

Woman's Club of Springfield (WCoS)

President's Annual Club Report

2024 was a very active year for the Woman's Club of Springfield. In January of 2024, WCoS, spouses and friends joined members at a local Chinese Restaurant to celebrate Chinese New Year. A member held an open house with cookies to share her family's train display. There was a collection of items for our layette program.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, each member was given a pink rose. WCoS had its annual art show. One member spoke on how she makes jewel pictures from recycled jewelry. Another member entered a twin quilt. She then donated it for a fundraiser.

A trivia game presented by the Education Committee was the program for March. WCoS welcomed a new member.

April found us celebrating WCoS at our 70th Anniversary Luncheon at Maggiano's. Yvonne Sening, newly elected ND President, Joyce Jolly, ND past-President, and Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District, were our guests. Seven members participated in the NDVA Spring meeting in Springfield and four attended the GFWC Virginia State Convention in Harrisonburg.

At the May annual business meeting, one focus was the forced closing of The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop. A by-laws change was voted on to terminate the venture of the Pink Elephant. There was discussion of the needed By-Law changes, name change, and redesignation of WCoS as a 501(c)(3). May also found us at our annual Spring Faire where we hosted vendors and earned money to support Bethany House. Members supported the Richard Byrd Library's semi-annual book sale.

June was a sad month, as we closed The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop (PE) after almost 60 years. We had a closing celebration with members and patrons. One of the highlights of our club year is the presentation of our annual \$3,000 scholarship, which we awarded to a deserving young woman in our community from Lewis High School. At our potluck dinner to recognize our scholarship winner, we also recognized and thanked our spouses. Without their support, we would not have been able to run the PE or set up for the Spring Faire and other events. We welcomed two new members.

One member attended the NDGFWC VA Summer Conference in Blacksburg in August.

In September, before the start of our meeting, everyone enjoyed a few rousing games of Bingo with prizes! School supplies and layette items were collected. A vote was taken on By-law changes to facilitate WCoS becoming a 501(c)(3). Three members participated at a local food bank for the National Day of Service. Members donated canned goods to support Junior Club of Loudoun's food drive. New and lovingly used stuffed animals were collected for the Teddy Bear Brigade. We learned about Canine Companions for Independence, a GFWC Affiliate. We welcomed two new members and the return of one former member.

In October, a local politician spoke on local issues, answered questions, and stressed that everyone vote. Also in October, our President and five members attended the GFWC Northern District meeting in Springfield. Four members participated in the candlelight vigil for Bethany House. We learned about UNICEF, a GFWC Affiliate. WCoS officially became a 501(c)(3). WCoS welcomed a new and a former member.

In November, after four members went to Operation Smile Headquarters, they shared at the meeting what they learned and observed. We learned about Heifer International, a GFWC Affiliate. Members supported the Richard Byrd Library's semi-annual book sale. Three members helped to serve Thanksgiving Breakfast to pre-k parents at Crestwood ES. We developed a Google calendar for members to include on our Club Website. Banking issues were justified and combined into one account.

In December, our Hospitality committee planned a lovely progressive luncheon for our holiday celebration. Three members opened their homes to the membership for appetizers, entree, and dessert. Everyone enjoyed the festivities. In Lieu of a gift exchange, members donated gift cards to Garfield ES and Bethany House (\$925.)

Besides our general membership meetings, our members meet for lunch, free movie classics at the Richard Byrd Library, new movie releases at local theatres, arts and craft workshops, concerts, plays, game day, thrifting Thursday, book club, and visited senior citizen center to help with arts and crafts projects. Sadly, a long-time member passed away. But 7 new members joined us in 2024! We look forward to more ways to serve our community in 2025.