## Oriental Woman's Club Meeting September 2, 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 Donna Crothers

**Guest Speaker:** Ellen Blackmon welcomed our guest speaker, Steven Hollowell, Clerk of Superior Court for Pamlico County. Steven's presentation gave an in-depth look at Will and Estate Planning. He was very informative regarding probate and non-probate transfers after death and how it was very important to communicate openly with a trusted family member about your estate plans. His presentation was well received by all.

**Inspirational Reading:** Marguerite Garrett shared a note about teamwork, quoting Margaret Mead and Babe Ruth. The moral: collaborating as a club makes community work more effective and enjoyable.

## **General Meeting**

**Minutes of Previous General Meeting**: These have been read and approved and posted on the website. Betsy Hughes, Ann Stackhouse and Donna Crothers will read and approve the minutes of this meeting, compiled by Kim Hutchins.

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

**Membership:** Susan Van Meter spoke in Sharon Morgan's absence, recognizing July, August and September birthdays since we were out for summer break in July and August. There were 30 members present for today's meeting and we had two guests.

## **New Business:**

Ellen Blackmon, President asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. The volunteers will be seeking candidates to fill the President and Vice President positions for next year. To date, Jody Riddle and Marguerite Garret have volunteered. Jody

Riddle has volunteered to continue as treasurer and Donna Crothers and Kim Hutchins will continue to share the secretary position for the next year.

Ellen also brought attention to the sign-up sheets in the back of the room. Volunteers and bakers are needed for the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, October 4th, the Pamlico County Fall Festival, November 1st and the Woman's Club Fine Arts and Crafts Show, November 8th.

Ellen brought up a trespassing concern over the summer break. After reaching out to Oriental officials it was advised to put up, "No Trespassing" signs on the property and to install a trail camera to monitor the property. The signs have been erected and the trail camera has been purchased and is ready for installation. Bob Wiegand is willing to do this for us.

Julie Wiegand reported she has been working to refurbish the Oriental Woman's Club Facebook page. During this process she heard from a group in New Bern that is hostess to the Ghost Walk. They asked for 3-4 volunteers. Interested members can let Julie know. The walk will be held October 23-25 from 6-9:30.

## **Program Reports**

Arts: Carol Young had no new items.

**Building Manager:** Susan Jaeger was not present to report. Ellen Blackmon, President requested volunteers to help with building maintenance and cleaning on Wednesday, Sept 10 at 10:00. Each volunteer was asked to bring their favorite cleaning supplies.

**Dessert of the Month Raffle:** Maryellen Bickel reported 96 tickets have been sold. She has additional tickets available for anyone that would like to sell more. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Ol' Front Porch music festival in October.

**Community Life:** Gay Webster reported the next American Red Cross blood drive will be held on October 17. Also, in support of the Caring Cycle, the members were encouraged to bring feminine hygiene products in October for our quarterly collection.

**Education:** Carol Young reported she attended a reception that was held to honor six teachers (out of 18 applicants) who received mini-grants from the club this past fall.

**Garden Program:** Julie Wiegand reported volunteers gathered to clean out the front natural areas. Betsy Hughes reminded all members of the plant sale for 2026 and asks for all members to keep their small plastic pots from fall and spring planting and donate them to the Garden Program instead of throwing them away. Sally Farrell reported the next road cleanup day will be Wednesday, Sept 24 at 9:00, meeting at the Town and Country store.

**Golf Tournament:** Ellen Blackmon, President announced the proceeds from the Golf Tournament held in August netted \$3708.90. This money is applied directly to our scholarship fund.

Our guest speaker for October will be Tonya Jordan, Director of Hospice of Pamlico County. A fashion show will be held during this meeting with members wearing fashion purchased from the Hospice Thrift Store. Come dressed to impress. Notify Ellen by October 5 with a description of your outfit and how much you paid for it.

Ellen Blackmon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hutchins and Donna Crothers.