Orange Blossom Gazette

GFWC LA VERNE-SAN DIMAS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2026 Issue 102

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Every act of kindness sparkles like a star.
Embrace the power of kindness and shine brightly.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun 05th - Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m.
Wed 08th- Dinner at Legend's
Mon 13th- Gab at Butter Cafe
Sat 18th- L.V. Wine Walk
Sat 25th- Paws For Pets Walk fundraiser
Sat 25th- La Verne Earth Day Fair



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed 06th - Lunch at Roberta's Village Inn,
Mon 11th - Gab at Bagelry and Brew
Sun 17th - Coloring at 2:00 p.m.
Sat 30th - Hike at Big Dalton Cyn, 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024 - 2026

President: Marlene Carney
Co-First VP/Dean of Chairmen: Susan Minnihan & Linda Roache
Co-Second VP/Membership: Jody Mentzer & Sonya Whatley
Third VP/Ways & Means: Vacant
Recording Secretary: Barbara Randolph
Treasurer: Cathy Koch
Parliamentarian: Pat Borchard
Corresponding Secretary: Eleonore Burress

Chairmen 2024 - 2026

Advocates for Children: Susan Hope
Arts & Culture: Tami Miller
Civic Engagement & Outreach:
Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller
Communications & Public Relations: Vacant
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller
Education & Libraries:
Marilyn Caldwell (education)
Dian Moravek (Librairies)
Environnent : Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller
Fundraiser: Natalie Fordyce
Health & Wellness: Gloria Schaaf
Leadership: Shirley Vanderbeck
Legislation & Public Policy: Barbara Randolph
Social Events: Jennifer Nummelin & Gayle Garcia
Women's History: Sue Herrera

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
Marlene Carney



The month of April surrounds us with sunshine, blossoms and a time of renewal. It brings forth new energy and enthusiasm as club members continue the mission of serving community and those in need.

In March the club elected a slate of officers for 2026-2028. Incoming officers are:

President – Sonya Whatley
1st VP/Dean of Chairs – Marlene Carney
2nd VP/ Ways and Means – Lisa Gomez
Co-3rd VPs/ Membership – Donna Fuller and Jody Mentzer
Treasurer – Jennifer Stone
Recording Secretary – Bianca Battles
Corresponding Secretary – Sue Herrera

These ladies will need all your support and dedication. The club has been doing amazing things over the last few years, and it is because of the combined efforts and dedication of the membership.

Congratulations are extended to Club Member of the Year, Jody Mentzer. Jody has done an amazing job in her role as Co-3rd VP/Membership. She has communicated regularly with prospects resulting in tremendous membership growth. She has managed the member orientations with great enthusiasm, capturing the essence of the club.

Congratulations to Citizen of the Year, Eleonore Burress. She is always consistent in sending cards to those having birthdays, to those who are ill or having life challenges and her knitting skills have gone above and beyond in helping so many.

Congratulations are extended to the club's Kindness Angel, Candy Miller. This was awarded at the December holiday dinner. Candy has been co-lead of Civic Engagement over the last few years and is a consistent organizer of food drives throughout the year as well as other initiatives focused on civic engagement. She epitomizes the word "KINDNESS" in everything she does including the dedication she gave her furry family member who passed away recently. Her kindness toward her pet doggie was immense.

I am encouraging all the members to attend the Foothill District Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rancho Cucamonga on April 11 from 11am-2pm. Our club member, Pat Borchard, is the

President of the Foothill District and her term will be coming to an end. Let's celebrate the accomplishments she has made with the district over the last few years. The convention will include the election of the 2026-2028 Executive Committee as well as other fun activities. The FIRM deadline to register is Friday, April 3.

During April, there are many things to celebrate. Earth Day is April 22 which provides an opportunity to take action to make for a better planet whether it's raising awareness about climate change or promoting sustainable practices, it is a time for everyone to play a pivotal role in protecting Earth for future generations.

April is also Stress Awareness Month. Many of us juggle many responsibilities, balancing work, family, and personal interests. Prioritizing mental health and wellness is key. It is an ideal time for club members to reflect on self-care routines and strategies for managing stress in a healthy way.

I wish everyone a happy April to all the amazing women in our club. May this month bring you peace, progress, and the joy of new beginnings.

Carney.marlene@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S AIDE/AMENITIES: Jennifer Nummelin

Our speaker for the April meeting is Penny, of Military Heroes. This is one of many organizations with whom we collaborate on projects. If you have ideas for a speaker, please contact the President's Aid (Jennifer holds that position until May, and Barbara, thereafter). We get more accomplished by working with other organizations!

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

CO-FIRST VP/DEAN OF CHAIRMEN: Susan Minnihan & Linda Roache

Happy Spring! Seems like Mother Nature goofed and is giving us a taste of summer for a few days. Time to enjoy the great outdoors (when it's cooler), the seasonal blooms and the allergies that come with it. This time of year is wonderful to sit out in the evening with your favorite beverage and enjoy the lingering twilight.

As you all have noted in our newsletter, we've been highlighting our chairmen through this club year with Getting to Know You segments as well as our chairs outlining specific chairman and project leaders' needs at our meetings. This gives, especially to our newer members, a "face with a name" and details of their projects. Thank you to those members who have volunteered to chair a program or are continuing for a 2nd term. Our appreciation also extends to those members who are stepping up as project leaders. It really is a great way to become better involved with our club and get to know other members better as well.

As announced at our meeting, the following programs will be open in June; however, interested members can reach out now to the current named chairmen below or to us. Remember, chairmanships can be shared between 2 members. Program Chairmen needed for the 26-28 Term are as follows:

Arts & Culture – Tami Miller
Civic Engagement & Outreach – Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller
Communications & Public Relations – Open
Leadership & Protocol – Shirley Vanderbeck
Legislation & Public Policy – Barbara Randolph

It's great to see our members stepping up to volunteer for projects; whether it's our Military Food Drive, Reading Across America, La Verne Wine Walk & so many others. Jennifer Stone announced she is sewing pillowcases for donation to children. If you'd care to donate fabric, please let her know.

Wishing everyone a joyous Easter!

Susan susanminnihan@aol.com
Linda Roache lgroache@hotmail.com

CO-SECOND VP/MEMBERSHIP: Jody Mentzer & Sonya Whatley

Spring is in the air even though "Summer," our unusually hot Winter is having a hard time leaving. This season invites us to embrace new beginnings, longer days, flowers blooming and a fresh sense of possibility, in our gardens, homes and hearts. As Woman's Club members spring is a season for us to bloom, nurture ourselves an embrace the new opportunities.

March was a very busy month. There were Gab sessions and bowling activities. The March meeting was super busy as we elected new board members for 26 – 28 years. Members brought in 209 chocolate bunnies which were later delivered to Sowing Seeds for Life along with a $500 check. We hand wrote 140 note cards of encouragement for women with breast cancer. Members also participated in the Masonic food drive for service people and their families

During March we were featured on the front page of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. Both the La Verne and San Dimas City Councils recognized our club for our service to the communities. Addressing camaraderie and friendship: We had a wine tasting event at Total Wine where we were introduced to and tasted wines whose origin was from various areas of France. We also had an Easter egg dying party, preparing for Easter celebrations with our families. Wow!

A new project list was sent out in March. Take time and look over it. There are many ways we can do small things to help others.

In March we welcomed new member Cathy Lonsdale. She is retired from Sales. She lives in La Verne with her husband Bob. They have three children and three grandchildren. Her hobbies include real estate and Jazzercise. She wants to meet new people and help in the community. Please introduce yourselves and get to know Cathy.



Our goal continues to be to build our membership, promoting the value of belonging to this fabulous club focused on helping the community and having fun at the same time. Membership in the GFWC La Verne-San Dimas Woman's Club has been a huge plus in the lives of so many. The projects that we have worked on, the social events we have experienced, the smiles on the faces of those we serve, the friendships gained, and the camaraderie are so rewarding. We encourage all our members to promote the club and all that we do. Our combined efforts make a huge difference in the lives of so many, and they make a difference in our own lives. Share your newsletter with your friends when telling them about the club and encouraging them to join our diverse membership. Remember:

- "A kind word is like a spring day." —Russian proverb

Sonya srwhatley@yahoo.com
Jody foxyjody@verizon.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Pat Borchard
Shirley B. Vanderbeck, PRP
Professional Registered Parliamentarian

Dear Members
On February 19, 2026, parliamentarians across the world paused to recognize a historic milestone. One hundred fifty (150) years ago, Henry M. Robert published the first edition of his "*Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies*." What began as a small handbook to bring order and fairness to meetings has become a lasting foundation for deliberative assemblies across generations.

The parliamentary procedures introduced in 1876 remain just as valuable and meaningful today. In every organization, the basic principles of orderly debate, majority rule with protection of minority rights, and thoughtful decision-making has fostered trust, clarity, and confidence in member organizations. Even the most fundamental tools—how to make a motion, how to debate respectfully, how to vote properly, strengthen both members and leaders and provide a means to solve difficult problems as they arise.

Your interest in parliamentary procedures provides more than knowledge. It provides connections. Through networking with fellow members with leadership experience and with knowledgeable parliamentarians, you gain insight, encouragement, and leadership skills. Through study and active participation, practice using these procedures in real time will sharpen both skill and judgment. Through service, you can assist members and leaders of other organizations, helping them conduct meetings that are fair, efficient, and productive.

In this way, the legacy of General Robert lives on, not simply in a book, but in you. Each time you guide an officer or Executive Committee, advise the Chair, teach a class, or serve as a resource, you extend the impact of that first pocket manual into today's meetings and tomorrow's leaders. On this 150-year Anniversary, thank you for carrying forward a tradition that continues to matter. The value endures because you live it.

Those involved in learning parliamentary procedure are appreciated and share pride in helping members understand the meaning behind how meetings can run smoothly.

>> Chairmen Chats <<

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

Last month, we joined forces with the Masonic Lodge, in volunteering for the Military Heroes food Drive. It was inspiring to witness so many cars coming through, dropping off boxes of food, diapers, etc. They will host another drive-through food event, in November, and would appreciate some volunteers then, as well. We will keep you posted.

Our chocolate bunnies were delivered to Sowing Seeds food pantry, who will then hand them out during their Easter food giveaway. Congratulations, Ladies! Your donations of chocolate bunnies are in the baskets of 209 smiling children. On March 23, Jennifer, Marlene and Candy (the non-melting kind) presented 209 Chocolate bunnies to Sowing Seeds for Life. They will be handed out at the drive-thru food drive on April 1st at Charisma Church in La Verne. Your generosity was truly appreciated by the Sowing Seeds staff and emphasized the amazing difference you make in their community. Thank you for your participation.

Are you doing some Spring cleaning? If so, be sure to bring your unused gently used coats and jackets to the meeting. Jennifer will collect them and deliver them to Burlington, where they will be cleaned, repaired, then handed out -when the weather is colder- to local schools, shelters, etc.

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com
Candy candysnrg@verizon.net

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

Now is a great time to participate in our various on-going projects. Crossroads accepts gently used women's clothes and shoes. Your donations will help women released from incarceration transition back into society. Donations can be delivered to 1269 Harvard Avenue in Claremont and placed in the driveway in front of the big red shed doors. Don't forget to write a note that donations were made by LV/SD Women's Club.

Please note that House of Ruth is not equipped to take in used items unless it has been arranged through their outreach personnel. House of Ruth does have a wish list of items in need for women and children who are victims of domestic violence along with a food & pantry list. If you are interested in donating and would like a copy of the wish list or pantry list, please email me at susanminnihan@aol.com You may drop off those wish list items at 599 N. Main Street in Pomona.

Shirley Vanderbeck will be collecting cellphones at our monthly meetings. Verizon will clean all data and set them to only make 911 calls. All cell phones are given to shelters who will distribute cell phones to victims of domestic violence. Help me give you the proper credit for all the fantastic work you do to support our programs. Please log in your time, money, and in-kind donations in project folders.

Susan @susanminnihan@aol.com

ENVIRONMENT: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

On April 25th, the annual Paws for Pets Walk is held on Saturday morning. It is the major fundraiser for the Inland Valley Humane Society, who serves 10 cities with spay/neuter services, adoptions, medical care, microchipping, and lost and found animals. If you can walk 1.5 miles, at a leisurely pace, join us at Bonelli Park. There is a vendor fair there as well. Register at ivhsspca.org

Also, on April 25th, the city of La Verne is hosting an Earth Day celebration, with booths, activities, and food. Held at Civic Center Park, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. And it's free!!

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com
Candy candysnrg@verizon.net

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Jennifer Nummelin

Upcoming Events Info.:

APRIL
Sun 05th— Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m. Meet in the pkg lot at Norm's Hangar, at the airport.
Wed 08th— Dinner at Legend's, Glendora, 6 p.m. 1155 Rt 66, by Lorraine Ave.
Mon 13th— Gab at Butter Cafe, 10 a.m. 671 E. Bonita, by San Dimas Canyon.
Sat 11th— District Convention *must register!!*
Sat 18th— FYI The L.V. Wine Walk is in Maneiro Square, La Verne 5-8 p.m., tickets online.
Sat 25th— FYI The La Verne Earth Day Fair is at Civic Center Park, L.V. 10-1, *free
Sat 25th— FYI Paws for Pets fundraiser for the Inland Vy Humane Society, 9-1, Bonelli Park.
*Free to attend the vendor fair: if you want to participate in walking/fundraising, register at ivhsspca.org.

MAY
Wed 06th— Lunch at Roberta's Village Inn, 11 a.m. 2326 D St., L.V., by Bonita
Mon 11th— Gab at Bagelry and Brew, 10 a.m. 2095 Foothill Blvd., L.V. by D St.

Sun 17th— Coloring at 2:00 p.m. *WE NEED A HOSTESS please!
Sat 30th— Hike at Big Dalton Canyon, 10 a.m. Meet at the Mystic Canyon Trail sign.

Please let me know of any free or low-cost places you'd like to visit!
Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

>> On-going Projects <<

Project: Advocates for Children: Handmade beanies, scarves, and pillowcases are donated to the many foster children in our area. Donations may be given to me at any meeting

Project Lead: Cathy Koch granniepurpyl@gmail.com

Project: Fremont Academy Latina Club Boutique: Clothing for teens, women, men and children, and Household items. Members can drop off bags/items on my front porch or give them to me at any meeting.

Project Lead: Esther Garza-Maloney

Project: Civic Engagement & Outreach: Gently used coats & jackets - kids & adults' sizes - donations may be given to me at any meeting or send me a message & I'll pick them up at your home.

For the Inland Valley Humane Society collections of old towels and blankets is ongoing. You can bring them to our monthly meeting or contact Jennifer Nummelin for a drop-off location.

Project Lead: Jennifer Nummelin jennummelin@aol.com

Project: Domestic Violence: Old cell phones are taken to Best Buy to be wiped of all memory and reprogrammed with 9-1-1 and given to the Battered Women's Shelters. Bring them to me at the General Meeting each month.

Project Lead: Shirley Vanderbeck legalrabb@aol.com

Project: Environment: Rrecycling of aluminum cans or plastic bottles, please take them to the recycling center for cash redemption and forward the funds to our club treasurer, Cathy Koch.

Project Lead: Gayle gaylescreations67@gmail.com

Cups for Corky: Donate gently used cups and place them in the basket located on the stage at our monthly meetings.

Project Leads: Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com and Candy candysnrg@verizon.net

Health & Wellness: Eyeglasses (broken or not), eyeglass cases and pop tops from cans of soda, soup, dog & cat food, etc. Bring them to me at the General Meeting each month. Pop tops go to support the Ronald McDonald House; eyeglasses and cases go to Eye-DAS to support the blind.

Project Lead: Gloria guschaaf@yahoo.com

CELEBRATE!

ANNIVERSARIES

2018 – Eight Years
Wendy Paolini-Clark

2019 – Seven Years
Gayle Garcia

2023 – Three Years
Marilyn Caldwell

2025 – One Year
Juliet Julian
Esperanza Medrano



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 2nd	Sonya Whatley
April 4th	Donna Fuller
April 5th	Marlene Carney
April 7th	Rachelle Killackey
April 10th	Barbara Randolph
April 17th	Jennifer Stone
April 18th	Norma Ferrales
April 20th	Tami Miller
April 23rd	Candy Miller
April 29th	Bianca Battles

WEBSITE: lvsd.org
INSTAGRAM: gfwclvsdwomansclub
FACEBOOK: GFWC LVSD

DISTRICT NEWS

By Tami Miller

April and May will need a lot of attention from all our members.

April 11th is our Foothill District Convention. Your District Officers have spent a lot of time putting this event together. This is a special event where we can meet members from our other clubs. If you have a red Foothill District T-Shirt, this is a good time to wear it.

I will be working with my Cheering Squad to bring up the energy and laughter at this event.

May14th– 16th is the California Federation of Women's Clubs Annual Convention. It doesn't get much closer than the Ontario Airport Hotel. Please take advantage of having a location so close and attend some of the workshops. If you can only attend one day, come on Friday but registered before 11:00.

Why is this day so special? I am not kidding, we need all hands-on deck. We have two District Officers running for CFWC Board Positions: Our very own President – Pat Borchard is running for Area B Vice President. This is our Area and we need her to represent us. She always has our back, so let's show her we appreciate it. Toby Kahan our District Treasurer is running for Financial Secretary, another key position. Voting will take place on Friday , May 15th, between 2:00 – 5:00.

This is another good red T-Shirt Day. They need to know who we are.

"GO TEAM! VOTE FOR PAT AND TOBY!"

MEMBERS IN ACTION

On March 4th members participating in Read Across America




TEACHER
OF ALL
THINGS



Sit n’ Chat and Eat at the Railside Café on March 6th



Military Food Drive Held at Masonic Lodge on March 14th



March 21st Fundraiser at Total Wines and More (Wine, Wine and Delicious Appetizers)





March 23rd presenting Sowing Seeds for Life a donation from GFWC LVSD Woman's Club



On March 24, 2026, we were Recognized at the City of San Dimas Council Meeting





Easter Egg Dyeing on March 29th – Thank you Marilyn Caldwell for hosting





