



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

*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024*

Chairman: Carol Soliday		Club: Woman's Improvement Club of Corona	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 84		District: DeAnza	Area: D
Club Position: 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President			
Reporter's Address: 25172 Cypress St.			
City: Corona		State: CA	Zip: 92883
Email: hum_birdz@hotmail.com		Phone (618)525-0725	
 <b>EDUCATION &amp; LIBRARIES</b> 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:** Scholarship    **Hours** 430    **Donated \$** 7500 **In Kind** 0

The Scholarship Committee and volunteers came through to give their time, donations and everything necessary to make this scholarship process and Awards Dinner very successful. It is important that committee members attend the meetings since there are only three regarding the scholarship duties. Scholarship packets were emailed to 9 schools in the Corona-Norco School District in the fall of 2023. Scholarship packets were then received from schools on deadline set for February 2024. Committee members then took the lead of one of the nine schools. That committee member then picked 2 Woman's Improvement Club of Corona volunteers to assist in reading applications and interviewing 5 recipients from each school. The lead communicates with the counselor in charge for their school when scheduling the interviews with the recipients.

Our team then picks one winner. The winner is only announced after all winning packets have been collected and given to Cee Henderson, our Scholarship Chairwoman. Committee members oversee shredding all their remaining packets for confidentiality. The winning recipient received a voucher for \$1,000.00 upon proof of enrollment of said College/University/Technological School. All the schools have a Senior Awards Night. At least one person from each team attends the ceremony and presents a certificate to the winning student. The committee and volunteers then host our own awards dinner at our clubhouse in April. The winning recipient is allowed to invite two guests. Our scholarship is very rewarding to us as well. It is amazing how these students manage to balance school, activities, and community service as well. We would have given \$9,500 but 2 of the chosen students didn't go on to college. This year was difficult and there was a delay due to FAFSA. I hope those chosen students can go at a later date since they all deserved the opportunity to be more educated and have a solid foundation for a successful career path.

**Project Title:** Pasta Italiano **Hours** 300 **Donated \$** 643.25 **In Kind** \$1,110

On Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Our Woman's Improvement Club of Corona held its 27<sup>th</sup> annual "Pasta Italiano" spaghetti dinner. Along with Paula Munoz, chairwoman of this event, we had a team of 21 committee members and a participation of about 97% of our general membership. This dinner is our annual fundraiser specifically to raise funds for our graduating seniors, in the Corona, Norco, Eastvale school communities. Along with a very delectable meal of spaghetti and meatballs, we had salad, fresh baked bread sticks, and cookies. Also with our delicious meal, we sold tickets at our new bar for wine, beer, soft drinks, and water. We offered the musical stylings of Mr. Jake Gutierrez, a fabulous DJ and husband of one of our members. Altogether we all had a great time and brought in a fantastic profit of \$14,325.63, of which \$10,744.22 will go towards the 2025 scholarships. Profit was an 8.47% increase from 2023. We had \$9,900 in sponsorships. That's Amore!

**Project Title:** Friends of the Library **Hours** +1,029 **Donated \$** 480 **In Kind** 0

Woman's Improvement Club of Corona supports our local library by having 15 of our members as the Friends of the Library which supports the Corona public library programs, and events, by furnishing signage, assists in the used bookstore, assist with fundraisers, etc. as needed. Many of us also attend Spring and Fall Author Panels offered to community and FOL members presented by the FOL. Membership to FOL helps furnish Corona public library with needed books and other reading materials as well. Members also attended the Ladders and Linguini fundraiser which purchases books and provides programs for the Corona Library. WICC members are currently purchasing gently used books from FOL bookstore for children and young adults for a 2025 Feb. book drive for the Corona-Norco Parent Center who provides assistance for school youth for low income families, Foster children, and Deployed parent families.

**Project Title:** ESO **Hours** 60 + **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** 0

Woman's Improvement Club of Corona promoted ESO reading program this year. So far, we have one member at membership level and four members at pledge level. We are looking forward to growing our program as we have several avid readers and two book clubs within our club. We are also promoting and participating in Zoom meetings and meet the author programs through the ESO Newsletter and other district club's offerings.

**Project Title:** Susan Straight Meet the Author **Hours** 9 **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** \$75.00

3 members of the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona attended Meet the Author and lunch planned by the Riverside Woman's Club. We enjoyed the author, Susan Straight's presentation. There were also books there to be sold and autographed. It was the perfect opportunity to share our love of reading with sisters from another Woman's Club.

**Project Title:** Readers' Book Club **Hours** 660+ **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** \$300

The Readers is the oldest study group in the city of Corona. Formed as the Delphians in 1923, it became the Readers in 1929. It is more than a typical Book Club. Each month, a member (now 15 in number) presents a program at a luncheon meeting in a member's home that could be a travelogue of a recent trip, a genuine book review, a presentation by a guest author, a local piece of history, etc. Dues are \$20.00 a year and are used to purchase newly published hardback books only. At the end of the program year, each member is given one of the books, fiction or non-fiction. Each program brings about lively discussion and usually is about 30 minutes long. The diversity of subjects is one of its most appealing aspects of the Readers and the small group allows everyone to participate. Officers consist of President, Vice-President in charge of programs, Secretary, and Treasurer. There is also a Book Chairman who purchases the books and checks them out. It is a dynamic and educational group.

**Project Title:** Lit Chicks Book Club **Hours** 90+ **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** 0

There is a special interest group book club. It's called "Lit Chicks". Short for literature. This group was started by a Woman's Improvement Club of Corona member about 9 years ago. There are currently 11 members and 7 of us are members of WICC. We meet once a month either in each other's homes, or at a local restaurant. The hostess gets to pick the book to be read by the group. We cover all types of genres. From Murder Mysteries to Memoirs. Most of us get our books from the local library, while others buy their books from Audible. We then meet and have lunch while discussing the book. We have lively discussions. We talk about our likes and dislikes of the story and characters. Everyone has an opinion and shares it. We keep the membership small because we meet in each other's homes. It's a very enjoyable book club.

**Project Title:** Elementary School Reading **Hours** 48 **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** 0

The Assistance League has a SOAR program. SOAR stands for Students Overjoyed About Reading. Some of our Woman's Improvement Club of Corona members volunteer to volunteer at one of two elementary schools of chosen grade of school to assist each semester. SOAR volunteers meet once a week for 1 hour after school to assist 2-3 students. Using phonics method we complete worksheets and also use fun learning methods to build upon each child's English, Reading, Spelling, and Vocabulary skills. It is so worthwhile to see them interactive and interested on each lesson that is presented to them. We also have many retired teachers in our club that assist students from various local schools through the school system with their reading programs as well.

.