



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Diane Melin	Club: Hemet Woman's Club	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 39	District: De Anza	Area: D
Club Position: 3 rd Vice President and ESO Chairman		
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<div style="text-align: center;"><u>ART AND CULTURE</u></div>		

The Hemet Woman's Club was founded in 1906! We celebrate the women whose foresight envisioned a community library and dedicated their efforts to ensure its success. The legacy handed down from the original group of 13 women has focused on improving the quality of life in our valley through a wide variety of special projects. Through the years we have fostered the General Federation of Woman's Club's motto of "Living the Volunteer Spirit" as we continue our commitment to community service.

Project Title: Thinking Up Thinks **Hours** 33 **Donated \$** 700.00 **In Kind** \$45.00

Dr. Seuss tells us to: "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try." Likely he is advising us how important it is to use our imaginations, as in our writing. Because writing is an essential job skill and how one's work is judged in school and the workplace, it is our responsibility to encourage children to be good writers and utilize their imagination. Which is why the Hemet Woman's Club members consider their annual Youth Writing Contest a priority for our community.

The challenge is that when working with schools, we must follow a school-year schedule, not a calendar year schedule that our club reporting uses. The GFWC rules say that writing must be done in the calendar year. In the fall of 2023, we contacted local schools to find teachers who were willing to have students participate. In September we sent out directions, including a writing prompt for each age level, along with directions and deadlines. We chose to offer it to the fifth through twelfth grades and students could write either a poem or short story, except the 5th grade only does the short story. Even though GFWC/CFWC do not offer a writing prompt, our committee of mostly retired teachers knows the importance of giving students a prompt when teaching writing. Then in December and early January of 2024, we collected the entries (100+) and began the judging process using an independent panel of community members (mostly retired educators or authors). Entries were judged within the grades levels of grade 5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

Cash prizes were awarded of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place for each grade level for both the poetry and short stories. Each winning student was given a cash envelope along with a beautiful certificate of recognition. The first-place entries were then forwarded on to the De Anza District competition where each of our entries were selected as winners! Students received certificates and ribbons and their entries were sent on to the CFWC competition. In April 2024 we hosted the first-place winners, along with their teachers and parents, at the Hemet Woman's Club Scholarship Tea where they were introduced and surprised with their De Anza awards. For many of our members this is a favorite club event of the year. Then in May, three of our entries were selected as winners at the CFWC contest which was very exciting for the students.

At this point in time, the 2024 contest is underway with an environmental theme. We will begin the judging in late December 2024 and early January 2025 and then repeat the entire process as outlined above. As mentioned previously, the calendar issue can be confusing for reporting. But the important point is that the Hemet Woman's Club is proud to encourage our community's youth to have the opportunity to enter a writing contest to develop important skills necessary for future success, along with Thinking Up lots of Thinks.

Project Title: Gems of the Valley **Hours** 7 **Donated \$** None **In Kind** \$87.62

This has been a difficult project that we completed this year. When someone comes to Hemet and goes to the Chamber of Commerce office there is no brochure that tells them what there is to see or do in Hemet. A committee was formed last year to try to create a brochure and website that would help solve this problem. Our biggest problem is we had and still do not have any money for this project. The Chamber offered to print the brochure for us and put them in their office. This solved that problem. A member donated the money for the website for one year. Another problem solved. The next hurdle what places should be featured? It was surprising to see how many of these featured highlights had their beginnings with the Hemet Woman's Club (HWC), with this in mind we selected the Hemet Library, Hemet Museum, Ramona Amphitheater, Historic Theater and the Hillside Players. The pictures on the website featured these and four others, but the story about each of these locations included the part our club played in their history.

With the brochure completed the Chamber printed 100 and we placed them around the community and took about 50 to the Ramona Bowl for the opening of the 101st season of the Ramona Pageant. This had been the goal to have them in time for the Pageant. The Chamber printed them on copy paper, they looked pretty plain, so we had a printing company print 50 on glossy paper and they turned out beautiful, but expensive. We distributed these at the 5 remaining performances of Ramona. The website with our club's QR code continued running throughout 2024 but was not renewed. Will the brochure be reprinted, that is still up for discussion, because it was very popular at the Pageant.

Project Title: Quilts for the Needy **Hours** 137 **Donated \$** None **In Kind** \$2.15

Our crafter club is lucky to have a room with a lot of space to work and cupboards to store our supplies, because we collect a lot of fabric which we can use for quilts. Many of us go to garage sales and buy fabric and many people know we quilt for charities, so they are very generous by giving us a lot of fabric. Some of the fabric has already been sewn together to start a quilt, which is easy for us to complete. We put batting between the top of the pieced quilt and the back. Most of the quilts we make are then hand tied and the edges are bound with bias or hemmed. We give the quilts to a variety of charities and that is reported in the proper Programs in other reports, but the hours are not. Ronald McDonald house received 10 full sized quilts, the Riverside County Sheriffs Chaplin's received 6 small blankets for children, and Operation Smile received 2 quilts.

Project Title: Crafts for Holiday Bazaar **Hours** 112 **Donated \$** None **In Kind** \$20.00

The Holiday Bazaar is our major fundraiser each year. The money goes directly to our many educational programs. The crafters this year had a donation of about 25 wooden deer that were varnished, but needed eyes, noses, and bows tied around their necks. Members completed small ones to be used as tree ornaments, they were quickly sold at the bazaar. The larger ones were sold in sets of 3 and were also popular. There were several beautiful styled wooden pieces that a husband and wife made together that sold well. Other members created Christmas tree ornaments, clever Santa jars that held candy or buckets that held candy canes.

