



Great Bridge Woman's Club History Club Year 2017/2018



"Make a Difference"



On May 20, 2017 we held our Spring Installation Luncheon at South Hill Suites. GBWC President, Pat Niven, was installed for her last year as president by past president Debbie Jones. Keeping with Pat's starfish symbol and "*Make a Difference*" motto, the Membership Committee decorated the room with starfish and shells. Margie Mauk was sworn in as Vice-President, Karen Smith continued as Treasurer, and Nancy Vaderson remained Secretary. Debbie presented each officer with a beautiful cup containing a begonia with an inspirational rock attached. She described their duties as they took their oaths of office. This executive board has worked together as an awesome team. They have participated in meetings on a District, State, and Regional level. Three are going to attend the National Convention in St. Louis in June. Connie Raymond continued as Chaplain and has given an inspirational devotion at each meeting before leading the membership in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. We installed four new members for the 2017-2018 Club Year. Elsie Baker, Carol Landversicht, June Moore and Claudia Soniak. All four of these ladies have jumped right in and participated in our projects old and new. They have been a great addition to Great Bridge Woman's Club.

At the May General Meeting, Arts awarded the Frances Shook Art Award to Kaylynn Golden from Grassfield High School. Her Mother and Sister enjoyed the shared reception with our Scholarship recipient and Kaylynn brought samples of her artwork. She received a \$300.00 gift certificate to Jerry's Artarama. Arts hosted the October General Meeting and decided to replace our shared reception with a presentation of the Art Awards earlier in the club year. We presented three awards to one senior from each of our local High Schools. Anya Moore of Grassfield High School, Shannon Sparks of Great Bridge High School, and Tara Dietz of Hickory High School. Each student received a \$150.00 Gift Certificate to Jerry's Artarama.

This year, Arts raised \$200.00, through raffles, to sponsor a local high school fashion design student to design and construct an outfit to be highlighted at our Spring Fashion Show. We all enjoyed seeing Maddie Kelly's colorful jumpsuit.

The Arts Committee made members aware of up-coming opportunities in the Hampton Roads community of arts and crafts classes, musical and theatrical performances, art shows and craft fairs sponsored by local artists and schools. These opportunities were announced at General Meetings and in the monthly Hi-Flier.

The Conservation Community Service Program chaired by Debbie Jones concentrated their efforts and time in collecting plastic grocery bags to be made into mats for the Suffolk Police Department to give to the homeless. Some bags were also donated to the Union Mission in Norfolk. In September this committee asked for members just to donate grocery bags, by January this project evolved into making plarn to donate to Deanna Hosea who crochets the plarn into mats. Members met early before meetings and at different locations including Jeanette Whitfield's daughter Nancy's Music Studio to make balls of plarn. Conservation used their General Meeting

to make plarn, involving all the members present. It was an evening to remember as we connected strips and rolled balls. As a result of all these sessions, we were able to give 500 balls of plarn to Deanna.

Conservation also cleaned Albemarle Drive in May and October as our Adopt-a-Highway project. Flower Power Bulbs were sold as a fundraiser earning \$195.00. In May a standing planter, filled with herbs was donated to the HER Shelter in Portsmouth.

Conservation continues to support other conservation methods through collecting brown bags for the Prince of Peace food pantry, donations to Clean the Bay Day, magazines for hospital waiting rooms and medication disposal. GBWC won a Best Single Project Medium Club award at Tidewater District for our Plastic Bags, a Wildlife Rescue donation in April 2017, our adopted highway project and planting a tree at one of our local elementary schools.

Education was chaired by Terry Reveley and Jeanne Xenos. At the May General Meeting, they hosted a reception for our 2017 Creekmore-Myers' Scholarship Winner, and presented Lauren Holly with \$1500.00. Additionally, GBWC donated \$50.00 to the Chesapeake Public Schools Teacher Supply Closet. Patti Smith collected box tops for Rena B. Wright Primary.

This year we adopted a Kindergarten class at Portlock Primary and provided treats for holiday parties celebrated at the school. Once again GBWC donated to the After Prom Parties at our three local high schools.

Education continued their member book-swap with books for members each month. Members had approximately ten books each month to choose from and any left-over books were donated to the DAV thrift store to support our veterans.

Home Life, chaired by June England continued to support the Prince of Peace food pantry. Members brought in food items specified in the Hi-Flier each month to the general meetings. GBWC donated canned goods to the GFWC VA Conference, Natural Bridge, VA, to be given to the Southeast Virginia Food Bank. We sponsored a Thanksgiving and Easter basket for two families who had suffered domestic violence and have now left the HER Shelter. GBWC members donated a Turkey, Ham and all the sides needed to provide a wonderful holiday meal. Home Life also donated \$200.00 to Prince of Peace Food Pantry to cover the cost of four Thanksgiving Bags. These bags contained a turkey, six cans of vegetables, five pounds of potatoes, apples, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls and a foil baking pan for families in need. All these projects supported the State Project: Dare to Dream of No Hunger which June England chaired for our club. In January, GBWC donated \$50.00 to the Dare to Dream of No Hunger in the memory of Fran Edwards the GFWC-VA President who passed away.

In August, our members started planning and constructing our fifth Bra-ha-ha entry. These planning and sewing sessions are fun-filled and this year our entry, "Just a Little Squeeze Please" placed in the top ten, winning the Most Humorous. We may have been aiming for "vintage" with our use of teacups and antique handkerchiefs, but, we were thrilled with our best showing yet. Four members represented our club in the 5k Bra-ha-ha run celebrating with pink pancakes and champagne at the finish. Five members volunteered at the intake table at MacArthur Mall for people submitting bra entries. Our humorous bra will be displayed in the Hampton Roads community through-out the year.

Also in August, GBWC donated twenty-four ceramic ribbons, decorated by a member, to the MS fundraiser. Home Life also donated a coffee basket filled with everything needed for "Toast & Coffee" in the morning. All items were coordinated with the color orange "for MS" right down to the orange marmalade. June England, whose sister in law Karen England has MS, helped with the pre-planning and worked the event that raised \$5,000.00 for this debilitating disease.

At the September meeting Home Life informed members about the Teal Pumpkin Project, to promote awareness of food allergies. Members were encouraged to buy non-food items for Halloween and display a teal pumpkin to let Trick-or-treaters know there would be no food at that house to trigger allergies.

At Christmas time GBWC donated a small ceramic tree to Georgetown Primary for their Christmas tree raffle benefitting the Johnny Shockley Memorial Scholarship. Twenty-five members picked an angel from the paper angels with disadvantaged children's wish lists of clothing for Christmas. Our generous members provided coats, items of clothing, and shoes totaling \$2,675.00. The gifts were taken to the Salvation Army depot to be disbursed to the children's parents. Two members attended a Salvation Army luncheon recognizing all their volunteers.

In February, Home Life invited guest speaker Karen England to speak about Living with MS. She gave an inspiring overview of what life is like with MS. She was presented with a \$75.00 donation to Karen's Kids and MS Research. At this meeting members were encouraged to wear red and a group picture taken to post on Facebook showing our club's support of Heart Awareness Month.

International Outreach chaired by Kathleen Kimball continued their on-going project with Operation Smile. Each month, on the second Thursday, members packed smile bags and this year GBWC also donated small stuffed animals and suitcases to Operation Smile.

In support of GFWC's Shot@Life Campaign, Great Bridge Woman's Club donated \$300.00. Shot @ Life educates, connects and empowers individuals to champion global vaccines to save the lives of children in third world countries.

GBWC is a partner with UNICEF USA in their mission to end Human Trafficking. This new state project for the next year is devoted to this subject so our club will be looking for additional projects to bring awareness to the community. A new project for this year was collecting new or gently used bras for the "Free the Girls" project. These bras are donated to women rescued from sex trafficking in third world countries. These donations allow these brave women a chance to earn money through the resale of the bras.

International Outreach hosted the January Meeting and presented Char Miller, who reported on the Butterfly House, a home for young women saved from the sex trafficking in our area. She informed members how she became involved with Butterfly House and about the progress on the shelter needed in the tidewater area. In May Kathleen participated in the 3rd Annual Butterfly House Walk in support of this organization.

Each month International Outreach passed the Heifer Piggybank. From the \$92.00 of loose change donated by members, GBWC will purchase honey bees from Heifer Fund International. This will provide an income from honey and beeswax for a family. We also were able to provide a Hope Basket that contains a flock of chickens and rabbits. The wonderful thing about the Heifer Fund is, it doesn't just give money to the poor, it gives them the chance to work and earn an income and provide for their families.

Co-Chairs of Public Issues, Connie Raymond and Margie Shelton, organized our annual breakfast for vendors at the Waterways Festival on Oct 14th. Members provided breakfast casseroles, pastries, and juice to serve the vendors and Bateau Boatmen. Coffee was again donated by the Chick-fil-a Edenborough. This annual project started as just breakfast for the boatmen, but, our members have been so generous over the years it has evolved into breakfast and coffee for all the vendors. On a cold, or sometimes rainy fall morning we are greatly appreciated.

Public Issues hosted the November General Meeting and presented guest speaker Linda Hollingsworth from Special Olympics Virginia. She related to members a history of the Special Olympics founded by Eunice Shriver and shared information about the Polar Plunge held in February at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. GBWC donated \$100.00 to Special Olympics Virginia.

In Early December GBWC Club Members Jane Coradi, Terry Putman, Joan Williams, Elsie Baker and Margie Shelton volunteered for Public Issues to fluff wreaths at Albert G. Horton Cemetery. The Fluffed wreaths were laid on the graves of veterans buried there. Also in December Public Issues provided thirty members with cards to send to recovering service members hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. Each volunteering member sent five cards with encouraging messages.

In March Public Issues donated 21 pair of flip-flops to Union Mission. These flip-flops are required to enable the homeless to use the showers in the facility. Public Issues also donated toiletries to the union mission.

At the Tidewater District Spring Awards Luncheon, Public Issues received Best Single Project Public Issues-Partnership for GBWC's donations of \$100.00 to both Sew Much Comfort and the USO.

Communications and Public Relations this year received the Best Overall Award in the Tidewater District for our cake celebrating Federation Day 2017. Nancy Vadersen worked hard this year in Posting all our projects and activities in the Great Bridge Woman's Club Facebook page. Our members did a great job of "liking" and "sharing" all those posts, keeping our Facebook friends and acquaintances aware of just what we GBWC, "ARE". Nancy coordinated our new Web Page with June England's son Chris. The web page showing our club emblem as well as the International, State and District emblems has information on the club's missions, GFWC's mission and club activities including club member pictures. They did a great job getting us up and running. We are now linked with our Facebook Page and GFWC-VA, where other clubs can connect with us. A direct access can be made through our web address www.gbwc.club. Nancy once more was able to get our special events publicized in the Virginian Pilot, Chesapeake Clipper, and The Shopper.

Mary Gooding edited our newsletter for the Hi-Flier for the 16th straight year. She received a Best Overall Tidewater District Newsletter Award this year. Along with all the usual notifications, a "Member in the Spotlight" feature, a small bio of members old and new was added. Members learned new things about fellow members they've known for years and it introduced the new members to the club. GBWC also received a Best Single Project Award to a Medium Club for Women's History and Resource for our 2017 DVD Year in Review created by Mary Gooding. The DVD was a pictorial and written history incorporating animation of photos, journaling and music. Without all the pictures contributed by club members while they are volunteering and without all the wonderful projects our club undertakes this history would not be possible. All the club members receive a copy of the DVD each year filled with memories of all our fun-filled activities.

Attendance and Remembrance was chaired this year by Cindy Oman. Cindy and her committee sent cards and flowers to club members in time of sorrow and illness. This year our club lost two members who were dear to us. Anne Tate passed away in December and although she has not been an active member since her residency at Currituck House in Moyock, N.C. we will remember her cheerful, friendly personality from years past. Lois See who has been active until this club year passed away in March. She was active until this past summer. She attended our May Luncheon last year and Lois and her husband Jack supported our Green Room reception at Chicago, the Musical.

Terry Putman and Karen Smith chaired the Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. This year they organized GBWC member attendance at the Night of Gratitude supporting the HER Shelter. Over the summer they fulfilled the HER Shelter's request for "Christmas in July" and donated much needed items such as clothing, shoes, personal items, toiletries and household cleaners. Between club members, family and friends we delivered \$3,100.00 of in-kind donations. In September our club supplied backpacks filled with school supplies for three students residing at the HER Shelter. Additionally we gave school clothes, shoes and coats as requested by the shelter. These clothes and supplies we valued at \$445.00. GBWC provided party items for holiday or birthday parties at the shelter. Purple Mums were placed at Human Services Center and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court as part of a Stop the Violence Display during Domestic Violence and Awareness Prevention Month. A Rada Knife Fundraiser was held in the fall raising \$436.25 for Signature Project use. Eight members attended the HER Shelter Informational Night in February. Two members donated winter fleece scarves they made to the HER Shelter. Pinwheels were placed at the Civic Center during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and three members attended the Mayor's ceremony. In May, Terry and Karen our mighty Signature Project chairs walked in the Cats for a Cause 5K relay/walk sponsored by Great Bridge High School and benefiting the HER Shelter.

Amy Harman our Legislation Chair kept us informed of up-coming elections and provided sample ballots to be published in the Hi-Flier. Amy also notified us of positions available on the City Boards and Commissions.

Jeanette Whitfield chaired By-laws and Parliamentarian. She was always ready with advice and answers to questions raised about procedure and or club by-laws.

The Membership committee was chaired by our Vice-President, Margie Mauk. At the Tidewater District Spring Awards Luncheon our club won the Best Single Membership Award for a Medium Club. This was awarded for our use of the President's theme and symbol for decorations at our Spring Installation Luncheon last May. Also for our installation of new officers, new members and presenting perfect attendance and years of service pins.

This year Membership set up an information and sign-in table in the foyer with easy accessibility. Chairs can place sign-up sheets for projects to insure all the members have a chance to volunteer for projects that interest them. A greeter meets members at the door and helps carry bulky items into the meeting. At the General Meetings Membership held a drawing for a door prize.

During the summer, Membership kept members informed of activities of interest to our club. Members attended the "Red Shoe" Barbeque, the Tap Tap Fest and Crocks for Kids, each of which, supported worthwhile charities. Members also attended a farewell party for Kelly Scheer. During the winter, club members attended Christmas in the Country, Cape Henry's annual house

tour, the Candle Light Tour in Edenton, NC, and two card/lunch parties held by other clubs at Atlantic Shores Retirement Community.

Membership planned the beautiful Installation Luncheon held today. The bright colors and the theme of the luncheon is coordinated with our new President's emblem and motto. Great Job ladies!

Social and Hospitality is chaired by our Terrific Trio, Sharon Daniels, Carol Shickley, and Joan Williams. This committee is in charge of our two social activities. They started the new club year in September with a Super Salad Supper. Using a Football Theme they "Kicked Off" the Club Year 2017-2018 like the "Super Bowl" champions they are. They organize this event so all the members know what food to bring, and boy, do our members bring tasty treats from the scrumptious salads, to the mouth-watering delicious desserts. This year they included a teamwork assignment by placing jig-saw puzzle pieces at each place-setting for the members to put together in a joint effort. Social & Hospitality hosted the Christmas Brunch Social which took place at Jeanne Xenos' house. Favorite brunch foods were supplied by members and Social and Hospitality provided the beverages. We Held our famous Chinese Gift Exchange and there was more stealing of gifts this year than ever before. "Loads of Fun" was had by all. As a Project for Social and Hospitality, members brought small toys and personal items valued at \$500.00 to donate to St. Jude Children's Hospital, a GFWC Partnership Organization.

Ways & Means chaired by Terrie DeClercq held two Little Theater of Norfolk Fundraisers this club year. Members sold tickets to *Chicago* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* to neighbors and friends. Our tickets included a one hour reception in the "Green Room" prior to the performance. Club members prepared hors d'oeuvres and served wine and soft drinks to our ticket holders. At *Chicago* members and guests could take advantage of "Fun Foto" opportunities with an antique car and jail cell. Both nights were successful, the performances were spectacular, well-acted and produced. Two great evenings enjoyed by all.

In October, Kempsville Greens Women's Golf Association allowed GBWC to hold a fundraiser at their annual Golf Tournament. Three Great Bridge women sold raffle tickets for a Golf Basket and sold passes for free putts and Mulligans. GBWC provided a continental breakfast and treat bags for tournament participants. \$610.00 dollars was raised at the tournament.

Our large fundraiser was the Fashion Show and Luncheon. Once more held at Greenbrier Country Club, fashions were provided by Chico's and Dressology. The fashions were modeled by club members and guest models. Our own Terry Putman was our MC. Before dinner and runway music was provided by Patrick Byrd. Connie Raymond, GBWC Chaplain gave the blessing for the luncheon and Fashion Show, and State Senator John Cosgrove, our guest singer, provided entertainment. The Greenbrier Dining room was decorated using a watercolor rose theme on the programs and favors. Members arranged beautiful vases of flowers for centerpieces. Appetizers were served by staff and a mimosa and wine cash bar was open as guests viewed the amazing auction baskets created by club members. Thanks to all our members who solicited donations, over 160 Merchants donated items and gift cards to make our Fashion Show successful. Raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets were sold by members. Fashion Show tickets were drawn for Door Prizes created by Joan Williams. The total profit for the Fashion Show was \$6,676.42. Thank you cards were hand written to all our contributors. All our members worked hard to make this a successful event. It was a beautiful occasion enjoyed by all.

Our president Pat Niven has demonstrated great leadership over the past two years. She has been greatly involved with GFWC clubs on all levels and shown leadership, should it be organizing the fantastic Shot@Life fundraiser made possible by her Kempsville Greens Woman's Golf Association, her attendance at District, State and National GFWC meetings, or her encouragement of our members to participate in our many projects and support other Tidewater District Clubs. She won the 2018 District Award for the Best Single Project Medium Club for Leadership. This award was for our May General Meeting where Committees and Community Service Project groups meet together to establish projects and goals for the new club year.

I have highlighted many important GBWC projects from this club year. I know I have missed some projects and there is not enough time or space to list all the monetary donations or hours of volunteer service we have made to the community. I would be reading late into the evening. Did we "Make a Difference"? Yes We Did!

As we begin our new club year with new ideas and projects we will keep in mind that we have all said "Yes" or we would not be here today celebrating our club year, our new officers and members new and old. If we were able to "Make a Difference" in the lives of just one person in Great Bridge, in Chesapeake, in Hampton Roads this last club year then it was worth all our hard work. In the upcoming new club year, I know that each of our members when they are asked to help our community in any way, will find themselves saying YES. I know you will say YES, YES, YES, again and again!