



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
**Annual Reporting January 1 - December 31, 2020**

Prepared by: Colleen Janssen	Club: Woman's Club of Cypress	
Number of Members: 82	District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Legislation & Public Policy Chairman		
Reporter's Address:		
City: Cypress	State: CA	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	

**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY**

The Woman's Club of Cypress has contributed time, talent, and funds to help the community for 54 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 more than 25 years of membership and participation, along with two founding members, multiple Past-Presidents, and new members each year. Members range in age from 35 to 92 years. The majority are retired and able to be actively involved, while the working members participate whenever 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 Legislation & Public Policy Committee is open to all Club members and meets monthly at a local restaurant. Attendance at meetings varies, with as many as a dozen members attending, sometimes including members who come to our meeting from other Orange County area women's clubs. Our chairman encourages other club members to attend, so we can show them how to host an effective committee at their own club.

The committee does NOT take a position on candidates, only on issues. The 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, the committee chairman will prepare a letter that members can sign, or members can go online to sign letters prepared by our national organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

This committee was not deterred by the pandemic or subsequent lockdown. The March meeting was held in person, then immediately switched to meeting using Zoom when we reconvened in September. There was too much to be done to lose any time. We operate on a zero-dollar budget and rely on in-kind donations when we choose to incur a cost for a program. We are lean, and effective.

**Project Title: Cypress City Council Candidates Forum Hours 46 Donated \$0 In Kind \$15**

Although our committee does not take positions on candidates, only on issues, we determined that too many members of our club and community did not know any of the candidates running for two open City Council seats in the November election. On October 8, 2020, nine of the eight candidates running for office attended our Zoom City Council Candidates Forum. From 9:00 am to 10:30 am,

candidates answered questions posed by the moderator, who is also our committee chairman. Questions were created based on advance input from our committee members and covered local community issues. Candidates were offered 1-1/2 minutes for an opening statement, and another 1-1/2 minutes for a closing statement. Thirteen committee members attended from the club, then the recording of the forum was emailed to all members, who forwarded it to interested community members and friends.

The recording was posted on Facebook and shared with the community at large, and was tagged for General Federation of Women's Clubs, California Federation of Women's Clubs, and CFWC Orange District. Facebook recorded 597 viewings on its platform. With the addition of viewings by members and their friends, we feel the reach in the community was significant. We heard back from many members and voters that our forum helped them make up their mind before voting. This was a first-time event for our club, and we were proud of our success.

**Project Title: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Hours 8 Donated \$0 In Kind \$ 25**

With the lockdowns from the pandemic, our club's plans to have an event to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, granting women the right to vote, had to be shelved. Instead, our committee chairman wrote and performed a recorded two-minute video about women's right to vote and the importance of registering, and voting, in the 2020 election. The video was emailed to members and shared on Facebook from October 9 until after the election date. There were hundreds of views and some forwarded the video to others. Unfortunately, a final view count was not possible. The chairman even bought an old-fashioned suffragette costume to wear for the recording! This video became a unique opportunity to share not only the message about registering to vote, but information about the history of women's struggles to earn the right to vote.

**Project Title Legislation Committee Meetings Hours 250 Donated 0 In Kind \$ 125**

Legislation & Public Policy Committee meetings are open to all club members, but the "regulars" vary from eight to twelve at each monthly meeting. In addition to legislation, we review reports and newsletters from our Congressional representative Alan Lowenthal, Senator Ling Ling Chang, Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva, County Supervisor Michelle Steel, City of Cypress, and a new addition this year is the Cypress School District. Information from these sources is reviewed at every meeting. Over the course of the year, these are examples of some of the topics the committee covered:

**Congressional** topics (some) reviewed include: Articles of Impeachment, Fiscal Year funding/budget, greenhouse gas emissions, migratory bird protections, global plastic waste crisis, US-Mexico-Canada Agreement trade bill, deductions for state and federal taxes (SALT), Census 2020 updates, Social Security poll, legislation updates on HR1154-Condemning QAnon, HR1153-Condemning medical procedures without consent, and HR1164-Condemning rejecting QAnon conspiracy theories it promotes.

**Senate** topics (some) reviewed include: At our February meeting, a representative from the Senator's office attended the meeting and offered an informative presentation on Senate legislation and issues, then provided us pertinent brochures regarding her office's services. Additionally, over the months we reviewed: AB2644 to protect seniors in Skilled Nursing Facilities during Covid, election drop box locations, and secure ballots/secure elections.

**Assembly** topics (some) reviewed include: Community Coffee events for the public (we attended a few either in person or on Zoom), possible senior and low-income resident discounts on utilities and property taxes, reminder to complete Census 2020, AB3300 to fight homelessness, State of California budget, Hearing on Tourism, discussion of the safe economy, during elections - "Where's my ballot?", upcoming webinars, breakfasts, and forums. The Assemblymember's office staff

provided brochures on multiple topics for our members: Your Guide to Participation, State of CA Agencies & Departments, Let's Talk CA State Services and Legislation, and At Your Service-Guide to Constituent Service.

**County of Orange** topics (some) reviewed include: Community events attended by the supervisor, Black History Month, local City reorganizations, new veteran's cemetery, new Tier system for Covid pandemic restrictions, drive-thru grocery distributions, OC Health Dept recommendations on protecting residents from Covid, access to behavioral health services, safe dine-in extension, and OC Virtual Job Fairs hosted by the County.

**City of Cypress** topics (some) reviewed include: New City app, appointment of the new mayor, City Council meeting schedule, community clean-up day, park reimagining meeting that some of us attended online, Amazon Last-Mile proposed new facility and hearings, partial reopening of City facilities, ground-breaking for new park, coyote management plan, contract award for new park development, and City Council meeting schedule.

**School District** topics reviewed: Sale and relocation of district main office staff.

**General** topics reviewed: Event about human trafficking, California moving its primary from June to March, new Vote Centers, Census 2020, and the 1619 Project.

**Election:** Each of the 12 Propositions was reviewed and discussed by committee members. Additionally, our City had two Measures that were discussed. One was controversial regarding changes to our City charter. These discussions help our members get their questions answered before they voted. After the election, results on elected officials and results of local Measures and statewide Propositions, were presented monthly to the committee until the final election results were posted and reviewed at our December meeting.

**General Federation of Women's Clubs** items reviewed/discussed:

Federal: HR1585: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 SUPPORT

Federal: S1831: 3D Gun Safety Act of 2019 SUPPORT

Federal: HR3265: 3D Gun Safety Act of 2019 SUPPORT

Federal: HR1923: Women's History/19th Amendment Centennial Qtr Dollar Coin Pgm Act SUPPORT

Federal: S1787: Miranda's Law (Employer notification/bus driver) SUPPORT

Federal: HR2793: Miranda's Law (Employer notification/bus driver) SUPPORT

Each month, members are reminded to follow up on Legislative Action Alerts important legislation items sent by the General Federation of Women's Clubs by taking action to notify their elected officials on our position, whether in Support or Opposition.

**MEMBERS:** Our chairman keeps connected to our elected representatives at all levels and can contact their staff members at any time for information, assistance, and speakers for our meetings. Our committee members are actively and positively engaged in educating themselves on current legislation and public policy issues. Many are excited to 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 82 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. Our influence is evident in the interactions with our legislators.