



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Doris Osko	Club: Woman's Improvement Club of Corona	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 84	District: DeAnza	Area: D
Club Position: Historian		
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<hr/> <u>Women's History & Resource Center</u>		
GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, ESO		

Founded in 1899 as the Town Improvement Club, the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona WICC has continued to this day to serve others. It has provided a visible thumbprint and resonating voice throughout our city, once known as "The Lemon Capitol of the World" and now known as the Gateway to the Inland Empire." We provide continued support in all the following areas: Education, the Military, Conservation, Anti-Domestic Violence, Public Issues, Persons with physical and mental disabilities, the poor and homeless. Fight against Cancer, Good Health, Women's History, and Arts and Crafts. Individual projects to help others are too numerous to mention, but while members work to raise funds and volunteer service, they are also forming lifetime friendships and enjoying activities together that bring joy and camaraderie. The Founding Mothers of the City of Corona were the founding mothers of the Woman's Improvement Club, now 125 years in existence. The club members set up the first Humane Society, supported Women's Suffrage, created the Settlement House for the poor and homeless, established the first Sanitation Department, the first Girl Scout Troop, and the first Red Cross. Our clubhouse, built in 1913, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Our motto, "The World is advancing; advance with it," clearly defines who we are and the work we started 125 years continues today with hard-working, dedicated sisters in service.

Project Title: 125th. Anniversary of Club's Founding **Hours:** 110 **Donated:** \$200. **In Kind:** \$1,000

With great excitement members of Woman's Improvement Club of Corona celebrated the 125th birthday of the founding of the club in 1899. Club ties to the community have been marked by

125 years of service from the time of its founding to the present day. The club members set up the first Humane Society, the first Sanitation Department, established the first Red Cross and Girl Scout troops, supported Women's Suffrage, and created the Settlement House for the poor and homeless...only a miniscule part of their achievement through the ages. That was only the beginning, so a worthy celebration it was for the 125th year anniversary. A program was presented on October 12, 2024, with the club historian with the help of the club Parliamentarian and past president narrating the history of the club accompanied by a slide presentation. The program took place in the 113-year-old clubhouse, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Participating in the program were the mayor of Corona, Tom Richins, who presented a certificate, and City Council members Wes Speake and Jacque Casillas. Wes is also president of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Participating also was County Supervisor and member, Karen Spiegel who also presented a wall plaque to the club. All these personages provided anecdotes relating the importance of the club to the history of Corona. At the program two oil paintings done by member and professional artist, Jan Warner, and depicting early club history, were presented to the club. At the luncheon each person present was gifted with a bookmark commemorating the 125th. anniversary and a set of four note cards depicting club history. The value of each of the oil paintings was \$500.00. The club's Financial Secretary donated the bookmarks and the notecards. Countless hours were spent researching the history of the club and writing the narrative and gathering photos for the slide presentation. All in all, it was an impressive and appropriate program for such an auspicious occasion.

Project Title: Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Hours 4 Donated \$2,000. In Kind 0

Woman's Improvement Club of Corona took as a major project funding to restore the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial located locally in Butterfield Park. Deteriorating badly and vandalized, this adobe monument was the project of Woman's Club member and then first woman mayor of Corona, Rena Parker, in 1969. For the past seven years, Woman's Club has donated money to restore the monument and an iron bell that was part of it. Once again, the club donated \$2,000. and all are overjoyed that construction has begun. Added next to the monument by Woman's Club will be placed a bench for visitors to sit and meditate on the huge sacrifices made by those who took part in the Vietnam War.

Project Title: Vintage Home Tour/Clubhouse Hours 50 Donated 0 In Kind \$300.00

The historic Woman's Improvement Club opened its doors for viewing in the annual Corona Historic Preservation Society's Vintage Home Tour in May 2024. Located on Corona's historic Grand Boulevard Area and resembling in architecture a Welsh church, the edifice itself is well known in Corona. Between 1:00 and 4:00 on a Saturday, six members served as docents welcoming hundreds of people touring the venerable clubhouse, built in 1913. The docents were dressed in clothing of the period and had prepared talks on the history of the club and the clubhouse. Refreshments of cookies and lemonade were available with tables at which to sit and socialize during the six vintage home tour. The clubhouse had new flooring and had been painted. A total of ten members served as docents at the other vintage homes featured in the

home tour, and they too had prepared by learning the histories of the homes at which they served.

Project: Historian Hours: 150 Donated: 0 In Kind: \$75.00

Woman's Improvement Club of Corona is unique in that it has a Historian appointed by the president and serving on the Board of Directors. The Historian takes photos at all club events, does writeups for the newsletter, presents history information at meetings, and most of all keeps a written history of the club in scrapbook form which is given to the Corona Public Library Heritage Room where it is stored as part of Corona History. The Historian has donated cost of photographs, plastic pages, and scrapbook for the continuance of history. At this year's 125th Anniversary of founding, the historian wrote and presented a chronological timeline of the history of Woman's Club since 1899. She also wrote speeches about the history of Woman's Club for the docents at the previously mentioned Vintage Home Tour. Two members also maintain a beautifully done "In Memoriam" scrapbook recording information on members deceased during the year as part of the history of our club.

Project: Corona Historic Preservation Society Hours 100 Donated: \$1,000 In Kind: 0

Woman's Improvement Club has a working relationship with the Corona Historic Preservation Society to preserve the oldest continuously operating service club in the city. As mentioned previously WICC also donates money to restoring a Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, and WICC takes an active role in the Vintage Home Tour. These are sponsored also by Corona Historic Preservation Society. Three of our members serve on the Board of Directors, and many members have memberships in the Society because of its interest in maintaining our historic importance.