Orange Blossom Gazette

GFWC LA VERNE-SAN DIMAS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2026 Issue 103

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





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

06th— Lunch at Roberta's Inn
11th— Gab at Mugs Coffee Roasters
17th— Coloring at Jody's
30th— Hike at Bonelli



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

03rd— Dinner at Marie Callendar's
11th— Gab at Kun's
13th— Food Drive at Stater Brother's
27th— Hike at Bonelli

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: Lisa Gomez
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



Reflections on Two Remarkable Years of Service

As I reflect on the past two years serving as President of the La Verne San Dimas Woman's Club, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude, pride, and admiration for all the club members.

When I stepped into this role, I knew I would be surrounded by dedicated and caring individuals—but what I have witnessed over these two years has exceeded every expectation. Time and again, all of you have stepped forward with generosity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference in the communities we serve.

Our club's impact through philanthropy has been nothing short of inspiring. Whether supporting local nonprofit organizations, or contributing to important causes, you have consistently demonstrated that even small acts, when multiplied by many, create meaningful and lasting change. The spirit of giving is truly the heart of this organization.

Equally impressive has been the level of volunteerism shown by all the members. From participating in fundraisers, volunteering for food drives, and other organization events and showing up wherever help was needed, you have given your time and energy selflessly. It is this hands-on dedication that transforms good intentions into real impact, strengthening not only our club but the entire communities we serve.

What stands out most to me is the way the members rose to every challenge with resilience and teamwork. Behind every successful event, every donation, and every initiative, there has consistently been a group of club members willing to step up, collaborate, and support one another. That sense of unity is what makes this club so special.

Serving as your President has been a true honor. I am incredibly grateful for the trust you placed in me, and even more grateful for the friendships, support, and shared purpose we have built together. While leadership roles may change, the mission and spirit of this club will continue to thrive because of each of you.

Thank you for your dedication, your generosity, and your belief in the power of community. I am proud of all we have accomplished together, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of this remarkable organization in the years ahead.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." *Margaret Mead*

Carney.marlene@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S AIDE/AMENITIES: Jennifer Nummelin

Our May speaker will be Steve Lakey, of the organization, 'Eye Diseases are Serious', one of the organizations with whom we volunteer. In the Fall, we also have Rhonda, from 'House of Ruth', coming to talk to us about Domestic Violence resources. If you know of any speakers you'd like to introduce to us (from the local communities) please let the President's Aide know. Speaking of whom, please welcome Barbara Randolph who is taking this position next month!!

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

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

April showers, bring May flowers, so the beginning of something new is in the air! This is the month we will be Installing the 2026-2028 Term Executive Committee; therefore, we will be "passing the baton" over to Marlene Carney as First V.P. starting June 1. So, this will be our final newsletter article.

Co-chairing a Program is a wonderful way to share the work and commitment. We have enjoyed working together as Co-1st V.P.'s - it has strengthened our friendship and made a challenging role fun! We hope other members will want to get involved in Chairmanship opportunities and help our club thrive. Marlene would welcome a Co-Chair to work with her as 1st V.P. If you'd like to become more involved and take a more active role within our Club, please reach out to her.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation to all our chairman that we have worked with over our last two terms (four years). The Chairmen oversee all our Projects, so they are instrumental in accomplishing all that we do! You will see that some have "termed out" (after two terms) but have volunteered to chair another Program. But new members are encouraged to step up and get more involved and a few Programs remain open. Civic Engagement, being one of them, is currently co-chaired by Jennifer Nummelin and Candy Miller. Please check with us, Jennifer or Candy if you 'd be interested in chairing this Program. That goes as well for Arts & Culture, currently chaired by Tami Miller; Legislature, currently chaired by Barbara Randolph; and Leadership, currently chaired by Shirley Vanderbeck. It would be wonderful to give Marlene a "full slate" of Program Chairmen when she takes over the helm in June.

Also, please check out our last "Getting to Know You" article, which is attached at the end of this newsletter. We've focused on Eleonore Burress as our Incoming Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention Chairman.

In closing, we encourage all members to participate, volunteer, and support our continuing and new Chairmen wherever there is a need!

Thank you again to all our wonderful chairmen and the support we've had over the last four years. It has been appreciated!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our May meeting!

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

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

May is a special month. Flowers are blooming, gardens are growing, birds are singing and the days are balmy and longer. It's a time of new beginnings and a time to reflect on last year's accomplishments. As always, our goal continues to build our membership and promoting the values of belonging to this great club that focuses on helping the community and having fun at the same time.

Membership in this great organization has been a plus in the lives of so many. The projects we have worked on, the social events we have experienced, the smiles on the faces of those we serve, the friendships made and the camaraderie are so rewarding.

We have grown so much in the past few years, and we want to see this growth continue. Of course, we need to remember that growing and retaining membership is the job of every member of the club. We can't do it without your help. Keep spreading the word and inviting friends, neighbors and even strangers you meet somewhere to join us.

Another new beginning in May will be the installation of a new board for the next two years. Let's give them our full support. It takes a village. At the May meeting we will have an initiation ceremony to welcome our newest members.

May is a dinner meeting. If you have not registered and paid your $7.00, be sure to send it in. If paying with Zelle remember to note that your payment is for the May dinner. Some of our great cooks will be providing yummy desserts.

"May, the month of sunshine, blooming flowers, and endless possibilities." – Unknown

And for you mothers - "The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men – from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms." Oliver Wendell Holmes

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

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

>> Chairmen Chats <<

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH: Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

Kids typically love having summers off from books and teacher's (well-deserved) dirty looks. What they don't enjoy is, possibly, not having lunch to look forward to. We have a project scheduled to help relieve the stress of families that are food deprived. Our food drive is scheduled for June 13th at the Stater Bros. in La Verne. At the May meeting, I will be asking for volunteers to collect food in a shift that lasts an hour and forty-five minutes. The shifts that are most available are 9am to 10:45 and 12:30 to 2:00 (or any time in between!). Please check your calendar to see if you're available and you can email me, text, or sign-up while munching on your sandwich in May. The project doesn't just provide our food banks with necessities, it teaches others, through action, to assist those in need. Thank you.

Our Chemo Bag assembly project will be held in June, with Gayle Garcia organizing things. She will provide the list of items needed, etc., at the May meeting. Club has budgeted a certain amount of funds to cover the cost of the 100 bags, but if anyone has connections to provide/donate some of the items, please talk to Gayle. This hands-on project is very heart warming, as many of us have family members and friends who have experienced Cancer. The bags we assemble are donated to City of Hope to give to patients in Chemo.

Note as of now, Civic Engagement has no one chairing the projects for the upcoming '26 -'28 term, so if anyone is interested in this position, please talk with the co-Vice Presidents, Susan and Linda.

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

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Jennifer Nummelin

Upcoming Events Info.:

MAY
Wed 06th— Lunch at Roberta's Inn, 11 a.m. 2326 D St., L.V. near Bonita. (CASH only)
Mon 11th— Gab at Mugs Coffee Roasters, 10 a.m. 2095 Foothill Blvd., L.V. near D Street.
Sun 17th— Coloring at Jody's home, 2 p.m. 712 Gaillard St., L.V. Bring your own supplies OR share ours *some of us are avid collectors (hoarders) of coloring books.
Sat 30th— Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m. * meet in the pkg lot of Norm's Hangar, at the airport. * We walk till someone gets tired…..

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.
Sat 13th— Food Drive at Stater Brother's, LV., 9-3 (sign-up sheet at mtg)
Sat 27th— Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m. *meet in the pkg lot of Norm's Hangar, at the airport. *We walk till someone gets tired…...

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

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: 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

Getting to know…

Eleonore Burress

Incoming 2026-2028 Term Chairman for
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention



Eleonore is a Charter Member, being a part of our Club from its start in 2015. She has been an active participant in our many Club projects and Social Events and is finishing her 24-26 Term on the Executive Board as Correspondence Secretary. She has served well with maintaining and relaying the club's correspondence. She also communicates with members by sending a card, whether it be for health concerns or to recognize a birthday!

Eleonore will be taking on the Chairmanship for Domestic Violence in the coming 2026-2028 Term. Some of the Projects she currently has under this Chairmanship are Crossroads, House of Ruth, Freedom Bags and Cell Phone Collections.

I'm sure she will be needing Leads and or help for several of these Projects, so please let's help and volunteer when requested!

CELEBRATE!

ANNIVERSARIES

2025 – One Year
Gonzales. Laura



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



10th Elsie Considine
22nd Patricia Llamas
23rd Lisa Gómez

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

DISTRICT NEWS

By Tami Miller

First, I need to thank Jennifer Nummelin who stepped up when needed. Whenever she shows up at a function the first thing she asks, “Can I help with anything?” At the District meeting, as usual, she asked if she could help. At the time there wasn’t anything. Later I was told one of our cheerleaders would not be attending. “Okay, where is Jennifer?” I thought, as I scanned the room. I found her.

“I need your help now Jennifer. I want you to be one of the cheerleaders.”

“But I didn’t bring my Pom-Poms!” she said laughing.

“That’s okay, I will give you one of mine.” Well, she stepped up and joined the Cheerleading Squad and was amazing.

As you remember – we have a contest going on between our 3 clubs. One Club had the Spirit we were looking for.

Congratulations to East Valley, who had the largest percentage of attendance at the last 3 events. They were presented with the perpetual “Brass Bell” symbolic of, “Team Spirit.” Let’s see if they can hold on to it for the next 3 events.

Next event is the CFWC State Convention on May 14-16 at the Ontario Airport Hotel. It doesn’t get much closer than this. Each Club member that attends, per day, will earn a point for their Club.

Club Results for the last SPIRIT AWARD:

East Valley	63%
So Cal	50%
La Verne-San Dimas	16%

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

May 28, 2026 Shoes That Fit - Contact: Donna Fuller

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

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Early dinner gathering at Legends on April 8, 2026



April 9, 2026 – Members presenting a donation at The House of Ruth

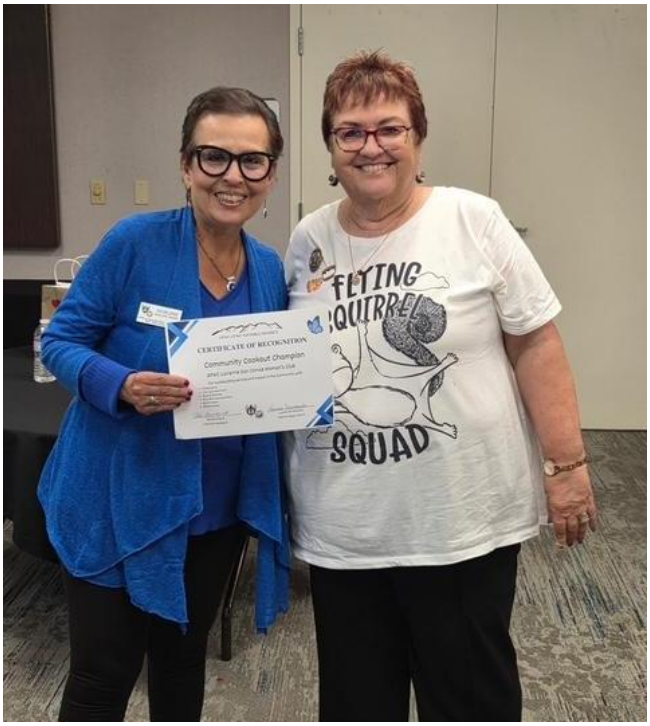


GFWC CFWC Foothill District Convention -Members showing club spirit






#1
LA
LET'S GO LA DODGERS


CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Community Cookout Champion
FLYING
SQUAD

April 13, 2026 – Brunch & Chat at Butter Cafe



General Club meeting on April 16, 2026 _Sue Herrera baked goodies for the members

