

VILLAGE  
IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
ORANGE CITY  
WOMAN'S CLUB



# VIA Voice



Founding Member  
GFWC Florida  
Federation of  
Women's Clubs  
1895

Member  
General Federation  
of Women's Clubs  
1901

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April 2015

## From the President

Good afternoon ladies from the Florida Keys. It is sunny and bright just like I hope to see all of you at our next meeting in April. Carol Johnson is the chairperson and (you will have to forgive me as I do not have the program book with me), so I do not remember who the host-

ess are. I did however get a chance to take a picture of the Key West Woman's Club building.

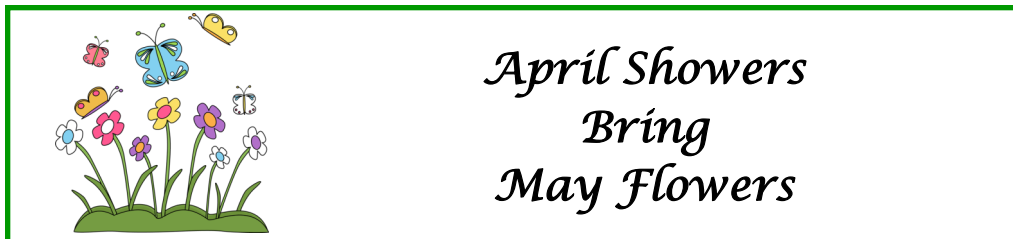
Our calling team members have not been receiving call backs from the messages they leave. Please extend them the courtesy of returning their call. It is difficult for the hostesses to

plan refreshments when they do not know the count of members.

See you all soon. Take care 'til then.



*Priscilla*



*April Showers  
Bring  
May Flowers*

## April Meeting

Public Issues will be the topic of the April meeting. Our Mayor, Tom Laputka, will speak on the state of the City and some issues facing it.

Carol Johnson is the chairperson for this meeting and will be assisted by Pat Sims and Marion Raymer as hostesses.

Be sure to let your caller know if you will be attending.

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## Love and Hugs

Hi Ho Hi Ho...

April is here. Hopefully we will experience "April Showers."

We only have one birthday to celebrate in April and that is:

23 Patti Williams

God Bless.

*Genie*

## It's That Time

Spring is springing, and it's time to pay our membership fees for another year. Please see me at our April meeting (the 2nd) with cash or a check made payable to "VIA, Inc." Remember the

amounts this year are \$35.00 for working members and \$45.00 for associate members.

*Joan*



## Notes from the First Vice President

Okay everyone....it is time to create the new calendar for next year so I need three hostesses for each month. Please sign up or contact Priscilla or me with what month works best for you. Just a reminder, the chairperson positions are a two-year assignment so if any adjustments are needed there, please let me know a.s.a.p. so I can make sure our calendar is correct. If you are a

chairperson and have decided on the details of your program, please submit those details to me in an email or regular mail message.

Please remember to visit our Facebook page if you are a Facebook user and post any events you know about that you think other members might enjoy. You can also share inspirational notes and pictures. Please help

us to increase the activity on our page so Facebook will share it more often.

Here's a quick quote to make you smile:

*Friendship is like peeing in your pants. Everyone can see it, but only you can feel the warm feeling inside.*

Author unknown

*Laura*

## Preserving the Past

As I embark upon my upcoming graduation, I find myself reflecting on meaningful experiences at college. In the spring 2014 semester at Stetson University, I received an exciting internship opportunity. My employment in Volusia County's Parks Recreation and Culture division placed me in the Historic Preservation office. I spent four months researching our county's historic rural cemeteries. This work had aspects of archaeology, historic research, environmental sustainability, and historic preservation. The overall task was to create a list of cemeteries for the state inventory of historic resources. However, I gained a deeper understanding of the development of our county. Through locating, documenting, researching and preserving old cemeteries, I discovered more than burial grounds. Families and communities that have faded from our memories founded most of these rural cemeteries.

These once large and bustling communities formed in the 1870's have all but diminished into small rural outposts. Names like Maytown, Eldridge, Garfield, Midway, Volusia, Rogers,

among others. A number of these former settlements were large African American communities that were composed of hundreds of laborers employed by the citrus, timber, and turpentine industries. These self-reliant communities also provided a much needed labor force for the industries that once supported life in Volusia County. After these businesses moved out seeking new resources, these settlements fell on hard times. By the 1930's, many residents moved away seeking new employment opportunities, leaving behind homes, churches, and cemeteries. These small settlements of African Americans have only slivers of history visible today. Sadly, very little effort was made to document these towns and those who lived in them while they were thriving. Now, these fragile, vandalized and overgrown burial grounds that have somehow managed to survive for more than a century are our largest resource for understanding them today.

Preservation of these cemeteries has become a concern for local preservationists, but opposition

persists. While these segregated communities have long disappeared, the evils of racism that plagued the era still linger. Some have implied that if "they" did not stay and care for the cemeteries of their ancestors, then "we" should not care if they vanish. Yet, if we consider the roles of African American residents, and truly award the credit that is due, it is impossible to dismiss these communities as insignificant. Their lives have meaning in creating this place. Their descendants have found their way to Orange City and other communities in Volusia County today. It is imperative to preserve the cemetery remains of these past communities as they tell a larger story of our own towns past.



Photo courtesy of Volusia County Parks, Recreation and Culture

*Kim Reading*

## Queen Victoria High Tea—November 7th



Hoping all of you are as excited about this fund raiser as our Board is. It will be a great opportunity to reach out to the community for new members. A lot of people think of a Woman's Club as ladies that socialize and don't realize our real purpose is to promote interest in and support to charitable and educational projects. We have been prominent in our benevolent endeavors and want to continue by raising funds that we contribute to the many

charities we support. This Tea will be our big fund raiser of the year, and in order to meet our goals for next year we need to have 90 to 100 attendees. The Culinary Arts of University High are looking forward to making this a memorable occasion for everyone. We don't want to disappoint them for all their hard work. Their most recent Tea was at the Victoria Gardens and everyone said it was beautiful.

Thank you to the two-third's members, at last month's meeting, that held their hands up to buy tickets and support us in this endeavor. Even though it is 6 months away, the Board is already working on posters and tickets. Looking forward to all of you helping to make this a big success.

*JJ Miller*

*Wisdom*

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***The greatest challenge in life is discovering who you are.  
The second greatest is being happy with what you find.***

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*and*

*Humor*

### **Wash It Again!**

**My mother had decided to trim the household budget wherever possible, so instead of having a dress dry-cleaned she washed it by hand. Proud of her savings, she boasted to my father, 'Just think, Ivor, we are five dollars richer because I washed this dress by hand.'**

**'Good, 'my dad quickly replied.' Wash it again.'**

## District Six

I am so very proud of our club's representation on the list of District 6 chairmen. Louise has served as Education chairman this past year, and Carolyn has served as Public Issues chairman as well as International Outreach chairman. As part of their duties, of course, they were to read reports and award certificates, which they did beautifully.

The VIA took several awards, which is quite an accomplishment when you consider that at the District level, our performance is measured in the same pot as clubs with over

100 and 200 members. Small—but mighty—that's what we are! We were recognized for our efforts in Education, Home Life, Leadership, and Public Issues.

The entries in the District 6 arts and crafts competition were wonderful and fun to see. Thanks to the Deland Woman's Club for hosting the meeting, and to District Director Julia George for a job well done. We even did a "craft" on the spot. Julia supplied each table with paper, scissors, coloring stick, and glue, and we were told to create a thank

you card that we would then send to a deserving person in our community. It was fun.

Altogether, we (Carolyn, Louise, Joan) who went to the District 6 meeting in Deland on March 13 had a great time.

*Joan*



Joan, Carolyn and Louise at the District 6 Art Festival

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## New Edition of *Our Story of Orange City, Florida*

As you may have learned at our last regular meeting, we are embarking on a new edition of our history book of Orange City. It has been 15 years since the current edition was published, so

15 years of history are not chronicled. In addition, only a few copies of the 2000 edition remain for sale. Your book committee has met, and various assignments have been distributed. Our goal is

to have the book to the printer in October.

*Joan*

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gfwcorangecity.org**

Organized May 15, 1894

Purpose: To operate exclusively to unite women and to promote their common interest in charitable and educational projects.



*Unity in Diversity*

### **GFWC News**

The call has been issued for the GFWC Florida Spring Convention in Orlando. It will be held May 15-17 at the Rosen Plaza. They will be celebrating 120 years of Federation. VIA Orange City Woman's Club will be

honored during the Saturday evening dinner as one of the four founding clubs of the Florida Federation. Club members should make every effort to attend.

GFWC International President, Babs Condon

will be in attendance to help Florida celebrate.

Please contact Priscilla Ballasy to make reservation.



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### **Event Calendar**

#### **April**

- 2 - Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Albertus Cottage
- 2 - General Meeting, 1:00 pm, Social time 12:30 pm
- 5 - Easter Sunday