



# Woman's Club of Lacey Shore District NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – LORI YOUNG** - As 2025 comes to a close, I'm reflecting on all the wonderful accomplishments this year: a successful Hobby Fair to benefit the Special State Project, help for Providence House, nursing home visits, book club discussions, a lakes clean up, two 5K's, lots of cards and Mah Jong, trips and social activities, successful collections for Bridge of Books, the food bank, and the animal shelter, two girls sent to GCI, four scholarships awarded, resurrection of our Merilee Singers, and our special needs adults dances. WOW! Thanks to all our members for all you do to contribute to the betterment of our community and to make our Club such a success.

My most sincere wishes to all our members for a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year!

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT, MARIA KOWALEWSKI** -

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year filled with good health, peace and love!

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT, JO FACCIOLLI** –

**Reports** – Report Narratives are in the works.

**3RD VICE PRESIDENT, CAROL LA VELLE** – We

will be installing 5 new members at our luncheon. We also have 4 guests coming. Please let me know if anyone is bringing a guest. Thank you.

Wishing everyone a very happy & healthy holiday season!

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, JOAN**

**ENGELHARDT** – I will report at the meeting.

**RECORDING SECRETARY, LEE CASSARINO** –

I will report at the General Meeting.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SANDY DE YONKER**

We currently have 99 paid members and 6 honorary members. All permits are up to date. I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday and a happy, healthy 2026!

**TREASURER, JOAN SCHULER** – HAPPY

HOLIDAYS! May the New Year be filled with joy, happiness and heart-warming moments!

**FEDERATION SECRETARY – LORI VIRCILLO** –

News from the Federation: Canva is offering Canva Pro for free to eligible nonprofits, when it's normally \$129.99 per person. This is an app that is used for designing and managing content for print and social media. Here is the link: <https://www.canva.com/canva-for-nonprofits/> Each club can register up to 50 members at no cost, and one person will serve as the club's administrator for the account.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS**

**ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN:** Mariana Marzacco

Congratulations to Jo Faccioli winning \$125.00 at our November meeting. ""Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026.

**ARTS & CULTURE:** Carol Candeletti – If any committee needs help or wants something made for them, please let me know if our committee can help. Any new member, if you are interested in joining this committee, please contact me. Happy Holidays !! Thanks, Carol

**ARTS PERFORMING:** Jeanne Scaffidi -

The Merilee Singers will perform at our Christmas luncheon. Enjoy!

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year!*

**NJ Sharing Network: Jo Faccioli** - Are you an organ donor? Please make sure your family is aware of your choices. If not, register here at [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org)

**Wrapped in Love: Jo Faccioli** - 14 blankets as of this writing will be donated to the NJ Sharing Network this month.

**Wreaths Across America: Jo Faccioli** - We were able to donate 175 wreaths to St. Joseph's Cemetery in Toms River. Thank you to everyone who contributed. You may continue to donate by using the website below. All donations will carry over to next year. <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/178953/Overview/?relatedId=159755>.

**Wreaths Across America Day - December 13th, 12:00 noon** at any participating cemetery across the country. The WCL will participate at the Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor. Parking is available at the Lacey Township High School on Haines St. and shuttle buses will run from there. Please use this mode of transportation because it is very difficult to park near the cemetery.

**Holiday Stockings: Amy Meyer** -

**Special Needs Adults: Debra Gamsby/Janet Mulero** - December 19 - Our photographer/elves will be selling truffles. Thank you, Lori Young for your support! She and her husband are loaning us a bench and sleigh for our Santa photo op area. We also have a photo op area with the Grinch. Everyone is wearing pajamas, and we will be serving breakfast food, holiday punch, hot chocolate and of course lots of treats.

We want to thank everyone for so much amazing love and support. We think the Whoville holiday celebration is going to be one of our favorites.

January 2 - New Year's party with DJ Mr. T. Thank you, Nancy Conway, for arranging the DJ and for everything else you do for our committee.

We will have the report for our Whoville event and our New Year's event at our January meeting.

We are now selling tickets to our musical festival fundraiser in March.

**Awareness & Prevention: Maddie Stapleton** -

**Providence House:** Holiday Greetings! In November, the DSVAP Committee sent 5 baskets filled to the rim with macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and more for Providence House clients to enjoy. This month members of our committee will be going to the Catholic Charities office to volunteer to organize, sort, and display holiday donations/gifts for Providence House clients so they can enjoy a lovely "shopping" experience for their children as well as for themselves. Thank you for your generosity and may you

enjoy your holiday with friends and family knowing that your kindness helps others.

**Pinwheel Garden: Pinwheels for Prevention- Prevent Child Abuse: Jackie Stephens.**

## **EDUCATION & LIBRARIES**

**Bridges of Books: Debbie Smith** - I would like to send out a big thank you to the wonderful ladies that gave up their time to check, count, and sort the books we have been collecting for the Bridge of Books Foundation. This year our total was 1,536 donated books. We would also like to thank the Lacey Elks members who donated many books to us. Hope everyone has a great holiday!

Read Across America: Debbie Smith

**Monthly Book Club: Nancy Conway/Maria Kowalewski** Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Literature will resume in January.

**Scholarships: Karen Martinak**-

**Girls Career Institute: Darlene Johnson/Diana Monia** -

## **ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

**Conservation: Joyce Huffert/Diane Moser** - Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

We are planning to start a shoe drive in January with Soles4souls. Shoes and sneakers must be gently used, clean and in good condition. Drop off at general meetings, activity day, Retro Lacey and Lacey Recreation. Thank you!

**Doggie Angels: Lil Campbell, Rachel Clemmer and Rae Mauri** - Please continue to bring in old towels, newspapers, etc. for our friends at the Popcorn Park Zoo. Thank you.

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**Home Life: Sheila Anderson** - Our collection of cell phones has been down so please reach out to family and friends and collect as many used cell phones as possible for our soldiers. Also don't forget to donate your used eyeglasses. Thank you for your support!

**Nursing Home: Dawn Korman** - Gently used clothing, coats, stuffed animals are always welcome at the nursing home. Thank you.

**Food Bank: Carol Crotty** - Thank you to everyone who contributes to our food drive. At our November

meeting we contributed 60 miscellaneous items of food. Thank you for your support.

**Operation Smile: Carol La Velle** – I will start collecting again in January for Operation Smile. Please see the list of items needed on our website. Thank you. Happy Holidays!

**Social Committee: Barbara Bowen** - The Social group upcoming events are being planned.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**CARING CORNER: Diane Moser** –

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Communication :- Jo Faccioli** - Please make sure I have your email, so you are kept up to date on the goings on of the Club.

**Email: Jo Faccioli** - If you changed your email or if you are a new member, please make sure I have your email address.

**Website: Jo Faccioli** -

Please visit [www.womanscluboflacey.org](http://www.womanscluboflacey.org) and make sure your information is correct. Also, if you wish to advertise your fundraiser on the website and add it to the calendar you must send me your information.

**Calendar: Jo Faccioli** –

If you are planning an event, please let me know so I can add it to the calendar of events.

**Facebook/Instagram: Jo Faccioli** - Please follow us on both social media sites.

**Photos: Linda Hruska**

**Newsletter: Joan Schuler** – If you wish to place your upcoming event or information concerning your committee, please forward to me via email after the Board meeting which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. Thank you.

**Eulogies: Nancy Fortin** -

**Hospitality: Helen DelaCruz** – Please check your handbooks for reminders of your contributions and assistance for our monthly meetings. Thank you.

**Parliamentarian: Chairwoman – Terry Acquavita**

## **Registration/Phone:**

**Lil Campbell/Nancy Conway** – Members, please remember \$2.00 is being collected by all those attending our General Meetings to help offset the cost of administration costs of our Club. Thank you.

**Roving Reporter: Justine Weinberg/Lori Vircillo** -

This month I spoke with Sandy DeYonker, our interim financial secretary. Sandy grew up in Passaic County where she attended Passaic Valley High School. Interestingly, Mary O'Malley was her history teacher there! Sandy continued her education at William Paterson College and received a degree in Education. She moved to Lacey in 1977 and attended Georgian Court University where she earned a Master's Degree.

Sandy spent her career in the education field: first at *Pig Wigin* and Head Start early education programs. She went on to teach in Lakewood for 13 years followed by 17 years in Howell at Land O' Pines Elementary School serving as Vice Principal for 5 years and then Principal for 12 years.

Sandy has two children- Jimmy and Kristin. Jimmy lives in Virginia with his five dogs, but his work requires lots of travel. Kristin lives in Denver with Sandy's two grandchildren-William 12 and Caroline 9. She loves to travel and read, especially Jenna's Books' recommendations. Sandy also loves to cook but like this Roving Reporter does not like to bake.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**ACHIEVEMENT DAY: Joan Schuler** – Please let me know if you are interested in participating in our Achievement Day or just want to hear what it is all about. There are many categories to which you can enter including painting, needlework, poetry, short story writing, house plants, photography, etc. This all happens in April. Hopefully, you will consider entering your project. Wishing you a very happy holiday!

**ACTIVITY DAY: Lina Kazala** – THANK YOU for supporting Activity Day. This is a social fun day, and we are exercising our brains with card playing and Mah Jongg games and enjoying good snacks. We play on Mondays 12-3:30 at 15 E. Lacey Road. If there are any changes in the schedule, I will let you know.

## **FUNDRAISING: Diana Monia**

### **Calendar Club: Debbie Terry/Carol Candeletti -**

Our Calendar Club raffle ticket sales continue through the 13th of January 2026. Currently we have sold 265 tickets and 55 more have been distributed to members. Last year we sold almost 400 tickets, so we still have a way to go to reach last year's success. Carol and I will be available at Captain's Inn so please drop off any sold tickets with payments or stop by and pick up a couple tickets to sell. If you can't sell them, you can always return them to me. If anyone isn't able to attend the December meeting but would like tickets, please call me and I will get them to you. Look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

**Monthly Raffle:** Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraiser. At our November meeting Terri Acquivito was our lucky winner and we collected \$180 which contributed to the operating expenses of our Club. Thank you.

**Trips: Barbara Bowen** – If you are going on the trip to Hunterdon Hills and have not yet paid, please bring your check in the amount of \$135 to our Christmas Luncheon. The trips to the 2026 Surfflight will be there also for sign up. Thank you.

## **SPECIAL STATE PROJECT: Cathy Katsianis -**

### **BIRTHDAY**

#### **DECEMBER:**

Carol Jones	12/3
Eleanor DelVecchio	12/8
Robin O'Brien	12/10
Karen Perks	12/10
Joan Engelhardt	12/16
Jo Faccioli	12/17
Jackie Stephens	12/18
Carol LaVelle	12/23
Carol Candeletti	12/29
BJ Graham	12/29

## **JANUARY:**

Fran Geduldick	1/2
Mickey Esposito	1/4
Carol Nicolay	1/4
Diane Bauernhuber	1/5
Debbie Terry	1/13
Nancy Pribila	1/25
Antonia Celano	1/26
Carole Crotty	1/30

### **The Volunteer**

A single word, a gentle hand,  
A story shared, a helping strand  
No grand design, no mighty quest,  
Just time and love put to the test.

A listening ear for one who's lost,  
A gentle touch that pays no cost.  
A smile offered, warm and bright,  
A small candle in the night.

And in that space, a world transforms,  
A tiny seed in quiet storms.

For in the giving, something grows,  
A strength within the volunteer, who knows,  
that kindness breeds more kindness still,  
That every act can help to fill,  
A gap, a void, a lonely heart,  
A play a vital loving part.

The giver's heart expands and fills,  
With quiet joy that gently thrills.

The one who's helped, with head held high,  
Finds hope beneath a brighter sky.

So, though the world may seem so vast,  
A volunteer's impact is built to last.

In every deed, a truth is found  
That love, when shared, makes life profound.

...

*Anonymous*