice are trying to establish a home for people at the end of life.

**Fashion Show:** Nine OWC members modeled lovely outfits purchased at the Hospice Store in Bayboro: Marguerite Garrett (four outfits), Priscilla Seals, Marilyn Hollingsworth, Sally Farrell, Gay Webster, Susan Van Meter, Julie Wiegand, Kim Hutchins and Ellen Blackmon.

## **General Meeting**

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

**Inspirational Reading:** Marguerite Garrett shared a note about the importance of taking care of ourselvers and our fellow OWC members. She urged all members to check on other members who may be experiencing difficulties or challenges, especially if they have missed meetings.

**Membership:** Sharon Morgan reported that we had 19 of our 53 members present, as well as one guest. Three October birthdays were recognized.

Sweet Treats Booth at the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival: Ellen thanked Maryellen Bickel, Marguerite Garrett, Kim Hutchins, and Gay Webster for manning the booth on Oct. 4. She also thanked the bakers, who provided enough cookies for \$498.80 in sales, plus \$34 in donations, for a total of \$532.80. Ten Dessert of the Month tickets also were sold.

## **Unfinished Business**

Coordination has begun with Eric Kindle to install the AED and give instruction on its use. We are looking at three dates (no Thursdays) to give Eric for a two-hour block for instruction. He will coordinate with area restaurants for their new employees to be trained and wants to include the community so please invite your friends and neighbors. Jody Riddle noted that Eric prefers the session should begin at 10 a.m.

Ellen Blackmon noted we still need one member to join Jody and Marguerite on the nominating committee to conduct a search for a new president and vice president.

The trail camera has been set up to record any unauthorized people/cars in the driveway. Some suggested Private Property signs would be preferable to No Trespassing.

## **Program Reports**

**Arts:** Carol Young announced that the time for the Student Art Festival on Jan. 25, 2026, has been changed to 1 to 3 p.m. (previously began at noon).

**Building Rental Manager:** Sharon Morgan said rentals are plentiful from now through year-end.

**Community Life:** Gay Webster announced the next American Red Cross Blood Donation Drive will be on Oct. 17.

**Education:** Carol Young said there are sign-up sheets for the Christmas Luncheon.

**Fundraising:** Tickets are available for Dessert of the Month, and Ellen asked members to try to sell at least five. Profits will be used for OWC activities and needs of the community.

**Garden Program:** Julie Wiegand announced the next field trip to Harborside Garden Company for a container class on Tuesday, Oct. 21. Also the Garden Program will offer a nail polish pumpkin-painting activity in October. Sylvia Nelson is our current Yard of the Month winner.

Ellen announced sign-up sheets for two upcoming fundraisers. The Oriental Fall Festival is on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the park on Straight Road from 10-3 p.m. We have been asked to supply the Sweet Treats booth but are not obligated to be there all day, and will need members to donate cookies. The OWC Fine Arts and Craft Festival is Saturday, Nov. 8, here at the

clubhouse. Vendors will be on site from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7, setting up. You may bring your baked goods then or between 7:45-8:15 a.m. on Saturday. Doors open to the public at 9am until 1pm. We need bakers for Cookies by the Pound and workers. We also sell other baked goods and edibles, such as jams, gift mixes, pies, quick breads, etc. It was decided that the price for Cookies by the Pound should be increased from \$8 per pound to \$10.

Sharon Gilbert said the next Trivia Night is planned for early April, and volunteers will be needed. It was suggested that baked goods be used as prizes, rather than asking local businesses to donate prizes.

Thanks were given to hostesses Kim Hutchins and Sharon Gilbert.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The next EC meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28. The next General Meeting will be held on Nov. 4, featuring Jim Cornette, the president of Applied Resource Management and a geologist and hydrologist. He will speak on our drinking water and where it originates.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Crothers.