



Bits & Pieces

GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club

April 2025

Volume 16, Issue 4

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fran Gialanella

Lisa DeRitter

To all my fellow VTWC members, I sincerely hope that you believe in and are as excited as I am about all the good things we are doing; so much so that you have paid your dues signifying that you will join us for another year. For anyone reading this who is not yet a member, please come to one of our meetings or events to meet our women and learn about our activities first hand. For current members, I know there are many who have not yet renewed for next season and we need to have that completed before the end of this month.

April is an important month for me, in particular, as your co-president, but also as the chair for our Special State Project which is the New Jersey Children's Alliance. This month is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. There is a lot at stake in terms of trying to protect our children from abuse, but also to ensure victims' treatment and needed health care. We are happy to be hosting a member of the New Jersey Children's Alliance Organization, Joey Lucas, at our April 24th meeting for what I am sure will be an enlightening and provocative discussion.

We will also take the opportunity, at our April meeting, to celebrate some special achievements within our membership. Hope to see you there.

Fran

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- April 18-19 - Heaven Hill Farm—Easter Eggstravaganza
- April 24 - VTWC Meeting—Speaker, Joey Lucas, of the NJ Children’s Alliance Organization; presentation of awards from Highlands District Spring Conference; Recognition of members who have been in the VTWC for 25 years and 50 years
- April 26 * - NJSFWC Spring Canva Workshop at Headquarters, New Brunswick
- April 28 - TASTE OF VERNON—Red Tail Lodge, Mountain Creek, 6-9 pm
- May 4-7 * - NJSFWC 131st Annual Convention—Hard Rock Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ
- May 17 - 10:00 am—Vernon Clean Communities road cleanup; meet at Vernon DPW (across from Town Hall)
- May 22 - VTWC Meeting—Activity Fair in support of any of our charities
- June 6-9 * - GFWC Convention—Atlanta, GA
- June 11 * - Highlands District Council Meeting
- June 22 * - NJSFWC Headquarters picnic (family invited) \$10 per person and \$25 per family of 3 or more (RSVP by June 13)
- June 26 - VTWC Meeting—Summer Sendoff, Program TBD and New Member Installation (members who have joined since January 2025)
- August 7 * - NJSFWC Summer Luncheon and Basket Raffle at the Lobster Shanty (must know ASAP since we have been shut out of this event for the past 2 years!)

2025-2026 VTWC Leadership

Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Lisa DeRitter, 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”)
Membership	Joan Danaher, Marie Flores

Department Chairs

Advocates for Children	Fran Gialanella
Birth Haven	Rosetta Patterson
Dulce Esperanza	Meg Gleason
Ginnie’s House	Donna Maher
St. Jude’s Ranch for Children	Dee Garbarino
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
Benny’s Bodega	Lisa DeRitter
DASI	Lisa Murphy
Project Self-Sufficiency	Marie Flores
WAFO (Warwick Area Farmworkers Organization)	Meg Gleason
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

MONTHLY MEETING
April 24th, 6:30 pm
Special State Project-NJ Children's Alliance
MJ Palmer, First Vice-President
Program Chair



The Special State Project we are supporting for 2025-26 is the NJ Children's Alliance. Many of you have already helped Donna with projects related to the NJ Children's Alliance when you helped with any projects for Ginnie's House.

At our April meeting, we will hear from a speaker about all the work the Alliance does related to advocacy for children. The members of the Alliance power a national movement to keep children safe at centers called CACs. These centers provide a coordinated, evidence-based response to children experiencing abuse in all 50 states.

I hope to see you on the 24th!

MJ

MONTHLY MEETING

May 22nd, 6:30 pm

Activities in Support of Our Projects

MJ Palmer, First Vice-President

Program Chair



At one of the first meetings I attended as a new member, we participated in an activity where we made hospital jackets for Operation Smile. Operation Smile is a global, volunteer-based non-profit providing children with life-saving surgery and care for cleft lip and palate. The jackets were fashioned from men's extra-large white tee shirts which we cut down the front and decorated with cheery designs and colors. I remember thinking this was a great (and fun) way to not only support these children but also to connect with one another.

For May, I would like to propose that after our monthly business meeting, we participate in one or more activities such as this. For example, perhaps birthday bags for June, July and August could be assembled at the May meeting. I am open to suggestions and ask any committee chairs or any members to catch up with me at the April meeting. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

MJ

TREASURER'S NOTES
Judy Phillips
LAST CALL FOR DUES!!!

This will be the last time I will be asking for members to please pay your 2025-26 dues.

I will be collecting dues at the April meeting. Please bring your **check** (made payable to **VTWC**) or **cash** for **\$40.00** to the meeting or send it in with another member if you are not able to make the meeting. If you prefer to use **Venmo**, the club's user name is: **@VernonTownship-WomansClub**.

I will be submitting the names and number of members our club has to State on Friday, April 25th, following the meeting. Our dues payment to State is due on May 1, 2025. To date, our club has 43 members for the 2025-26 year.

Thank you all for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Judy Phillips
Treasurer

FUNDRAISING
Fran Janusko
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Tickets are still available for the Taste of Vernon event on Monday, April 28th. If we sell enough tickets, we can get a table for our members attending. Price of tickets is \$55 per person or two for \$100. Aside from the food tasting, there is also a silent auction with lots of great gifts.

50/50 raffle tickets will be available at the next meeting.

A poor start to the Heaven Hill Eggstravaganza due to weather; however, thank you to all who volunteered for the event.

Fran

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

BENNY'S BODEGA

Lisa Murphy

For April, food donations will go to Benny's Bodega. Specific requests include dry goods like rice, mashed potatoes and canned vegetables. Generally, side dishes that go with meals that are non-perishable. In addition, Benny's Bodega has requested chicken, tuna and other high protein foods such as oatmeal, lentils or chickpeas to name a few.

If you would like to donate cleaning supplies this month, Benny's Bodega is happy to receive laundry detergent, furniture polish, dust cloths, dish detergent and sponges.

Lisa

DASI

Lisa Murphy

For May, food donations will go to DASI. Specifically, DASI is requesting peanut butter and jars of sauce. DASI is also requesting cleaning products.

Gift bags will be prepared for Mother's Day. In those bags, we would like to include toiletries, lotions, combs, brushes, etc. Note there is one male client and 12 female clients at this time.

Thank you so much for all the Easter donations. They are truly appreciated.

Lisa

NOTE:

The club will alternate months between Benny's Bodega and DASI.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Lisa Thomas and Judy Phillips

This month, Lisa and I filled five birthday bags for the residents at the Homestead Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The recipients will celebrate their birthdays at the end of the month for April and May respectively.

The Director of Recreation, Adriane, has expressed her thanks and gratitude to our club through her emails and lets us know that the individuals truly enjoy opening their gifts that our club sends their way.

We would like to thank you for your involvement with the gift bags through your donations of homemade blankets, calendars, pens, pads of paper, socks, toiletries, tissue paper, etc. Your items add to the variety of 'gifts' that we are able to wrap and fill each extra-large birthday bag with every month.

Thank you,
Lisa and Judy

PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Marie Flores

Joan and I delivered 40 gowns, 2 bridal gowns, 19 pairs of shoes, 1 scarf, 4 purses and miscellaneous gloves/jewelry to Bruce Tomlinson for the Project Self-Sufficiency Sister to Sister Prom Shop. They were very appreciative.

While there, I let him know that I am leaving and introduced Joan to him as his 'point' contact. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this a SUCCESS for our club. I really have enjoyed working with them.

Marie

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

WAFO

Warwick Area Farm Workers Organization

Volunteer Opportunities at Food Pantry

Meg Gleason

Volunteers are needed at the **WAFO Food Pantry**, especially someone who can help input member visits to the food pantry database as they come in. This type of volunteer is needed for any food pantry day, **Tuesdays 4-7pm, Thursdays 4-7pm, and Sundays 10:30am-2:30pm**. If you do not feel comfortable with computers and just want to help with the food distribution, you can volunteer on Tuesdays and Sundays.

The food pantry activities take place at The Alamo Community Health Center, 888 Pulaski Highway, Goshen NY. If you can help with the food pantry, please contact Jobeth Leon, Outreach Coordinator, Sun River Health at jleon@sunriver.org.

Meg



DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Maria Dorsey

A special thank you to Karen Breese, Joan Danaher, Donna Maher and Karen Szepietowski, our 'pinwheel gardeners', who joined me on April 1 to 'plant' three pinwheel gardens at Vernon Town Hall, Vernon PAL and the entrance to Maple Grange Park. Mayor Rossi joined us for a photo opportunity and also thanked us on his Facebook page. After planting our gardens at the PAL and Maple Grange Park, we enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the Crystal Café.

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, we were not able to plant the pinwheels at Cedar Mountain School with the Girl Scout Daisy Troop 99014. They look forward to joining us in one of our community projects in the future.

Maria



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 welcomed. Additional information can be found at:

<https://wafarmworkers.org/wamc-summer-enrichment-program/>

Some of the programs offered include:

**Art
Writer's Workshop
Reading
Music
Horticulture
Sports
Computers and Robotics
Pottery
Mindfulness
Yoga**

Thank you, Meg

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

BIRTH HAVEN
Rosetta Patterson

I am accepting donations for infants: diapers (newborn to 2T), blankets, baby clothes, hats and bibs and for the moms: pajamas and panties (all sizes). I will be collecting through the end of the summer.

Thank you,
Rosetta



**ST. JUDE'S RANCH
FOR CHILDREN**
Dee Garbarino

Please remember to bring in your card fronts for St. Jude's to the next meeting. I need more to fill a new box for shipping.

I appreciate all who have been collecting. They are very happy to receive them.

Dee



ARTS & CULTURE

NJSFWC ARTS & CULTURE Highlands District Achievement Day

Dee Garbarino

I am most grateful to say we had three paintings, five photos and one door decoration entered by our club to represent us in the NJSFWC Arts and Culture-Highlands District Achievement Day contest. This year's Achievement Day was held at The Hanover Manor on April 9, 2025. Thank you to the participants. Your submissions were beautiful!

Our club is proud and thrilled to say we have some winners:

Gold- Jean Weir -painting – Mixed Media- Titled “Easton”

Gold- Jean Weir – Watercolor- Titled “Entry”

Gold- Maria Dorsey- Photograph- Titled “Smile for the Camera”

Blue 2nd place Dee Garbarino-Painting- Oil-Titled “My wave”

Blue 2nd place- Fran Janusko-Photograph-Our world up close- Titled “Newest Family Member”

Blue 2nd place- Maria Dorsey-Photograph-Reflections- Titled “A serene Reflection”

Blue 2nd place-Maria Dorsey- Photograph-Living the Volunteer Spirit-Titled “Operation Cookie/Candy”

Blue 2nd place-Elaine Hossfield-Photograph- Natural Wonders- Titled “Bird in Flight”

Blue 2nd place- Fran Janusko-Door Decoration-Titled “Spring Time”

Congratulations to all!

Dee

ARTS & CULTURE

ART CONTEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Dee Garbarino

I am looking for a committee to help with an exciting project for next year. The project is an Art Contest for July 4, 2026 for the children of Vernon. This will be based on the 250th anniversary of our country. I will need to start early with this project as I have to book a location on this important day. If you are interested, please sign up at the next meeting.

Thank you,
Dee



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	



To all of the wonderful knitters and crocheters and any new member who would like to participate in our 'Blankets with Care' project, please remember that Joan Danaher kindly stores a varied selection of yarn and wool at her house. As always, you can find the dimensions for the different blanket sizes included in our monthly newsletter. Please remember to keep track of all time spent and any cost incurred in the making of your blankets to be included on a project report for calendar year 2025.



To all members who participate in any exercise activities, physical therapy or sports of any sort, please remember to keep track of all hours/cost for each specific type of activity to be included in the 'Let's Get Moving' campaign for the calendar year 2025.

Thank you!
Karen Szepietowski
Health & Wellness Chair

HEALTH & WELLNESS

OPERATION SMILE

Lisa Mills

We donated 600 items to Operation Smile for children undergoing cleft palate surgery. After their surgery, the children receive Smile Bags containing toys and personal hygiene items. We sent 200 adorable children's toothbrushes, 200 mini tubes of toothpaste and 200 small combs to be added to the bags. It's just our small part in helping the organization that says "We dream of a world where no child suffers from lack of access to safe surgery."



HEALTH & WELLNESS

COMFORT PILLOWS

Reba Burrell

It was my pleasure to donate 70 pillows to Newton Medical Center recently. Pillows were accepted by a member of the Auxiliary of NMC. The contact person was very thankful and said the pillows were distributed to different departments.

Back to sewing!!
Reba



EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Valerie Seufert

SCHOLARSHIPS

Just a reminder that all scholarship applications are due to the guidance departments or sent directly to our club or my home address by April 25th.

Any questions, please contact me at seufertvalerie@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Valerie

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Linda Hibbert

APRIL 2025 CORRESPONDENCE

We received a thank you note from DASI for our donations of pantry items and board games.

We also received a request from the Vernon PAL for a donation for their 2025 Fund Drive.

That's all for now.

Linda

APPAREL ORDERS

Elaine Kuntz

I will be taking shirt/sweatshirt orders at our April 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
Ladies or Men's Golf Shirt	\$25.00	

Note: Zippered Hooded Sweatshirt has back print only.

Since I last presented this list, there has been a request for golf shirts. These shirts will be available (along with the T-Shirts and Sweatshirts). The golf shirts will have our logo embroidered on the upper left side of the shirt. I will have pictures with sizes for both men and women at the next meeting.

Please see me at the April meeting if you would like to purchase any of these items.

Thank you,
Elaine

BACKPACK DONATIONS

Becky Saggau

You may recall at the March meeting, there was a discussion regarding backpack donations to Jack Edward Schmidt. Edward was a recipient of one of our scholarships last year. He grew up in foster care. When you move from one home to another, you get a black garbage bag to put your belongings in. Edward donates backpacks to the foster care system to give to the kids transitioning to a new place. He pays for these backpacks from money he earns doing odd jobs. If you would like to donate a backpack, please bring it to the April meeting.

I will deliver all of the backpacks to Edward.

Thank you,
Becky

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.

Some Gentle Reminders

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Newsletter information due to Karen Breese by the 13th of each month.

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At each monthly meeting, we will be selling 50/50 tickets to our members at 8 for \$5.00

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At each monthly meeting, please remember to push your chairs back to their original spots under the tables before leaving.

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Review the NJSFWC Website at your leisure (information below).

NJSFWC Website

**The New Jersey State
Federation of Woman's Clubs'
website
is packed full of information.**

www.njsfwc.org

No log in is necessary.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING

(Ongoing collections)



Pop Tabs

They are found on soda cans, pet food, soup cans, etc.



Greeting Card Fronts

Please save the fronts of your recycled/used cards. This recycled card program is an ongoing program that provides teens with life and work skills.

Children's
DVDs
For DASI



Just for You Bags

Some items needed: Towel sets, pillows and pillow protectors, full sized toiletries and specialty feminine hygiene items and dish towels.



Greeting Cards



Valerie Seufert volunteers for the Senior **Earth Angels** in Sussex County. One of the projects she works on involves putting together packages of assorted greeting cards for each homebound senior for them to use throughout the year. All types of greeting cards are needed **except for Christmas**. We often get cards in the mail from organizations — these are great. Also, the Dollar Store has 2 cards for \$1.00 and packages of cards can also be purchased there. Any donations are appreciated!

This is an ongoing project.