



Oregon City Woman's Club...Then and Now

1903 - 2020

OCWC Members Meeting
February 1, 2020
Held at Oregon City Elks Building
3rd Floor Pacific Crest Ballroom



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Our club began when Mrs. Eva Emery Dye and Mrs. William Galloway organized The Woman's Club of the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1903 with 50 members. Its purpose was to promote the Exposition, and to raise money for the first of many monuments of Sacagawea. The Monument is now located in Washington Park, Portland, Oregon. When the project was completed, the club changed their name to the Oregon City Woman's Club. It joined the Oregon Federation in 1906. They knew their goals and objectives could be attained by the women through group strength and action.



Membership and Meetings

The Club's membership has fluctuated over the years...

Mrs. Rosa Green, member of the Club for more than 50 years of its 70-year existence, reminisced about early activities during the **70th Anniversary Dinner** held at the West Linn Inn in 1973. She served in her first term as Club President in 1926. With few organizations for women, she said she could remember when the Woman's Club had 166 paid members.



At the **Club's Golden Anniversary** on October 8, 1953 (their first meeting of the year), "several members being attired in clothes of early 1900 made their Golden Anniversary more enjoyable". The club membership was at sixty-two. Their meeting was to honor charter members and those belonging twenty years or more. Charter members receiving red carnations were Mrs. W.L. Block, Mrs. B. Zumwalt, Mrs. H.E. straight and Estella Salisbury. Others honored included Thora B. Gardner, Mrs. Barnett, and Mrs. F.J. Myer. Mrs. Milo Cameroon, accompanied by Mrs. Weleber, sang three selections.

Until the early 1990's, meetings were held in club members homes. One member would open her home and a "Hostess Committee" would be responsible for setting up the Club's silver service providing coffee and tea. A light lunch was served on glass trays. Membership was limited to 75 members because of limited accommodations. For many years, the June meeting was a picnic/swim party and was held at the home of Lucille Criteser. Members had a short meeting followed by lunch and enjoyed the afternoon by the pool. Years later, the June meeting was held in Estacada at Miriam Glover's beautiful Century Farm. Members enjoyed entertainment or a speaker.

Since that time, meetings have been at - Prince of Life Church, Oregon City Elks, The Best Western Rivershore, the Wild Hare Saloon and currently on the third floor of the Elks Club leased by **Two Girls Catering**.

Meeting minutes were hand-written in leather bound books for many years, later they were typed. The Club organized field trips for members...including the Portland Museum, Damasch Hospital, Sleigh Bells Christmas Store and the Pittock Mansion. In 1955 twenty members went to visit the Legislature meeting with the House of Representatives, having lunch with the Governor and then visiting the Senate. The Oregon City Club hosted the 1924 Oregon State Convention with **320 delegates** including the National President in attendance.

Civic Improvement

** One of the first major projects was starting the movement to acquire, move and restore the **Dr. John McLoughlin House**. A National Historic Museum, it is now a unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site of the National Parks Service.

**On June 18, 1911, the Club placed the fountain in McLoughlin Park next to the McLoughlin House on Center Street. In June 1978, the Club donated for reconstruction and restoration of the fountain and again in 1994 gave \$700 for repairs and restoration.

** In 1920, they organized the Clackamas Public Health Association (later to become the Tuberculosis and Health Association). It is now known as The **American Lung Association**.

The group had a major role in the formation of the Clackamas County Library in the basement of the Oregon City Carnegie Library.

**During World War II in the 1940's, the Woman's Club purchased War Savings Bonds. In 1959, the Club cashed some of the bonds for their Pledge for the Hospital.

** In 1953 Club members helped with the **Polio Drive and donated to their Emergency Fund**.

** With the announcement of the **Civilian Defense Council** in 1959, the Club was selected to have a member serve on the council.

** In the 70's and 80's the Club was active in fund raising for the new building of the Clackamas County Historical Society (Now referred to as **MOOT** - Museum of the Oregon Territory).

** Helped in the restoration of the historical **Canemah Cemetery**

** Another Club project was raising money for the building fund of the new **Education Center of the Willamette Falls Hospital**.

** Our Club has given many books to the area **Libraries** as Memorials for our deceased members.

** A group of members met monthly for quilting and made lap robes that were donated to local **nursing homes**.

Throughout the Club's history, many of our members volunteer outside of the Club in the community, historical, or religious organizations. In 1988 members logged in more than 3,000 volunteer hours.

Our Club has received citations, awards, and other special recognition for being actively involved in matters including health, conservation, energy, environment and education.

Examples of Civic Improvement Donations -

Yearly donations to the Stevens-Crawford House...Purchase of outside Garden Bench in memory of club member and docent at the House, Erma Sullivan

Willamette Falls Foundation and Hospital

Museum of the Oregon Territory

Oregon City School District - classrooms, Grad party, school supplies, Library

Clackamas Women Services - dishwasher and refrigerator

Benches for Promenade, City Parks, County Fairgrounds, Cemetery

Oregon City Fire Department - Heat Imaging camera and equipment

The Children's Center

John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center

Oregon Trail Foundation (brick)

Disaster Relief Fund

Operation Firefighter

Statue of Liberty Foundation

Oregon Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife - Salmon Trout Enhancement Improvement

Clackamas Community College Foundation Family Resource Center

Northwest Medical Teams

Social Services

Early Years -

Worked on a petition to get the ***Milk Bill*** on the Ballot (An OFWC Project)
Polio Drive (Club members helped with this drive in 1953)
CARE (\$65 donation in 1958 with money going to Vietnam and Hong Kong)
American Heart Association
American Cancer Association
Easter Seals
Christmas Seals
OFWC Scholarships
Ronald McDonald House
Doernbecher Hospital
Shriners Hospital
Hillcrest School

More Recent Donations -

HOPE (Help Other People Eat)
City wide Easter Egg Hunt
Shoes for Foster Children
OC Police Department Kids Summer Camp
SNAP
Meals on Wheels
Backpack Buddies
Love, Inc
Fill A Stocking/Fill A Heart
Clackamas County Canine Services
FIDO
Angels in the Outfield
Pioneer Community Center
Father's Heart Ministry
OC Police Homeless Liaison
Pioneer Pantry
Building Blocks for Kids

Each year the Club supports OFWC and GFWC sponsored scholarships.

Fundraising/Finances

In the beginning, Club members decided which donations to give to and “passed the hat” for members to contribute. Some of the earlier fundraisers including selling Entertainment Books, Style Shows from a downtown Ladies Dress Shop where Club members modeled some of their clothes, and Rummage Sales. Members would also bring hobby or craft items to sell at their meetings.



HOBBY AUCTION — Oregon City Woman's Club treasury was richer by almost fifty dollars when Mrs. Pat Waud, right, finished auctioning items club members brought to the

meeting Thursday. Sale helpers were Mrs. Ron Wolf, seated, and Mrs. Merle Brown. Women were also finalizing plans for art show held yesterday.

Budgets have increased over the years...

Budget Examples -

1957-1958	Total	\$97.50
1979-1980	Total	\$1,000.00
1989-1990	Total	\$2,281.50
2019-2020	Total	\$19,700.00

**We are now able to award three \$1,000 scholarships to Oregon City area school seniors.

**A Club Rummage Sale brought in \$221.35 in 1979.

**In 1987 the Clubs Silent Auction brought in \$178.

** Compare that to our 2019 Auction bringing in over \$11,000

Compiled Spring 2020