



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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February 2021 Issue

Hello my fellow AWC members,

Well we have all survived the first part of this new year, including the GFWC reporting "season", and we are now slipping into February. As most of you know, besides celebrating Valentine's Day with our loved ones, we also must recognize that February is American Heart Month, which focuses on the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative, Go Red for Women. This initiative was designed to raise women's heart health awareness, and to hopefully improve the lives of women globally.



The Atlanta Woman's Club has traditionally honored this cause by wearing red at our February General Membership meeting. This year it falls on the 8th and you should have the information by now. Whether you have an entire outfit of red, a hat, or just a pair of socks, show it all off proudly. Someone will grab screenshots of the group, screen by screen, showing all of us decked out in our crimson, and post them all on social media! Let's go Atlanta Woman's Club!

I mentioned at the beginning of this message that the CSP and committee chairs happily survived the reporting "season" once again. Miss Penny Blackford was a great mentor as she willingly helped any of those who needed it, during the sometimes overwhelming and confusing process. I was so impressed with how organized everyone was, patient, and willing to listen and learn as they went along. The best part is however, that next year will be so much easier! Proper record keeping is the key and we all have our own methods of doing so. Whatever works for you is great!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Once again, many, many thanks to all for your dedication and love for this club and your fellow members. Award winners or not, (we will find out soon), I know everyone did their very best and that makes everyone a winner.

I look forward to seeing everyone in their red, and I wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day!

~~Jo Dee

Jo Dee Gonzalez, AWC President 2020-2022



AWC MEMBER RECOGNITION: OVER 15 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to members with more than 15 years of membership:

Karen McDonald, Past President	19 years
Renee Merback	19 years
Bobbie Kraus	18 years
Pat Walsh	18 years
Barbara Culmer-ILaw	17 years
Judine Heard, Past President	16 years
Beth Jetha	16 years
Reba Morrison	16 years

Submitted by Connie Morris, 1st VP, Membership

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

The Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee was actively engaged in the Georgia Justice Project (GJP) holiday activities. We assisted with stuffing over 100 bags, made in-kind donations, and made a financial contribution to support clients and their families severely impacted by the economic crises caused by the ongoing COVID-19 during the holiday season. The GJP is a non-profit agency that strengthens the community by providing a second chance for individuals in the criminal justice system and reduce barriers to reentry. This Holiday Pop-Up Drive By was a first for GJP.



Darlene Kimes, Chair
Amber Hahn, Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIP



Dr. Regina Wagner Merriwether received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Clark Atlanta University, her Master's in Secondary Mathematics Education from Georgia State University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Tennessee State University.

She has more than thirty years of experience in education. She taught Mathematics and Science and served as an Assistant Principal of Instruction, a Manager of Instructional Technology, and a Principal of traditional high schools and an online school. She has served as the Department Chair for Undergraduate Studies for an Online University. She is also an entrepreneur and a co-owner of a UPS store.

She has conducted research and presented at numerous conferences on the concepts of the brain, teaching, and learning. She is a published author, a wife, the mother of two children, and a devout Christian.

Skills: Excellent verbal and written communication skills, presentation skills, organizational skills, and the ability to work well with others

Why I would like to be reinstate my membership:

Dr. Martin Luther King, once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is" What are you doing for others?" My life's work as an educator has been answering this question. I have for over thirty years in a meaningful and specific way not only helped shape the lives of individuals but also helped them ascertain their life goals. In my retirement it continues to be my sincere goal to broaden my ability to help others. Therefore, by rejoining the Atlanta Women's Club, one of the oldest non-profit organization whose volunteer service and commitment to the community has been proven I would be able to fulfill my life's mission. I would also be given the unique ability to be part of a group of diverse civil service-minded professional women who are diligently working toward a common goal "service."

Connie Morris, 1st VP, Membership

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: AWC ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

The Club is starting the nominating process for next term's Board of Trustees. Two members will be elected; a candidate must have been a member of the Club for two years with regular attendance.

These new Board of Trustees members will be voted on in March either at our March meeting or by electronic vote immediately afterwards. The newly elected Board of Trustees members will be installed at the May general meeting and will serve a two-year term.

Please give serious thought to members who you believe would be good candidates and share your suggestions with the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: AWC ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS CONT'D

Please send your candidate suggestions via email to events@atlwc.org. If you are interested in serving, please express your interest via email to events@atlwc.org as well.

Duties of the Board of Trustees from the proposed Bylaws are below. Duties are included in Article VII of the current bylaws and Article VI of the proposed bylaws. Current and proposed bylaws can be found on the AWC website under the Member Resources tab / Internal Resources section.

The Nominating Committee will post nominations electronically to the membership and at the Wimbish House no later than February 26. The Nominating Committee is composed of Judy Reece (Chair), Beth Jetha (Parliamentarian), Britton Rogers, Jennie Lobato (Alternate), Karen Clydesdale (Alternate), Kelly Feyock, and Ursula Reynolds.

From Article VI – Board of Trustees (Proposed Bylaws)

Section 5 – Duties

The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be to:

1. Supervise and direct property and finances of the Club and its facilities. The Club holds title to the property of The Atlanta Woman's Club, also known as The Wimbish House (clubhouse), at 1150 Peachtree Street NE and 1150-B Peachtree Street NE.

2. Direct all agreements and contracts made on behalf of or in the name of the Club for management, use and upkeep of the facility.

3. Maintain clubhouse property and grounds.

4. Negotiate loans and leases.

5. Notify Executive Board and general membership of major improvements, repairs, or loans.

6. Develop and maintain job descriptions for persons employed by the Board of Trustees. These job descriptions must be kept on file in the clubhouse and should include necessary skills and duties for each position.

7. Chair and co-chair of Board of Trustees serve on the Budget Committee.

8. Chair of Board of Trustees signs checks in accordance with Article XI, Section 5

Nominating Committee

ENVIRONMENT



The Environment Community Service Program (CSP) partnered with Trees Atlanta again to plant trees on January 23rd, 2021, from 9a-12p. This time our team planted 5 trees in Piedmont Park.

It was a beautiful sunny day in the Park. People were jogging, doing exercises, walking their dogs, flying drones instead of kites, sitting on the grass and benches soaking up the warmth of the sun's rays. Page Henry, Environment Chair, Jennie Lobato and Penny Blackford gathered with approximately 30 other volunteers to watch a demonstration on how to plant a tree properly, broke into teams, then picked up our tools and fol-

lowed our leader to where we were to plant trees. After we arrived at our first destination we split up and followed another person to where we were to go. Regrettably, the other person did not know where he was going and Jennie and I who were walking more slowly than Page and the others ended up getting separated from the rest of the party or lost. See Jennie under the signpost? This is the picture we sent to Page who came to our rescue. All was not lost as we got lots of exercise, enjoyed the ambiance of the park on this lovely day as well as each other's company while we walked back to our destination. As you can see there is a happy ending to this story. We finally got to our spot and planted our tree which it turns out was not far from where we first were over by the Tavern in Piedmont Park.



Getting lost brings back memories of another time when a group of us planted trees several years ago and my car keys got lost. As you can imagine I was frantic. My friend Leigh Reynolds ended up taking me home, some considerable distance, to get my extra car key. As I was driving home I thought those keys have got to be somewhere. So, I turned around and went back to the scene of the loss and retraced my steps but found nothing. Just as I was about to give up, I heard the sound of keys jingling and low and behold guess where those keys were, yes in the sleeve of my jacket all the time! Moral of the story do not give up and sew up holes in your jacket pocket. Smile.

Submitted by Penny Blackford



ARTS & CULTURE



The Arts & Culture CSP will be visiting SCAD FASH (1600 Peachtree St NE) in person on **Friday, February 19th @ 1pm** for the Ruth E. Carter: Afrofuturism in Costume Design Exhibit. Ruth E. Carter is an Academy Award-winning costume designer and expert storyteller who harnesses the power of visual communication to share narratives of culture, race, and politics. Creating costumes for generation-defining films like *Black Panther*, *Selma*, and *Do the Right Thing*, she brings vibrancy, nuance, color, and texture to each of her culture-shifting characters. Carter's exhibition *Afrofuturism in Costume Design* at SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film features unforgettable designs from nearly four decades of her career within an Afrofuturistic installation incorporating original artwork by SCAD alum Brandon Sadler, whose murals were prominently featured in *Black Panther*.

Carter's costume designs enable actors to fully immerse themselves in the roles of their lifetimes, transforming Oprah Winfrey into voting rights activist Annie Lee Cooper, Denzel Washington into Malcolm X, and Chadwick Boseman into the King of Wakanda. SCAD FASH is proud to present more than 60 costumes by Carter, as well as sketches and ephemera illustrating her in-depth historical research and design process for each project. In addition to Carter's costumes for Winfrey, Washington, and Boseman, the exhibition also features garments worn by luminaries such as Angela Bassett, Eddie Murphy, Lupita Nyong'o, Rosie Perez, and Forest Whitaker, demonstrating the varied work Carter brings to the screen.

Be sure to join Arts & Culture for this unparalleled immersion into the creative mind of Ruth E. Carter, and visually witness her in depth understanding of character, combined with her nuanced use of color and texture which has made her an essential storyteller committed to sharing the past, present, and future of Black culture. What better time to experience such greatness than Black History Month. **Please RSVP to Billie Harris by Thursday, February 18th. Cost is \$5 per visitor to be paid upon arrival. Visitor parking is available in designated spaces in the fourth-floor parking garage located behind the main SCAD Atlanta building. Follow the SCAD FASH arrows to the designated spaces. Take the elevator to level "M."**



We are returning to volunteer with drawchange on **Thursdays at 2pm** at the Ansley School, a school specifically started for children that are or have experienced homelessness. We will assist first graders with their art therapy-based projects to empower them and boost their self-esteem. All CDC guidelines are observed to include mask wearing, temperature checks and hand sanitizing. **NO ART EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.** We will also have another volunteer opportunity with drawchange on Saturday mornings from 10:30a-12:30p at a shelter in Grant Park coming up soon.

ARTS & CULTURE CONT'D

Be sure to check our Weekly Bulletin and Monthly Newsletter for updates. All volunteers must first complete, if you have not already completed, a drawchange volunteer application to attend. You may find the application at www.drawchange.org. Please contact Billie Harris via email at hawcinc@live.com or via call or text at 678-617-8511 if you are interested and for more details.

The Arts & Culture CSP will continue to collect art supplies for elementary, middle, and high school students. This will be an ongoing project due to the decreased amount of art supplies provided by schools as virtual learning continues during the pandemic. A few standard items to consider donating are colored pencils, washable markers, drawing pads, crayons, construction paper, small and large poster boards, scissors, glue sticks, non toxic liquid glue, sharpies, etc. These supplies will be distributed during the Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools Meal distribution pick-up days which are on Monday (APS) and Wednesday (FCS) weekly.



How to Donate:

- Drop off supplies at the Wimbish House
- Mail supplies directly to me at 4053 Lyon Blvd SW, Atlanta, GA 30331
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Members who are interested in joining the Arts and Culture CSP, please email your name and mobile number to hawcinc@live.com. Make sure to also download the GroupMe app on your mobile device to stay up to date with projects and volunteer opportunities. You will be added to the AWC Arts & Culture GroupMe via your mobile number.

Billie Harris, Chair

AWC Leadership Academy

Are you just starting on your leadership journey or are you a seasoned leader and would like to hone your leadership skills? If you answered yes to either, The Academy is for you.

Just what is AWC Leadership Academy?

The AWC Leadership Academy is a six-month program exclusively for members of the Atlanta Woman's Club*. It is designed to educate and inspire future leaders. In the program you will

- Learn what an ethical leader is and the characteristics of such leader;
- Learn the importance of diversity and how it impacts you as a leader;
- Hone your communication skills;
- Discover ways to organize your time and even avoid procrastination;
- Gain an understanding of finance (personally and professionally); and
- What is required to serve on a non-profit board

Upon completion

You will have a better understanding of your capabilities; you will be able to set personal and professional goals, and you will be able to lead and motivate other people.

When are classes held?

As of now, classes will be held virtually beginning Saturday, March 13, 2021. The remaining schedule is April 24, May 22, June 5, June 19, and July 17, 2021. You must commit to attend all classes.

Register

To learn more and register visit The Atlanta Leadership Academy on-line at <https://gfwc-ga-awc-leadershipacademy.weebly.com/>

*You must have been a member for minimum of 18 months. (Typically you are required to do a minimum number of volunteer hours with AWC but because of the pandemic, this is waived. The program is limited to 10 members.

Judine Heard, GFWC GA LEADS

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

Officers

Jo Dee Gonzalez, President
Connie Morris, 1st Vice President
Penny Blackford, 2nd Vice President
Peggy Pruett, Recording Secretary
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer
Barbara Washburn, Assistant Treasurer
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary
Beth Jetha, Parliamentarian

Board of Trustees

Lisa Banes, Chair (2019-2021)
Donna Foland, Co-Chair (2019-2021)
Jo Dee Gonzalez, AWC President (2020-2022)
Connie Morris, AWC 1st Vice President (2020-2022)
Beth Jetha, Parliamentarian (2020-2022)
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer (2020-2022)
Barbara Washburn, Asst. Treasurer (2020-2022)
Judine Heard (2020-2022)
Sara June McDavid (2020-2022)
Myra Carmon, Past BOT Chair
Karen Clydesdale, Past BOT Chair
Karen Moore McDonald, Past BOT Chair
Karen Bacheller, Past BOT Chair

Community Service Program Chairs

Penny Blackford, Dean of Community Service Programs
Billie Harris- Chair, Arts and Culture
Darlene Kimes- Chair/Amber Hahn- Co-Chair, Civic Engagement and Outreach
Barbara Washburn- Chair/Linda Hirsch- Co-Chair, Education and Libraries
Page Henry- Chair/Karen Johnson- Co-Chair, Environment
Kelly Feyock- Chair/Maria Krane- Co-Chair, Health and Wellness

Committee Chairs

Karen Clydesdale, President's Advisor
Sarah Helen Kilgore, Historian
Ursula Reynolds, Women's History
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School
Myra Carmon, 1734 Society
Karen Clydesdale, GFWC GA President's Special Project/GFWC Signature Project
Connie Morris, Membership
Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/Fundraising
Judine Heard, GFWC GA LEADS/GFWC GA Environment Co-Chair
Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club
Karen Johnson, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance
Cimi Douglass and Judy Reece, Website
Lisa Banes, Marketing/Public Relations
Judy Reece, Member Events/Communications/Weekly Bulletin/Bridge
Britton Rogers, Social Media
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor