



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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May 2024 Issue

It is with the deepest gratitude that I am writing the last newsletter for The Atlanta Woman's Club as President 2022-2024. I have had a wonderful experience as the leader of some of the finest ladies anyone could ever meet. We have been stable in our membership thanks to Peggy Pruett, 1st VP and her diligence to reach out to visitors. We have volunteered with many opportunities made by the Community Service Project Chairs. Their Dean, Darlene Kimes, 2nd VP, has led them wisely and with kindness.

I have had so many questions answered and guidance from many of our past presidents. I appreciate all the help and encouragement I have received. I appreciate all the support from all our members. Many have been hands on with helping with any requests, some with their monthly commitment to attend meetings, and some with uplifting words. Thanks to you all!

I will continue to speak proudly of The Atlanta Woman's Club, and will be present for many years to come, I hope.

The new 2024-2026 elected and appointed officers to the Club and to the Board of Trustees will only continue the great tradition that The Atlanta Woman's Club has had since 1895. They will be installed at our May 13 meeting.

The new officers to be installed at our May meeting for term 2024-2026 are:

Peggy Pruett, President
Darlene Kimes, 1st Vice President
Ann Hazzard, 2nd Vice President
Judy Reece, Treasurer
Judine Heard, Assistant Treasurer
Melissa Bernadel, Recording Secretary

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Be proud of your membership! Share about AWC to women looking to connect and volunteer.

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

-St. Francis of Assisi (Our GFWC GA Inspiration)

Connie Morris, President The Atlanta Woman’s Club



MEMBERSHIP

The April Membership Tea was a great success. We had a total of around 70 beautiful ladies in attendance with 14 potential new members. We greatly appreciate our loyal members bringing your friends and coworkers to introduce them to The Atlanta Woman's Club. I encourage you to continue to invite and nurture potential members and get them involved. We are definitely a working club and we need all members to do all you can to insure the continued success of our club.

I have greatly enjoyed serving you as your membership chair. I have been so impressed with the number of ladies with whom I have worked through their membership journey in these two years. These new members have jumped right in and become involved in our CSP projects. I leave you in great hands with Darlene Kimes as your incoming First Vice President. I know you will continue to work with her to increase and mentor our membership.

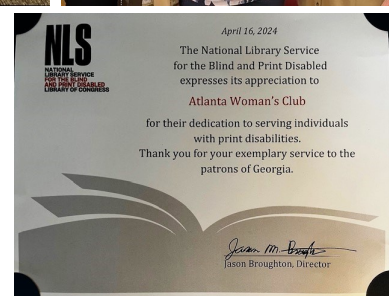
Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President, Membership Chair

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES



Education and Libraries CSP celebrated National Library Week in April by taking snacks as a thank you acknowledgement to the librarians and staff at the Central Library in downtown Atlanta. AWC also provided snacks to the staff of the Georgia Library Services for the Blind at their office. The Central Library location has approximately 70 employees in the building. The gesture was greatly appreciated and provided a big morale boost.

Representatives from the CSP also attended a Volunteer Recognition Tea hosted by the Georgia Library Services for the Blind and Visually Disabled. The tea was held at the GSU Law School. The Atlanta Woman's Club received a certificate of recognition and a certificate was awarded to each AWC member who volunteered at the Blind Talent Show. Honored were Penny Blackwell, Ninma Logan, Connie Morris, Peggy Pruett, Sue Ann Rohan, Wendy Venet, Mandy Vincent, Ann Hazzard and Sara June McDavid. CSP volunteers who were unable to attend the tea will receive their certificates at a later time.



The Education and Libraries CSP ended the year with donations to Children Read, HOBY and the Atlanta Fulton County Library (for the summer reading program.) Volunteers also worked at Children Read in early April, preparing a large donation of new books for distribution.

Sara June McDavid, Chair

Maria Krane Co-Chair

ARTS & CULTURE

Arts and Culture had a busy April donating well-deserved money to some wonderful 501 (c)(3) organizations!



Hope Hill Elementary School is truly revolutionizing their art program by transforming the classroom into a realistic artist studio. AWC assisted in purchasing durable tables and chairs for the cool, new space.

We donated to Midtown High School who also has an Arts Department that ranks in the top of southeastern public high school programs.



Our very own drawchange was a recipient to help their mission of bringing Art Therapy to unhoused children in Atlanta and even extending to other countries!

Arts & Culture had an outing to see Midtown High School's production of "Tuck Everlasting." It was a lot of fun and the students at this school never disappoint!



The Museum of Women in the Arts is located in Washington D.C. and its mission is to bring women's contributions in the arts to mainstream culture.

Jennifer Quinn, Chair

Jo Dee Gonzalez Co-Chair

WOMEN'S HISTORY

The Dekalb County Historical Society is presenting a free lecture on “The Architecture of Walter T. Downing” on June 18, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Old Courthouse in Decatur (Second Floor), 101 East Court Square, Decatur 30030. Mr. Downing was the architect of the Wimbish House, so he holds a special place in our hearts. He was one of Atlanta’s leading architects of the late-Victorian/Edwardian periods, and designed several homes, office buildings, and churches in Atlanta, Rome and Chattanooga. The lecture will be presented by architectural historian Dr. Robert M. Craig, Professor Emeritus at the College of Design at Georgia Tech. This is not a club trip; feel free to go on your own.

Submitted by Amanda Robinson

Lynn Brentnall, Women’s History Chair

BYLAW COMMITTEE

The AWC Bylaw Committee is proposing the following amendments to the bylaws.

1. The amendment addresses the composition of the Board. We are adding a requirement that past Board of Trustees chair serve a full term as chair to remain on board (new wording in bold)

Article V1- Board of Trustees

Section 1. Composition

The Board of Trustees shall consist of four (4) elected trustees, the Club President, the first vice president, treasurer and assistant treasurer, past Board of Trustees chairs in good standing **who have served a full term as chair**, and the parliamentary or parliamentary advisor, who serves but has no right to vote. Two (2) trustees shall be elected on odd-numbered years and two (2) trustees shall be elected in even-numbered years. Elected members serve for a term of (2) years.

2. The second amendments adds a new section 3 on term limits for the elected trustees in line with the term limits we have for club officers

Section 3 Term of Office

Officers of the Board shall serve for (2) years or until their successors are elected. Elected trustees may serve only (2) consecutive terms. The number of past BOT chairs serving on the BOT cannot exceed the number of elected and appointed trustee who serve on the BOT. The longest serving past BOT chair will automatically rotate off of the BOT if this occurs.

Submitted by Barbara Washburn

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



On behalf of the nominating committee, we would like to congratulate the newly elected officers.

President – Peggy Pruitt
1st VP – Darlene Kimes
2nd VP – Ann Hazzard
Treasurer – Judy Reece
Asst. Treasurer – Judine Heard
Recording Secretary – Melissa Bernadel
BOT Trustee – JoDee Gonzalez

We are incredibly fortunate to have these talented women leading our organization for the next two years!

On a different matter, we would like to advise and/or remind you that at the March 11th meeting, we had three candidates vying for two Board of Trustees positions. After the ballots were counted, Jodee Gonzalez secured her seat, but a tie arose between Gretchen Butler and Catherine Smith. Despite a second round of voting, the tie persisted, with Jodee once again winning her seat. Consequently, our president advised that we would host a runoff election in May for the remaining BOT seat.

While rare, ties can occur, a testament to the strength of our candidates and the deep respect and confidence our voting club members hold for them. As a member-driven organization, your voice is crucial in selecting leaders who will guide our club with confidence and grace to ensure its success. Therefore, we will conduct a runoff election at our May 13th meeting with the two remaining candidates for the remaining BOT seat.

Once again, the candidate biographies are listed below. Please be prepared to vote for one of these candidates in May.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

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 nonprofit skills forward in service to Atlanta Woman's Club.

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 serve 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!

On behalf of the nominating committee, we would like to thank our members and candidates for their patience as we strive to ensure a fair election where the voices of our club members are truly heard.

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)

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

Lynn Brentnall, 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, Communications/Weekly Bulletin
Sandra Langford, Member Events
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor
Ursula Reynolds, Social Media