



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2023*

Chairman: Trisha Brees		Club: Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove	
Number of Members ( <i>per CFWC Yearbook</i> ): 30		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: President			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<u><b>Women's History &amp; Resource Center</b></u> Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO			

According to the City of Garden Grove, our community is centrally located in beautiful Orange County, California. Garden Grove is known for its vibrant diversity, deep hometown spirit, and progressive vision for the future. Bordering the Disneyland Resort and its world-renowned attractions, the city's Grove District-Anaheim Resort offers brand name hotels, restaurants, and the popular Great Wolf Lodge, a Southern California water park resort.

The city is also home to the bustling Little Saigon and OC Koreatown commercial districts, and the center of the Archdiocese of Orange—the Christ Cathedral. Only 20 minutes from Southern California's most scenic beaches, Garden Grove offers convenient commuter access to Los Angeles and San Diego via the SR-22 Garden Grove Freeway.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is the city's largest and most iconic community event. Since 1958, the festival has been held annually over the four-day Memorial Day weekend in May, attracting over 100,000 visitors to the city's oldest park, the Village Green. The City's Re:Imagine Garden Grove vision is to reimagine itself as a place that invites all people to celebrate our community's uniqueness, progressiveness, and hometown feel.

The Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove began in 1921 with 84 members. The first clubhouse was located on Garden Grove Blvd. and cost \$6,600. We joined CFWC Orange District in 1922, and the State Federation, California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC), in 1925. Our present clubhouse was built in 1955 at the corner of Chapman and Gilbert, and we burned the mortgage in 1955.

**Project Title:** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration **Hours** 36 **Donated \$** 0 **In Kind** 0

In 1950, there were 114 members of the club, and we won the Federation Extension Award for the largest membership increase in California. By 1960, the membership increased to 349, and peaked in 1966 with 386 members.

Throughout the years, the club has awarded numerous scholarships to high school and college students, has helped the homeless and battered women, and support veterans. We also have donated to many of the local non-profit groups, including H.O.P.E. and Acacia Daycare Center. In 1970, the club became active in the Garden Grove Friends of the Library.

Our club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was in 2021. Due to the worldwide shutdowns from the Covid pandemic, we were unable to celebrate our big event. In an abundance of caution, we held off until 2023, holding our celebration and open house on October 21, 2023.

The celebration began with refreshments and music. Our welcome by our president was heartfelt and joyous that we could finally gather with members from our club and the community to commemorate our 100 year milestone.

After the welcome, we had an invocation and flag salute, followed by introductions of dignitaries present. We were thrilled that our State Senator personally attended, along with our former Mayor/current council member. In addition, a representative from our County Supervisor joined us.

The CFWC Orange District 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Dean was our keynote speaker, sharing the history of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She opened with information about Jane Cunningham Croly, a journalist, pen name Jennie June, who was unable to attend a presentation by Charles Dickens in 1868 because the event was held at the men's press club. She was barred from entry, since only men were allowed at the venue.

Croly went on to gather women from clubs and groups across the United States into an organization called Sorosis, which means to multiply or be bountiful. Eventually, Sorosis became the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Early members included women such as Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Eleanor Roosevelt. These were the society women, the movers and shakers of their time.

Currently, across the country, there are approximately 60,000 members, with 10,000 members in California, and we are part of this amazing organization. Locally, our club belongs to Orange District, comprised of 20 clubs throughout Orange County, CA.

Our organization is grouped into districts, areas, states, regions, and our international organization. There are even clubs in other countries. Each of us is working to make our communities better. Some clubs even have men as members. We have expanded our organization to include all who want to make a difference.

Accomplishments of women's clubs include: starting 75% of our nation's libraries; donating millions of dollars in books to libraries; in the 1960s, holding a campaign that resulted in 1 million car seat belts being installed in one year; the El Camino Real Bells project; white lines being added to roads; establishing the juvenile justice system, and so much more.

Women's clubs, including the Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove, have awarded college scholarships, made donations to non-profits, raised millions of dollars, made millions of in-kind donations, and contributed millions of volunteer hours.

At our anniversary event, we shared that over the past 100 years, the members of the Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove have worked together to promote friendship and civic pride, and to raise funds to support the local community, non-profit groups, veterans, and college-bound students.

We organize events each year that support our programs and goals. Each member is a valued part of the team and helps in the club's overall effort. Our goal in 2023 was to increase membership. We celebrated the three new members who joined our club after attending our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

We are a fun and dedicated group, and we welcome those who have a sense of civic pride and want to be part of an active organization with members who contribute to the community.

Our club pledge: Holding my membership in the Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove is worthy of unflinching loyalty. I pledge myself to uphold the club in its good works, and guard its reputation as long as I am a member.

At our event, we received proclamations and recognition from our State Senator, two Assemblymen, and our County Supervisor.

Finally, dessert! The almost 100 people in attendance enjoyed the day, and learned more about the history of women in women's clubs.