



De Anza District Newsletter

Member of GFWC and CFWC

December 2023

Edited by: Donna Allosada

beesum1@sbcglobal.net



Dear Members,

I hope you all had a restful holiday. I am enjoying my time with my son's family, taking a walk on Thanksgiving morning, then we had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with my daughter-in-law's side of the family. We watched the neighbors put up their Christmas decor. We went to a used bookstore and sold some and bought some. I played ping pong with one grandson and learned all about dancing parrots on Minecraft with the other.

It's time to finish up your report writing, Presidents please use the new forms for your statistical reports and club reports. I know Mickie has the timeline fine-tuned. So, if you have questions, she is the one to go to. Also now is the time to encourage your members

to try out for LEADS. Each club needs to submit a candidate. Use the GFWC forms and talk to Jan Emde or Mickie Reed if you have any questions.

I know this time of year with so much going on, remember to take care of yourself. Drink your water, eat more than just cookies. Take a walk to enjoy the season. Go out and enjoy the lights. Have a group of friends over. Take time for the people you love. Here's your hug.

Yours in Federation,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Alison Eccleston



We are at a time of year when our calendars are full of activities. Our year is ending and a new year beginning. A time to think about new ways to make the year great.

Here are a few suggestions on Membership:

At orientation describe the organization, history, structure and various activities of the California and General Federation. Have meaningful initiations, make each person feel special. Have active committee assignments, place the new member on a committee, make each member feel wanted and welcome, introduce yourself. Make sure all decisions are made in the

best interests of the Club and Community and are plans for the future. The California and General Federations of Women's Club have a long and proud history. When we offer membership into our organization to anyone, let us do so with pride. Our members should understand it is an honor to be a Federated club member.

Wishing all my Sisters a Happy Holiday and a Safe New Year!

Amelia Nieves

De Anza District

2nd V.P. Membership

2022-2024

Here are a few photos from a Christmas craft making session at the Woman's Club of Holtville. All photos taken by Deborah Thornburg.



Long-time member Linda Reschert





FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS*

If you visit Pioneers' Museum in the Imperial Valley you might spy a Camino Real Bell by the cactus garden. We are all used to seeing these bells as we drive along the coast from San Diego to San Francisco. So, how and why did the bell come to be in the Imperial Valley?

Historically, the Camino Real was the "road" that connected the missions in the Spanish era of California. As any fourth grader in the California school system can tell you, the missions were placed about one day's distance from each other. Not only did the road connect missions, but it was the lifeline between early presidios and pueblos.

In 1892, Anna Pitcher initiated an effort to mark the historic by-way by way of markers resembling mission bells. This was picked up as a worthy project by California Federation of Women's Clubs and the Native Daughters of the Golden West in 1904.

Mrs. A. S. C. Forbes designed the bells. Each bell weighed 80 pounds and was 18 inches in diameter. Mrs. Forbes opted to make the bells of iron instead of bronze because it better represented the iron will of Father Serra. They were hung from an 11 foot-high shepherd's crook, or Franciscan walking stick. Each bell was inscribed with the dates 1769 – 1906. The founding of Mission San Diego Alcala is noted by the first date, and the second represents the first placement of the bells along California roads.

A little note here; Mrs. A. S. C. Forbes was no dummy. When this project got off the ground, she and her husband BOUGHT a foundry in order to make the bells to specifications. They incorporated in 1906 as the California Bell Company and are, to this day, the only manufacturers of Camino Real Bells. Smart move, eh?

Eventually, there were 450 bells placed along California highways. At that point, the care and maintenance of the bells was passed to the hands of the state. With theft, vandalism, expanded roads, and other vagaries of time, the bells started disappearing. It is estimated that there were only about 80 remaining by the 1960's. In 1996, Keith Robinson of Caltrans began an intensive restoration project resulting in placement of 555 bells.

Which brings us to Pioneers' Museum. In 2000, the De Anza District of California Federation of Women's Club and Imperial Valley Historical Society joined forces in one woman, my mother, Jo Thornburg. She was a district officer in the CFWC and a past president of the museum board. In order to get a bell for the museum she had to go through a long process to prove to the powers that be that the Imperial Valley was somehow part of the Camino Real. She was able, through scholarly research, to demonstrate that the second expedition by Juan Bautista De Anza came through the valley by way of the Yuma Crossing. Father Garces established two missions there (later destroyed in native uprising). De Anza traveled on to the coast and eventually founded the presidio San Francisco and the mission San Francisco de Asis. That fairly and squarely put the Imperial Valley on the Camino Real. And so there is a bell in a most unlikely place.

Therefore, ask not for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for: the early Spanish explorers and priests, Mrs. Pitcher and Mrs. Forbes, Caltrans, Pioneers' Museum the California Federation of Woman's Clubs. Since that is the case, I guess it tolls for thee.

*To all the lit majors out there- I know the tolling bell is a death knell. I'm taking a little literary license here. Just go with it.

Deborah Thornburg

Beaumont Woman's Club had their General Meeting on November 11th (Veteran's Day). We had a great time making Poppy Door Hangers for the Banning American Legion, and wrapping gifts for our 29 Palms Marine Corps adopted family for the Making Spirits Bright project. We also welcomed two new members! What a great meeting!

Mickie Reed
GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)
DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean
(760) 668-7018





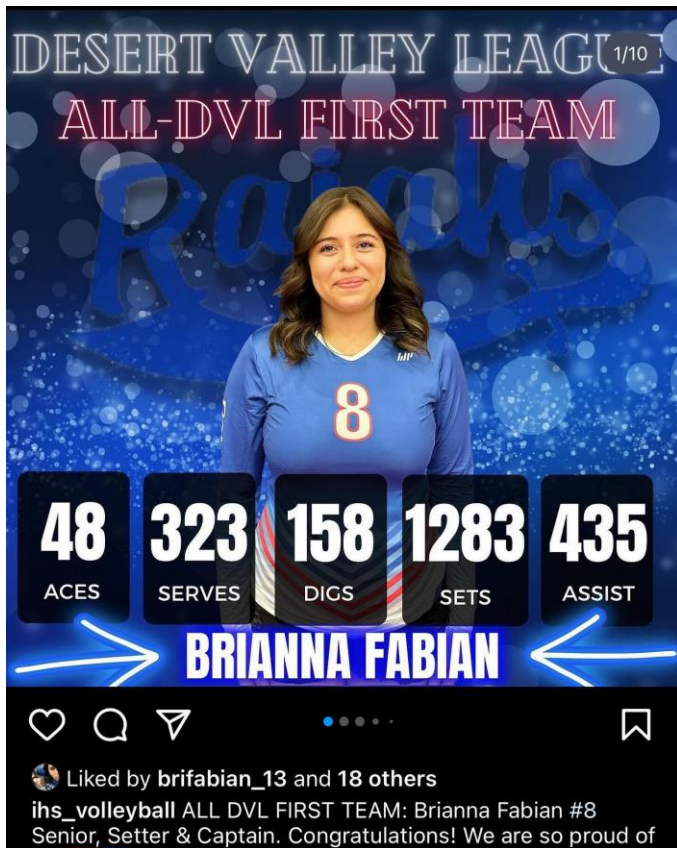
GFWC HOPE held a Yard Sale Fundraiser on October 19th. They made \$853, which exceeded their goal by \$363.00! Yay!

Mickie Reed
 GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)
 DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean
 (760) 668-7018



GFWC HOPE's founding member and First President was also an Indio High School Volleyball Superstar! Congratulations Brianna!

Mickie Reed
GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)
DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean
(760) 668-7018



GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF INDIO

We began October with our first meeting, where we voted for bylaws and standing rules changes, and chairs and project champions spoke about their committees' work. As the month progressed, we began planning for the 2024 fundraiser, we filled 250+ bags of hygiene products for CV Rescue Mission and Galilee Center, and a Yard of the Month Award was given to deserving homeowners. We dressed ourselves and our dogs in costumes for our annual Halloween Pet Parade for Desert Mountain Care Center residents, and as we paraded around, we gave stuffed animals to everyone there. We held a report-writing workshop to sharpen our writing skills, and supported GFWC HOPE, our junior club, by shopping at their yard sale. Our club members donated a good portion of the items for sale.

The most important accomplishments in October were our National Day of Service projects. Our club's food insecurity project benefitted two organizations, FIND Food Bank and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. We collected 270 pounds of food and \$459 at our September Kick-off Brunch benefiting FIND Food Bank. At the FIND warehouse, members assembled 302 produce bags (3,020 pounds of fruit and veggies) to distribute to various agencies. They packed 270 Senior Boxes totaling 8,640 pounds of home-delivery dry goods. Other members worked in the Rescue Mission kitchen, chopping and peeling many pounds of carrots, onions, and bell peppers and cracking and mixing 800 eggs. Participants accumulated 69 volunteer hours.

In November, we donated Thanksgiving food to the Rescue Mission and Galilee and holiday gifts to the CV Foster Kids. We sorted toys and later helped with the Rescue Mission's toy giveaway. Our newly formed Domestic Violence Committee placed informational stickers in public restrooms. Some of our members participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and the Walk to End Cancer, and some in costumes attended the CV History Museum's Dia de los Muertos Celebration and Fundraiser. The museum is a non-profit organization we have supported for many years.

It was a busy, productive, and satisfying two months. That's the best kind.



Bagging food at FIND Food Bank



Two more eggs & counting. 800 eggs cracked and stirred at the CV Rescue Mission.



Paint El Paseo Pink Walk to End Cancer



Mother, daughter, and dog at Pet Parade for nursing home



GFWC Woman's Club of Indio volunteered and supported the Coachella Valley History Museum's Dia de los Muertos Celebration, on November 4, 2023. Service can also be fun.

Mickie Reed

GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)

DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean

(760) 668-7018



Raffle ticket sellers at CV History Museum's Dia de los Muertos

★ HAPPY HANUKKAH

GFWC Woman's Club of Indio members volunteered on November 20, 2023, at the Galilee Center in Mecca. The WCI team helped pack 700 food boxes for this week's Thanksgiving food distribution to families in need. Well done everyone!



Mickie Reed
GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)
DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean
(760) 668-7018



Coachella Valley Rescue Mission received 300 individual hygiene kits, 317 pairs of socks as well as several boxes filled with bulk size hygiene products, diapers and bath towels from GFWC Woman's Club of Indio on October 26, 2023. Well done WCI!

Mickie Reed
GFWC Woman's Club of Indio - Past President (#75)
DeAnza District 1st V.P./Dean
(760) 668-7018



Lest We Forget By: G. W. Swarberg

When anger gets the best of me,
And I have lost my head,
I often say a lot of things
I wish I hadn't said.
When reason gets beyond control,
The things I do for spite
Makes me ashamed, for meanness
Never helped me do things right.
But someday soon I hope and pray
I'll reach a wiser age,
And learn I never profit
From the things I do in rage.
For anger, when it's flaming hot,
Burns to a bitter end,
And when it cools, I find too late
I've lost a cherished friend.

Flower Winners Nov. 20th Conference: Lynn Youngstrom, Sonya Matthies, Juanita Lewis,
Amelia Nieves, Mary Ortega, Lola Avery, Carol Stern, Cathy Turner, Susan Guarino, Kay
Masonbrink, Wendy Curan, and Alison Eccleston. The Silent Auction Winner was Deborah
Thornburg. Congratulations ladies!



The Elsinore Woman's Club November conference project was to Provide to the **Teddy Bear Cops** program. The police, fire and emergency officials provide teddy bears to a child or children at the scene of incidents. These are some of the bears the clubs donated.

Woman's Improvement Club of Corona

Carol Soliday, Jackie Lopez, Donna Allosada
Doris Osko, Lola Avery, Pres. Amelia Nieves



Trophy Winners:

Mickie Reed, Pres. Alison Eccleston, Deni
Antoinette Mazingo



Ticket Drawing Winner: Denise Mick-Necklace

Presenters: Pres. Alison Eccleston,



For partaking in the play **Modern Clubwoman Defined Past & Present 1900-1930** at the Area D Conference on Oct 21st

Ticket Drawing Winners: Susan Guarino-Flowers, Robbie Kennedy-Basket



Diamond Bar Woman’s Club “Making Spirits Bright for Military Families”
Barbara Armtrng, Teresa Lee. They collected \$200 today.
The money will feed 4 families.



Woman's Improvement Club of Corona

Our first Major Fundraiser, Pasta Italiano was very successful, with \$9,863.71 going to our Scholarship fund. Thanks to Mary Witten, Paula Munoz, Cee Henderson, all the wonderful ladies (and some men) that participated in making it happen.

At our November 14th general meeting we gladly pinned 3 New members: Nancy Donegan, Ginger Johnson-Reyes, and Natalie (Kim) Washington. Welcome to our club ladies!

Since April 2022 we have added a whopping 13 new members to our Woman's Improvement Club. We now have a total of 84 members.

Jean D'Alena w/ new members:

Kim Washington, Ginger Johnson-Reyes, Nancy Donegan



*Jacquelyn Young/Jean D'Alena
Membership*

Recognition Awards

First Recognition Award 10-24-23

Jan Warner, Pres. Amelia Nieves



Second Recognition Award 11-14-23

Donna Allosada, Pres. Amelia Nieves



Carol Conway receiving the Giving Plate from previous recipient Jacque Young at the November 14, 2023 General Meeting.



Our Settlement House non-perishable food drive held at the clubhouse was a successful event. We delivered the food after our General Meeting in November. We also donated \$300 in Stater Brothers gift cards to them. WICC Members are being asked to bring donations to the December Board or General Meeting for the Settlement House. Jackets, sweaters, and socks.

Our second major Fundraiser, Military Ball is around the corner (March 16, 2024). Keep an eye out for further information and your participation in making it successful. The proceeds benefit our local military organizations.

