



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET
Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Sylvia Baran	Club: GFWC Woman's Club of Indio	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 <i>CFWC Yearbook</i>): 113	District: De Anza District	Area: D
Club Position: Leadership Chair		
Reporter's Address: P.O. Box 1503		
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<p>Leadership GFWC Advancement Program</p>		

Founded in 1912, the GFWC Woman's Club of Indio (WCI) ignited growth and innovation in Indio. It began when ten visionary women formed the Altrurian Literary Club (meaning "selflessness in service to others") in a rugged desert town dominated by male railroad workers and ranchers. These pioneering women met under the full moon so their horses could safely guide them home and transformed their club into a force for community improvement through volunteer work. In 1916, they established Indio's first circulating library and later joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1924, our member Dr. June McCarroll advocated for the "White Lines Measure" for painted highway centerlines, which gained statewide support. Today, WCI remains committed to making a meaningful difference in our community and addressing Indio's evolving needs. From scholarships and literacy initiatives to historical preservation and health and wellness advocacy, we honor the legacy of our founding sisters. Over 112 years have passed since our club's founding, and the world has changed; however, our goals, drive, and commitment to making a difference remain the same and are stronger than ever.

Project Title: Leaders Lead Whenever & Wherever Needed

Hours: 2,242.5 Donated: \$0 In-Kind: \$500

Donation Day & Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Based on an idea seen on a Vista Club Facebook post, the Woman's Club of Indio posted its first annual Donation Day Brunch on Saturday, May 18 at the Indio, Heritage Palms Clubhouse.

We designated a special Saturday to recognize our High School and Empowering Women Scholarship recipients and leaders from each non-profit organization we supported with monetary donations. Our invited guests included the scholarship recipients along with two guests each and organization leaders. As guests arrived, they were treated to a slide show featuring each scholarship recipient and organization. The program featured each scholarship

recipient speaking on their plans for the future and we heard from each organization on how the non-profit would use our donation. When it was all said and done, \$36,000 in scholarships were presented to 18 recipients along with total non-profit donations of \$24,050 to 17 organizations. This heart-warming and joyful event was a remarkable success with 117 members, guests and recipients in attendance.

Juniorette (Junior Youth) Club Advisor

The GFWC HOPE Junior Youth Club is now in its fourth year, and this is also our fourth year advising them. Initially, the focus was on establishing a strong foundation for the club. Membership and leadership have always been challenges for a Junior Youth Club, mainly due to the annual graduation of members. This year, we concentrated on engaging the parents of potential members, as Junior Youth Clubs rely on both parent participation and commitment alongside that of the members. We dedicated one-on-one time with HOPE board members to explain their duties and clarify what would be expected of them. Additionally, we prepared parliamentary scripts for the president to use during board and general meetings.

Our efforts have yielded positive results; HOPE officers have become more proactive and require less encouragement and instruction to complete their tasks, which has helped us gain new members. It has been heartwarming to witness the relationships formed among members. Some who started quiet and shy are now entirely comfortable and engaged. Regarding our community service, we emphasized the CFWC President's focus on Civic Engagement and Outreach this year, with activities and projects designed to support active military personnel and veterans and to increase patriotism.

Inspiring People and Inspiring Creativity

As the Citizenship Chair of our club, I'm excited to create fun and meaningful table decorations for our monthly meetings. I want these decorations to inspire everyone and help foster that wonderful sense of camaraderie and friendship among our sisters in the Federation. Each month, we get to switch up the tabletop décor to match a different theme, which adds a delightful surprise for our guests when they walk into the meeting room and see a beautifully set table. I also have the privilege of leading our members in the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of our gatherings. One of my favorite parts of this role is planning, writing, and sharing uplifting inspirational messages. The fresh decorations each month delight our club members and set a lovely theme that impresses everyone. Together, we make our meetings memorable and enjoyable!

Speakers Inform and Engage

Our club prides itself on creating engaging programs for our monthly meetings, which significantly boosts attendance. We start by consulting our board of directors, committee chairs, and project champions for recommendations on topics and speakers that align with our initiatives. Members are informed about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities through live announcements at meetings, our WCI Delivers newsletter, and our website calendar.

Recent speakers highlight our diverse focus areas, including domestic violence awareness, health and wellness, and civic engagement. We also host an annual kick-off brunch in

September to reconnect after summer and a bingo event in April. Our efforts are paying off, as we regularly see 50 to 70 attendees at our meetings. We love it!

Supporting the New Board

As the incoming president, I reserved a private room at a local restaurant for an end-of-term/beginning-of-term get-together. It was held to celebrate and enable outgoing officers to orient and pass on their responsibilities to the incoming officers. During a prior president's term, she instructed each Board Member and Committee Chair to prepare a "Year at a Glance" chart and notebook to pass on to their successor, detailing major duties to be completed month by month. This instruction was carried on during the last term as well.

The retreat proved invaluable, as officers recognized the importance of properly handing off their responsibilities. The new president communicated her expectations to her incoming Committee Chairs and invited discussion from everyone present. We also brainstormed a bit and then enjoyed a meal together.

Report Writing Workshop

To celebrate our history, uphold our non-profit status, and connect with our members, we focus on narrative report writing at the end of the year. We held a fun Report Writing Workshop in December at our usual spot, complete with refreshments to keep everyone energized!

Leading the workshop was our wonderful 1st Vice President/Dean, who guided us through the process. Each participant received a Reporting Handbook that we reviewed together, and it's now available on our website for everyone to access. We covered a variety of important topics like the Life of a Club Report, the Who, What, When, and Why of Reporting, and how to log member reporting hours and donations. We also explored different report categories and components and shared links to additional resources and sample reports.