

# Oriental Woman's Club

## General Meeting – February 6, 2024

Officers in attendance: Ellen Blackmon, President, Marguerite Garrett, Co-Secretary  
1:30 PM – Ellen Blackmon called the meeting to order.

Ellen Blackmon read the Club Vision to remind us of our mission to make a difference in our community. She then pointed to the Student Art Show as an excellent example of that and encouraged us to spread the word that one of the things we do is serve our students and teachers.

Ellen then quoted from JF Kennedy: “We must find the time to stop and thank the people who made a difference in our lives. She then asked the 2023 Officers, Program Chairs and Activity Leaders to please stand. Once they were standing, Ellen asked us to thank these women who made 2023 a successful year.

Miss Fay led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Marguerite Garrett read her message from January 2024 to kick off the New Year. She then introduced an interactive project to increase awareness of gratitude and kindness. Two trees to be filled with leaves upon which are written something one is grateful for and the other to indicate acts of kindness.

Speakers: Kristin Willis, Stephanie Griffin and intern Carly, all from the American Red Cross, They appreciate our partnering with them as their locale every 56 days and encouraged us to spread the word, Amazingly, Pamlico, Craven and Carteret combined donate more blood than much larger areas such as Norfolk and Richmond VA. Blood is the one of the few things they cannot recreate so all blood that is needed must be donated. The dire need for continuous donations was greatly stressed.

### General Meeting:

Minutes of the previous General Meeting have been read, approved accepted for file and posted.  
Gay Webster, Maryellen Bickel and Jody Riddle volunteered to read and approve the February minutes.

The Treasurer's Report for the previous month has been accepted for file and posted.

A request was made to please use the microphone at the podium when sharing information.

Thank you to today's hostesses Jennifer Walsh and Jody Riddle

Sharon Morgan, nominating committee, asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Treasurer. When none were received, Liz Tooley was proposed, a member vote was taken and it was all in favor. Congratulations to Liz!

Thank you to Sharon Morgan for taking on the Membership Report. Birthdays were announced for January and February and the traditional HB was sung.

New Members: Kim Hutchins, Michele Rodriguez, Nancy Liu and Pat Thorne were warmly welcomed, along with visitor, Faith Cameron.

### Program Reports

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Arts & Education: Maryellen reported that at least 405 people attended the student arts festival! The kids were especially pleased to see their art work displayed and ribbons!!! Thanks to Carol McAdoo for organizing a beautiful table of snacks and punch for all to enjoy.

Education: Maryellen reported they are still collected clothing (or money they will use to purchase items) for the school nurse's closet. This clothing is used when a child gets sick and needs a change of clothing.

Garden Club: Joyce will remain Chair until March. Linda Parker will coordinate Yard of the Month

Home Life: Gay asked for volunteers to help with hosting the American Red Cross Blood Drive on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ladies of the Neuse: Marguerite brought in example of Croaker Trophy. She asked members to continue to save laundry detergent bottles for this project. She indicated after the March general meeting, she would have supplies there to start work on Croaker Trophies and Croaker hats. A change in the luminary night was announced to be the first Saturday in June, 2024. Jim Roberts has been contacted and will be volunteering to launch the luminaries.

Building Maintenance: Sally has agreed to stay on as chair for another year and will need Monday girls to sign up.

### New Business:

Inclement weather policy. We will follow the Pamlico County School's schedule. If they are closing early or closing for the day – no meeting. If there is a delayed start, there will be a meeting

Oriental's 125<sup>th</sup> celebration will be March 1-3 (Friday – Sunday). Olga will chair any event to be held at the building and will need a committee

Chowder Cook off: Julie will chair but needs a committee. The event is March 16<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 p.m. At this time there are 4 restaurants and 2 small businesses registered.

Hostesses are still needed for some general meetings. Sign up sheets on tables in back.

Ken Gilbert spoke to us about the possibility of hosting a Trivia Night as an ongoing fundraiser. Ken talked of his experiences participating and suggested ways that it could become an 'easy' and fun way to bring people to the club and raise money at the same time.

Next EC Meeting is Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10 a.m.

March meeting will be Tuesday, March 5, 2024 @ 1:30. Social time starts @ 1 p.m.

Speaker for that meeting will be Captain Jim Holley, owner of the World Wide Marine Institute, and he will discuss what to do should a boating emergency occurs while you are aboard.

2:30 meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Marguerite Garrett