



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET
Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2022

Chairman: Colleen Janssen	Club: GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress	
Number of Members (from CFWC Yearbk): 95	District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Legislation & Public Policy Chairman		
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]		
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]	
<u>LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY</u>		
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 56 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 have been invited to attend our meetings, and learn how to run their own committee, which often results in guests from other Orange County women's clubs. Representatives attend our monthly meetings from the offices of our Senator, Assemblywoman, County Supervisor, and local schools. 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: 2022 Woman of the Year Recognition Hours 2 Donated 0 In Kind \$ 0

Our Legislation & Public Policy chairman received the 2022 Woman of the Year recognition from Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, 65th District, in part due to her work chairing the club's Legislation & Public Policy committee, interaction with elected officials, articles in the GFWC California Clubwoman Magazine, along with involvement in the community through the Woman's Club of Cypress.

Project Title: City Council Candidates Forum Hours 100 Donated 0 In Kind \$ 0

Our committee held a Zoom City Council Candidates Forum in mid-October. All seven candidates for office attended, which was better attendance than any other forum 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 three 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 club members, who then forwarded it to their friends, relatives, and neighbors. Many hundreds of views occurred both online and through emails.

Project Title: Guest Speakers **Hours** 50 **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 2022, 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.

MARCH: Our speaker was the field rep from State Senator Josh Newman. For 30 minutes, he reviewed a list of bills proposed by the Senator, explained them to the group, and shared the status of each in the state's legislative process. Items included: SCA6, SB583, SB921, SB1131, SB1215, SB991, SB1036, SB1329, SB942, SB873, SB835, SB855, SB1377, SB971, SB1064, SB1237, SB1193, and SB1418.

JULY: David Burke, founder of Citizens Take Action, presented information about campaign finance laws and the report on how each city in our county scored. The 40-minute presentation called Integrity in Local Government, was informative, comprehensive, and eye-opening for our members.

SEPTEMBER: Our speaker was the field rep from Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva reviewing her legislative package for the year. Many of her bills focus on helping the homeless population.

NOVEMBER: California State Senator Josh Newman, 29th District, gave a 40-minute presentation about the legislative and budget status of the State of California, and answered questions from our members. Additionally, he updated us on his bills. We found him to be approachable and well-informed.

DECEMBER: Our speaker was outgoing City of Cypress Mayor, Paulo Morales. He presented a 40-minute State of the City PowerPoint, then fielded questions from our members.

Project Title: Legislation Committee Meetings **Hours** 600 **Donated** 0 **In Kind** \$ 150

Legislation & Public Policy Committee meetings are open to all club members, with 12-20 "regulars" at each monthly meeting. In addition to legislation, we review reports and newsletters from our Congressman, U.S. Senators, State Senator, Assembly Member, County Supervisor, City of Cypress, Cypress School District, Anaheim Union High School District, and Cypress College. 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 reviewed and discussed:

Congressional some topics reviewed included: Priorities for 2022, COMPETES Act, autonomous vehicles, State of the Union address, protecting our oceans, plastic pollution, codifying lynching as a federal hate crime, Supreme Court confirmation of Ketanji Brown, Roe v. Wade, infant formula shortage, mining laws, aid for Ukraine, gun violence, infrastructure funding for Long Beach Airport, recycling, mental health on college campuses, PACT Act, rural EV charging stations, cap orphaned oil and gas wells, student loan forgiveness program, and offshore wind leases on the California coast.

U.S. Senate some topics reviewed included: Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, American Rescue Plan, Covid and other vaccines, Reauthorize VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence, monitoring situation in Ukraine, CA receives \$81 B for wildfire reduction, affordable housing and homelessness crisis, climate change, constituent services, assault weapons ban, current bills, Inflation Reduction Act, and committee assignments.

State Senate some topics reviewed included: The Senators committee assignments, Covid testing, updates from the Capitol, legislative package, free tax prep for seniors, battery recycling legislation, veterans, community, Middle Class Tax Refund, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, and pet inclusive housing.

Assembly some topics reviewed included: Community resources, transit, FAFSA and CADAA for college students, Controller Betty Yee, unclaimed property website, Earned Income Credit, Young Legislators Program, identity theft, new veteran's cemetery, scams, and citizenship fair.

County of Orange some topics reviewed included:.County homeless audit and survey, 2021 Year in Review, oil spills off OC coast, Covid updates, transportation, libraries, fentanyl impacts, homeless count, transparency in government, Federal food aid to counties, organics recycling, nominations for Women Making a Difference, homeless encampments, free vision screening, National Women's History Month, June voting info, State of the County address, job fairs, and county services.

City of Cypress some topics reviewed included: Possible redistricting, city development projects, CA Voting Rights Act, new park, new police station, food assistance, senior programs, RFPs, housing element update, event updates every month, commission service opportunities for our members, Citizens Academy (three of our club members were selected to participate), catalytic converter thefts, public hearings, CalAware/Brown Act lawsuit, City of Cypress Community Survey results, Cypress Women's Conference, and wastewater. Thirteen club members attended the swearing-in of new City Council members, one of whom is a member of our club.

School Districts some topics reviewed: Coding programs, board actions, school calendar, union bargaining, and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support in elementary schools.

General some topics reviewed: State legislation updates, SB1042 - human trafficking, water company public hearings/forum, Review of ballot measures (Propositions 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and SCA 10) for both the June primary, and November election, U.S. Food & Drug product recalls, AB1771-CA Housing Speculation Act, Ban PFAS in food packaging, election results for candidates and propositions, water regulations in response to the drought.

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) legislative items reviewed/discussed:

Step-by-step instructions are online to sign up for GFWC Legislative Action Alerts. These are key, so members can help support or oppose legislation that is important to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. We regularly review GFWC priorities: Advocacy, GFWC Resolutions approved at the CFWC convention, protect funding for victims of crime; fund global vaccination efforts, increase funds to prevent child abuse, equal pay for equal work, time for women to have equal rights, end campus sexual assault, and HR 1620 - the Violence Against Women Act, sexual exploitation of children, and General Federation of Women's Clubs upcoming advocacy workshops. Our members reviewed the following legislative items and took positions using the GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.

Federal: HR 485	Reauthorize Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act SUPPORT
Federal: SJ Res 1	Equal Rights Amendment SUPPORT
Federal: HJ Res 17	Equal Rights Amendment SUPPORT
Federal: HR 7	Amend Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 SUPPORT
Federal: S 205	Amend Fair labor Standards Act of 1938 SUPPORT

MEMBERS: Our committee chairman stays connected to 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 2023.

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.

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 makes us more informed voters.