Continuation of the Historic Synopsis 2020 and Forward

2020-2022 - President Vickie Burrier

The presidency began in the middle of a Covid 19 pandemic with many restrictions. Many of the club's activities and meetings were cancelled. Zoom meetings were held instead.

On August 26, 2020, the club celebrated the 100th Anniversary of giving women the right to vote. A ceremony was held at Lewes City Hall attended by Mayor Ted Becker and Z Club members. The Z Club members were dressed in period attire. The Mayor presented President Vickie Burrier a Proclamation Certificate.

The CIP project for the years 2020-2022 was the Homeless Population in Lewes. The club chose several organizations to focus their fundraising efforts The Lighthouse for Broken Wings , run by Toni Short , Food Pantry , run by Epworth Church , Rehoboth, and Cape Henlopen District Homeless Liaison Office.

Members supplied lunches on chosen days for 25 -30 homeless people at the American Hotel and The Red Mill Inn. Club members also donated gift cards and toys for Christmas each year.

In 2021, the club members conducted a clothing drive at three Blooming Boutique stores. The campaign netted $1, 485 in cash donations and $ 13, 102.50 in in- kind donations .Mischa Seto, owner of the boutiques, donated $24,00 worth of new clothes for the homeless at the Cape Henlopen District and Sheltering Hearts.

A Christmas Bazaar was held in December 2021 on the LHS campus, Lewes. The club sold artwork, baked goods, mystery gifts and homemade ornaments. , raising $5, 983. Membership dipped during the pandemic but rebounded in 2022 to 78 members.

In 2021, club members volunteered over 4,000 hours to the 57 projects and donated $ 16, 819 to local organizations.

In March 2022, the club ran a month long food drive, partnering with Schell Brothers and Blooming Boutique, Delaware Food Bank , Epworth Church and Edward Jones Office. The campaign netted$ 6,000 in cash and 1,500 pounds of food. The proceeds were divided between the Food Bank and Epworth Food Pantry.

In 2020, Z Club won 11 awards including 3 First Place in Home Life, Domestic Violence and Awareness Prevention. In 2021, the club won 6 awards, with 3 first place awards.

In 2022, the club won 9 State awards, two awards were First Place.

A new tracking system to record members' volunteer hours was installed. A monthly book exchange was established in May 2022.

2022-2024 - President Lynn Barberi

The past two years have been extremely rewarding for me as I enjoyed serving as the President of the GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club. I learned how rewarding volunteering for a deeply philanthropic and enthusiastic women's club can be.

Following the two years (2020-2022) when the pandemic wreaked havoc on the activities our club was able to complete, my initial and on-going goals for 2022-2024 were to:

1. Firm up the Organizational Chart, filling in areas where we had no committee chairs, and encouraging members to join the various advancement committees.
2. Increase our membership to build upon those members who continued to be active and encourage new members to join the club.
3. Maintain accurate records of our activities to facilitate accurate annual reporting to GFWC Delaware.
4. Participate in trainings and workshops for improving leadership skills and for writing annual reports for club members and myself.

5. Educate club members on the various advancement areas to expand opportunities for volunteering in areas of the members' interests.
6. Move documents, accounting of volunteer hours, and all reporting away from paper records to electronic records.
7. Increase communication among members by including newsletters, meeting minutes, budget and expenditure documents, and the member directory on our club's website.
8. Obtain a monthly speaker for each of our monthly meetings to expand members' knowledge and interest in our club.
9. Seek partnerships with other GFWC Clubs to expand our impact on improving the community.
10. Apply distributive leadership techniques to empower our board members, club chairs and their members to make important decisions, seek new opportunities, and report back to the general membership as they grow in skill and impact.
11. Encourage informal interactions to make members feel welcome and significant.
12. Review and revise the Club's By-Laws which have not been reviewed since November 2016.

How these goals were addressed:

1. As I complete my two-year term, just one Advancement Committee was missing a Chair, and that is Legislation and Public Policy. We had one member who agreed to be the chair and three members who wanted to be on the committee, but alas, nothing was done except to enroll several members in GFWC's Policy and PAC alerts. I have decided that I will chair this committee moving into the 2024-2026 term of GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club, and the President Elect has agreed. All Board positions, the other Advancement Committees and Community Service Program Committees have capable and enthusiastic leadership and members in place. The President Elect plans to hold a "job fair" at our June Happy Hour to see if more members will commit to joining these ongoing committees.
2. In 2022, we had 69 members. As I am leaving my position in May/June of 2024, we currently have 87 members! This is a direct result of our capable membership chairs and the way they have sought new members and welcomed members to invite their friends to attend meetings to learn more about what we do.
3. Maintaining accurate records is an ongoing process that was facilitated in several ways. Our club joined an online program for tracking volunteer activities and hours called "Track It Forward." It took quite a bit of encouragement to get our members up to speed in how to use it, and there are just a handful of members who continue to track and report their hours on paper. Now, about 95% of our members regularly use the Track It Forward program to sign up for volunteer activities, and keep track of their hours, donations, and gifts in kind. In just minutes, our program administrators can create monthly and annual reports that accurately reflect what our members have done. Our outstanding Communications and Public Relations Chair creates and uploads our monthly newsletters, agendas, and meeting minutes to our website where members can easily find records of what our club has done and plans to do.
4. Regarding training and workshops, I have attended training to facilitate report writing and have turn-keyed that training to several club chairs to help them write their annual reports. I have attended three leadership workshops, and several of our members have attended leadership workshops as well.
5. At several of our monthly meetings, I used tri-fold information boards to educate our members on the various components of the Community Service Programs. This information was taken from the GFWC Manual but was presented in a visually attractive and condensed form so members can match their personal interests to those of the organization. In this way, the chairs were able to gain new members in their various committees.
6. Moving documents to electronic formats has been described in #3 above. In addition, we are in the process of joining "Constant Contact" to streamline communication across all membership activities.
7. Again, in #3 above, I describe how our website is the source of nearly all the information members need to fully participate in the club's activities, thanks to our capable Chair of Communications and Public Relations.
8. Our club was successful in attracting outstanding speakers for our monthly meetings. Ideas for speakers came from various sources including from suggestions by certain committees, through members sharing information that they had obtained outside of the club, and more. We had some of our very own members serve as speakers, sharing their area of expertise. We also had the Executive Director of Family Promise, an EMT who spoke about women's heart health care, Epworth Food Rescue Ministry, an Environmental Educator from Lewes In Bloom who spoke about the Monarch Butterfly, Human Trafficking speakers from DE State Police Troop 7 and the Sexual Assault Response Center, Jacqueline Sterbach of "What Is Your Voice," the executive director of "I Support the Girls," the director for outreach and education for the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, and a past tribal member of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe, and several more.
9. We joined forces with VIA several times when we presented programs for Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and Human Trafficking.

10. Our committee chairs have done an extraordinary job of leading their committee members in various activities and assuming leadership roles that expanded the impact of our club's activities. Evidence of this can be found in the many awards our club received at Convention in 2023 and 2024.
11. Members were encouraged to bring a friend who may be interested in joining the club to either a monthly meeting or our monthly informal luncheon, called Lunch Bunch. These guests were always enthusiastically introduced to the group by me. Additionally, I always thank the members for attending and for the great work they do daily.
12. We completed a comprehensive review and revision of our club's by-laws in October 2023 and made two additional changes in February 2024. I am pleased with the teamwork this review and revision entailed. I believe we are leaving the new board in a much better place than when we arrived on the scene.

I considered including a statistical report here of the number of volunteer hours, donations, and gifts in kind our very generous and selfless members have made, but I do know that information is elsewhere in our newsletters and meeting minutes. I certainly did not mention everything that our club has done here, but that information in our annual reports.

It has been one of the honors of my lifetime to have served as President of the GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club from 2022-2024. I have met so many incredible people in the process and learned a great deal about the kindness of volunteers.

Most sincerely, with a grateful heart, Lynn Barberi Ed.D.

2024-2026 – Joyce Skrobot

It was the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve as the President of the GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club. The 2024-26 Administration brought many opportunities to strengthen our commitment to service, leadership and friendship while making a positive impact in our community and our state. Through our activities and projects we embraced the values of hard work and commitment to our Z Club mission through countless acts of kindness, volunteerism, generosity, and service we made a difference in our community and beyond. The Board and I are proud of the dedication and enthusiasm of our members and the progress we made together.

At the onset, there were several goals I hoped to accomplish as President:

- Increasing communication, collaboration and cooperation between the Executive Board and Chairs and Co-Chairs of all committees, and all members of Z Club.
- Set high expectations for new members to increase participation in the work of our numerous committees and fundraising projects.
- Network with other community stakeholders, such as the Lewes-Rehobeth Rotary Club, Historic Lewes, and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce.
- Work collaboratively with GFWC Delaware and help members understand the bigger picture that extends beyond just our club, but in the state and national organization as well.
- To provide support, encouragement, and leadership that extends to all our club's activities and projects.
- Create a Fundraising and Development Committee to assist our club in raising additional funds for the purpose of providing a greater presence and impact in our community.
- Attend professional development opportunities provided by GFWC Delaware in order to be an effective leader.
- Participate in club activities and service projects so that I have my finger on the pulse of our organization.
- Creating a Community Impact focused on helping the elderly in our community.

I was able to accomplish my goals and objectives by doing the following:

- Meeting with Chairs and Co-Chairs for the purpose of collecting and reflecting on their feedback to guide our decision making. In addition, I committed to attending their committee meetings once in the first half of the year and once in the second half of the year for the purpose of being engaged and informed about our club's activities. The Executive Board met quarterly throughout my administration to plan and stay engaged with our club's work. We instituted Board Liaisons to work collaboratively with Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs to improve communication between the Board and Committee leadership.
- I help a "job fair' at our end of the year Happy Hours to inform and engage all members in work of our organization.
- I attended meetings of the Lewes-Rehobeth Rotary, Historic Lewes, and Lewes Chamber of Commerce regularly to educate and inform these organizations about the activities and projects of the GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club in the community.
- The GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club supported GFWC Delaware by participating and attending all activities, such as 30x30 Ticket sales, Federation Day, Mid Atlantic Regional Conferences in 2024 and 2025, and GFWC Delaware's Spring Annual Conferences in 2024, 2025, and 2026. In both 2024 and 2025, our club was recognized and celebrated at each GFWC State

Conventions resulting in cash awards for the Z Club. This well-deserved recognition is testament to the hard-work and on-going efforts of our club's committees.

- I created a Fundraising and Development Committee for the purpose of looking at creative and new fundraising ideas to generate additional income for our club. This resulted in Dine and Donates at Nicola Pizza, The Room at Cedar Grove, and Vino Del Mar, and our annual International Women's Day fundraisers at Bethany Blues
- I attended annual Leadership Workshops hosted by GFWC Delaware, workshops at each of the MAR Conferences and annual GFWC Delaware Spring Conventions, Gateway Series webinars promoted by GFWC.org. I attended annual Report Writing workshops. These professional development experiences were focused on leadership and helped me navigate my Presidency effectively and efficiently.
- I supported, attended and participated in all club activities to the best of my ability. I volunteered regularly at Epworth Food Pantry, WIYV Food Pantry, all club fundraisers, Read Across America Day (aka. Pete the Cat), Rally for First Responders, Community Sing Alongs, Fidget Blanket Workshop, Pumpkin Carving, and many more.

  In addition, we sponsored a room at WIYV's House of Hope and annual Butterfly Bolt 2024-26, and sponsored Rally for First Responders in 2024-2025, and planned and executed a community meeting, "Shine the Light on Human Trafficking in Spring 2025." And in September 2025 we received a proclamation in recognition of our 120th Anniversary from the City of Lewes.
- Finally, in cooperation with Community Impact Committee we created a collaborative and cooperative CIP to support Harbour Lights A Center that culminated in our being recognized as Volunteers of the Year in 2026. We called Friday BINGO games, provided shopping and prizes for their Friday BINGO, served lunches occasionally, provided Acme Gift cards at Thanksgiving, Walmart gift cards at Christmas, flowers for Mother's Day, and Rita's Water Ice treat in the summer.

In closing, I would like to add that the experiences, relationships, and memories made during my two-year tenure as President of the GFWC Zwanendael Women's Club are ones I will cherish always. *THANK YOU* 😊

Yours in Federation and Service,
Joyce