



GFWC DOMINION WOMAN'S CLUB

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

NEWS AND NOTES

October 2025

President's Corner

Welcome to our 2025-2026 club year! I hope everyone had a great summer break and had time to relax with friends and family.

We had the first meeting of the new club year on September 17th and I would like to formally thank Celeste Corrigan and Mary Ellen Murphy for conducting a remembrance ceremony for POW/MIA Recognition Day—it was a very touching ceremony and one that I hope the club will hold every year.

We have a lot planned for this club year and we're looking forward to hearing new ideas from all of you! Everyone is welcome to participate on all of our Committees and welcome to join in our volunteer activities as well. If you'd like to keep up on the Committee schedules, please note the Committee Chairs listed in this "News and Notes" and contact them to be added to their distribution lists.

Eight of our club members attended the Northern District Fall Meeting on October 5th and we had a wonderful time shopping the Fall Marketplace. Mary Ellen Murphy and Margo Kendall won some beautiful fall flower centerpieces and Rae Lamb was the big winner of the 50/50 drawing! Congrats to all who won and thanks to everyone for attending and representing our club at the meeting.

I would like to remind everyone that the current Board positions will end on June 30, 2026 so please start thinking about taking on one of the positions—serving as a club officer on the Board is a great way to lead our club forward, to learn about GFWC, and become better acquainted with all of our club members.

We are also looking for volunteers to take over the "News and Notes" publication as well the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee, currently led by Mary Ellen Murphy and Susie Collat. Committees can be led by one, two or several members so please consider taking over this dynamic Committee!

Happy Fall to all!



Messages from our Club Officers

Treasurer: Claire Szanyi

Hi all – a quick reminder that dues and pledges are due for the 25/26 club year. Please let me know if you have any questions! My email is: clairecszanyi@gmail.com



Arts and Culture Committee

Co-Chairs: Barb Garland and Robin Clukey

The Arts and Culture Committee is planning the following events and activities:

November 5th at 1:30PM Abbie Palmer Celtic Harp matinee performance at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

December 3rd at 2:00PM Haymarket Gainesville Library - holiday card making to donate to the Heritage Village residents

January TBD

February: Sushi demo at Lisa Dunn's home - date and time TBD

March 8th: at 2:00PM Fauquier Theater - Calendar Girls

April 16th : time TBD Byrne Gallery in Middleburg and lunch locally.

May: date and time TBD Crossroad Art Connection or ART factory in Manassas



Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee

Co-Chairs: Mary Ellen Murphy and Susie Collat

The Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee's kick-off project for each club year is our "Purple Posies" project, which highlights the need to make information available for getting help to victims of domestic abuse. On September 18th, members of the Committee met at the Bull Run Regional library's Maker Space to paint clay pots purple (the signature color for domestic abuse awareness), to decorate them and to plant them with purple mums. The display included information on recognizing what behaviors or actions can be considered abusive as well as phone numbers for helplines to report abuse or to receive assistance. The completed "Purple Posies" were then distributed by Committee members to areas that might be easily available to those needing help: local salons, doctor's offices, the ER, libraries, supermarkets and churches. We also had two guests who joined us for the activity.



In October, we will celebrate our local first responders who will be gifted with trays of home baked treats to recognize their selfless service to the community. Members will meet to assemble the trays, wrap them and top them with a beautiful bow and thank you note. Volunteers will then deliver them to the Prince William County Western District and Haymarket police stations, local firefighters and the Heathcote Hospital Emergency Room.

Our mid-November outreach is the “Holiday Baskets for Homebound Seniors,” an annual event held at the home of Susie Collat. Members will fill holiday themed baskets with personal care items, word puzzles and sudoku books, playing cards, candies, warm socks, a soft blanket, snow globes and holiday decorations. A festive luncheon will be served courtesy of our hostess and Committee Co-Chair. After wrapping and decorating the baskets, the Co-Chairs will deliver them to “Volunteer Prince William” who will see that they are given to needy senior citizens and veterans.



Education and Libraries Committee

Co-Chairs: Sharayu Tulpule and Laura Hyer

On Friday September 19th, five members of the Education & Libraries Committee were involved in distributing a book to EVERY child enrolled at Ellis Elementary School, a Title One school in Manassas. Since Scholastic Books partners with DWC and generously offers us a reduced rate on selected books, we combine our outreach with Scholastic’s Book Fair. Our members assist the students with helping them to prepare a list of selected books to take home to discuss with their parents, who will then be invited to a viewing at the school library. After the children prepare their wish lists they are invited to come and select a book appropriate to their age and ability to keep for their very own; smiles abound and a chorus of “thank you’s” ring out as the children return to their classrooms!



Environment Committee

Chair: Heather Young

The Environment Committee is pleased to start the club year sponsoring events for two of the local organizations we currently support. On September 20th we sponsored and hosted a table at the Fall Festival at Leopold's Preserve. It was a lovely day for an outdoor festival. We enjoyed sharing information about our committee and Dominion Woman's Club with several ladies who visited our table. We had a fun game and prizes for the kids that attended. The festival presenters were grateful for our support. Many thanks to Barbara Murray and Gale Goodwin for their help at our table throughout the day.



October 3rd we were sponsors at the Paws and Prosecco event for Friends of Homeless Animals (FOHA) and two members attended. This was their biggest fundraising event of the year. The funds raised will help them continue to provide food, shelter and medical care for the many pets they assist in finding permanent, loving homes for. We are delighted to be able to support them.



Health and Wellness Committee

Co-Chairs: Lisa Dunn and Donne Howell

The Health and Wellness Committee sprang back into action after their September 3rd, 2025 meeting with new Co-Chairs, Lisa Dunn and Donne Howell. The committee members enjoyed a heart healthy lunch while attending a brief business meeting centered around the year's budget and activities for the next few months.

At the Boxes of Basics Pickle Ball Tournament on September 6th, both Outgoing Co-Chairs: Barbara Murray and Sue Mork joined current Co-Chair, Lisa Dunn to represent DWC as a sponsor of this event.

On September 12th, the Committee opened their apple picking activity to the entire club. Fun was had by all and afterwards, members had lunch at "The Apple House" in Linden, VA.



In October, Committee members will assist with activities at the Heritage Village Assisted Living and Memory Care facility. Committee members will also join other DWC members in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 11th.

On October 23rd, Committee members will volunteer at Crossroads Connection.



Events Committee

Co-Chairs: Barb Garland and Connie Loggans

The Events Committee met to discuss social events for the year as well as our fundraising initiatives. It was decided that we would continue arranging International Dinners alternatively with Movie/Dinner Nights on the first Thursday of the month (however there will be two dinners on the second Thursday of the month due to holidays).

If you have signed up to be on the email list for International Dinners and/or Movie/Dinner Nights, you will receive an email shortly confirming the dates of these events during the 2025-2026 club year. If you have not signed up to be included on the email lists, please let Connie Loggans or Barb Garland know.

Other events planned before the end of 2025 are a gathering at Quattro Gumbo on Friday, October 24th and a Game Night on November 13th. You do not need to sign up for the winery but you do need to let Barb Garland know if you are interested in Game Night and did not sign up at the meeting.

It was also decided that we would not hold Bunco as a fundraiser this year; instead we will be having a Bingo fundraiser in January. We will be meeting on Monday, October 20th at Rosemary Boettke's home to organize the Bingo fundraiser.



The Dominion Juniores Club

President: Ivana Vettickal

Facilitator: Yubo Zhang

Newsletter Editor: Kaitlyn Schumacher

No updates at this time.

Club Essentials

GFWC Dominion Woman's Club 2025 – 2026 Executive Board

President – Nora Peterson

1st Vice President – Laura Hyer

2nd Vice President – Vacant

Corresponding Secretary – Elizabeth Laverty

Recording Secretary – Joi Canavan

Treasurer – Claire Szanyi

Parliamentarian – Diane Lewan

GFWC Dominion Woman's Club

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Dominion Woman's Club Website www.dominionwomansclub.org

Dominion Woman's Club email address DWCPresidentmail@gmail.com

Facebook Page: GFWC DOMINION WOMAN'S CLUB

Instagram Page: gfwc_dominion_womans_club

Non-Profit Member: Prince William Chamber of Commerce www.pwchamber.org
Non-Profit Member: Haymarket Gainesville Business Association www.HGBA.org
General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) www.gfwc.org
GFWC Virginia www.gfwcvirginia.org
Northern District of GFWC Virginia www.ndgfwcva.org

Club Calendar

October 2025

- 15 - DWC Monthly Meeting at Dominion Valley Country Club, Social time at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM
- 18 - Environment Committee - Animal Education & Rescue Organization (AERO) fundraising event
- 20 - Events Committee meeting - Rosemary Boettke's home, 7:00 PM
- 21 - Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee - Treats for First Responders – Drop baked items at Susan Sivori's home
- 22 - Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee - Treats for First Responders - Delivery of trays
- 22 - Education and Libraries Committee - Book Club, 7:00 PM
(<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/5964273/meetings>)
- 23 - Health & Wellness Committee - Crossroads Connection, 14241 John Marshall Hwy, Gainesville, 6:00PM - 7:30 PM
- 23-26 GFWC Southeastern Region Conference, Roanoke, VA
- 24 - Environment Committee - BRMC Halloween Safari at Leopold's Preserve, time TBD
- 24 - Events Committee - Gathering at Quattro Goombas, 4:00 PM
- 31 - Education and Libraries Committee - PACE West School, Fall Festival, time TBD

November 2025

- 3 - Education and Libraries Committee meeting - location & time TBD
- 5 - Arts and Culture Committee – Abbie Palmer, Celtic harp concert at Hylton Performing Arts at 1:30 PM
- 5 - Health and Wellness Committee - meeting at Lisa Dunn's home, 7:00 PM, RSVP by October 30th
- 6 - Events Committee - Movie and Dinner Night, TBD
- 10 - Health and Wellness Committee - Boxes of Basics (BOB), 9239 Mike Garcia Drive, Manassas at 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM
- 13 - Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee - Holiday Baskets for Homebound Seniors & luncheon at Susie Collat's home, 11:30 AM followed by lunch.
- 13 - Events Committee – Game Night, time and location TBD
- 19 - DWC Monthly Meeting at Dominion Valley Country Club - Social time 6:30 / Meeting starts 7:00 PM
- 24 - PACE West Harvest Feast, time TBD
- 27 - Thanksgiving Day

Collections/Recycling

Used batteries – Sharayu Tulpule
Aluminum pop-tops – Yubo Zhang
Canceled Postage Stamps – Vanna Ruffner
Large Paper Bags with Handles (for FOHA's Treasure Hound Resale Shop) – Nora Peterson
McKay's Used Books credit slips– Rosemary Boettke
Haymarket Food Pantry – Elizabeth Laverty
Crossroads Connection – Lisa Dunn & Donne Howell
Dollars for Doggies (Canine Companions for Independence) – Mary Ellen Murphy

Diane Lewan and Nora Peterson Co-Editors