



Atlanta Woman's Club



Member, Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)
General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

1150 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309 Telephone 404-870-8833
Website: www.atlwc.org
Editor: Billie Harris

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Everyone! As we begin our new year and embark on new beginnings, I recall a message that one of my former co-workers/activist, Nikki Noto wrote on her blog and I'd like to share it with you. As we begin the New Year, AWC receives tons of email inquiries from women who are newly inspired to make a difference and join our club. I'm sure many of us are wondering how we can be a part of real change in our communities. How do we use our unique gifts and talents to make an impact and to be a part of something greater than ourselves? Our schedules are busy, our time is finite, and the demands of everyday life seem to place a barrier between our current life status and our greater selves. I truly believe most people want to be a part of important causes and movements, but they are waiting for someone to ask. So, how will you respond when the opportunity comes knocking? Here are a few ways you can be the change instead of waiting for the change.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

1. Connect. Nothing happens in isolation, and life is certainly better when we are connected within a community. Many of us have ideas but keep them to ourselves. No one does anything truly by themselves, and the greatest change comes about when people come together and share ideas. I encourage you to connect with our committee chairs and share your ideas. When connected within a community such as AWC, you will find other like-minded people who care about the issues that you are passionate about. This year, take a risk, ask your friends, colleagues, neighbors, or networking group members what they do to be of service, and invite them to an AWC meeting, our 1st VP Tonya Watson loves to meet new people! Don't be afraid to try something new or attend a meeting for a cause you don't know much about. You might find that the right opportunity was there all the time. Life is certainly better connected!!

2. Think big, start small. It takes just as much energy to dream big as it does to dream small, and a grand vision is essential to achieving great things. However, it is easy to get lost in a big idea and not know where to begin. Here comes that part about connecting and community again – within AWC we've learned that it takes a village to truly make an impact. But that doesn't keep us from dreaming the impossible dream – that is why this club exists. All we need to do is break it down into smaller action steps to get you there. Breaking down that dream into bite-sized tasks, and a small step becomes a giant leap. (And might I suggest bringing a friend in on the action? – Did I mention that our 1st VP loves to meet new friends?)

3. Use what you've got. As we go through our everyday lives we often lose sight of the things that we have of value that can help others. It often takes a look from the outside in to remember what we have that is special to give, or what gives us an advantage that makes us an important part of a team that is working to achieve a goal for a cause. Some of us have time to offer, others have financial resources, and some of us have special skills that we can share. Not

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

everyone can make a donation, attend committee meetings every week, show up and volunteer on the day of an event, or donate goods or services from their business, but most of us can do one or more of those things. Evaluate what you've got, and give from what you have.

4. Be who you are. I'm sure you've heard this statement from your grandparents or parents "Do what you love, and the rest will come together." There's nothing magical about that statement – doing what you love also means that you put in the sweat and tears to see your dreams come together. But when you are passionate about a goal or a cause, you are likely to have the drive and stamina to see that come together. You will also feel alive and most like your authentic self. This mantra is true for finding a place of giving that is authentic. What really gets you going, inspires you, upsets you, keeps you up at night, makes you think, and makes you really want to change something? Move in that direction, and make yourself willing and able to be of service. Not every cause is for every person, but there is a cause that will fit with what truly makes you passionate.

5. Seek the opportunity. Here comes the hard part. Opportunity doesn't always come knocking at your front door. Sometimes it's at the window or down the street, and sometimes you'll have to leave your comfort zone altogether to find it. The key is to put yourself out there if you really want to make a difference, and stay open to new possibilities for doing good in the world. If you do the same thing, you'll get the same results. If you're feeling burned out from the same old charity work that you've been doing, perhaps you need a new direction and a new spark. If you go through your day of work, home, family, gym, rinse, repeat and you're not finding meaning and purpose, it's time to get up, look around, and find opportunity instead of waiting for that knock on the door. The value, purpose, and connection you will find are worth the effort. Why are you waiting? It's a New Year - The world needs you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

I look forward to seeing all of you at our January 9th meeting.

Happy New Year!!

Cimi Douglass

GFWC President 2016-18



MEMBERSHIP

Tonya S. Watson

1st Vice President, Membership

Email: tonyaswatson@gmail.com

Welcome New Members! AWC welcomed two new members. Below please find their bios. As always, it's very important to learn as much as you can about AWC's new members in an effort to get them involved in AWC service projects right away. "Involve, Engage & Connect!"



Chelsea Tench is the Atlanta community engagement associate for the Savannah College of Art and Design, the most revered and comprehensive art and design university in the world. Prior to SCAD, Chelsea worked across various creative industries including magazine design, journalism and public relations. During her time as a PR specialist, she represented nationally-recognized clients including Ponce City Market and Fifth Group Restaurants. Her written pieces have been published in national fashion magazines as well as more regional publications, with readerships totaling more than 500,000. An avid artist herself, Chelsea has exhibited her work at art shows in both Atlanta and Nashville, and her never-ending passion for art continues to fuel her involvement in local artistic communities across the Southeast. Chelsea volunteers for the local Atlanta chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). When she's not running around Atlanta cultivating relationships in the community, you can typically find Chelsea at her Dunwoody townhouse

painting on her sun porch, watching BBC crime shows, cheering for her alma mater's football team (Go Dawgs!), baking or playing with her Dachshund-Yorkie (a.k.a. Dorkie) pup, Donut.



It all began with three passions: art, children, and helping others. After receiving a General Fine Arts degree from the distinguished Maryland Institute, College of Art, Jennie Lobato, the founder and CEO of drawchange, proceeded to work in the Advertising industry for 10 years. After about 6 years in her advertising career she realized that her passion had evolved and she desired to help others. Contemplating on what her passions in life were, she took the leap and started drawchange, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that aids impoverished children through the use of art. About to embark its eighth year, drawchange continues to be a beacon of hope for children both overseas and in the U.S. Jennie lives her truth and passion every day through drawchange and is loving every minute of it!

ARTS

Our regularly scheduled volunteer day and time will resume with drawchange this month on **Monday, Jan. 23rd**. We will once again begin assisting the children at the local shelter with their art therapy projects. It's all about the journey through their art projects, not the outcome. An art background is not required to volunteer. The only requirements are care and encouragement. If this project is of interest to you, please contact me via email to schedule the month you'd like to volunteer. Only 3 volunteer spaces are available for AWC per month. There will also be a sign up sheet at our general meeting.

All members interested in entering the Arts contest are encouraged to prepare to submit your artwork no later than Jan. 9th at the general meeting. More information about the competition and guidelines can be found at www.gfwcgeorgiaartscsp.weebly.com



On **Tues. Dec. 20th at 12noon**, Arts visited the NO LIMITS exhibit sponsored by VSA (Very Special Arts) Georgia. VSA Georgia provides access to the arts for people with disabilities. This exhibit displayed the work of these artists, and is a free exhibit. We were personally welcomed by VSA Georgia's Executive Director Jaehn Clare upon our arrival.

Arts CSP is proud to announce its very first time participating in Lanta Gras. Lanta Gras is a Mardi Gras parade with purpose. Their mission is to build community and provide opportunities for children through the common bond of music. Lanta Gras, influenced by the Brass Band culture built in New Orleans, is a non-profit organization that recognizes the power of a brass band, and indeed of music, to promote collaboration and unify all walks of life. Their goal is to establish a program to provide brass and percussion musical instruction to middle school and high school children within the historic Atlanta neighborhoods. Lanta Gras hopes to outfit and foster local Brass Bands, highlighting children at festivals, events and parades throughout Atlanta. Many youth in this community have been marginalized by poverty and diminished opportunities for enrichment in the arts. This program will provide children with an appreciation for musical culture and increase their pathways for success. This wealth of talent is eager to cultivate music mentorship for future generations. I will be attending an info session on Jan. 7th. A brief meeting with all members who sign up to participate will be held after the General meeting on Jan. 9th. The Lanta Gras parade will be on Saturday, Jan. 28th at 12noon in Kirkwood. Details will be provided at the meeting.

If there are any members who are interested in becoming part of the Arts CSP please let me know at our Jan. 9th meeting. There will be a sign up sheet for drawchange, Lanta Gras, and for members who are interested in joining the Arts CSP on the back table. I'd love to have you join me in making a difference in the lives of others through the amazing world of Art!

Billie Harris, Art CSP Chair

hawcinc@live.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elections for Nominating Committee will be held at January Meeting.

At the January meeting we will host elections for the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee. During the business section, Ruth Yurchuck, Chair of the current nominating committee will ask for nominations from the floor. According to our Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall consist of four (4) members, two (2) alternates and the Parliamentarian or Parliamentary Advisor. Meeting in odd years, they shall be elected at the General Meeting in **January** to serve for a term of two (2) years. The Committee shall meet as early as possible after its election, elect a chair, and prepare a slate of officers and trustees for presentation at the regular meeting in March....”

The members of the nominating committee have a tremendous influence on the future of our Club and should be carefully selected. Nominating committee members are viewed as wise, tactful, persuasive, and as having broad acquaintance with the AWC, its membership, GFWC Georgia, GFWC. Members of the nominating committee should be elected on merit and ability – never on popularity.

The charge of the nominating committee is to recognize and recruit the most qualified people available for elected Club positions. Having qualified people step into leadership positions in our Club or at the district and state level will ensure our success for many years into the future. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission.

As a member driven organization, members of the nominating committee must be elected by our membership. Committee work includes holding confidential meetings, reviewing nominations, and searching for the best qualified candidates for leadership roles in our Club.

When seeking candidates for our nominating committee, we look for people with tact, integrity, discretion, and the ability to stand up for what they believe in, courage to express ideas and to defend one’s convictions, sound judgment and skill in evaluating possible nominees, knowledge of the AWC’s goals, general knowledge of potential candidates’ qualifications and abilities. Confidentiality is required, as committee members will hold honest discussions and must agree to announce only the names of the nominees, not the conversation around those choices or the names that were considered but not submitted for nomination.

Being a member of this committee is an honor given by our members because they believe in your judgment and are confident you will keep the best interests of your association at the forefront.

To be eligible you must be a member in good standing, all dues must be current and you should be active with AWC. If you have not paid your dues, you can do so by bringing in your check to the Jan. meeting or logging in to our website www.atlwc.org, click donate and follow the prompts.

I sincerely thank the current nominating committee members, Ruth Yurchuck, Renee Sanders, Madelyn Pavon Suriel, Billie Harris and Myra Carmon for their dedication and service as our 2015-2017 Nominating Committee. Below are a few FAQ’s for your reference.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

FAQ's about Nominating Committee Elections:

When is the Nominating Committee appointed? (January)

The Nominating Committee is not appointed. It is elected by the membership. Once they are elected, they meet and decide upon the Chair of the Committee.

When is the nominating committee elected?

Elected in January of odd years Bylaws Article X Section 1

When does this happen?

In January, the President calls upon the Chair of the Nominating Committee to conduct the election of the new Nominating Committee. The membership then elected four (4) members and two (2) alternates. A third (3rd) alternate was also elected. No officers or elected Trustees are allowed to serve on the Committee. The Parliamentary advisor serves on the Committee to make sure the process is being conducted according to the bylaws.

How long does the Nominating Committee serve?

Two (2) years

What is the purpose of the Nominating Committee?

This committee is elected to seek, on behalf of the members, the best qualified candidates for future leaders of our Club. Election by the membership to the nominating committee is a very high honor. This is the one committee on which the president is not ex officio a member.

What is the duty of the nominating committee?

The responsibility of the committee is to identify, recruit and nominate the best qualified candidate(s) for each elected position. To do this, the committee members must be committed to Club; be willing to invest time to make it the best possible association; and be capable of holding candid discussions about the potential nominees, knowing that all conversations are confidential.

Can you be a nominee for office if you are on the nominating committee?

Yes. Being a member of the nominating committee does not preclude you from consideration as a nominee for another office. However, individuals being considered for a position should be excused from any discussion regarding that position, and the remaining nominating committee members will decide whose name to put forward. The fact that a member of the nominating committee did not participate in the discussion of one or more positions should be included in the nominating committee report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

Can I vote via email and/or electronic voting?

A: No.

I'm not able to attend on the date of the elections, can I give a proxy vote via another member?

No. All members in good standing must be present to vote.

Can we nominate from the Floor?

In January, we will nominate from the floor. Every qualified person has the right to be nominated from the floor in the event she wants to. The choice of who is elected rests, as always, with the members. In order to run for election, the candidates must meet AWC's criteria.

Where can I find more information?

AWC Bylaws

Article V Officers - Section 2. Qualifications and Restrictions, Section 3. Term of Office, Section 6. Duties of Officers A-G

Article VII Board of Trustees - Section 1. Composition, Section 2. Qualifications and Restrictions, Section 3 Officers, Section 4. Duties A-G

Article X Nominations and Elections - All sections

AWC Standing Rules

Article VI Nominations and Elections – All Sections

ATLANTA WOMAN'S CLUB ROSTER OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Cimi Douglass, President
Tonya Watson, 1st Vice President
Jo Dee Gonzalez, 2nd Vice President
Sarah June McDavid, Recording Secretary
LaTonya Jordan, Treasurer
Penny Blackford, Assistant Treasurer
Ruth Yurchuck, Corresponding Secretary
Donna Foland, Parliamentarian

Board of Trustees

Karen Bacheller, Chair (2016-2018)
Karen Clydesdale, Co-Chair (2016-2018)
Cimi Douglass, President/Budget Committee (2016-2018)
Tonya Watson, 1st VP (2016-2018)
LaTonya Jordan, Treasurer/Budget Committee (2016-2018)
Penny Blackford, Asst. Treasure/Budget Committee (2016-2018)
Lisa Banes, Secretary (2015-2017)
Karen Thomson (2015-2017)
Donna Foland, Parliamentarian (2016-2018)

Community Service Program Chairs

Jo Dee Gonzalez, Dean of Community Service Programs
Billie Harris, Arts
Karen Johnson, Conservation
Donna Foland, Education
Connie Morris, Home Life
Pat Walsh, International Outreach
Beth Jetha, Public Issues

Committee Chairs

Judine Heard, President's Advisor
Sarah Helen Kilgore, Historian
Leigh Reynolds, Women's History
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School
Myra Carmon, 1734 Society/GFWC Liaison
Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/LEADS
Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club
Karen Johnson, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance
Page Henry, Domestic Violence (GFWC & GFWC GA Special Project)
Ruth Yurchuck, Nominating Committee
Elizabeth Byrd, Website
Lisa Banes, Marketing/Public Relations
Judy Reece, Member Events/Bridge
Britton Rogers, Social Outreach & Social Media
Susan Fagan, Weekly Bulletin
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor