

Bangor Womens Club Gfwc Installs New Officers

By Marilyn Mehas

BANGOR - The Bangor Womens Club, a non-profit organization was organized in 1913 with Mrs. William Blake the first elected President. The club is dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. In 1916 the club joined the General Federation of Womens Clubs of Pennsylvania which was organized on October 29, 1890. The objective of the Federation is to unite the influence and interest of Pennsylvania women to promote legislative, civic, educational, moral, and social measures. October of 2022, GFWC PA Bangor celebrated 105 years of service to our community. Following is a small list of accomplishments and service the club has accomplished.

The Bangor Public Library was founded in 1921 by the Womens Club, after years of fundraising, the library finally opened to serve

Bangor and the surrounding communities. In 1939 Robert Steinmetz, whose wife Pearl was the President of the club, gave the building built in 1890 which was the original home of the Merchant's Bank to the Borough to use as a library and the home for the club meetings. The new location opened in 1940. The Club is a financial supporter of the Bangor Library. The Club donates books to the library in remembrance of deceased Club members.

The Club supports the Slater Family Network with school supplies for children of the Bangor School District. Thanksgiving food baskets; Christmas baskets and gifts for children; and Easter food baskets for families in the area. Since 2010 monthly collections of can goods for PUMP the local Portland, Upper Mt. Bethel food Pantry, have been done to help feed the needy. The Salvation Army in Pen Argyl has received contributions at Christmas. In the past, helped with funds to restore the town clock and the restoration of the town's children's train in Bangor Park.

The Club sends Christmas and Valentine's Day cards to the Slate Belt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center residents. Eighty Mother's Day nosegays were made by club members and Father's Day carnations were given to the residents for their food trays.

Annually the club supports the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Organization. HOBY is a youth leadership organization that identifies the leadership abilities of high school students and helps them apply those skills to their communities and the world. HOBY hosts events that explore and develop topics related to leadership throughout the year. The Club selects a deserving Bangor High School sophomore to attend a weekend event that year and awards a scholarship to finance their attendance.

Bangor High School seniors can apply for a scholarship each spring. A deserving student is selected to receive this award.

In support of the GFWC's Arts & Culture Community Service Program, an Art Festival is held each year in our Club. The winning students are awarded a cash prize for artwork that is submitted from local schools in the area, winners are also awarded a ribbon and certificate of appreciation. Winners proceed on to the next level for more competition throughout the State of Pennsylvania. Members may submit art, photography, and crafts for a ribbon. Local schools submit student poetry and short story literature to be judged that proceeds on throughout the State's levels of competition, awards are also given to winners for Literature.

In the community of Bangor, the club holds bake sales; sells candy; holds card parties; and decorates and sells Christmas wreaths to raise funds. We have donated money to St. Jude's for a wagon, supported the Dairy Farmers of PA by giving a donation, Supported Canine Companions with donated "paws coins," collected used eyeglasses for the Blind Assoc., collected donations for UNICF/ Ukraine's Children, supported Turning Point with handbags filled with personal products and support GFWC PA Pennies for Art.

The women of GFWC Pennsylvania are great supporters of their communities and are to be commended for their creative and generous efforts on behalf of those in need.

Monthly meetings are being held at Stone Church Trinity United Church of Christ, located at 632 South Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at noon beginning with a light lunch served by club members. Meetings resume in September and end in June. Guests are welcome to attend a meeting. For information call Bonnie Due @ 610-588-4779 or email dobdue@ptd.net



Left to right: Ellen Prudenti, Treasurer; Joyce Barilla, Secretary; Bonnie Due, Second Vice President; Clare Osmun standing in for Dorothy Sawyer, First Vice President; and Carolyn Smith, President

Out going President Heidi Bates presided over the installation of new officers. She is greatly appreciated and the club thanks her and her officers for their service over the last two years.



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