



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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March 2024 Issue

It's spring in Atlanta! I love it when the new life of the flowering world begins! Nothing hardly beats the daffodil blooming to give hope that winter is on its way out.

We will be blooming as AWC will elect new officers for 2024-2026 at our March 11 meeting. There is hope for bright new ideas and plans! The slate is great with a team of experienced ladies. Please attend the meeting so you can elect the officers. Our bylaws don't allow proxy vote, and we need ¼ of paid members for a quorum. We will have a bylaw amendment vote and budget approval, also.

We are excited to be hosting the GFWC NW District at our Wimbish House on March 9. There will be a chance for some of our sister clubs to tour the Wimbish House. All members are included at this meeting. This will be right after The Phoenix Flies tour is being held at the Wimbish House. There is a wait list for tickets for Phoenix Flies tour. Our members have scripts and have had costumes selected to be able to lead tours through the house highlighting the different eras of The Atlanta Woman's Club. Thanks to Lynn Bretnall for being chair of Women's History and coordinating the tour and volunteers. Catherine Smith has taken the role as Costume coordinator. Did you know we have a costume closet at the Wimbish House? Donations of era clothes can be discussed with Lynn and Catherine. I became a member after taking this tour in 2014. Wow! I now realize I will be a member for 10 years this year! It's been a wonderful opportunity to lead in diverse ways, volunteer at so many different places, and I have met some amazing ladies!

Our member, Jennifer Spivey, is chair of Women's History for GFWC GA. March is Women's History month. The March issue of "The Georgia Clubwoman" magazine will be featuring women of courage. Myra Carmon was selected as our Woman of Courage!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership.....	3
NW District Meeting.....	3
Nomm Committee.....	4-9
Environment.....	9-10
ESO Book Club.....	10-12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

We won't meet in April except at our Membership Tea on April 14 on a Sunday afternoon. It's a wonderful time to bring potential future members. Our CSPs are to invite the Board Chairs or Development Directors with organizations we have had contact with. It's a time for them to be appreciated for the work they do!

"Flowers always make people better, happier, more hopeful." -Luther Burbank

Grateful for you all,

Connie Morris, President The Atlanta Woman's Club



MEMBERSHIP

APRIL MEMBERSHIP TEA



As a reminder, there is no business meeting in March. We will have our annual Membership Tea on Sunday, April 14. This is a chance to wear your Sunday best Spring attire (hats are welcome) and enjoy a proper lady's tea. As this is a chance to bring prospective members to enjoy the beautiful Wimbish House and meet your fellow club members, it is an all adult event. We look forward to entertaining you and your guests. There is no cost for this event but you will need to register yourself and your guests.

TIME TO UPDATE ROSTER

If you have had a change in your address, phone number or email please let Peggy know. If you are unsure, check your information on the website member info. The updates will be made after the March meeting.

Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President, Membership Chair

NORTH WEST DISTRIC SPRING MEETING

NW District Spring meeting is being held at The Wimbish House on Saturday, March 9th at 9:30am. AWC, Buchanan, and Calhoun Woman's Club are the hostesses. All members are encouraged to come to learn more about our GFWC and be with other members in our district.

Submitted by Connie Morris

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Ladies,

An election will be held at the March 11th general meeting to fill the positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and two Board of Trustees members for the 2024-2026 term. Our Club membership is graced by many talented and professional women, and the Nominating Committee appreciates the suggestions for candidates for these positions and the willingness of those who have agreed to serve our Club upon election.

*Please refer to ARTICLE IX – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS,
Section 2 - Elections*

Elections shall take place at the March general meeting and shall be by ballot. When only one candidate is nominated for each office, election may be by voice vote. No proxy vote is allowed. Nominations from the floor shall be allowed if the nominee is qualified, is aware of the responsibilities, and consents to serve.

Section 3 – Installation of Officers

Installation of newly elected officers shall take place at the May general meeting. Officers assume responsibilities on June 1.

Below please find our list of 2024-2026 Candidates for office.

President Candidate - Peggy Pruett

Club Member Since: 2018 - GaFWC member since 1980 (44 years!)

I am honored to be nominated for the position of President. I am fully invested in The Atlanta Woman's Club and its members. I served as President in MCWC for four terms during my 38-year membership. My style of leadership is to enable the other officers, CSP Chairs and Committee chairs with the tools that they need to be successful in their positions. I believe in letting competent leaders do their jobs and would be available and hands on for any help they may need.

Atlanta Woman's Club Involvement:

Recording Secretary. First Vice President. Executive Board. CSP member of Education, ARTS and volunteer work in all others as the opportunities are presented. Board of Trustees. Seeded Event Committee. ByLaws Committee. Tallulah Falls Committee.

State Woman's Club Involvement:

Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Tallulah Falls School (Board member for ten years). Served in many positions in the district over the years. Awarded Georgia State Junior Club Woman of the Year. Chair of a State Convention.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

Others Volunteer activities:

Served on the Board of Georgia Chapter of American Society of Interior Designers (member for 24 years). Officer for Haven House Domestic Violence Organization 10 years. Eagles Landing Charity Organization. American Cancer Society. Atlanta Heart Association. Forest Park Garden Club President (3 times over 30 years). PTA President. Clayton County Arts Association. I have served on many committees and boards in my church work. I lead a Widow and Widower's ministry. I am a member of the Jubalheirs which is a 200 member Georgia choir that presents concerts and mission projects all over the state and internationally.

Personal Information:

Atlanta native. Married to Ron for 59 years; 2 children; 4 grandchildren; 1 great granddaughter. Degree in Interior Design. Owner of Cornucopia Designs since 1994 – present. Co-owner of American Pipe Supports since 1975 – present.

1st VP Candidate, Darlene Kimes

Darlene – Currently serves as the 2nd VP and Dean of Community Service Programs for the AWC.

She works closely with appointed CSP chairs in identifying effective community programs, monitoring program spending and approves the distribution of funds. She collaborates with the leadership team in the review, approval and submission of End of Year State Reporting Reports. She has served as the CSP Chair of Civic Engagement. She attends Northwest District Exec-Board and general meetings. In the past three years served, she has served as the Legislative Chair for the Northwest District. She has completed the State Institute Leadership (LEADS) Program. The program broadened her knowledge of the GFWC organization, programs

and the relationship between state and club leaders. She has attended most GFWC State meetings since becoming a member. She also attended the 2017 regional convention in Atlanta. She has twenty-five plus years of program administration and Human Resources Management experience in municipal government. She is a former Deputy Director of the City of Atlanta and has served as HR Advisor to the Executive Branch Operating departments. Her fiscal responsibility has included directing a \$40M program and \$800M plus HR Budgets. She currently serves on the Board of Director of the League of Women Voters Atlanta Fulton and as Vice President of Membership. She currently serves on the Atlanta Regional Commission (10 County) Advisory Committee on Aging, Housing and Transportation. She has served on numerous boards, is an advocate for social justice, and advocates for public policy on behalf of Women and Girls at all congressional level. She has been awarded for her work in the community and featured in several newspapers in Georgia. She is a Business graduate of Fort Valley State University and has studied at Georgia State University. When she is not trying to influence change, she enjoys the arts, traveling and spending time with her daughter Valerie and granddaughter, Laryn.

2nd VP Candidate - Ann Hazzard

Ann Hazzard is a psychologist who was a faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine for 35 years. In addition, she was the managing partner for Peachtree Psychological Consultants, a private practice group. Ann has also been an active Board member for several non-profit agencies (Georgia Council on Child Abuse, Kidscope, Kate's Club). Through these roles, she has developed a focused expertise in budget development and oversight, personnel management, and event planning.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

As the principal investigator for several large grants, managing business partner, and non-profit Board member, Ann managed or oversaw large budgets. She selected and supervised employees and hundreds of psychology and pediatric residents. In addition, twice she chaired the Planning Committee for the Annual Convention of the Georgia Psychological Association.

With a long-term commitment to giving back to the community within and outside AWC, I believe I have demonstrated exceptional organizational skills that have made a positive impact on the causes I support.

Treasurer Candidate - Judy Reece

I became a member of AWC in 2014. I am currently chair of Member Events and chair of Communications. I am a member of the Seeded Event Committee. I personally produce the Weekly Bulletin and do most of the maintenance to the AWC website. I have been a member of various CSPs and presently am a member of the Education & Libraries CSP. I have been Club Secretary, head of the Nominating Committee, served on the Bylaws committee and later served as chair of the Bylaws committee.

Outside of AWC: I have a degree in Management. I am retired; previously I was Director Information Systems Development for Norfolk Southern Corporation. One of the areas my group was responsible for was sending freight bills to our customers. I was responsible for our departmental standards and was the department liaison with Audit and with Law. Until the end of last year, I was on my condominium board for 8 years where I served as president three times.

I have served as Assistant Treasurer for the past several months and feel confident that I can fulfil the duties of Treasurer.

Assistant Treasurer Candidate Judine Heard

I have been a member of the Atlanta Woman's Club since 2005. During that time, I've served on the telephone calling and social committee until appointed as corresponding secretary. I have been Home Life, Environment, and LEADS Chairman, President of the Atlanta Woman's Club and currently serving as an elected BOT trustee. At the District level, I am currently the 2nd Vice President for the North West District. At the State level, I have served in various capacities including Home Life CSP, Environment CSP, LEADS Chairman, the 2020 GFWC Convention Committee, GFWC Southern Region 2018-2020 Hostess Committee and volunteered at the 2018 Group Exemption workshop. I am also active in my community. Professionally, in the past I managed a small bank's mortgage department and later was a loan officer for a major financial institution. My experience within GFWC and professional makes me an ideal person for the position. Thank you for nominating me, I would appreciate your vote.

Recording Secretary Candidate – Melissa Bernadel

After graduating law school and moving back to Atlanta in 2018, I was in search of an organization that promoted philanthropy and fellowship. I was delighted to find Atlanta Woman's Club was a welcoming and engaging organization that embodied all the qualities I was in search of finding.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

I have been a member of Atlanta Woman's Club since 2019. During my time, I have enjoyed participating in various CSP initiatives and activities. I have also had the opportunity to take on leadership positions, including:

- Serving as the club's parliamentarian
- Serving on the Board of Trustee
- Serving on the By-Law Committee
- Serving on the Nominating Committee
- Serving as Legislative Chair

In my professional capacity in legal, business, and financial industries, I have accumulated the fine-tuned ability to take accurate accountings of meeting and conference records. As I continue to learn and contribute to AWC, I would love the opportunity to lend my knowledge and skill to serve as the Recording Secretary for the 2024-2026 term.

Board of Trustees Candidate – Gretchen Butler

Club Member Since: 2016

Positions held in GFWC AWC: Treasurer; Chair, Education CSP

District and positions held in GFWC GA: Corresponding Secretary, NW District;
Awards Chair, NW District

I have been a proud member of Atlanta Woman's Club for over 7 years, and they have been incredible! I'm constantly impressed by the quality of the women I'm surrounded by here, and grateful for the support and inspiration they offer to me.

Almost immediately after joining AWC, I joined the Seeded Event committee, where I was able to contribute my fundraising knowledge to the nonprofits we work with. Four years ago, I was honored to be elected Treasurer of the Club. I have been happy to serve in that capacity and am grateful for the trust the clubwomen have placed in me. I've worked for over 20 years to build my expertise in nonprofit best practices, board governance, and financial oversight, and I'm eager to pay that forward in service to AWC.

I have an extensive knowledge of nonprofit best practices, governance, and finance. I hold a BA in Theatre Design and Technology and an MFA in Theatre Management. I served as Production Manager of Georgia Ensemble Theatre for 8 years, Managing Director of Serenbe Playhouse for 3 years, and Managing Director of Theatrical Outfit for 3 years (including a very long pandemic!). I am currently a Director of Operations Management for Emory University's Advancement and Alumni Engagement division. In this role, I work with leadership across our 350-person division to implement strategies and optimize processes that support Emory's fundraisers in reaching their annual goal of \$5 million in gifts and pledges.

I am excited to look towards a new position where I can bring my business acumen and non-profit skills forward in service to Atlanta Woman's Club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

Board of Trustees Candidate – JoDee Gonzalez

I joined the Atlanta Woman's Club in March 2013, anxious to become an active member of an organization with hardworking, professional and dedicated women who also supported and promoted the mission of the club and volunteering. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. I was quickly put to work as a co-chair of the Art Community Service Program committee and through my experiences over the past 9 years of membership, I have continued to learn more about the club and the responsibilities of the BOT with regards to the Wimbish House. As 1st VP and President of the club I served on the BOT as is stated in the bylaws. I consider it an honor to run for one of the elected Board of Trustee positions this year and hope that my knowledge and experience will continue to be an asset to the group.

Below are the positions I have held since 2013, those in the Atlanta Woman's Club, in GFWC Georgia State and those I have had with GFWC Georgia North West District.

Experience: 2013- Present, AWC committees: Streets Alive Chair, Membership Committee Chair, Nominating Committee member, member of all CSP committees, the 120th Anniversary Celebration Committee member, Membership Tea committee, Seeded Event (fundraising) committee member, Phoenix Flies Committee member, and member of the Women's History Committee.

2013-2016: Co-chair for the Art CSP committee.

2016-2018: 2nd VP- Served as Dean of Community Service Program Chairs

2018- 2020: 1st VP (Membership chair) - recruited and welcomed new members, encouraging their participation in club activities, and assisting President as needed

2020-2022 President and 2022-2024 Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees Candidate – Catherine Smith

I am an Emory University nursing graduate who worked as an operating room nurse for 18 years! My career as a registered nurse has equipped me with invaluable leadership and management skills, as well as a reputation for integrity and discretion when handling sensitive health and financial matters. Additionally, I have started two thriving businesses, showcasing my creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. As a member of AWC for nine years, I have contributed greatly to various committees, including serving as Home Life CSP Chair now known as Health & Wellness from 2018-2020 and participating in the women's history committee and Phoenix Flies. I was also a member of the Arts & Culture CSP and currently serves on the Environment CSP. My design of the scarecrow TRASHIONISTA earned AWC second place in the Atlanta Botanical Garden annual scarecrow contest, marking the first time AWC has received a prize in the 10 years of entering the competition.

I believe my leadership experience and upbeat personality will enable me to be a great addition to the BOT!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

On behalf of the nominating committee, we would like to thank all the candidates for agreeing to run for the new administration. Please be prepared to vote for the above referenced candidates on March 11th meeting.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email any one of our Nominating Committee Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Cimi Douglass, Chair (cimi.douglass@gmail.com)
Barbara Washburn (bwashburn41@gmail.com)
Billie Harris (hawcinc@live.com)
Jennie Lobato (jclobato99@gmail.com)
Ursula Reynolds, Alternate (ursulabreynolds@gmail.com)
Melissa, Bernadel, Parliamentarian (mbernadel88@gmail.com)

ENVIRONMENT



Guest Speaker for the March General Meeting

Almeta E. Cooper

National Manager, Health Equity

Moms Clean Air Force

www.momscleanairforce.org/team/almeta-cooper

www.linkedin.com/in/almetaecooper

Washington, DC

Almeta E. Cooper lends her expertise in health equity and environmental justice to all aspects of Moms Clean Air Force work, with a special focus on climate, children's health and health equity under the umbrella of the **Community Health Equity** program. Her work on clean air and climate justice issues for Moms Clean Air Force is a natural progression of her 30-year career as an executive, attorney, and advocate for organizations focused on health care, health equity, and women and girls.

Almeta formerly served as the Moms Clean Air Force Georgia Coordinator in Atlanta before becoming the National Manager for Health Equity and relocating to Washington, DC.

ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

Prior to joining to Moms Clean Air Force she served as the general counsel and corporate secretary for Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), where she managed MSM's legal affairs, served on the executive leadership team, and served as the corporate secretary for the Board of Trustees.

Almeta has lived, worked, and served communities in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southeast. Since 2019, she has offered executive consulting services to nonprofit organizations, small businesses, executives, attorneys, and corporations. In 2022, she was named to join the Multisector Partner Group of the Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC Center for Health Justice. Almeta's work with Moms Clean Air Force has been featured by the **Today Show**, **The Weather Channel**, **Word In Black**, the **Washington Informer**, and numerous other outlets.

Almeta believes in being actively engaged with her community. She serves on a healthcare system board in Akron, Ohio and volunteers with civic groups, all between staying connected with family and friends across the country and yoga sessions.

Meher Stevie, Chair

Judine Heard, Co-Chair

ESO BOOK CLUB

ALL THE DARK PLACES

BY TERRI PARLATO

On Monday January 27, 2024, Page Henry graciously hosted lunch for the AWC book club at her lovely home. Book Club members were the honored to have in attendance, at this gathering, Terri Parlato author of *All the Dark Places*. This was Terri Parlato's debut novel and her first time attending a book club gathering in person. Terri expressed gratitude and was as pleased as we were that she could be with us to discuss her first published novel. Terri Parlato is a new master of suspense who hooks the reader immediately with the murder of Jay Bradley, husband of Molly Bradley after his 40th birthday celebration. This murder rocks a quiet Boston suburb, revealing the secrets at the center of a group of friends. This novel introduces Rita Myers, detective who is convinced that someone in the couple's small circle killed him, someone who was celebrating with them the night of his birthday party.

All enjoyed a lovely lunch of appetizers, lemon chicken, a variety of salads, cookies, lemon cake, mulled cider, and a birthday cake for Jay Bradley, reminiscent of the one described in the book with blue icing and yellow and orange flowers made from scratch by Jo Ellen Friedman. Thank you to all who provided the delicious repast.

ESO BOOK CLUB CONT'D

Terri Parlato was born and raised in upstate New York. She currently lives in a small town in north Georgia. Teacher by profession but a writer since she was a small child. Her next book continues with detective Rita Myers and is named *What Waits in the Woods*. This book is another riveting thriller about a ballerina whose home coming to her small hometown is marred by a grisly discovery, and the realization her past may be quite what she believed.

Members attending book club were Aimee Berry, Penny Blackford, Jo Ellen Friedman, JoDee Gonzales, Judine Heard, Page Henry, Beth Jetha, Yolanda Johnson, Maria Krane, Emmi Logan, Connie Morris, Peggy Pruett, Chris Puri, Sue Rohan, Pat Walsh and Kourtney Zenovia. Other attendees were Trisha Gaffney, Page's daughter and Terri Parlato, featured author. Get well wishes extended to Sharman Edge, Sara June McBride, and Jennie Labato who were and to attend because of illness and to Myra Carmon who was injured in a car accident. Congratulations to Karen Clydesdale who attended her grandson's final county swimming meet where he was honored.

Three books were discussed for our next meeting. *Keeper of Stories*, by English author Sally Page, recommended by Melodie Rogers. *First Ladies*, by Maria Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This book received the Book of the Year Award and was recommended by Penny Blackford. *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt, recommended by Sara June McDavid. The book receiving the most votes for the next book club selection was, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. Details regarding time and place of next book club will be forthcoming in the Weekly Update.



ESO BOOK CLUB CONT'D



Penny Blackford, Chair

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

Officers

Connie Morris, President
Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President (Membership Chair)
Darlene Kimes, 2nd Vice President (Dean of CSPs)
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer
Judy Reece, Assistant Treasurer
Pat Walsh, Recording Secretary
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary
Melissa Bernadel, Parliamentarian

Board of Trustees

Karen Clydesdale, Chair (2023-2025)
Yolanda Johnson, Co-Chair (2023-2025)
Connie Morris, AWC President (2022-2024)
Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President (2022-2024)
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer (2022-2024)
Judy Reece, Asst. Treasurer (2023-2024)
Jo Dee Gonzalez, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)
Judine Heard, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)
Page Henry, BOT Trustee (2023-2025)
Lisa Banes, Former BOT Chair
Karen Bacheller, Former BOT Chair
Karen McDonald, Former BOT Chair
Myra Carmon, Former BOT Chair

Community Service Program Chairs

Darlene Kimes, 2nd Vice President & Dean of Community Service Programs
Jennifer Quinn, Chair/Jo Dee Gonzalez Co-Chair, Arts & Culture
Sara June McDavid, Chair/Maria Krane Co-Chair, Education and Libraries
Yolanda Johnson, Chair/Janecia Heard, Co-Chair, Civic Engagement and Outreach
Isabel Urrutia, Chair/Sandy Day Co-Chair, Health and Wellness
Meher Stevie, Chair/Judine Heard, Co-Chair, Environment

Committee Chairs

Sara June McDavid, Women's History
Barbara Washburn, Domestic Violence
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School
Jo Dee Gonzalez, 1734 Society
Lisa Banes, A Seeded Event/Fundraising
Myra Carmon, LEADS
Penny Blackford, ESO Book Club
TBD, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance
Cimi Douglass and Judy Reece, Website
Judy Reece, Member Events/Communications/Weekly Bulletin
Sandra Langford, Member Events / Sunday Setup
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor
Ursula Reynolds, Social Media