



Bits & Pieces

GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club

September 2026

Volume 17 Issue 9

Next Meeting: September 24, 2026

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE **Maria Dorsey and Lisa Murphy**

NEWS FLASH! MARIA DORSEY HAS BEEN RECYCLED! Once again I have volunteered and been elected to take on the Presidency of the VTWC. For the next two years, I will be sharing the honors with **LISA MURPHY, your new Co-President.**



On August 1, the club once again held our New Member Tea and we are happy to welcome Judy Gorberg, as the 62nd member of our Club. Judy comes to us from West Windsor, New Jersey and was a 20+ year member of the Princeton Area Woman's Club. Several members attended and continue to use this event to socialize and get to know fellow members better.





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—continued—

Lisa and I, together with the Executive Board, met on August 29th and discussed our plans for the coming year. Before business, we were enlightened by a presentation of our new website: vtwc.org by Webmaster, Deb Fagnan. Deb will be repeating her presentation at one of our meetings soon. Please take a look at it and let Deb know how you like it.

On September 11, three members, Rosemarie Giudice, Judy Phillips and myself, volunteered at the annual Tee It Up For the Troops Golf Outing at Crystal Springs. This is a wonderful organization which raises funds for combat veterans from all eras, helping them heal from the hidden wounds of war, like anxiety, depression isolation and suicide. It is a privilege to meet some of them and help out each year.





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—continued—

On September 19, we will be working at the Vernon Street Fair, both promoting our membership and selling our 50/50 raffle tickets. We have also been asked, once again, to judge the photography contest. It would be wonderful if members could stop by to spend some time in our booth. Bring a chair if you plan to stay.

On the same day we will also be starting our 24th year volunteering at the Heaven Hill Great Pumpkin Festival, which has been our biggest fundraiser each year. The monies we earn enable our Club to continue with all of its philanthropic activities that touch so many peoples' lives. If you have already volunteered, thank you in advance, and if you have not, please try to fill in the remaining sessions. Weather is not always guaranteed so if your session gets canceled, sign up for another!

On September 24, at 6:00 pm, we will celebrate the start of a new Club year with our annual Potluck Supper meeting. It has become a tradition to have the girls we sponsored to attend Girls' Career Institute speak at that meeting. Evelyn Bernard (who is also Miss Vernon 2026) and Brielle Coesfeld have been invited to attend, along with their parents. We will also be drawing the winner of our 50/50 fundraiser raffle. Please make an effort to wear your nametags, introduce yourselves and welcome our special guests at some time during the evening.





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—continued—

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting but please don't worry if you can't attend every meeting or cannot help with every project. We each have our own talents which create this well-oiled machine—THE GFWC VERNON TOWNSHIP WOMAN'S CLUB! In addition, the friendships made here are invaluable!

We are so proud of all of you and all we accomplish as a team!

Maria and Lisa



2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

*** Contact Elaine Hossfield, Federation Secretary, if interested in any of the NJSFWC or District events**

September 12 – October 31	Heaven Hill Great Pumpkin Festival
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—Starts 6:00 pm—Pot Luck Supper Program Speakers—Girls' Career Institute Delegates: Brielle Coesfeld and Evelyn Bernard; 2026 50/50 Raffle Drawing
October 8-11 *	MAR (Mid-Atlantic Region) Conference, Albany, New York
October 14 *	NJSFWC Canva Workshop
October 19 *	NJSFWC State Fall Conference, Harbor Point, Point Pleasant (formerly Lobster Shanty)
October 22	VTWC Meeting—Program Speaker TBD
October 26 *	October Past President's Club Meeting
October 27 *	NJSFWC Report Writing Workshop 10:30 am—12:00 pm
November 11	Children's Art Show—Vernon Senior Center
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 Speaker TBD
November 20	VTWC Cash for Gold Fundraiser, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm at Vernon Senior Center
December 17	VTWC Meeting—Program TBD—Holiday Celebration

2026-2027 VTWC Leadership

Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Maria Dorsey and Lisa Murphy
First Vice President	Nancy Speruta (Programs)
Second Vice President	Fran Janusko (Fundraising)
Interim Treasurer	Judy Phillips (Ways & Means)
Recording Secretary	Fran Gialanella
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Hibbert
Federation Secretary	Elaine Hossfield

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	
Birth Haven	Rosetta Peterson
Dulce Esperanza	Vacant
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	Vacant
WAFO (Warwick Area	Vacant
Farmworkers Organization)	
Education & Libraries	Valerie Seufert
Environment & Conservation	Vacant
Health & Wellness	Karen Szepietowski
Blankets with Care	Karen Szepietowski
Comfort Pillows	Reba Burrell
Vial of Life	Rosemarie Guidice
Special State Project (Umbrella)	Fran Gialanella
President’s Scrapbook	Amanda Philippe

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
September 24, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Nancy Speruta, First Vice-President
POTLUCK SUPPER



We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the year on September 24 at 6:00 pm. This meeting is our annual potluck supper. If you haven't already, please remember to add your food selection to our potluck sign-up sheet (see link below).

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QDuXSNhiIHYSiCyRjFT8gih2JQhDFuj6bVlBjG1b-H4/edit?gid=1183958380#gid=1183958380>

On another note, please remember to turn in your raffle tickets to Maria or Lisa so the tickets can be entered into our club's drawing.

See you on the 24th!

Nancy

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE
Our Delegates Share Experiences



The club is pleased to sponsor young ladies in our community to attend the annual Girls' Career Institute (GCI). GCI offers a “mini college and career exploration experience”. Delegates experience a sample of college life by living in a dorm, eating in a cafeteria and attending lectures and workshops. They learn about career choices from volunteer professional speakers and how to network with other delegates from all over the State of New Jersey

At the September meeting, the young ladies we sponsored for GCI this year, Evelyn Bernard and Brielle Coesfeld, will share their experiences from attending the annual Girls' Career Institute at Douglass Residential College on the campus of Rutgers University.

We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences through this program.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Judy Phillips

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break. I look forward to a new year with our club. I have a few reminders regarding the budget and tax exemptions.

I am enclosing a copy of the 2026-2027 budget with this newsletter. Each committee is allocated a specific budget to spend from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. If additional funds are needed, the committee member must request these funds from their department chair before exceeding the budget. Each department has additional funds available for this purpose.

Enclosed you will find tax-exempt forms for Dollar General, Dollar Tree and a blank form that can be reproduced and filled out. As we are an exempt organization, your budget will stretch further if you can avoid paying sales tax.

See you on the 24th!

Judy



MASTER MEMBERSHIP LIST

Joan Danaher

Hi All:

I am updating the master membership list for the 2026-2027 Yearbook and would like to ensure that all information is current. Please contact me for any changes in address, phone number or email address at ***franked@ptd.net***.

Thank you,
Joan

FUNDRAISING

Fran Janusko

Hi All:

The annual Pumpkin Festival at Heaven Hill has begun. If you have not yet signed up to volunteer on one of the dates, please be sure you do. The link below provides the sign-up sheet.

Our volunteerism was not needed on the first weekend and, of course, if it rains on any of the upcoming weekends, the festival will be canceled. Please be sure to note the day you are scheduled. If, for any reason, you cannot make the day you are scheduled, please know it is up to you to find someone to cover for you.

Thank you,
Fran

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Dwuh_4P2ei1e2X7MiGkMGwNbMW-6RxRdkBgtYai0Hz4/edit?usp=sharing

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Lisa Thomas and Judy Phillips

We had (3) August birthdays and (6) September birthdays for the Homestead Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The birthday bags were delivered the middle of August. Joan Danaher, Eileen Donovan and new member, Judy Gorberg, helped Judy and I wrap the gifts at Judy's home.

As always, thank you for the donations and beautiful crocheted lap blankets that help fill the birthday bags.

Regards,
Lisa and Judy

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT

Debra Piccirillo

Supplies were bought from the Veterans and Military Support budget to fill 12 stockings for soldiers as part of Operation Yellow Ribbon. They were delivered to Elaine who will deliver them to South Jersey for distribution to soldiers.

Thank you,
Deb

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

**Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault
Intervention Services (DASI)**

Lisa Murphy

On September 1, 2026, the DASI office moved from Andover back to Newton to a new facility. We do not have a wish list request this month but will provide one to you next month.

As always, thank you for your donations to DASI.

Lisa



HEALTH & WELLNESS

OPERATION SMILE

Lisa Mills

We donated 208 cuddly Beanie Babies to Operation Smile to help comfort young children who are undergoing facial surgery. Since its founding in 1982, Operation Smile has performed more than 350,000 surgeries in 60+ countries for individuals born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities, all at no cost to the patients.

Thank you,
Lisa



HEALTH & WELLNESS

COMFORT AND PORT PILLOWS

Reba Burrell

I have had a very good year so far making and giving away pillows. Port pillows seem to be very much in need. Currently, I have given away 100 pillows this year. This number is a combination of both types of pillows.

Thank you to all who have contributed materials to this important project. Looking forward to continuing this important project in the coming months.

Reba J. Burrell



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	

I hope everyone had a lovely summer. Now that we're back to meeting monthly again, let's get our knitting needles and crochet hooks back to work. I think we can slow down on lap blankets for awhile since we had a healthy supply of them. Let's try to get a good supply of chemo/hospice size blankets as well as baby blankets. Also, if anyone is feeling particularly ambitious, DASI always appreciates bed-size blankets during the colder months.

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

A friendly reminder that Joan Danaher has a nice supply of donated yarn at her house for use on our club projects.

Thank you,
Karen Szepietowski
Health & Wellness Chair

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 OPPORTUNITIES

CHAIRPERSON OPPORTUNITIES

Please take a moment to review the opportunities available chairing the following departments and/or committees for the Vernon Township Woman's Club:

Warwick Area Farmworkers Organization (WAFO)

Former Department Chair: Meg Gleason

For insight and questions concerning this opportunity, please contact Meg Gleason at mmgleason98@yahoo.com.

Dulce Esperanza

Former Department Chair: Meg Gleason

For insight and questions concerning this opportunity, please contact Meg Gleason at mmgleason98@yahoo.com.

Project Self-Sufficiency

Former Department Chairs: Joan Danaher/Dee Garbarino

For insight and questions concerning this opportunity, please contact Joan Danaher at franked@ptd.net.

Environment & Conservation

Former Department Chair: Maria Dorsey

For insight and questions concerning this opportunity, please contact Maria Dorsey at mariapls@aol.com.

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 DVDs 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.