

Mebane Woman's Club

Minutes

January 16, 2025

The Mebane Woman's Club met at Mill Creek on Thursday, January 16, 2025, for their monthly business meeting and annual installation dinner. The meeting was called to order by Sherri Seagroves, President, at 6:54 PM with a total of 45 in attendance. Zoom was not offered.

Guests arrived at 6:00 PM and enjoyed cocktails (cash bar). At 7:00 PM, Marlo Countiss gave the blessing followed by a buffet dinner of tossed salad, chicken with cream sauce, mushroom ravioli, green beans, mashed potatoes, chocolate mousse and strawberry shortcake.

1. Finances:

Angela gave our year end finance report and current balances in each account.

General Account: \$37,135.80

MOTM: \$27,155.04

Garden: \$2,388.51

Jan-Dec 2024

2. CSP Reports:

Each CSP Chair from 2024 reported their work.

Arts & Culture: Amber Hudson

In 2024, the club hosted the District 4 Art Show and volunteered at the GFWC-NC Art Show. We hosted a Pinwheels and Prosecco social where club members socialized and created pinwheels that would be displayed at the Mebane Police Department, contributing to the nationwide Pinwheels for Prevention project focusing on prevention of child abuse. Additionally, we organized a social at the Movies at the Park featuring *The Little Mermaid*, where we provided snackle boxes and demonstrated how to create themed snackle boxes. We also collaborated with Education & Libraries CSP to provide lemonade at two Movies in the Park, hosted two craft nights, co-planned the city's Juneteenth Celebration, and hosted three cultural dinners within the community.

Civic Engagement & Outreach: Sherri Seagroves

In 2024, CEO had several points of outreach. To address food insecurity, we delivered Meals-On-Wheels, Sandwich Ministry every month and volunteered and gave a \$2,000 donation to SAFE (food pantry). To address housing insecurity, we participated in county workshops to understand the problem and purchased and delivered 5 move-out kits for residents at Allied Church shelter. Our newest partnership is with our local veterans. We placed over 2000 flags on the graves of veterans at 4 cemeteries in Alamance County. We kicked off the 2024-2025 Mebane Citizens Academy which will wrap up in April. Several

members supported the Mebane Business Association by volunteering at the Dogwood 5k and 6 members hosted lunch for the ACC ABLE holiday party. WalMart donated \$600 worth of gift cards which we in turn distributed to 29 employees with the City of Mebane Public Works department. We also had a member serve on the Mebane Historical Museum Planning Committee for the 4th of July Parade. We hosted a booth and members helped with registration.

Education & Libraries: Abbey Gurley

We kicked off the year with a \$500 donation to Friends of the Library, which went straight to Mebane Public Library and used to re-furnish the youth section.

On Librarian Appreciation Day we delivered 12 gifts and thank you cards to local public libraries and school library teams.

We partnered with Arts & Culture CSP to distribute 35 copies of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and candy bars to kids and families at the Movies in the Park Wonka night.

Several club members attended a Friends of the Library volunteer orientation, where we enjoyed some dinner and drinks at Burlington Beer Works afterward. Club members also helped to stock books periodically as well.

We helped at three Friends of the Library Drive Up Drive Off events, collecting donations and transporting books to May Memorial Library. MWC was featured in the Friends of the Library newsletter with a kind write-up.

We donated to and hosted Gravelly Hill Literacy Night. We also donated to EA teacher appreciation, SEA college tour, and Streethearts Haiti.

Club members helped keep our Little Free Library stocked.

We hosted two guest speakers: Barbara Roberts, former president and board member of Friends of the Library and Adrien Zeck, Mebane Public Library Branch Manager.

2024 was all about making new friends and supporting and recognizing our libraries and schools. We're excited to continue to foster these partnerships in 2025, and bring some fun and new ideas to the community to encourage a love of reading and learning.

Environment: Sherri Seagroves on behalf of Erin Nelson

The Mebane Community Garden once again was at capacity as each plot was rented for the year. Members helped with spring cleaning and removing the weeds from the fence line.

Several members worked on a pollinator garden design for Cates Farm Park but after much debate, they decided to help maintain the 2 gardens that are already there. The Mebane Trail Rangers continued their programs for kids; the Little Explorers had 9 sessions and the Junior Rangers graduated six. The New Year's Day Hike, on Jan 1, 2025, welcomed over 30 hikers. We removed over 50 pounds of litter from Holt Street Park and three Rangers took a week-long hiking trip to Utah.

Health and Wellness: Sam Singer

In 2024, the Health and Wellness CSP has been particularly active. We initiated the year with the President's Day Panty Packing Party, providing hygiene products and panty packs to 12 schools and two community organizations. Throughout the year, we sponsored Mebfit offering free fitness classes such as Zumba, yoga, and Tai Chi. Additionally, we engaged the community through kids' running clubs, the Mebane Walks program, and participation in the Bike Rodeo and health fair at Walmart. We also interacted with members of the community virtually by maintaining the Mebane on the Move facebook page which brings information and alerts community members of opportunities that would benefit the health and wellbeing of themselves or others. 2024 came to an end with our annual Reindeer Run. So many clubwomen and community members came together for a spectacular 5K event which successfully raised funds to support future health and wellness initiatives.

3. Annual Report: Sherri Seagroves

The MWC board focused on ENGAGEMENT in 2024 and set goals and put processes into place so we could get 60 members engaged in the club, GFWC and the community.

CLUB LEVEL:

- **Monthly meetings**
 - Started using the CSP Model to allow every member to have a voice and share in the labor
 - Offered MULTIPLE types of volunteer opportunities
 - Offered social time prior to each business meeting
 - Offered Zoom for those who couldn't attend in person
 - Started inviting guest speakers
 - Started the recognition and appreciation program for members
 - Use of a podium so we can hear and see our speakers

- **VP of Membership met monthly with prospective members**
 - Each new member received a welcome packet

- **Made it simple to find volunteer opportunities**
 - ALL volunteer opportunities posted on the website calendar
 - Sign-Up Genius - coordinator can see who has volunteered and reach out if more needed
 - Opportunities listed in monthly emails
 - Discussed at monthly meetings by CSP Chairs
- **Socials**
 - Offered 4 socials for the year that were family friendly
- **Communication and Planning for our Future**
 - Streamlined: website, monthly email, xposted on FB, IG
 - 5 Year Strategic Plan

GFWC LEVEL: Promoted and attended meetings

- State Arts Program Committee – Stephany Socha
- Communications & Fundraising – Katy B. Hurn
- State Representative for Civic Engagement – Sherri Seagroves

COMMUNITY LEVEL: Promoted ALL city board openings

- Mebane Planning Board – Judy Taylor, Susan Semonite
- City Council – Katie Burkholder
- RPAC – Laurie Sawyer, Sherri Seagroves
- Alamance County Library Committee – Lynn Merrill
- Mebane Community Advisory Committee – Andi Webber

What we discovered was that providing opportunities and understanding of ENGAGEMENT improved our involvement, retention and impact.

- 11 business meetings with 7 guest speakers, averaged 27 in attendance at monthly meetings and an average of 3 on Zoom
- 62 members – 20 new, 2 returning, 2933 volunteer hours with 97% reporting (avg 22 hours PER volunteer)
- INCOME = \$52,705
- DONATIONS = \$32,137 (which is 60% of our income)
- EXPENSES = \$3150 (admin, membership, leadership, PR) which is 6% of our income
- PROJECTS = 30 (includes 2 fundraisers)
- **IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY: 4500 LIVES IMPACTED BY OUR WORK**
 - 2000+ flags placed on veterans' graves
 - 500 hygiene kits created and donated to local schools
 - 634 meals served (Crosslink, ACC ABLE, Meals on Wheels)
 - 200 lbs of food collected and donated to SAFE
 - 200 runners at Reindeer Run
 - 197 hours of free fitness classes (MebFit and Mebane Walks)
 - 125 thank you cards made for our troops
 - 115 cups of lemonade served at Movies in the Park

- 75+ books donated (Wonka and Little Free Library)
- 50 lbs of litter removed from Holt Street Park
- 36 lives saved from blood collection at blood drive
- 29 employees recognized from City of Mebane Public Works Department
- 25 youth learned about nature, Little Explorers and Junior Rangers
- 12 librarians recognized with gifts of appreciation
- 5 move out kits for those moving out of the shelter into their new home
- 4 hours as docents for Harvest House Tour
- 2 members co-planned Juneteenth Celebration and 4th of July Parade
- Shopped for multiple families for Christmas

Where did we volunteer our time in 2024?

LBDI

Membership

Environment

Education & Libraries

Arts FESTIVALS

Health & Wellness

Arts & Culture

Civic Engagement

Leadership (planning)

Fundraising

ESO

Our 2024 Partners:

- Payne's Place, Mill Creek
- City of Mebane
 - City of Mebane Fire Department (water and parking for garden)
 - Recreation and Parks Department
- SAFE (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)
- Crosslink Church Sandwich Ministry
- Local Veterans
- Alamance County Friends of the Library
- Mebane Historical Museum
- Alamance Community College ABLE Program
- Clay Street Tavern
- Wrap Pack and Ship
- Clay Street Printing

4. Thank you to outgoing officers Dara Shoemake as Vice President of Membership and Libbie Geary as Secretary. We appreciate their service.

5. Recognition of Members:

Dara recognized 2 members for going Above and Beyond in 2024: Renee Hinshaw for her work with the blood drive, health fair and partnering with Walmart for a \$3600 donation. Renee is also very active in ESO, introduced a new member to the club and spearheaded the recognition project for our Public Works Department.

The second member recognized was Andi Webber. Andi raised her hand and volunteered for multiple projects. She collected books for the FOL book drive, worked at the Dogwood 5k, served on the nominations committee, introduced a new member to the club and volunteered to chair Health & Wellness for 2025.

For most volunteer hours, Marisa Donato was recognized and thanked for her dedication and passion for fundraising.

Sarah Gnatiuk received the ESO award for reading 133 books in 2024. She reached Century level which typically takes years to complete. Sarah will receive her certificate at the state meeting.

Sherri recognized our tenured members and awarded Ginger Forsyth her 5-year pin of service and Susan Semonite her 15-year pin of service. Absent were Robyn Foushee (5-year pin) and Kelli Potter and Judy Taylor (15-year pin).

Sherri recognized Erin Nelson (president 2005, 2006), Rebecca Brouwer (president 2007, 2008, 2009) as two former presidents who made a significant impact on our club and community and moved to Texas and Oregon respectively in 2024. Sherri also recognized the passing of our friend and former president, Aimee Krans who served in 2020 and 2021.

5. Installation of New Members: Sam Singer and Stephany Socha shared the impact the club has had on them and how they became close friends. They read a poem and then installed our 2024 members: Lynn Merrill, Andi Webber, Alicia Tanner, Judy Thibidoux, Megan Lynch*, Dawn Annas, Lavonda Rowe, Laurie Sawyer, Lori Poole, Mimi Gibson*, Sara Swinford, Barb Shimp, Diane Alderson, Jen Roth*, Lauren Snyder and Fran Smith, Barbara Stansell*. (* absent)

Katy B. Hurn and Katie Burkholder shared stories about the club and friendship and installed new officers Melissa Hogan, Vice President of Membership and Sarah Gnatiuk, Secretary.

President's message for 2025 focused on inclusion. Who are you inviting to sit at your table? How do we help each other feel included? Invite new members to help with a project, co-lead to learn the process. We need to build bench depth on our projects in case a member leaves, the project can carry on. Inclusion! Who are you inviting to sit at your table?

Collect was read and meeting adjourned.