



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

Chairman: Colleen Janssen	Club: GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress	
Number of Members ( <i>per CFWC Yearbook</i> ): 117	District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Chairman		
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]		
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]	

**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY**

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.

Our club's Legislation & Public Policy Committee is open to all club members and meets monthly on Zoom. Having Zoom meetings allows special guest speakers and presentations to participate more easily. 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 guests 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:** Guest Speakers & Reps      **Hours** 60      **Donated** 0      **In Kind** \$ 0

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 2023, 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.

**JANUARY:** Soo Elizabeth Kang, from North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative. This organization is a coalition of cities, police agencies, nonprofits, and agencies dedicated to providing health and human services to the community. Our eyes were opened to the problems and solutions of solving the homeless problem in Orange County.

**MARCH:** Our speaker was Rachel Meiss from Hope for Justice, a General Federation of Women's Clubs Affiliate organization. We learned about their challenges and successes saving people from human trafficking.

**APRIL:** City Council member, Bonnie Peat, shared her presentation called, "Preparing for Government Leadership." She gave a wonderful presentation about being an elected or appointed official. Most of us just see our city council and school board trustees at their official meetings, but we don't know about all the reading, committee assignments, and work that goes on before and after the meetings. Bonnie reminded our members that the City of Cypress was accepting applications for commission positions and encouraged us to apply.

MAY: Kai Stearns, North Orange County Community College District Director of Public & Governmental Affairs gave a thorough presentation about the college, and legislation that affects higher education.

JUNE: Van Tran, Chief of Staff of External Affairs for the Office of County Supervisor Andrew Do, 1<sup>st</sup> District, shared news and goals for the County of Orange.

JULY: Ben Montelongo, Field Rep for Senator Janet Nguyen, gave a presentation about the Senator's bill package and updates on what's happening legislatively at the State of California.

SEPTEMBER: Our speaker was Elizabeth Avila, from the Orange County Office on Aging. Her presentation, "County Services for Seniors" was enlightening. She provided excellent information about resources available for older adults in our county. If seniors need anything, they can probably help.

NOVEMBER: Katie Kalvoda, President of Advance OC, presented information about a survey she was contracted to perform for the County of Orange. The Older Adults Needs Assessment will help determine where services are needed. She provided our club with 40 printed copies of the extensive survey, which were completed by members and returned. Our members were happy to be sure our city was well represented.

**Project Title: Legislation Committee Meetings & Prep Hours 300 Donated 0 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, 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:

**Congressmember Michelle Steel 45<sup>th</sup> District:** Some topics reviewed included: The perils of the Chinese Communist Party (a big topic every month from our Congress member), legislation to defund IRS agents, available internships for college students, SNOOP Act, Women of Distinction Awards, AB253 to amend title 17, Military Service Academy Appointments, update on meeting with Taiwanese President at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, international terrorism, Small Business Week, Asian American and Pacific Islanders incidents of hate crimes, HALT Fentanyl Act, HARVARD Act, Congressional App Challenge, European Union Deforestation-free Regulation, Hamas attack on Israel, US Customs and Border Protection, US trade policy enforcement, SPEAK Act, and U.S.-Taiwan Expedited Double Tax Relief Act.

**U.S. Senate – Dianne Feinstein/Alex Padilla/Laphonza Butler:** Some topics reviewed included climate change, Respect for Marriage Act, assault weapons ban, Inflation Reduction Act, FIRE Act, disaster relief, root causes of homelessness, S: 1097, 683, 633,485, 479, 448, 342, 306 277, 253, 131, wildfire resources, drought, Roe v Wade, water pollution, Inflation Reduction Act, selection of Laphonza Butler to replace Dianne Feinstein, Bicameral bill to increase access to Internet and communications for low-income Americans, Senate Mental Health Caucus, Mental Health for Military Children Act of 2023, Farm Workers' Mental Health Act, and Mental Health for Latinos Act.

**State Senate- Josh Newman 29th/Janet Nguyen 36th:** Some topics reviewed included: new laws for 2023, committees on which the senators sit, the senators' bill packages: SCA6, SB835, and more, CA state budget, town hall meetings, SB 425,444, Women's History Month, Middle Class Tax Refund, SB 639, 288, 62, 625, state resources for residents, fentanyl epidemic/crisis, SB:501, 617, 386, 444, 484, 494, 707, 568, 409, 248, 5, 32, 431, 625, 234, 6,73, 28, 576, 237, 288, 14, 31, 224, SCR5, SB: 291, 409, 425, virtual employment fair, Federal funding for ARCHES Hydrogen Hub Application, and CSUF Energy and Sustainability Summit.

**Assembly-Sharon Quirk-Silva 67<sup>th</sup> District:** Some topics reviewed included: passport services, her bills that were authored: AB:408, 498, 666, 1595, 2221, 2233, 2508, 2827, 2256; Californians for All College Corps, Women's Recovery Response Grant Program, AB: 271, 346,87,723,455, CA climate credits, applying for a CA real ID, renewal of Medi-Cal benefits, library resources, Section 8 housing update, AB: 1187, 1308, and we watched a video of homeless-related deaths/service provider coordination meeting.

**County of Orange-Andrew Do 1<sup>st</sup> District:** Some topics reviewed included: The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County, how to attend county board meetings in person and online, OC bans

TikTok on county devices, microbusiness grants, homeless services, National Alliance on Mental Illness OC Warmline Expansion, OC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, OCHA Housing Application Voucher Program, and rebuttal to Orange County Register article calling for the Supervisor's resignation.

**City of Cypress:** Some topics reviewed included: Events and activities in the community, registering to receive city council updates, how to become a city commissioner, trustee committee appointments, council meeting dates and how to watch online if one cannot attend in person, park renovation update, State of the City video presentation, CVRA redistricting lawsuit against the City, and we watched a video of the planned complete transformation of a 74-year-old park.

**Schools – Cypress Elementary, Anaheim Union High School District, and Cypress College;** Some topics reviewed: state preschool funding, monthly review of the district meeting agendas, high school programs and achievements, college academic calendar, student and parent resources, college food pantry, degrees available at Cypress College, elementary school's budgets and calendar, State budget info, women in the funeral industry (Cypress College degree offered), and youth mental health & wellness information/ resources.

**General** some topics reviewed: Lead and cadmium in dark chocolate, U.S. Food and Drug Administration alerts and recalls, AB418-Red Dye No. 3 carcinogen, Los Angeles Times article on PAC scams, student loan interest, ACA 13, candidate filing period for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election, FBI alert on holiday scams, including recommendations to avoid being scammed, and Canine Respiratory Disease outbreak information and recommendations.

**General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)/California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC):** legislative items reviewed/discussed: Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, Sexual Assault Survivors Bill, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Program Grants, Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, Pension Resources for Domestic Victim Survivors, Advocate for Online Safety for Children and Teens, Anti-Trafficking Bills, Human Trafficking Prevention Month, National Stalking Awareness Month, U.S. Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security, GFWC Advocacy Training Series, review of article in California Clubwoman Magazine about forced and child marriage, GFWC convention workshop topics, GFWC webinar schedule, Women's History Month activities, review of Resolutions approved at the GFWC national convention, HR 1105, S499 (rape test backlog), domestic violence legislation and statistics, GFWC legislation priorities, CFWC Resolutions update after convention, GFWC Resolutions update after convention, S: 1207, 1170, 1199, 1409, food insecurity, Shot@Life program, Violence Against Women Act-VAWA, kids online safety, and updated on GFWC Legislation Action Alerts.

Child Protection Legislation Items Supported by GFWC and our club:

Federal: S.1207	EARN IT Act
Federal: S.1170	Project Safe Childhood Act
Federal: S.1199	STOP CSAM Act
Federal: S.1409	Kids Online Safety Act

**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 2024. Connections are also being made with those running for office during 2024, so they will attend our Zoom candidates' forums.

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 two of our members serve 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.