



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Colleen Janssen		Club: GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 107		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Chairman, Legislation & Public Policy Committee			
Reporter's Address:			
City:		State: CA	Zip: 90630
Email:		Phone:	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY</u> GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, ESO</p>			

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress has proudly served the community for 58 years, dedicating time, talent, and resources to making a meaningful impact. Situated in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club offers service and philanthropic opportunities to its diverse membership, with a shared goal of being both a voice and a helping hand in the community and the communities around us.

Our membership includes long-standing members with over 50 years of involvement, along with numerous past presidents, and new members joining annually. Members, ranging in age from 35 to 94, bring a wealth of experience and energy to the club. While many are retired and actively engaged, seasoned members mentor newer or working members, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to contribute meaningfully.

Beyond financial contributions, members volunteer hundreds of hours annually, supporting vital projects that benefit local, national, and global communities. Together, we work toward lasting change, continually upholding our mission of service, empowerment, and fostering a stronger, more connected community.

Our club's Legislation & Public Policy Committee is open to all club members and meets monthly on Zoom. Having Zoom meetings more easily allows special guest speakers and presentations. Other women's clubs throughout the state have been invited to attend our meetings, and learn how to run their own committee, which often results in guest attendees from other women's clubs. Representatives attend our monthly meetings from the offices of our Senator, Assemblywoman, County Supervisor, and City Council. This gives us a regular connection to these offices and updates from field reps.

The Legislation & Public Policy committee does NOT take a position on candidates, only on issues. Legislation and public policy issues may be Federal, State, or local. Committee members propose a suggested position to the membership-at-large and encourage letter-writing and phone calls to legislators. Sometimes, members are asked to go online to sign letters of support, or opposition to legislation or issues prepared by our national organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).

Project Title: Woman of Distinction Recognition **Hours** 5 **Donated \$** **In Kind**

On April 4, 2024, our committee chairman was awarded the "Woman of Distinction" from the 36th State of California Senate District by Senator Janet Nguyen. This state award was presented to recognize our chairman for the work she has done to educate our members about legislative matters, and leadership on legislative issues. Senator Nguyen personally congratulated our chairman and thanked her for her work.

Project Title: City Council Candidate Forum **Hours** 20 **Donated \$** **In Kind**

Our committee held a Zoom City Council Candidates Forum in mid-October. All six candidates for office in two districts attended. We were the largest, based on voters reached, of three forums held in our city.

Candidates had one minute each for their opening and closing statements, along with one minute to answer each question posed by our committee chairman. This forced candidates to stick to the issues and their answers to questions, with no time to waste and get off-topic. The result was a forum that helped our members and local community members determine the best candidates for their votes. The 1-1/2 hour forum was converted to a Youtube video which was shared with the public on Facebook, and by email to all 100+ club members, who then forwarded it to their friends, relatives, and neighbors. Many hundreds of views occurred both online and through emails. Additionally, the City of Cypress posted the video on their Facebook page, sending it out to their followers.

Project Title: Guest Speakers and Reps **Hours** 10 **Donated \$** **In Kind**

The committee chairman works throughout the year to book speakers with expertise in legislation and public policy matters, followed by our regular meeting topics. During 2024, we were able to secure speakers who were happy to provide a presentation over Zoom. All meetings are recorded, then emailed to club members for review. Each speaker has 30-45 minutes for their presentation and Q&A.

Reps: Each month, representatives from offices of elected officials give updates and reports on current issues being addressed by their bosses.

October 2024: The representative from Senator Josh Newman, 29th District, was our guest speaker. The Senator had planned to attend, but a special session was called by the Governor, so his representative attended on the Senator's behalf. The rep reviewed the Senator's bill package answering questions from our committee members. Bills included: SB707, SB552, SB907, SB1080, SB1138, and SB1416.

Project Title: Legislation Committee Meetings & Prep **Hours** 450 **Donated \$** **In Kind** \$150

Legislation & Public Policy Committee meetings are open to all club members, with 8-20 "regulars" at each monthly meeting. In addition to legislation, we review reports and newsletters from our Congressman, U.S. Senators, State Senators, Assembly Member, County Supervisor, City of Cypress, Cypress School District, Anaheim Union High School District, Cypress College, California Federation of Women's Clubs, General Federation of Women's Clubs, CalMatters, and other items that come to our attention. Information from these sources is reviewed at every meeting and updated in our club newsletter, with the meeting video sent to all members. Over the course of the year, these are examples of some of the topics the committee reviewed and discussed. Not every topic will fit in this report.

Congressmember Michelle Steel 45th District: Some topics reviewed included: The National Defense Authorization Act, Congressional App Challenge, hospital price transparency, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, passport processing appointments, the Equal Access to Specialty Care Everywhere (EASE) Act, \$27 million in federal funding for our county, Community Health & Resource Fair, fight against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Congresswoman's grant workshop attended by our club and many other organizations, Expanding Language Access in Telehealth Act, Congressional Art Competition, Antisemitism Awareness Act, inflation issues, and the STARBASE program.

U.S. Senate – Alex Padilla/Laphonza Butler: Some topics reviewed included: federal agency assistance, prescription drug and energy cost challenges, negligence in protecting kids from harmful online content (a GFWC priority), stormwater infrastructure upgrades, Congressional Redistricting Process, marking February 17th as National Girls * Women in Sports Day, Housing for All Act, bill giving workers time off to vote, 988 mental health crisis calls lifeline, \$264 million to California for projects, judicial nominee confirmed, border security bill, deepfake porn bill, mental health insurance coverage bill, bill to make college more affordable, heat standard proposal, sewage leaks from Tijuana River in Mexico into California, preparing for AI advances, right to IVF, HEAR Program, CALVET 2024 Leadership Summit, Senior Summit, and the proposal for San Francisco post office naming for Dianne Feinstein.

State Senate- Josh Newman 29th/Janet Nguyen 36th: Some topics reviewed included: Schools "District of Choice" program legislation, OC Transportation Authority survey, beach clean-ups, Senate internships, free tax prep assistance for seniors and low-income residents, SB625-Genetic Privacy bill, SB1113, SB1119, SB1138, SB1164, SB1171, SB1202, SB1218, SB1244, SB1334, SB1362, SB1372, the Public Law Center, tax break for Huntington Beach oil spill victims (near us), Women's History Month, attempt to repeal AB205, SB1478, SB1459, gas tax hike, SB1099, SB1214, SB1407, SB362, and the SUN Bucks program.

Assembly-Sharon Quirk-Silva 67th District: Some topics reviewed included: Homeless bills AB1788-establishes homeless adult and family multidisciplinary teams in each county, AB 1789-empowers the Dept of Housing and Community Development to provide loans or grants for rehabilitation and extending the long-term

affordability of housing projects that qualify as 'challenged developments', the assemblywoman's designated committee assignments, community conversation event, AJR CAP Lift SALT Deduction/Budgetary Effects, natural gas bill relief for low-income seniors, gun violence rally, AB1470, AB2023, AB2073, AB2137, AB2395, AB2355, AB2579, AB2904, AB3130, and free book called "California's Legislature."

County of Orange-Andrew Do 1st District: Some topics reviewed included: New OC Hall of Fame, I-405 dedication event, groundbreaking at Cypress High School, community engagement events, homeless "Point in Time" count, workforce solutions, implementation of SB1383-diverting organic material away from landfills, county departments and services, programs for adults with developmental disabilities, flood control channel clean-up day and trash clean-up day including a 'track the trash' study, college tuition funding for spouse/child of veterans, censure/recall/resignation of Supervisor Do for misuse of County funds/federal corruption guilty plea, and the election of a new 1st District Supervisor in the November election.

City of Cypress: Some topics reviewed included: Transition from at-large to district elections, community meetings about transferring to by-district elections, City job openings, nominating a senior for City recognition, City events for the public, teen scholarships, HLB citrus disease emergency proclamation, City will fully fund pension obligations by 2030, opportunities to serve on City Commissions, disaster response skills program, mandatory Housing Update Plan Update, State of the City,

Schools – Cypress Elementary, Anaheim Union High School District, and Cypress College; Some topics reviewed: Student behavioral health incentive program, state preschool program funding, high school career pathways education, Cypress College culinary competition wins, dual-language program feasibility study, Black History Month activities, high school layoffs (big issue!), Daylight Saving opposition, school district Trustee appointments/elections, entrepreneur summit, CA schools budget shortfall, and the end of ESSER Funds.

General some topics reviewed: Presidential Primary Election details from the Secretary of State, how to research information about major donors to political campaigns, and ballot measures, primary election results, November General Election information and results, volunteering or working for the vote centers and ballot counting, how elections work, ballot propositions/measures, new laws for 2024, voter registration trends, community college losses due to financial aid fraud, college campus protests/government calls to take money from schools, FBI elder Fraud Report, AB3209, AB1779, urgent problem of hospitals closing maternity departments, bill to add 'speed governors' to all cars, EDD fraud, new laws in effect in 2025- AB2602, AB1836, AB413, SB1100, SB905, AB1775, AB2863, AB375, AB3209, AB1779, AB1960, SB1242, SB1414, AB1955, AB1821, AB1780, SB639, AB1825, SB988, SB1105, AB2123, AB2499, AB2917, AB574, AB1483, AB1598, SB450, AB2347, SB1395, SB729, AB2515, AB2475, AB2017, and SB764.

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)/California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC): legislative items reviewed/discussed: GFWC Legislative Action Alerts, domestic violence, United States vs Rahimi, rape kit backlog, Kids Online Safety-the REPORT Act, Federal appropriations including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, H.R.3058 Recruiting Families Using Data Act (for foster and adoptive families), Child Tax Credit, Hope for Justice (GFWC Affiliate program), review of Bylaws and Resolutions being presented at the GFWC and CFWC Conventions, Shot@Life Action Alert, S474/HR5082-Kids Online Safety, Women's Suffrage Monument on the National Mall, Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, CFWC Resolution-Prevention of Coerced Marriage (generated in response to an article in our state magazine written by our committee chairman), HR5856-Anti trafficking bill, SHIELD Act, DEFIANCE Act, S2073, HR7218, S113, HR7891, VAWA, and Find it Early Act (breast cancer).

MEMBERS: Our committee chairman stays connected with our elected representatives at all levels and can contact the elected officials or their staff members at any time for information, assistance, and speakers for our meetings. Arrangements are already being made for the elected officials, including newly elected members, to be speakers at Legislation & Public Policy meetings in 2025.

Our committee members are actively and positively engaged in educating themselves on current legislation and public policy issues. Many club members attend City Council meetings or watch the meetings on television or computer if they are unable to attend in person. Reports on meetings are made in our club newsletter and at our club meetings, so all club members can stay informed on important issues.

We have been contacted throughout the year by our elected officials and community project developers to review their plans. We take these contacts seriously and do our best to be of service. The work of this committee is exciting and important since our club is woven into the fabric of the community. The City Manager is a member of our club, and one of our members serves on the City Council. Our influence is evident in the interactions with our legislators. Our agendas are packed, and the analysis of issues keeps members engaged in our political process, which keeps us more informed.