

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT – NARRATIVE 2024 WOMAN’S CLUB OF LACEY

The Woman’s Club of Lacey meets 10 months out of the year at the Charles A. Smith Community Center in Forked River. The annual rental expense for this location is \$970 which includes the cost of rental for monthly board meetings, general meetings, book club meetings and weekly activity day meetings. Members are kept apprised of current events through the Club newsletter and website. The newsletter is compiled by Joan Schuler and published on the Friday before the general meeting by Jo Facciolli. Members can access the newsletter through the Club’s website or a link sent to them in a chain email. A yearbook is published each year in September which contains information about meeting dates, committees, budget, and member contact information. Jo Facciolli maintains the Club’s website www.womanscluboflacey.org and had in 2024 completed an entire revision of the site.

Membership is promoted through word of mouth, through Facebook, on Lacey Township’s electronic bulletin board, and through members’ presence at community events such as Lacey Day. At the Lacey Day event in 2024, six members staffed a table where the Woman’s Club of Lacey’s new banner was displayed along with a brochure about the club, and our new member information packets. Candy was given out to anyone who stopped to chat with our members. The Club also has a presence at the annual Memorial Day ceremony and donates to the Lacey Food Bank, veteran and EMS organizations. The Club awards scholarships annual to Lacey Township High School students.

In 2024, Maria Kowalewski was recognized on the Honor Roll and Jo Facciolli, Joan Schuler, Barbara Bowen, and Lori Vircillo were inducted into the Order of Lily. All of these ladies are highly accomplished and have been active in the Club for many years. Two members were added to the Memorial Book in recognition of their many years of service to the Club.

Guests are welcome at any general meeting. Guests receive a name tag and are paired with a member for seating. The membership chairman extends a welcome and offers the guest a new member packet. New member packets contain an application and a brochure which contains links to the Club’s website and Facebook page. The membership chairman follows up with each guest to encourage membership and accept her application.

The Club had eight new members and held two induction ceremonies for new members in 2024 at the June and December luncheons at the Captain’s Inn in Forked River. A sweet ceremony was conducted where new members received a rose bouquet, a new nametag, and a candle to light. Six new members pledged their commitment to the core values of the Club and were welcomed into the sisterhood of the Woman’s Club of Lacey.

New members are paired with a mentor when they attend their very first meeting. The mentor is responsible for making the new member feel welcome and introducing her to others. New members were hosted at a breakfast in September at community hall where a delicious buffet made by board members was served. Each new member received a hand addressed invitation to the breakfast. All department chairpersons were in attendance and each gave a brief talk about

what their department does. At the September general meeting, members select the departments they want to work with, and this orientation gives new members all the information they need to make an informed choice.

In September, the Club formed a new Social Committee designed to foster fellowship among members and give those members who may live alone the chance to attend different events with a group. So far the group has visited a sunflower farm, the Hindu Temple, Grounds for Sculpture, a Christmas musical performance just to name a few. Members take turns organizing and arranging each event which is open to all members.

The Club has a Sunshine Department whose chairman sends cards out to members for any number of occasions. Members are encouraged to use this benefit whenever possible. Birthdays are recognized monthly in our newsletters.