



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

Chairman: Joan Larsen & Dawne Reed		Club: GFWC WOMEN'S CLUB CYPRESS	
Number of Members (<i>per CFWC Yearbook</i>): 117		District: ORANGE	Area: C
Club Position: Co-20nd VICE PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
MEMBERSHIP			
Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO			

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress has contributed time, talent, and funds to help the community for 57 years. Located in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club provides service and philanthropic opportunities for our membership, including dozens of members who mark either 50, or more than 25 years of membership, multiple past-presidents, and new members each year. Members range in age from 35 to 94 years. The majority are retired and able to be actively involved, with the experienced members mentoring those who are newer or working, helping them to get involved however possible. In addition to financial donations, members volunteer hundreds of hours working on vital projects that impact our local, national, and global communities. Our members are motivated, compassionate, creative, civic minded, infinitely generous, and grateful to give back to others.

Project Title: RECURITMENT Hours 510 Donated \$ 0 In Kind \$125

Potential Member Outreach: Referral from our members is how we grow!! They are constantly bringing their friends, neighbors, co-workers, or acquaintances to Club meetings and other activities. They are our best advertising! Our club's website was updated again for easier usage and more information/photos. We also have a Facebook page, which has resulted in inquires and new memberships. The Membership team contacts a potential new member with an email (or phone call) and encourages attendance at an upcoming meeting or event. The current Newsletter is also provided. If the person shows interest, we keep them informed of upcoming club events and how they may become a member. Once a member, they are added to our formal email chain of communication. Since January 2023, we were able to grow by 23 new members and potentially 4 new members plan to attend our January 2024 meeting!

Recruiting: We share Trifolds, bookmarks or business cards with anyone we tell them about our Club. We display our Club banner and pictures of members at various club events at any booth/table we set up at events such as: the Cypress Police Open House in May, the Cypress Salute to America in July and the Cypress Women's Conference in October. Our members continue to be our best resource for advertising. They tell their family, friends and neighbors about how much fun it is to be part of the Club and the good work we do for the community. Then, they invite them to our general meetings and other activities during the year.

New Member Orientation: This year we again held two in-person orientation meetings. One in April was attended by 6 new and 6 potential members and the second in November was attended by 3 new and 6 potential members...with 4 joining that night and two will join in January. A PowerPoint overview of GFWC, CFWC, Orange District, and our Club was presented by a former Club President who created the program. Topics covered included: GFWC's mission, GFWC/CFWC/our club slogans, organization chart, history (including famous members), accomplishments, seven program areas, special projects and awards, member discounts, member responsibilities, and The Collect for Clubwomen. The attendees were able to ask questions and socialize, as well as enjoy some light refreshments. A New Member Handbook and the presentation were handed out to each of the attendees for use as a reference.

Membership Materials: Every year, the New Member Handbook and tri-fold brochure are updated by membership chairs and the current President to ensure it reflects appropriate changes at the National, State, and local level. The trifolds are used as informational handouts at any event we participate in, and at our monthly meeting welcome table. Our club's website provides detailed information about us and provides links to GFWC, CFWC, and Orange District. We receive inquiries about membership through our Club's website and Facebook page.

Night Section: This quarterly evening meeting was started in 2023 by a former President, to encourage more participation in the club by working women. A dinner meeting was held in January, with a potluck and of course wine! The meeting was open to all members, but not well attended by those working. As a result, the group decided to appoint a Social Committee. This committee is asked to come up with a project and/or arrange summer activities, such as a potluck held the last night of the Cypress Concerts on the Green; a fun morning at the beach with a yummy brunch and mimosas at Sea Legs at the Beach (The Beatles tribute band); and a trip to the Carpenter Center to see the play Sound of Music. These social events are arranged on weekends or in the evening and are well attended. Further Night Section meetings will be held as needed.

Project Title: RETENTION ACTIVITES Hours 450 Donated \$ 0 In Kind \$75

Outreach and Education: Orientation meetings are held twice a year and are open to all members. We usually have a few current members that attend to socialize with the new/potential members and contribute food/wine. Our President sends a weekly email update of events to all Members. We also have a member that leads a monthly Zoom Legislative & Public Policy meeting, which is also made available on YouTube for viewing by those members unable to attend.

New Members: We continue to grow from current member referrals, as well as our Facebook page, Website and the Cypress Women's Conference held in October 2023. We recognize new members at our general meeting the month after they join the Club with a "Welcome bag filled with a notepad and Club pen, a foldable copy of The Collect, a current yearbook, the President's flower, and Club pin and/or name badge, if purchased. We highlight each new member in our monthly newsletter, the Friendly Informer. We try to match up new members who express a particular interest in a project with the committee chairman. We have welcomed 23 new members this year.

New Member Profile: Each new member is featured in our monthly newsletter with a brief bio and a photo. We find this helps our current members to learn about our new members and recognize them at a meeting or event. It also helps those members with similar interests reach out to one another and build friendships.

Meet a Board member: We use cardboard name cards with each Board position and place them randomly at tables with the members-at-large. This is a helpful way for board members to have a chance to chat with a different group of members at each meeting.

District Workshop: All members are encouraged to attend the in-person Summer District Workshops to learn more about the duties of the Executive Board and Chairmen. We had a few brand-new members attend. Information is shared by the President in group emails to the members about this and other workshops presented by Orange District during the year.

Monthly Games or Activities: Game nights or other activities are well attended by our members and result in waiting lists. We've played Bunco, held a small Quarter mania, painting/pizza night, a Christmas Hallmark movie night in July, etc. Members bring potluck food items to share and make a donation for the charity selected by the hostess. This is a fun and easy way for members to socialize and raise funds for a specific cause. Monthly game nights are set up at the June/September meetings with program chairs encouraged to sign up in advance.

ESO/Book club: A group of members meet in the evening once a month to discuss the books they have read and exchange books with other members. This is another way for our members to connect with other members.

Yearbook: Every year a printed Yearbook (or Membership book) is given to each member at our September meeting. It provides the names, addresses, emails, and photo of every Club member, as well as other important information. It also includes the birthday of each member and birthdays by month, to ensure they are celebrated at monthly meetings. We also have an online membership listing that is updated once a month for new member information. It is available as a link to our members only. The book and the linked member listing are valuable tools to help members keep in touch with each other.

Membership Renewals: Our website accepts on-line credit/debit card payments, which is helpful as more members renewed their membership timely, and willingly paid the processing fee. We save postage and printing costs by emailing the renewal forms to all members with an email address on file and mail it only to those members without email. We also place an article about this in our Newsletters issued in January and February, as well as in the President's weekly email. This process also saves the members postage by hand delivering a printed renewal form back with a check to a meeting, or filling out the renewal form online and emailing it back after making a credit card payment.

Project Title:	REWARDS	Hours	350	Donated \$	0	In Kind \$	0
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Club Birthday: Our Club's 57th birthday was celebrated in March. We enjoyed a special luncheon with entertainment by an Elvis impersonator. We also honored 7 members celebrating milestone anniversaries with the Club for 10, 15, 25, 30 and 55 years with a special pin. We also presented each of them with Certificates provided by Orange District.

Holiday Party: Our December holiday luncheon had 62 members in attendance! It was held at a local venue with entertainment and a sit-down lunch. We had an optional \$10 gift exchange with the majority of attendees participating. A holiday card fundraiser was held, where members that wish to participate write cards in their homes. They then deliver them to the project chair, who then places the cards into a bag for each member. Each member pays \$0.30 per card as a fundraiser for the charity chosen by the chairperson. Our members find this heartwarming to know they are thought of by other members—especially new members and those no longer able to attend meetings. This year the chairperson organized 18 members to deliver bags to our 122 members, with 53 members providing a total of 4,736 cards and raising \$1,632 for Crime Survivors!!

Recruitment Rewards: In 2022, we began keeping track of who referred a new member, as well as assigning them as a "Buddy" to the member they recruited. As a result, this was the first year we recognized those members that brought in new members with the GFWC Star Recruitment Pin and Circles Awards. At our September meeting, we recognized two members for recruiting 5 new members each, one member for 6 new members and one member for 10 new members. We also placed an article in our newsletter to explain the awards and recognize the members again to show our appreciation for their efforts to ensure the continued growth of our Club.

Sunshine & Remembrance: We have a very special woman as chairperson. She makes each member feel special and a part of the club family. At each general meeting, birthdays for the month are announced and we sing "Happy Birthday". Our members receive birthday cards, get well and/or sympathy cards, as well as a gift when they are sick. Our chairperson often makes phone calls to or visits those that are ill. We express our remembrance of passing members by donations to that member's charity of choice.

