Orange Blossom Gazette

GFWC LA VERNE-SAN DIMAS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

June 2026 Issue 104

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Alone We Can Do So Little;
Together We Can Do So Much







CALENDAR OF EVENTS

03rd - Dinner at Marie Callendar's 6:00 p.m.
11th - Gab at Kun's 10:00 a.m.
13th - Food Drive at Stater Brother's
18th – General Club Meeting
27th— Hike at Bonelli 10:00 a.m.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

07th— Gab at Granny's Yogurt, 2 p.m.
13th— Lunch at In N Out, 11:00 a.m.
18th— Gab at Kuns Park, S.D.10:00 a.m.
21st— Taco Tuesday Dinner at Fonda Don Cuco, L.V., 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2026 - 2028

President: Sonya Whatley
Co-First VP/Dean of Chairmen: Marlene Carney
Co-Second VP/Membership: Jody Mentzer & Donna Fuller
Third VP/Ways & Means: Lisa Gomez
Corresponding Secretary: Sue Herrera
Recording Secretary: Bianca Battles
Treasurer: Jennifer Stone
Parliamentarian: Pat Borchard
President's Aide: Barbara Randolph

Chairmen 2026 - 2028

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
Sonya Whatley





I am deeply honored to serve as the newly installed President of the La Verne San Dimas Woman's Club. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Pat Borchard, our club's Parliamentarian and CFWC Area D Vice President, for serving as our installing officer. Her presentation was both creative and thoughtful, making the ceremony especially meaningful. The new Board Members and I were truly touched, and everyone enjoyed the warmth and creativity she brought to the occasion.

I look forward to working alongside our new Executive Board and want to sincerely thank each of them for their support, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve. Together, I know we will lead with dedication, friendship, and purpose. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to achieving great things over the next two years while continuing the wonderful work and traditions of this club.

I am also deeply grateful for the kindness, support, and encouragement from everyone who helped me reach this point, especially past Presidents Tami Miller, Marlene Carney, Pat Borchard, and Linda Koontz. Their guidance, mentorship, and confidence in me gave me the inspiration and encouragement to embrace this role as President.

The theme I have chosen for my term is: **"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."** I believe this sentiment reflects the heart of our club and the spirit that makes our work together so meaningful. I look forward to all we will accomplish as we continue serving our community and one another.

I wish you all a happy summer and hope to see you at one of our upcoming social events. I will be out of state June 7-21, but otherwise, feel free to reach out to me via email or phone.

Sonya srwhatley@yahoo.com
909-518-5595

CO-FIRST VP/DEAN OF CHAIRMEN: Marlene Carney

Welcome to the new fiscal year! I'm excited to serve as your 1st VP/Dean of Chairmen this year, and I look forward to working with all of you as we continue the projects we've already taken on. If anyone would like to Co-Chair this role with me, let me know.

At our May 21 meeting, we welcomed three new members to the Club, Natalie Fordyce, Cathy Lonsdale and Sue Buckwell. We also recognized and appreciated everyone serving on the outgoing Executive Committee and officially installed the new 2026–2028 Executive Committee. A big thank you to Jennifer Nummelin and Candy Miller for all the amazing work they've done guiding Civic Engagement and Outreach over the past few years. I also want to recognize Marina Salcido for her tremendous leadership as Chairman of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention as well as Environment. Thank you as well to Sue Herrera for her years of service as the 3rd VP Ways and Means Chair and for all the work she put into the events, especially Bunco and Brews.

Currently, we are actively looking for members to serve as Chairs for the following areas: Civic Engagement and Outreach, Leadership, Legislation/Public Policy.

Most Chairmen have "Leads" who help support specific areas of the program, and we truly value all participation. Please keep in mind that our projects succeed because of member involvement. When you participate, you become a bigger part of this wonderful organization and the caring women who are part of it. Working outside of Club meetings is also a great way to get better acquainted with members and build lasting friendships.

June will begin our new term, and we are looking forward to working with all our new Program Chairmen as well as Sonya, our new President. We'll go dark for the months of July and August, so this will be the last newsletter until September. In the meantime, be sure to look at your email closely. Check out the articles throughout the newsletter to stay informed about upcoming announcements and social events that Jennifer Numelin has set up.

I hope to see everyone on June 18th!

Carney.marlene@gmail.com

CO-SECOND VP/MEMBERSHIP: Jody Mentzer & Donna Fuller

Our organization features two 2nd co-vice presidents of membership. Meaning two individuals jointly hold the vice president role, we share responsibilities for leadership, support, program oversight, and organization, when the president is unavailable, this model encourages that each co-vice president focuses on their strengths while providing back up for each other.

As for me, I am so grateful to be in this club...I am hoping all members try to bring new members to this club. I feel we do such a great job in volunteering our time and when you can encourage each other there is no better way to do it in a club.



Let's Welcome our newest member Sue Buckwell. Sue lives in La Verne and is retired from teaching in the Montebello School District. She has one child and 2 grandchlldren Sue fills her time by reading, writing and playing with her grandson. She heard about our club via our on-line apps and joined to meet interesting women and do somehing for our communitites.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in services of others"
Mahatma Gandhi

Enjoy your summer and when we come back let's do great things together.... Donna

Jody: foxyjodi@verizon.net
Donna: smiledonnalynn@hotmail.com

Third VP/Ways & Means: Lisa Gomez

🎲 Bunco Night Committee Needed! ❤️‍🩹

We're getting ready to roll into a fun new fundraiser, but we need a committee to help bring Bunco Night to life! From decorations and prizes to snacks, themes, and game-day fun, there are plenty of ways to help!

If you enjoy planning events, working with a fun group, or just want to help create a memorable night for our community, we'd love to have you join us. We're hoping to start planning ASAP! Reach out to us if you'd like to be part of the committee, a Sign-Up sheet will also be available at the general meeting on June 18, 2026. 🎲 ✨



Lisa Gomez: mrslgomez@gmail.com
Natalie Fordyce: natalie2392@gmail.com

>> Chairman Chats <<

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN: Susan Hope

On May 28th, our La Verne/San Dimas Women's Club volunteers inspected and sorted over a thousand pairs of shoes that will go to Title I students in our community!



We had a wonderful time!

Susan foster.hope@verizon.net

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH: Vacant

At our June Meeting, we will be signing some “Thinking of you” cards AND assembling the Chemo bags (to be delivered to City of Hope). If you have any plain notecards, please bring them to our June Meeting.

Our summer food drive on Saturday, June13th at Stater Bros., LaVerne, is a very helpful source of food for students not having access to school lunch programs. If you cannot man the booth, please consider donating items!

Jennifer and Candy

City of La Verne 4th of July Parade:

Sorry about the limited space this year on our “float”, ladies; perhaps with more planning next year, we can have more of you on board. We do have plenty of space available, however, for walkers around the truck for the 2.25-mile route. It will be hot, so plan on light comfortable patriotic clothing, a hat, sunglasses, a shade umbrella (if you desire) and water if you’d like to participate that way. Otherwise, please plan on bringing out a lawn chair, setting up along the parade route somewhere and waiving hello to us as we pass by.

Sue Herrera Sue.bosek@cvspm.com

ENVIRONMENT: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

Candy and Jennifer are looking forward to co-chairing, and if you have ideas for future Environment-related events and projects, please let us know. Though our Club does not officially participate in Earth Day events, there are numerous other community events in the area, with which we may volunteer. We are open to ideas!

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

Legislation: Vacant

At our June meeting, please record any time you spent (or e-mail me and I will do it for you) communicating with legislators, making a financial contribution, participating in a rally or even just reading on our GFWC Legislative Action Center website. No proof necessary!

Remember our priorities are support for global immunization (FY2027), community libraries, early detection of Alzheimer's disease, stopping domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking (FY27).

And PLEASE will someone step up and chair this important project (the bar is pretty low here--mea culpa). Barbara Randolph

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Jennifer Nummelin

Upcoming Events Info.:

June
Wed 03rd— Dinner at Marie Callendar's 6 p.m. 1175 E. Alosta Ave., Azusa. Near Barranca Ave.
Thurs 11th— Gab at Kun's Park 10 a.m. 1600 Bonita Ave., L.V. Near Magnolia. BYO chair and drink
Sun 27th— Hike at Bonelli 10:00 a.m. (last one till the weather gets cooler, in October) *meet in the pkg lot at Norm's Hangar, at the airport.

July
Tues 07th— Gab at Granny's Yogurt, 2 p.m. (new time) 2252 D St., L.V. *Near 3rd St
Mon 13th— Lunch at In N Out, 11:00 a.m. 1261 Lone Hill, Glendora *Glendora Marketplace.
Sat 18th— Gab at Kuns Park, S.D.10:00 a.m. BYO chair and drink
Tues 21st— Taco Tuesday Dinner at Fonda Don Cuco, L.V., 6:00 p.m. 1965 Foothill Blvd, *by Emerald

August
Tues 04th— Gab at Tutti Frutti, 2:00 p.m. (new time) 2357 Foothill Blvd., L.V. * by Fruit St
Mon 10th— Gab at Butter Cafe,10:00 a.m. 671 Bonita Ave., S.D. *By S.D. Canyon Rd
Tues 25th— Dinner at Costa's Diner, 6:00 p.m. 851 E. San Bernardino Rd., Covina *by Grand
Sat 29th— Gab at French Press, 10:00 a.m. 3836 Emerald Ave., L.V.

As usual, if anyone has ideas for social events (free or cheap preferred), let Jennifer know.

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

Fremont Academy Latina Club Boutique:

The Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design is a junior high and senior high STEM charter school in Pomona, California. The Latina Club Boutique at Fremont began by providing prom wear, career wear, and every day clothing needs for female students. It soon expanded to include clothing for in-need men, women, teens and children. Household items are also appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at Esther Garza-Maloney's front porch at 409 N. Elwood Ave., Glendora. Be sure to value and record your donations at club meetings.

Project Lead: Vacant

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: Recycling of aluminum cans or plastic bottles, please take them to the recycling center for cash redemption and forward the funds to our club treasurer, Jennifer Stone.

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 Shirley Vanderbeck 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: Shirley Vanderbeck legalrabb@aol.com



ANNIVERSARIES

2024 – Two Years

June

Sofia Bauer
Marilyn Cruz
Senator Susan Rubio

July

Donna Fuller
Jennifer Stone

2023 – Three Years

August

Kathryn Sandoval

2018 – Eight Years

June

Marlene Carney

2015 – Eleven Years

August - CHARTER MEMBERS

Jennifer Nummelin
Pat Borchard
Linda Koontz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June

2nd Trish McCaffrey
22nd Jocelyn Campbell

July

4th Donna Velosa
5th Christi Joanou
20th Sofia Bauer

August

7th Eleonore Burress
16th Sue Herrera
20th Cathy Lonsdale
21st Susan Minnihan
23rd Kathryn Sandoval

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Giving your time, energy, and heart to others isn't always easy, but it's one of the most meaningful things you can do.

The following volunteer opportunities are still open (we need YOU); Please contact the Project Leader for additional information

June 13, 2026 Food Drive at Stater Brothers in La Verne – Contact : Jennifer Nummelin or Candy Miller

Bunco Night fundraiser Date TBD: Volunteer to help with decorations and prizes to snacks, themes, and game-day fun, there are plenty of ways to help! Sign-Up sheet will be available at the general meeting on June 18, 2026. Contact Lisa Gomez or
Natalie Fordyce

MEMBERS IN ACTION

May 1, 2026 Supporting our local coffee French Press Café after they experienced vandalism



Lunch at Roberta's Inn in La Verne on May 6, 2026



May11, 2026 at Mugs Coffee Roasters



General Meeting on May 21, 2026

Socializing and Dinner First





Initiation of new members



Installation of 2026 – 2028 Executive Committee



Hike at Bonelli on May 30th





Barbara with our honorary activity member Max (AKA Mad Max)

