



GFWC-South Brunswick Islands 2018 Club History

Our GFWC-SBI club ladies are like a fine bottle of wine, we just keep getting better with age. We started the year with a strong bank account of \$30,214.95 and donated in excess of \$27,000. We are happy to say, the majority of our donations stayed within our local community.

On January 29th, President Tammy Kesky called her first club meeting to order at Rivers Edge River Hall in Shallotte. She welcomed the membership aboard “Flight 2018: with service from Brunswick County to wherever our volunteer spirit takes us!” She introduced her “flight crew” and explained her theme for the year, then laid out goals she planned the club to achieve. After the acknowledgement of a fabulous previous year, a request to increase the Cindy Hewett Teaching Scholarship to \$500 was presented and approved unanimously. Polly Russ inducted new members: Rainey Ashley, Kate Bauer, Brenda Hooks, Denise Moore, Littonnie Summerlin & Ginny Varnum. She welcomed members by giving them trail mix and explained her history with the mix. Diane D’Angelo who transferred from another club was also welcomed. New this year was a collaboration with the Shallotte Junior Woman’s Club to co-sponsor the local Arts Festival allowing more local students the opportunity to compete at the district level. SJWC sponsored the Best of Show winners and we sponsored the first-place winners at district. Club ladies proudly dedicated a Little Free Library at Ocean Isle Beach Park. Kelly Barefoot was named January’s Clubwoman of the Month.

February 3rd, we hosted the 9th Annual SOUPer Bowl at Shallotte Presbyterian Church where we again exceeded previous years and raised \$7,374. The funds were distributed to three non-profit organizations to help feed the hungry in our county: Wings Ministry Backpacks Full of Blessings, South Brunswick Interchurch Council Food Pantry, and Brunswick Family Assistance. Later that evening, some Club ladies attended Brunswick Community College’s 2nd Annual Bella Italia where they presented a \$250 scholarship check. Many club ladies submitted art entries and attended the District 7 Arts Festival in Wilmington on Feb. 10th.

Our February 26th meeting found us again at Shallotte Presbyterian Church. Tammy made the club ladies aware of many upcoming GFWC and community events and encouraged participation, as visibility is a club goal for the year. Susan Sims-Pritts of Brunswick Arts Council was the guest speaker, giving us the history of the Arts Council, their projects and goals. Cindy Hewett informed the club that Myah Morris was awarded the \$500 Cindy Hewett Teaching Scholarship and Samantha Frink won the district teaching scholarship. We ended the meeting with a hands-on project led by Melon. Club ladies made cascarones (confetti filled eggs) which were donated to the Shallotte Junior Women’s Club “Bunny Brunch”. Tammy awarded 2 “Headache” awards to Kimmie Durham for her work on the roster and Lynn Watkins for the upkeep of the website and Facebook. Cindy Hewett was named the February Clubwoman of the Month.

Many ladies started March off by traveling to Hickory, NC for the State Arts Festival, and President Tammy represented District 7 at LEADS. Our monthly meeting was held at Makai Brewing Company-a Hawaiian themed craft brewing company. Our meeting ice breaker was Hawaiian trivia. The club presented a \$500 check and a carload of non-perishable foods and supplies to the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Meals of Love program. Anne Hewett, Development Manager and Haylie Long, Outreach Provider Representative accepted the check. Cindy Hewett

provided an update on the State Arts Festival and gave several members 1st place certificates for their entries. She also announced our sponsored student, Samantha Frink, won the \$1,000 Greeson-Johnson State Teaching Scholarship. This was the first time GFWC-SBI sponsored a state scholarship winner! Having a great time last year, Melon Corsini and Cindy Hewett stated their husbands would once again represent our club in the Brunswick County Literacy Council's Spelling Bee. Our guest speaker was Bridget Flora, a stormwater engineer with Brunswick County. She explained the process with stormwater management and how it affects new construction projects. Eileen Brown was named the March Clubwoman of the Month.

April was in full swing of Spring with many clubwomen attending GFWC-Holden Beach's "*Blooming For A Cause*" fashion show fundraiser. In honor of Federation Day, our April meeting was a "Walk Down Memory Lane" with special guests and dignitaries: Ann Landis- GFWC-NC President Elect, Julie Wolfe- GFWC-NC District 7 President, Julie Rigsbee- GFWC-NC District 7 President Elect, many of our past presidents and founding members of GFWC-SBI. A \$1,000 community grant from BEMC was awarded to the club to sponsor another Little Free Library. Club ladies also took part in the Boys & Girls Homes of NC breakfast "For the Love of Kids", Wine Women & Chocolate, and the March of Dimes March for Babies Walk in Myrtle Beach where no-sew blankets made by the sewing committee were donated to the Healthy Baby Program. Ladies also delivered needed items to Hope Harbor Home which were collected at the meeting. Polly Russ was named April's Clubwoman of the Month.

GFWC-NC State Convention in Cary, NC was favorable to our club. We brought home the Marie B. Hunt Pitcher for our 2017 Arts CSP and the Pierced Revere Bowl for the 2017 State Fundraising award. We also took 2nd place in the Boys & Girls Homes of NC donations. Ann Landis, previous member of GFWC-SBI and founder of GFWC-Holden Beach was named 2018-2020 GFWC-NC President and introduced her Healthy Women special project.

May 5th was all hands-on deck at our 5th Annual Juleps & Jazz Kentucky Derby Fund "*Racer*". Surpassing years past, we netted over \$20,000! Several ladies attended the Brunswick County Special Olympics assisting in games and handing out ribbons to winners. Our monthly meeting was held at Inlet View Restaurant in honor of our Sallie Southall Cotten scholarship winner, Analeise Poulin. Club ladies showered Ana with gifts and cards. Greeson-Johnson Teaching Scholarship winner Samantha Frink was also recognized at the meeting. Carol Keen with Smart Start of Brunswick County presented information about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a program that provides one book a month for children from birth to age 5. It was noted our District 7 color had been changed to seafoam/teal, to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in memory of District 7 President Julie Rigsbee's mother. Ginny Varnum was named May's Clubwoman of the Month.

Over the summer months, our club ladies flew on "auto-pilot" continuing to do their own self-guided community service. The summer break wrapped up with a Women's Equality Day social hosted by President Tammy Kesky. Members were asked to invite potential new members. Everyone enjoyed good food, drinks and fellowship. In July, Tammy Kesky & Cindy Hewett attended the 2018 GFWC International Convention in St. Louis where it was announced GFWC-SBI had won the *National March of Dimes Award*!

Members fastened their seatbelts for the second leg of our flight at the September meeting at Shallotte Presbyterian Church. The Nominating Committee started by presenting the slate of officers for 2019: President- Marie Marshburn, 1st Vice Pres- Kimmie Durham, 2nd Vice Pres- Rainey Ashley, Corresponding Secretary- Dayna Ramsey-Sanders, Recording Secretary- Deana Milliken, Treasurer- Beth Elliott and Co-Treasurer- Ginny Varnum.

Jock Brandis from the Full Belly Project was our guest speaker. Hurricane Florence made an unwelcomed landfall on September 14th and devastated many areas of Brunswick County with flooding. Several club ladies assisted with food distribution throughout the county with Brunswick Family Assistance. Chris Angotti was named the September Clubwoman of the Month.

Our October meeting was held at Shallotte Presbyterian Church with a “No Tricks-All Treats” theme. During the meeting twelve checks were presented to organizations totaling \$6,950. Karmen Smith from Hope Harbor Home was the guest speaker. She spoke about Hope Harbor being the only domestic violence shelter in Brunswick County offering around the clock response to victims of domestic violence, their children & pets. With the assistance of Judi Stankowich, District 7 Parliamentarian, Bylaws and Standing Rules revisions were presented and adopted. Deana Milliken was named October’s Clubwoman of the Month. Many ladies attended the Fall District meeting in Wilmington.

November 17th found our club assisting at the inaugural “Grand Tea” in collaboration with Brunswick County Parks & Recreation. Many club ladies participated with food preparation, decorating and serving food. Our Education CSP delivered school supplies to Shallotte Middle School that had been donated by clubwomen. Our annual Holiday Auction & Bake Sale was again held at Victoria’s Crab Shack. Members were encouraged to bring guests and their checkbooks. We all indulged in great food prior to Polly Russ taking the reins as auctioneer where she sold 46 items, totaling \$2,840. Public Issues CSP prepared a well-deserved lunch for the first responders of Shallotte Police and Fire Departments. Melon Corsini was named the November Clubwoman of the Month.

Completing our “round-trip flight”, we closed the year with a potluck dinner provided by all club ladies at the place we started, Rivers Edge River Hall. The guest speaker was Josh Torbich from Brunswick Christian Recovery Center, a Christian based alcohol and substance abuse rehabilitation program. Ann Landis, GFWC-NC President was the installing officer for the 2019 board of officers. Membership service awards were presented to Tammie Lewis & Donna Trest for 30 years, Barb Stephens & Maria Knapik for 5 years. 2018 Club awards were presented to Ginny Varnum- Rookie of the Year, Kimmie Durham- Melon Corsini Clubwoman with Heart Award, Chris Angotti- Kay C. Batten Congeniality Award, Beth Elliott- Brenda Register President’s Award, Eileen Brown- Judy Holden Citizenship Award, and Tammy Kesky- Polly Greenwood Russ Clubwoman of the Year Award. The entire sewing committee was named December Clubwomen of the Month.

Clubwomen enjoyed the flight and landed with feet on solid ground and a bank account of over \$34,000 leading us into 2019.

Submitted By: Lynn Watkins/2018 Historian