



Bits & Pieces

GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club

June 2026

Volume 17 Issue 6

Next Meeting: June 25, 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fran Gialanella

Well, here we are at the end of another year for our club. I think we all would agree that, for the most part, it has been quite a successful year, especially in terms of our increased membership and great programs, thanks to our First Vice-President, MJ Palmer. MJ will be leaving us this year and I just wanted to thank her for her help to me over the past two years, but also to recognize her years of service to the club, friends she has made and support of some of our key organizations. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new home and new adventure.

While I am at it, I would also like to sincerely thank the board members for the past two years, all of whom have done a tremendous job for our club, but to me in particular, as I was very green when I took this position. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful that it appears I will be doing this for another two years! My special gratitude to MJ, Fran Janusko, Judy Phillips, Donna Maher, Linda Hibbert, Maria Dorsey and Lisa DeRitter. There are also so many long time members who have answered all my questions and made my job easy and pleasurable. Unfortunately, I cannot name everyone so I will just say thank you.

It sounds like, in addition to our installation of officers for the next two years, we are going to have some fun at our next meeting. We are also asking our Committee Chairs to do a very brief presentation to the group on your particular organization and put something in writing for us as well. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, but we would like to create a little booklet for our new members to help them understand what we do and how they can use their interests and talents to help us. Anne Whitty and Joanne Matthes have offered to put that together for us and I am excited to see it.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our last meeting of the season on June 25th. Otherwise, I wish you all a wonderful summer with lots of raffle tickets sold and we'll be back at it in September.

Fran

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

*** Contact Maria Dorsey, Federation Secretary, if interested in any of the NJSFWC or District events**

June 11 *	Highlands District Council Meeting—Hosted by Vernon Township Woman's Club, 21 Church Street, Vernon, NJ
June 25	VTWC Meeting—Summer Sendoff
June 27	Vernon Clean Communities—Street Cleanup Fundraiser
August 1	VTWC—New Member Tea, Dorothy Henry Library, Vernon, NJ
August 6 *	NJSFWC Summer Luncheon & Basket Raffle 11:30 am—3:30 pm, Battleground Country Club, Manalapan, NJ
September 14 *	NJSFWC AI Workshop 10:30 am—12:00 pm
September 19	12th annual Vernon Street Fair, 11:00 am—3:00 pm
September 24	VTWC Meeting—Pot Luck Dinner and Program presented by GCI candidate; 2026 50/50 raffle drawing
October 14 *	NJSFWC Canva Workshop
October 19 *	NJSFWC State Fall Conference, Harbor Point, Point Pleasant (formerly Lobster Shanty)
October 22	VTWC Meeting—USA 250 Years Anniversary Celebration
October 27 *	NJSFWC Report Writing Workshop 10:30 am—12:00 pm
November 12 *	NJSFWC Headquarters Open House; meet and greet your NJSFWC Executive Committee
November 18 *	NJSFWC Report Writing Workshop 10:30 am—12:00 pm
November 19 ?	VTWC Meeting—Program TBD
December 17 ?	VTWC Meeting—Program TBD

2025-2026 VTWC Leadership

Executive Board

President	Fran Gialanella
First Vice President	MJ Palmer (Programs)
Second Vice President	Fran Janusko (Fundraising)
Treasurer	Judy Phillips (Ways & Means)
Recording Secretary	Donna Maher
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Hibbert
Federation Secretary	Maria Dorsey (traditionally outgoing President)

Committee Chairs

Communications	Maria Dorsey (Facebook and Media)
Internal Communications	Karen Breese (Newsletter “Bits & Pieces”)
Webmaster	Deborah Fagnan
Membership	Joan Danaher

Department Chairs

Advocates for Children	Fran Gialanella
Birth Haven	Rosetta Peterson
Dulce Esperanza	Meg Gleason
Ginnie’s House	Donna Maher
Arts Performing & Arts & Culture	Dee Garbarino
Civic Engagement & Outreach	Debra Piccirillo
Veterans & Military Support	Debra Piccirillo
International Affairs	Lisa Mills
Birthday Bags	Lisa Thomas, Judy Phillips
DASI	Lisa Murphy
Project Self-Sufficiency	Joan Danaher, Dee Garbarino
WAFO (Warwick Area	Meg Gleason
Farmworkers Organization)	
Education & Libraries	Valerie Seufert
Environment & Conservation	Maria Dorsey
Health & Wellness	Karen Szepietowski
Blankets with Care	Karen Szepietowski
Comfort Pillows	Reba Burrell
Vial of Life	Rosemarie Guidice
Special State Project (The NJ Children’s Alliance)	Fran Gialanella
President’s Scrapbook	Nancy Speruta and Maryann DiCola

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

June 25, 2026 6:30 p.m.

MJ Palmer, First Vice-President

SUMMER SENDOFF



Our June meeting will blend **business and fun**. Committee leads should be prepared to share brief highlights about their committees and the projects or programs they support:

- ⇒ **Describe** your projects/programs
- ⇒ **Briefly explain** how VTWC members have supported them throughout the years
- ⇒ **Report on** ways members can help now— or soon.

These presentations will help new members understand the projects VTWC supports and give current members ideas for getting involved in additional or different initiatives. We will also **install our new slate of officers for 2026-2028**.

Now for the fun part:

Wear your favorite summer outfit—shorts, flip flops, sun visors and more. Feel free to bring **summer treats to share**—cut-up watermelon, strawberries, lemonade, bar cookies, pudding pies or chips. We will enjoy them during the meeting.

This June meeting is one you will not want to miss! I look forward to seeing you there.

MOVING ON



Dear VTWC Friends,

As my time with VTWC comes to a close, I want to express by heartfelt gratitude to all of you. It has been a true privilege to be part of this community and saying goodbye is bittersweet.

Looking back on our time together, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished. From support of Birth Haven, WAFO, Dulce Esperanza and the SSP to the monthly programs I enjoyed producing, your passion, dedication and camaraderie have made this an unforgettable experience for me.

Thank you for your support, your collaboration and the wonderful memories we've shared. While I am relocating and, perhaps, joining another club in the State, I have no doubt that this club will continue to thrive and always achieve great things for the people in need in the Vernon area and beyond.

I would love to stay in touch. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you once again for making my time here so meaningful. I wish each of you and the VTWC all the very best in the future.

*Warmly,
MJ*

NEW MEMBER TEA

Joan Danaher

SAVE THE DATE!

Hi All:

The annual New Member Tea is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2026 at the Dorothy Henry Library in Vernon, New Jersey. We have reserved the room at the Library for the hours of 9:00 am—2:00 pm. Set up will begin at 9:00 am. Thank you to those members who volunteered to help with the setup at our May meeting. The New Member Tea will be between the hours of 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

Thank you,
Joan

FUNDRAISING

Fran Janusko

Maria Dorsey will have the 50/50 raffle ticket books available for members at the June meeting. Members are asked to take two books to sell prior to the September drawing. Tickets are \$5.00 a piece.

Thank you all and have an enjoyable summer.

Fran

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

DULCE ESPERANZA

Meg Gleason

Dulce Esperanza is a summer program for children of the farm workers in Pine Island and surrounding areas. It provides tutoring and enrichment programs. If you have a skill or talent you would like to share, volunteers are welcome.

If you would like to donate items to the summer program, please bring them to the June meeting or arrange a time to meet with me to pick them up. Common items needed are sidewalk chalk, bubbles, crayons, etc. There is also an Amazon Wish List—the link is below:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2TMVW5CXDUZKX?type=wishlist&filter=unpurchased&sort=priority&viewType=list>

BIRTH HAVEN

Rosetta Peterson

I am still collecting anything for babies as well as for the moms. For those of you not familiar with Birth Haven, the program operates a transitional living facility in Newton, New Jersey for up to nine pregnant women and their babies at any given time. You can read more about the organization at <https://birthhaven.org/services/>.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Lisa Thomas and Judy Phillips

We have two birthday bags for June (one of the recipients will be turning 100- God Bless Her) and two birthday bags for July.

As always, we thank you for your contributions in making these bags special for them. They really enjoy receiving them.

Thank you,
Lisa and Judy

WAFO

**Warwick Area Farmworker Organization
Meg Gleason**

FOOD PANTRY

The WAFO Food Pantry is in need of donations. Items needed include: chicken, Masa Harina, canned jalapeno peppers, canned cactus, corn tortillas and small bottles of vegetable oil. If you would like to donate, please bring items to the June meeting or arrange a time to meet with me and I will deliver them.

If you would like to learn more about WAFO and what they do, a link to their newsletter is below:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAHE357b218/2ytwfHrK2AO39anZfmdIlg/view?utm_content=DAHE357b218&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=hf573d39c66

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI)

Lisa Murphy

After our May meeting, I delivered groceries and Wish List items to the DASI office. They said thank you very much. Kim from DASI also mentioned they could use gift cards again with groceries being so expensive. I had a conversation with Judy and she was gracious to go and purchase ShopRite and Walmart cards with the rest of my 2026 budget. The DASI office has a food pantry with all types of dry goods and toiletry items. The gift cards could help with some items they don't supply.

There are no Wish List Items for our June meeting.

I will not be at the June meeting as my grandson graduates from 8th grade that evening. I look forward to continuing my role as committee chair for DASI and my new position as Recording Secretary.

In closing, I wish everyone a nice summer. See you in September!

Lisa

ENVIRONMENT

VERNON CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Maria Dorsey

Much to our disappointment, our attempt at street cleaning on Saturday, May 9, was rained out once again! We have been rescheduled for Saturday, June 27. (The Township is booked up until that date). I hope all who signed up to help can be available at that time. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact me at (201) 400-4671 or at mariapls@aol.com.

On a happy note, this group photograph I submitted at the Highlands District Spring Conference on April 8 in the "VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION" category, came in FIRST PLACE and went on to the NJSFWC State Convention. I am also happy to report that it came in First Place at Convention too!

Thank you ladies!



HEALTH & WELLNESS

BLANKETS WITH CARE Karen Szepietowski

Below are the measurements for the blankets we donate to local organizations:

Chemo & Dialysis	28 wide by 45 long	(maximum 30 wide by 50 long)
DASI	36 wide by 60 long	(for beds)
Lap Robes	26 wide by 26 long	
Baby Blankets	29 wide by 29 long	
Rectangles	7 inches by 9 inches	

At our monthly meeting in May, 3 lap blankets were given to Judy Phillips for the Birthday Bag Project and 3 chemo blankets were given to Linda Hibbert for distribution to the Cancer Center. Also at our May meeting, I collected 22 blankets of various sizes from all of our wonderful knitters and crocheters. Most of these were lap blankets. Many thanks to Barbara F, Fran J, Linda H, Eileen D, Rosemarie G, new member Laura and Anne W's mom for their beautiful handiwork and numerous contributions to the Blankets With Care Project during this past year.

Now that the summer is upon us, I know it gets harder to knit and crochet when it is hot. But if anyone should feel inclined to work on a yarn project during the summer months, we can use some nice little baby blankets to be distributed to Birth Haven in the fall.

Please remember to keep track of hours and cost spent on any Blankets With Care projects for the calendar year 2026 year-end report.

Don't forget that Joan Danaher has a nice supply of donated yarn at her house for use on our club projects.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

LET'S GET MOVING Karen Szepietowski

A reminder to our members to continue keeping track of all of your hours spent exercising during the 2026 calendar year to be included in the year-end report. Exercise hours include such activities as walking, jogging, running, yoga, chair yoga, chair exercises, biking, golfing, skiing, swimming, tennis, pickleball, kick-boxing, daily stretching exercises and physical therapy. Any type of physical activity can be included. If you are very active and participate in various activities, please keep a count of hours spent for each type of activity.

Thanks!

Karen Szepietowski
Health & Wellness Committee Chair



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

President's Scrapbook

Nancy Speruta

Hi All:

With the new role I am taking over for the 2026-2028 term; namely, First Vice-President (Programs) with input from Maryann DiCola, we will both be stepping away from chairing the President's Scrapbook.

I am happy to report that Maryann and I have updated the scrapbooks for the VTWC and they are now current. For anyone taking over this role, the goal is to keep the new scrapbooks current.

Role responsibilities include:

Taking photos at VTWC events;

If unavailable for the event, uploading photos from Facebook to ensure the pics get in the scrapbooks;

Arranging and placing the new photos in the current scrapbook(s).

Note, there are currently supplies and scrapbooks that will be 'passed down' to the new chairperson. Should supplies run out, there is a budget available to purchase supplies.

If anyone is interested in taking over the maintenance and upkeep of the President's Scrapbook, please contact me at nanspe@aol.com. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Nancy

APPAREL ORDERS

Elaine Kuntz

I will be taking shirt/sweatshirt orders at our JUNE meeting. Each order needs to be accompanied with payment. These shirts/sweatshirts are special order and cannot be returned. They do run large.

Please make checks payable to Rooster Tees LLC. Cash or checks only.

Short Sleeve T-Shirt	S-XL \$20.00	XXL \$23.00
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	S-XL \$23.00	XXL \$25.00
Crewneck Sweatshirt	S-XL \$25.00	XXL \$28.00
Hooded Sweatshirt	S-XL \$30.00	XXL \$33.00
Zipper Hooded Sweatshirt	S-XL \$34.00	XXL \$38.00

Note: Zippered Hooded Sweatshirt has back print only.

Please see me at the June meeting if you would like to purchase any of these items. Bring your payment in form of cash or check with you.

There is an order form attached to this newsletter (Page 17) for your convenience.

Thank you,
Elaine

Margaret Conti

Margaret is our special friend and likes to receive cards and small “gifts” from us. Any time you would like, send her a card to say “HI”.

Margaret Conti
PafaCom, Inc.
543 East Garden Road
Vineland, NJ 08360

**Reminder: The cost for Margaret’s cards, gifts, etc. each month is the responsibility of the “friend” member. Our budget does not have any monies allocated to reimburse for postage, etc.

Friendly Reminder

If you haven’t already done so, please be sure to review the NJSFWC Website at your leisure (information below). The Vernon Township Woman’s Club Website is now available. Please review at your leisure.

NJSFWC Website

The New Jersey State
Federation of Woman’s
Clubs’ website
is packed full of infor-
mation.
www.njsfwc.org

No log in is necessary.

VTWC Website

The Vernon Township
Woman’s Club website
is here for you.
www.vtwc.org

No log in is necessary.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING

Ongoing Collections

POP TABS—found on soda cans, pet food, soup cans, etc.

CHILDREN'S DVD's FOR DASI

GREETING CARDS—Valerie Seufert volunteers for the Senior Earth Angels in Sussex County. Each December, Valerie and her team put together packages of assorted greeting cards (except Christmas), puzzle books, calendars and note pads for each homebound senior for them to use throughout the year. We often get cards and note pads in the mail from organizations—these are great.

JUST FOR YOU BAGS—Items are needed for clients who come into one of the DASI programs and for clients who transition out of the programs. Some items requested are bath towel; body lotion; body wash; brush; ChapStick; comb; shampoo/conditioner; deodorant; face cloth; hand/kitchen towel; oven mitt; pillow case; pillows; potholder; sheet set (twin); soap; socks; sponge; toothbrush/toothpaste.

Donations are collected through the year. These projects are ongoing.

Thank you all for your donations to these ongoing collections.

VERNON WOMAN'S CLUB

*For any product questions feel free to email us at RoosterTeesLLC@gmail.com

*Manufacturer substitutions may be made due to stock shortages



Port & Co. PC55

50%Cot/50% Poly Short Sleeve

Lime

S-XL is \$20.00

XXL is \$23.00

S	M	L	XL	XXL



Port & Co. PC55LS

100% Cotton Long Sleeve

Lime

S-XL is \$23.00

XXL is \$25.00

S	M	L	XL	XXL



Port & Co. PC78

Crewneck Sweatshirt

Lime

S-XL is \$25.00

XXL is \$28.00

S	M	L	XL	XXL



Port & Co. PC78H

Hooded Sweatshirt

Lime

S-XL is \$30.00

XXL is \$33.00

S	M	L	XL	XXL



Port & Co. PC78ZH

Zippered Hooded Sweatshirt

Lime

S-XL is \$34.00

XXL is \$38.00

Back Print ONLY

S	M	L	XL	XXL

Name:

Phone #:

Please make checks payable to Rooster Tees LLC

Amount Paid:

Cash ☐

Check ☐