



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2023*

Chairman: Jan Rodgers	Club: Ebell Club of Irvine	
Number of Members: 16	District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Membership Chair		
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]		
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]	
<b>Membership</b>		

The City of Irvine was incorporated in 1971, evolving from a working ranch to a “model city” as planned by the Irvine Company. Three years later in 1974, the Ebell Club of Irvine was founded and federated with the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international organization dedicated to improving local communities through volunteer service in the following areas: Advocates for Children, Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness.

In the last 52 years, the City of Irvine has grown to over 309,000 residents and has been named the safest city of its size for more than 17 years. It includes the Orange County Great Park, Pretend City Children’s Museum, Irvine Art Museum, 2 universities and a junior college. Most residents are college graduate; the Irvine Unified School District is highly regarded; and the population is a diverse mixture of cultures. As the population of the city has grown, the number of volunteer organizations has also multiplied. Many of these have with a single mission, such as CHOC guilds, Friends of the Library, and Families Forward.

Our club offers volunteers a diverse approach to volunteering and has held steady over the years averaging about 15 energetic members who are proud to be federated and making a difference in the Irvine community.

**Project: Club Newsletter      Hours: 85      Dollars: \$ 0      In Kind: 0**

Keeping all members informed about the current and up-coming activities of the club is vital, especially for our member living in Michigan. To accomplish this, our PR/Publications Chair emails 10 issues of our club newsletter plus a summer blast during our hiatus, the months of July and August, to all members. A typical newsletter is about 10 pages long, beginning with a calendar of activities happening between the general meetings and a message from the President. Subsequent pages have reports from officers and project chairs. These articles either remind members about supporting a current need or introducing them to potential new projects that will be discussed at the next general meeting.

Each issue reminds members to actively look for a new member. When a potential new member shows interest, we send a recent newsletter to her/him so she/he can see how and where we spend our volunteer time and money. Hopefully, she/he will decide to join our club.

**Project: Creating a New Website      Hours 60      Dollars: \$ 0      In Kind: 0**

When we first decided to step into the technological times twelve years ago in hopes of gaining new members, we used Shutterfly’s free platform. Unfortunately, we did not gain any new members. In March we invited three Orange District Officers to attend our annual Birthday Potluck Dinner Meeting. They helped us understand that our Shutterfly site was not effective because anyone searching for a volunteer organization in Irvine to join could not find us on the web without

already knowing our name. They urged us to spend the money to create a more effective website. Since we are a small club that can no longer operate our long-time big fundraiser, a hot dog booth at Tustin Tiller Days that brought in \$3000, we needed an inexpensive option. District suggested we look at GoDaddy, which many clubs use; club members voted to spend up to \$120 to pay for a platform for a year.

Over the summer hiatus, our PR/Publications Chair set out to better educate herself on terminology and to see what it would take to put up an attractive, functional website. Now we have a more accessible presence on the web and have 1 new member who found us by searching the web. If our finances allow, we will renew our contract with GoDaddy.

**Project: Changing our Meeting Time                      Hours: 3                      Dollars: \$ 0                      In Kind: 0**

At the March meeting, our District Officers also suggested we change our general meeting time from evening to day time to appeal to newly retired folks looking for a volunteer organization. When the club was founded in 1974, many members worked outside the home so we met at 7:30 pm. Now, all of our members are retired, and the idea of changing the meeting time and not driving at night appealed to them. After extensive polling to find a new time that would work for everyone, we settled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 12 noon. The new time has increased monthly attendance.

**Project: Up-dating the Club's PR Brochure                      Hours: 12                      Dollars: \$ 0                      In Kind: 0**

We have a one-page trifold brochure that we give out to businesses and community members who want to know more about our club's activities. It had not been used much in recent years and had fallen out of date. Our PR/Publications chair reformatted the brochure adding pictures of current activities, up-dating the list of projects being done, and listing our new website contact information. New copies were printed and distributed at a general meeting. Members were urged to use the brochure in our quest to find new members.

**Project: Summer Lunch Social                      Hours: 3                      Dollars: \$ 0                      In Kind: 0**

Each summer our Second Vice President plans a purely social lunch outing during the hiatus for members get together at a restaurant and catch up on what everyone has been doing. This year attendees were encouraged to bring a friend or friends to the social in hopes of finding new club members. Four friends attended the lunch at BJ's Brewery; one is considering joining but has not yet committed.

**Project: Irvine Standard Article                      Hours: 4                      Dollars: \$ 0                      In Kind: 0**

*The Irvine Standard* is a monthly publication of The Irvine Company in a local, small newspaper format delivered to each Irvine household by mail. In an effort to become better known in our community, our PR/Publications Chair sent an email to the paper asking them to consider doing an article on our club, one of the first non-profit volunteer organizations founded back in 1974 in the new City of Irvine. In July, she was contacted by one of the feature writers who wanted to do an article featuring one of our long-running projects, placing botanical signs along the Jeffrey Open Space Trail.

Following several phone interviews and a picture shoot at the Jeffrey Open Space Trail, a lovely article and picture were published in their September issue. While our work on JOST was the primary feature, several other on-going projects were also highlighted as well as our interest in adding new members to the club. Three potential members have contacted us. Unfortunately, all three are still employed and cannot attend daytime meetings. Hopefully, more retirees will find us!