

McCormick Ranch Women's Association

Membership History, Officers & Committees

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4962, Scottsdale, AZ 85261



The McCormick Ranch Women's Association is an organization "which leaves a positive and humanitarian 'brand' on social and civic activities." Its logo and meaning was designed by Mary Kay Singer in 1983.

The "M" stands for a mountain range and "W" is the reflection of the many man made water filled lakes on the Ranch, while the "R" stands for the range of "A" the activities and amenities that can be enjoyed both on the ranch and with the association.

The McCormick Ranch Women's Association promotes spirited friendships and an atmosphere for sharing ideas with persons of diverse interests. Opportunities and surroundings for social and intellectual interests abound within the association. Our activities and committees are enjoyable and informative. They form a framework for our ongoing success.

More importantly, the McCormick Ranch Women's Association represents the beautiful land on which we live – McCormick Ranch and the women who form the fabric of the neighborhood."

—Phyllis Thompson, Past President, 2009 – 2011

— ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS —

Historical information was provided and is the result of the time and energy donated, in the past, by members Fran Carlson and Carolyn Bathurst.

Other input created prior to this year were the result of the time and energy donated by Barbara Paisant, Mary Koenes and Phyllis Thompson and Lorraine Fischer.

Many thanks to these women and those women who will someday follow in their footsteps....

Officers for 2024 - 2026

M.R.W.A. EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT:

Presides at all meetings.
Lorraine Fischer, 480-296-6163 c2comcreat@aol.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

Deputy to the President: oversees annual social events.
Michele Atkins

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:

Luncheon site and Program Coordinator.
Julia Cerra and Cheryl Ryan

TREASURER:

Records financial transactions and disburses funds.
Sharon Swensen

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Records proceedings and delivers minutes at meetings.
Nan Falteisek

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Records caring correspondence about members' health.
Sylvia Elliott

Meet our namesake, Mrs. Anne McCormick



In 1943 Anne and Fowler McCormick were searching for a large acreage where they could raise horses and ride. They had spent several winters in Arizona and found that the dry weather helped Mrs. McCormick's arthritis. Their quest ended when they saw a beautiful stretch of land reaching beyond Pima Road on the east and across Scottsdale Road on the west.

These newcomers were a far cry from the usual desert settlers who scratched out bare livings from their lonely acres. Fowler McCormick's grandfathers were Cyrus H. McCormick, inventor of the mechanical reaper, and John D. Rockefeller, one of the country's wealthiest men. The couple also maintained homes in Quebec, Canada; Pleasantville, New York; Barrington, Illinois; and in Chicago, headquarters of the International Harvester Company.

Their first land purchase, 160 acres, spanned Indian Bend Road and fronted along the east side of Scottsdale Road. Over the next year or so they added more land until they owned 4,200 acres. Six hundred acres were devoted to crops of alfalfa, barley and oats. Other pastures held 350 head of prize-winning Black Angus cattle kept for show animals and breeding. The remaining acreage was left in its natural wild state. Coyotes, bobcats, an occasional deer or mountain lion, rattlesnakes, smaller animals and birds, including burrowing owls, occupied this pristine desert terrain.

The McCormicks' horses were the main attraction on their ranch, beautiful Arabians, including stallions imported from Poland and England, that took blue ribbons in horse shows all over the country. In the early years, Mrs. McCormick left during the summer months, but she grew to love her desert ranch and later remained year round. She was an active participant in managing her land, spending hours studying the bloodlines of her livestock, especially the horses. Although Fowler McCormick came whenever he could, the ranch was hers to run.

The McCormick home was located on the northeast corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads, facing east for a beautiful view of the McDowell Mountains. A large rose garden, individual guest houses and a distinctive round stable that held the stars among the prized Arabians clustered north of the house. The site now holds the Seville Center.

Mrs. McCormick enjoyed small gatherings of friends and family members. Four houseboys, a cook and a chauffeur took care of their needs. The ranch employees lived south of Indian Bend Road, where the Railroad Park is today.

In 1967 Scottsdale annexed McCormick Ranch, and the McCormicks donated 100 acres of land for the Railroad Park. In 1969 Mrs. McCormick died, and her prized Arabians were sold, her most valuable stallion bringing a hefty \$150,000. Fowler McCormick passed away in 1973.

Early History of the Association...



In 1976 Judy Fussell, in charge of community relations for Kaiser-Aetna, began holding meetings for the women on the Ranch to help them become acquainted with each other. By 1978 there were enough residents to establish a permanent club. The new organization held its first activity, a "Meet Your Neighbor" luncheon, on April 4, 1978, at the McCormick Ranch Golf Clubhouse at the cost of \$4.50. That same month members attended a taping of Erma Bombeck at the KTVK TV studio, followed by lunch at the clubhouse. The taped segment was shown later on Good Morning America. The Association nominated its first slate of officers at the May luncheon and also set dues at \$6. a year. Bylaws were established and a Statement of Purpose was written as follows: "The purpose shall be to foster community spirit, activities and projects to further the common interests of members."

Early days of the M.R.W.A.

1978 - Children's Holiday Parade

1980 - Funded first BBQ grill and water fountain at Mt. View Park.

1983 - MRWA members selected to staff information booths for the building fund of Scottsdale Memorial North, now HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea.

1984 - Established the Volunteer Network, placing 100's of volunteers with organizations that needed their help on and off the Ranch.

1986 - Began the Pot-of-Gold collection at luncheons, which today still provides dollar donations to local charities.

1987 - Created member cookbooks and held member holiday boutiques selling items at a profit to augment Pot-of -Gold donation dollars.

1993 - President Judy Anderson worked with city engineers to have turn lights and marked pedestrian walkways installed at Hayden and McCormick Parkway.

1998 - Speaker Sheriff Joe Arpaio's appearance at a luncheon initiates the occasional attendance of husbands at monthly luncheons.

**MRWA PAST PRESIDENTS
1978 - 1999**

1978-1979	Lynne Bonanno
1979-1980	Mary Kinnear
1980-1981	Pat Hesse
1981-1982	Dottie Kobik & Nicki Hewlett
1982-1983	Dottie Kobik
1983-1984	Lorraine Fischer
1984-1986	Dell Poppenberger
1986-1988	Mary Crain
1988-1989	Dottie Henderson
1989-1991	Jean Kleitsch
1991-1992	Jean Morton
1992-1994	Judy Anderson
1994-1995	Jean Hersey
1995-1997	Gerry Warrick
1997-1998	Jeanne Betette
1998-1999	Kathi Cowgill

**MRWA PAST PRESIDENTS
1999 - 2026**

1999-2001	Carol Bellamy
2001-2003	Mary Helen Barnes
2003	Gerry Warrick
2003-2005	Louise Bolton
2005-2007	Joan Schwab
2007-2009	Marty Caldwell
2009-2011	Phyllis Thompson
2011-2012	Carol Bellamy
2012-2013	Carol Grossman
2013-2015	Nancy Arnold
2015-2017	Marcia Walker
2017-2019	Betty Clow & Judy Darrow
2019-2022	Nan Falteisek
2022-2024	Linda Blanton
2024-2026	Lorraine Fischer