



Woman's Club of Lacey Shore District NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – LORI YOUNG – Happy New Year, everyone! Wishing you all a healthy and fun-filled 2025. I am sorry to miss all of you this month. I'm attending a funeral in Pittsburgh for a dear family member.

At our last board meeting, Cathy Katsianis presented an idea to host a Hobby Fair to raise funds for the special state project, the NJ Children's Alliance. It's a wonderful idea that the board is recommending we support. She will be sharing details at the general meeting, and it is my hope that you all will join me and the board in supporting this effort. We can do wonderful things when we all work together.

I'm busy working on my project for Activity Day – are you? I'm looking forward to seeing your creative efforts in March. Lori Y.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT, MARIA KOWALEWSKI - Wishing all a happy, healthy New Year. There will be no speaker this month because we have our annual tricky tray. Since the ballroom is available to our members until 4 pm, all committee heads are welcome to schedule meetings with their committee, after the conclusion of our general meeting. Please advise if you need a table left up for that purpose.-

2ND VICE PRESIDENT, JO FACCIOLLI – Reports are being finalized. Writing reports and keeping track of all of our activities is impressive when you put everything together for the year. Once the reports are posted on the website, you will be able to see for yourself all the good we have done this year. A good deal of this information came from the Newsletters, so keep up the good work. Thank you to all for your cooperation over the past year.

3RD VICE PRESIDENT, CAROL LA VELLE – Wishing everyone a happy & healthy New Year! We installed 2 new members at our December meeting. Two other new members were not able to attend. They will be installed in June. Please have all guests check in with Lillis or Nancy

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, JOAN ENGELHARDT – I will report at the meeting.

RECORDING SECRETARY, LEE CASSARINO – I will report at the General Meeting.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY, ANDREA HIGLEY – We now have 93 paid members and 8 honorary! All our licenses are up to date through December! If you are planning an event where a license will be needed, please let me know ahead of time sometimes it takes a while to receive.

TREASURER, JOAN SCHULER: Please remember to include an Expense and/or Income Voucher when you are requesting reimbursement or providing me with a deposit for the Club. It is greatly appreciated.

FEDERATION SECRETARY – LORI VIRCILLO - Day of Service- Remember to bring a pair of warm socks to the January meeting.

If you are interested in the NJSFWC writing contest; entries are due by February 1.

Member Creative Writing Contest Categories:
Poetry Minimum 8 lines, maximum 50 lines, any style
Haiku 17 syllables (5 – 7 – 5), 1 entry per person
Play/Skit One act, 10-15 minutes
Short story 2000-word limit Book Review 2000-word limit.

See me for additional information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN: Mariana Marzacco

At our December meeting we raised \$105.00 for the Club. Janet Srmaty was our lucky winner.

ARTS & CULTURE: Carol Candeletti – We will continue to make dog toys for Popcorn Park and Smile Bags. If anyone has any ideas for us, please let me know. I'm looking for someone that has expertise in making wreaths and would like to help us or give us pointers on that, please get in touch.

ARTS PERFORMING: Jeanne Scaffiddi -

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Happy New Year to all! Wishing you health and happiness for the upcoming year.

NJ Sharing Network -Interested in organ and tissue donation? Visit www.registerme.org.

Wrapped in Love - This month 15 blankets were sent up to New Providence. Lap blankets are sent to families two years after the "gift of life". These blankets represent a "thank you" "we have not forgotten you".

Wreaths Across America - Many thanks to everyone who made the 2024 Wreaths Across America ceremony at Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor such a success. It was a team effort to honor the hundreds of veterans interred at Good Luck Cemetery. 496 wreaths were placed on December 14th, 2024. Thank you!

I recently found out that St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Mausoleum in Toms River has 1700 Veterans interred in their cemetery. At the end of 2024, they were short 600 wreaths so not all their Veterans received a wreath. In light of this information, my group decided to sponsor this site for 2025. Please continue to follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WreathsAcrossAmericaWomansClubofLaceyNJ0284P> as we'll be posting EXCITING NEWS on how you can double your donation to the 2025 Wreaths Across America at St. Joseph's Cemetery. This does not mean you cannot designate a specific site for your donation. You can still designate your wreath placement to a participating cemetery in 2025.

Holiday Stockings: Amy Meyer –

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Awareness & Prevention: Maddie Stapleton – Providence House:

Happy New Year to you all! The Woman's Club of Lacey members collected 5 rolls of paper towels, 10 drink boxes, and 24 individually wrapped snacks for the clients

in transitional housing being assisted by Providence House. Our total in 2024 (September-December) collected: 50 rolls of paper towels, 33 individualized drink/juice boxes, and 86 individually wrapped snacks. Well done! What a generous group. Thank you all!

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

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Bridges of Books: Debbie Smith – Hope everyone can stay warm and healthy this winter!

Read Across America: Debbie Smith

Monthly Book Club: Nancy Conway/Maria Kowalewski
Happy New Year! Literature will meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 12:30 in the Community Center. At that time, we will be discussing Book of Two Ways. Bakers are needed. Please see Nancy or Maria at the meeting. We will have a sign up for baking through the end of the year at this meeting.

Scholarships: Diane Bauernhuber –

Girls Career Institute: Sheila Anderson/Mariana Marzacco - We will again sponsor two girls from Lacey High School for this event.

ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

Conservation: Joyce Huffert/Diane Moser – We are joining with the Methodist church with their effort in collecting household bags for Trex. Here is a listing of bags to collect: produce bags, store bags, ice bags, Ziplock and other re-closeable bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap and plastic e-commerce bags. Please bring to our general meeting and/or activity day. Please ensure they are clean and dry!

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 –Both nursing homes are always in need of donations. Crystal Lake has

said they need larger size clothing (easy on/off clothing, such as sweatpants). Stuffed animals and dolls are also a joy for the residents.

Food Bank: Carol Crotty – At our December meeting we collected 67 cans of tuna and 9 miscellaneous food items for our local food bank. Please continue to support the Food Bank. Thank you!

Operation Smile: Carol La Velle – I will be collecting small toys, crafts, coloring books & crayons for the children. Also, small personal items are needed; toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Happy New Year.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CARING CORNER: Diane Moser – One card was sent out since our last meeting. If you know of anyone of our members in need of a card, please notify our president or me. Thank you. Happy New Year!

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Advertising: Jo Faccioli - If you are hosting a fundraiser, it is your responsibility to get the information to me as soon as possible. Several announcements and photos were posted on **Lacey Patch** under **Neighborhood News** and the **Woman's Club of Lacey and NJSFWC Facebook pages**. We now have access to the township electronic bulletin board. Please let me know if you want anything advertised here.

Website: Jo Faccioli -

Please visit 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. **NOTE:** If you send an announcement or dates for the newsletter, please copy me for the website and calendar. **Calendar:** It is updated regularly. Any information or dates you have in advance can be placed on the calendar.

Facebook: Jo Faccioli – Is up and running. If you belong to Facebook, please visit our page and follow at <https://www.facebook.com/womanscluboflacey>

Photos: Linda Hruska

Newsletter: Joan Schuler – Please read the Newsletter to keep up to date on all our ongoing events. Those members who wish to include a note

or information in the Newsletter, please forward by the Friday after the Board Meeting. 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 needed – 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 - This month I had the opportunity to interview Lee Cassarino, recording secretary of the Woman's Club of Lacey. Lee was born and grew up in Linden, New Jersey, the second of four sisters. She had a happy and very busy childhood.

Lee met her husband, Paul, on a blind date. She was a widow, and he was a widower with five children. They were married in 1985 and then moved to Lacey Township. In 1986 and 1987, Lee gave birth to Irish Twins, a son and daughter. A few years later, Lee was employed by the Lacey Township School District, retiring 30 years later in 2021 from Mill Pond School as secretary to the principal. She and Paul now have 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. They were recently thrilled to learn that in this coming year, five additional great grandchildren are expected, three of whom are triplets!!

Lee joined the Woman's Club in 2024 and was elected to the Board as recording secretary.

In rare spare time, Lee enjoys painting. She and Paul frequently travel to various states to visit with children and grandchildren, which includes California, Myrtle Beach and Maryland.

Lee and Paul recently sold their home in Forked River, where they had lived for 40 years, and moved to Manahawkin, deciding it was time to downsize. While they are happy with their move, Lee says it is quite hectic to get settled in a new home.

Lee's plans for the future are to stay healthy and enjoy what means the most to her - her very large and happy family!

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ACHIEVEMENT DAY: Joan Schuler – For those of you new to our Club, in March as a member you get the opportunity to show off any hobby or handywork creation you may have to club members and then at the Spring Conference in April at the Lobster Shanty luncheon. There are many categories to which you can enter including painting, needlework, poetry, short story writing, house plants, photography, etc. Please see me and I will forward the specific instructions, etc. and/or go to our website to review the instructions. Hopefully, you will decide to participate.

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 - Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraiser to again make it a successful event for scholarships to our graduating high school students in Lacey Township.

Monthly Baskets: Thank you to those who take chances on our lovely baskets. At our December meeting our basket brought in \$205.00 for our Club. Congratulations to our winner, Maria Kowalewski and those members who won gift cards donated by the Captain's Restaurant.

Trips: Barbara Bowen –Happy New Year ladies. I will be providing information about the upcoming shows at the Surfflight at the meeting to see which ones you are most interested in. There is still time to get on board with The Irish Cabaret on Friday, March 14th at a cost of \$139. Our annual Tricky Tray should be a lot of fun on Wednesday.. Don't forget to bring your items. Barbara Bowen.

Let's Get Moving: Lori Young - It's 2025! Have you made your new year's resolution to move more? Start exercising or walking? If so, join us in logging your exercise hours for the Let's Get Moving challenge. So far, our members have logged over 550 hours of formal exercise in the last three months of 2024. Our "movement" takes many forms: exercise class, walking, pickleball, bike riding, Zumba -- so many fun things! Please join us!

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT: Cathy Katsianis
I will discuss it at the General Meeting.

BIRTHDAY

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

FEBRUARY:

Rose Squeo	2/7
Lori Vircillo	2/7
Nancy Fortin	2/11
Kathy DeMey	2/11
Dot Van Blarcom	2/12
Carol Setzer	2/15
Ellena DiCicco	2/23
Lina Kazala	2/26