

Oriental Woman's Club (OWC) Executive Meeting Minutes February 27, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Blackmon at 10:30 a.m. Officers present were President, Ellen Blackmon; Co-Secretaries, Marguerite Garrett and Jody Riddle; and Treasurers, Jean Chastang and Elizabeth Tooley. Also present: Jennifer Walsh, Gay Webster, Linda Caroon, Sally Farrell, Maryellen Bickel, Carol Young, Lee Duer, Susan Van Meter, and Sharon Morgan. A quorum was present.

Minutes from the last Executive (EC) Meeting have been read, approved, and accepted for file. Volunteers to read this meeting's minutes are: Carol Young, Maryellen Bickel, and Gay Webster

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Tooley noted that she has condensed the Income/Expense report to make it more easily understood. The books are up to date through January with all bills paid.

Audit Committee: Sharon Morgan will chair and convene the committee in April/May.

Oriental's 125th Birthday Celebration: Olga Herman was not present to update the EC. Jean Chastang fielded questions regarding the schedule of events and times.

Chowder Cookoff: Julie Wiegand was not present, but others stated that pretty much everything was ready to go. The ballots will be printed with the Oriental Woman's Club information on the back to better explain our purpose to others.

New Business:

- Item for consideration: Change the name of the Garden Club to the Garden Program. Jody Riddle made the motion with Marguerite Garrett making the second. After discussion which included making it known that the Garden Program is just that, a program within the OWC, not a stand-alone group. The motion passed.
- Item for consideration: Modernize Home Life to Community Life as this better captures the OWC mission. Gay Webster made the motion with Carol Young making the second. The motion passed.
- The Caring Cycle is a program started by two sisters at PCHS to provide period products. Their program has been highlighted on a local news

station and on Facebook. Should we get involved and how without financial donations? We will follow up at the March meeting.

- It was noted that there is very little for tweens, teens, and young adults to do in the county. The trivia nights should be intergenerational to offer a fun activity to the community.

Program and Activity Reports:

Arts – History from last month: it was proposed that the December potluck luncheon proceeds will go to Student Art. This will involve changes to the Standing Rules and must be voted on by the entire membership. The president will make the announcement from the podium at the next General Meeting. Liz Tooley made the motion with Jody Riddle making the second. The motion didn't pass, so it was decided that Maryellen and Carol will bring back suggestions at the next EC meeting for further consideration. For consideration: Maryellen Bickel and Carol Young shared that the Standing Rules, Education Committee Duties needs to 1) strike the Sallie Southall Cotton Scholarship in that the OWC does not offer this scholarship. It remains in the Standing Rules from when the OWC was part of the Federation. 2) Education Program Chair #8 be changed to read, "Organizes the December luncheon in coordination with the December Hostess Manger. Strike the remainder of the sentence which reads (as a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund.). This should resolve the issue as this is the only Standing Rule with funding direction.

Education –

Scholarship - Susan Van Meter shared that all materials have been updated and the schools have been contacted. Scholarship applicant interviews will begin in early May before the school awards ceremonies.

Building Maintenance - Sally Farrell stated that the exterior doors need to be checked before leaving. The main doors were found open. Thanks to Marguerite (our local handyperson) for the kitchen faucet repair. The faucet will need to be replaced as this as a temporary fix.

Community Life - Gay Webster informed the group of plans to fill the Easter Bags at the March General meeting. The next Blood Drive is April 5th.

Cemetery - Linda Caroon notified the group that donations are accepted toward maintenance. She does still receive donations periodically. The annual envelopes will be mailed in May.

Ladies Of the Neuse - Marguerite Garrett shared that the group still meets on an as needed basis. Chowder Cookoff hats will be constructed after the General Meeting.

Please stick around to help.

Garden Club – The group still does not have a chair. Joyce has agreed to stay on through the first quarter but was unable to attend today’s meeting. **An announcement will be made at the General Meeting that a chairman is needed as well as the fact that the Road Clean-up is a club project not just the garden club’s responsibility.** The next road cleanup is scheduled for April 3rd.

Membership - Sharon Morgan plans to finish the new roster for release soon.

Hostess - Gay Webster still needs volunteers. September, October, and November still have vacancies.

Newsletter - All news needs to be to Jean Chastang by EOD on the Thursday prior to the next General Meeting of each month. Each program should submit a brief blurb.

Year Book – Jean Chastang informed the body that the website was up to date and any edits need to be forwarded to her.

Announcements:

Respectfully submitted by Marguerite Garrett and Jody Riddle