



The Hibiscus Herald

GFWC PUNTA GORDA WOMAN'S CLUB
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



September 2026

President's Message

What's Our Why?

As we prepare for another busy season at the Punta Gorda Woman's Club, I'd like to focus on one of the most important parts of our "why"—**service**.

On September 26, PGWC will participate in the **International Day of Service**, joining others around the world in making a difference in our communities. Our project supports victims of rape and violence with our **Bags of Hope** collection.

These bags provide much-needed clothing and personal items to individuals during an incredibly difficult and vulnerable time. To us, it may be a pair of yoga pants, a T-shirt, undergarments, or toiletries. To the person receiving that bag, it means comfort, dignity, and the knowledge that someone cares.

That is our why.

But service doesn't happen only on one special day each year. It happens every time one of our members raises her hand and says, **"I can help."**

I'd like to challenge each of us to think about giving PGWC just one hour a month. One hour may not sound like much, but imagine the dividends when our members each contribute that hour. It becomes hundreds of hours devoted to our community over a year. An hour might mean helping at an event, serving on a committee, organizing donations, making phone calls, welcoming a new member, selling tickets, or lending a skill that you already have. Small contributions, multiplied by many members, create extraordinary results.

So, as we approach September 26 and our International Day of Service, I hope you'll consider donating a **Bag of Hope**, but also what you can give of yourself.

One hour. Once a month. Imagine what we can accomplish together. That's the power of PGWC—**and that's our why.**

With gratitude,
Jody Henkel
GFWC PGWC President



Jody Henkel
GFWC Punta Gorda
Woman's Club President



Save the Date

Sept 10
Bunco Bash

Sept 13
Local Merchant Sale

Sept 16
Chamber Networking Event
& Board Meeting

Sept 23
Sunset Tiki Cruise

Sept 25
Veterans Village Meal

Sept 26
Day of Service

Oct 2
General Meeting

SPOTLIGHT

The Punta Gorda Gazette

Explore Our Digital Flipbook Library

Stories Worth Sharing



[VIEW FULL
PGWC CALENDAR](#)

Member Spotlight

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- ☆ 9/03 - Beth Bouquot
- ☆ 9/04 - Janice Hanus
- ☆ 9/05- Shawn Hernandez
- ☆ 9/05 - Shirley O'Carroll
- ☆ 9/26 - Barbara Berman
- ☆ 9/29 - Peg Healy
- ☆ 9/30 - Donna Moore

Welcome

New Members as of May, 2026:

Debbie Sears
June Connors
Lori Brown
Kasey Binder
Justine Spinks

Meet Your Board

GFWC International, Regional &
District Roster

GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club
Board of Directors

HAPPY Anniversary!

20 Years



Mary Darling



Kathleen Hobbs

10 Years



Karen McElhaney



Doris Dallain

5 Years



Joan Sternberg



Rosemary Martinez



Leslie Ryan



Martha Hunzinger

MEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: The Mote Aquarium



Members spent a wonderful afternoon recently exploring the MOTE SEA Aquarium. Everyone enjoyed seeing fascinating marine life, learning about ocean conservation and enjoying time together. Social events are planned by Rosemary Martinez. Refer to [PGWC Calendar](#) for future events.

Fundraising Events

Before Season BUNCO Bash! September 10

Spots are still open! A night of dice, friends and giving back! Funds support **CARE** and our **Bags of Hope** program for victims of violence.

Get your ticket [here](#)!



BOUTIQUE CLEARANCE BASH!

Sunday, Sept 13 10a-2p
Charlotte Harbor Conference Center

Great DEALS! FREE Admission!

Come and shop summer clearance! HUGE collection of shops and boutiques from around town. Everything \$30 and under. **The GFWC PGWC will be there selling refurbished and refreshed jewelry. FREE ADMISSION.**

Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 9/13, 10a -2pm

Want first dibs? Early access VIP tickets still available. Go [here](#).



Fundraising Events Continued

2ND ANNUAL GOLF & GIVE CHARITY OUTING, OCTOBER 24

One of our major fundraising events, we sold out golf tickets within hours! But you can still HELP and here's how...

- Donate a basket for the silent auction. Basket ideas: Beach Basket ,Coffee Basket, Wine Basket, Reading Basket, etc.)
- Honor your pet with a Pet Parade \$25 donation. Click [HERE](#)
- Donate a bottle of liquor for the Booze Barrel

Questions? Contact Cathy Evans about donating or volunteering.
Info@puntagordawomansclub.com or 814-591-7780



Community Service

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - You Can Donate a “Bags of Hope” Care Bag!



TO HELP REDUCE PROGRAM EXPENSES, THE CENTER FOR ABUSE AND RAPE EMERGENCIES NEEDS THE SUPPLIES THAT ARE REGULARLY USED DURING ITS HOSPITAL RESPONSE. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE ITEMS THAT ARE NEW AND WOULD LIKE TO DONATE THEM TO OUR ORGANIZATION, PLEASE CONTACT ANNA AT 941-639-5499 OR EMAIL: VOLUNTEER.COORDINATOR@CAREFL.ORG

ITEMS NEEDED		OUR MISSION
YOGA PANTS	HAIRBRUSHES	C.A.R.E.'S MISSION IS TO HELP VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY
T-SHIRTS	TOOTHPASTE	
PANTIES	TOOTHBRUSH	
SPORTS BRAS	DEODORANT	
WITH YOUR DONATION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS LIST YOU ACTIVELY BECOME A PART OF OUR MISSION TO ASSIST VICTIMS WHO ARE FACING A SERIOUS CRISIS.		

On September 26th, in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, GFWC PGWC will be presenting CARE bags to CARE representatives. These bags support female victims who are often left with nothing after police collect their clothing and belongings as evidence during investigations. Helping restoring dignity is our WHY!

By Sept 14, please consider donating a CARE bag for this worthy cause. Each bag should include:

- Pair of Yoga/Sweat pants and T-shirts (Medium and XL)
- A few Panties and sports bra
- Personal care items such as a hairbrush, toothpaste, toothbrush, and deodorant

If you have any questions please contact Cathy Evans 814-591-7780. If you took a bag at our last general meeting please be sure we receive back no later than September 14. Read More [here](#).



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