

MINUTES
Woman's Club of St. Michaels General Meeting
October 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by **president Cheryl Abus** at 1: 30. Following the pledge of allegiance and the invocation, Judy Shepard moved and Carole Baltzell seconded a motion to set aside the reading of the minutes of the General Meeting in May of 2025.

President Albus asked for an introduction of visitors. Joan McNamara introduced Laurie Morris, Denise Klotzbucher introduced Carla Daniels, Sharon Galasso introduced Carol Kerry, Sue Davis introduced Carole Killebrew Meyers, Kelly Livingston introduced Charisse Clark, Janet MacDonald introduced Trish Kurtz, Diane French introduced Ellen Mielke, Kim Hassenberg introduced Susan Scott, Evie Naranjo introduced Michelle Naranjo and Sharon Puckett introduced Michelle Cole, noting that Michele had been a Woman's Club scholarship awardee some years ago.

Kit Damonte proceeded to read the names of members with October birthdays.

In her president's report, Cheryl Albus thanked members for their feedback on her member-wide email suggesting ways to better manage club financing. She pointed out the slim margins in the Club's budget and the need to build reserve funds to anticipate future capital improvements and repairs. She mentioned three ways to increase income: by increasing annual dues, by increasing the fees charged for meetings of interest groups and by aggressively increasing membership.

She announced the plans for a fall mixer, *The Harvest Soiree* to be held on Sunday, October 19th, and the Fall Card Party to be held on Friday, November 7th, encouraging members to attend these fundraisers. She said she is looking for people to come up with new ideas for fundraising events and encouraged new members especially to make suggestions.

President Abus moted that club dues have not been increased for almost ten years and suggested that they be increased beginning in October 2026 to \$100 per year. This idea was moved and seconded by Danna Murden and Denise Klotzbucher. A lively discussion of ways to increase club funding ensued with comments from Angela Lane, Sharon Yateman, Danna Murden, Gina Bell, Diane French and Carole Baltzell. Among the ideas mentioned were seeking funding through Women Who Care, seek a shared fundraising event with a local business or sponsoring a sale similar to the formerly successful *Bedazzled* jewelry event. President Albus said she is appointing a committee to come up with viable ideas for fundraising events. She then called for the vote and members unanimously approved raising dues to \$100 beginning in October 2026.

First Vice President Kit Damonte reported that our fire extinguishers have been inspected and suggested members learn to use them, giving a simple instruction to all on how to do so. She pointed out the new white board which lists all meetings scheduled at the clubhouse and the club bulletin board where announcements may be posted. She also reminded members that the hall closet has recently been cleaned out and needs to be kept neatly and that any supplies needed for the club should be entered on the blackboard in the back hall.

Second Vice President Maggie Jarboe reported that speakers for General Meetings this year will focus on a number of surrounding local towns. The first speaker scheduled for November's meeting will be Jim Duffy, local Eastern Shore historian and author.

Treasurer Susan Lenfest reported that although the club needs to increase its income to properly cover needed expenses, finances are able to do so currently and an adequate budget has been prepared for the club. She said that general monthly expenses have gone up in recent months. In particular, she has focused on propane costs for heating, resulting in finding a different propane vendor that will cut costs significantly. She pointed to the need for the Club to hold all fundraising events budgeted in order to meet obligations, noting that last year three events planned and budgeted were not held.

She went on to explain the Club's financial structure, including an operating account that pays current bills. A capital account is maintained for major repairs and improvements and needs to be increased to anticipate future expenses, including a new roof. The club also maintains a \$12,000 CD holding extra Scholarship money and another CD holding the Irene Smith/Alice Petizon Scholarship Endowment Fund, both of which throw off interest that is transferred to the active Scholarship account.

She reported that the successful September Picnic generated a net profit of \$1551.00. These funds will be allocated according to a recent Board decision to change how funds raised for Scholarship purposes are allocated to the accounts. Previously, 15% of funds raised were placed in the operating account and 85% in the active Scholarship account. Due to current cash needs, the Board changed that allocation to 40% allocated to the operating account and 60% to Scholarship. Therefore, from Picnic proceeds, the amount deposited into the Scholarship Account is \$930.60 and \$620.40 will be deposited into the Operating Account.

Overall, the current balances in the club's accounts are: Operating Account \$9,078.23, the Capital Expense Account \$5,528.42, the Scholarship Account \$32,285.01 of which \$23,361.30 has already been earmarked for awardees leaving actual available scholarship funds of \$8,923.71.

In the absence of the **Second Vice President Jan Thorkelson**, Susan Lenfest reported the Club has 166 members, four honorary members and 99 members have paid their dues.

Committee Chair Reports:

Civics Committee In the absence of chairman **Carolyn Kane**, committee member Sonya Miller reminded members about the Community Center Food Pantry basket and donation jar, inviting their donations. Volunteers are needed to help with Care Packs once a month starting in November. Currently, Friday November 7th from 10:30 – noon has been reserved for the Woman's Club group. Information on a location is forthcoming.

Website Manager Nora Tan provided a slide show illustrating the recent changes to the Club's website, explaining how to find and use each new tool. She focused especially on how to make an event reservation and how to use the new credit card feature for purchasing event tickets. Recent upgrades include a new Email address, calendar of events, news and notification section, online RSVP capability, and the ability to pay by credit card.

Career Community Connection chair **Sharon Yateman** announced that the next CCC mentor opportunity at the high school will take place during the third week of October when mentors will assist college-bound seniors with their college admissions essays.

Grounds Committee Chairman Suzie Pratt reported that the committee is very pleased with the work of landscaper Cody Pepper who has provided excellent service at fair prices and has also counseled the group on appropriate plantings as well as helping to acquire plants at below market cost. She also noted that the Sweepers are now all in place and they should remember to replace the leaf blower battery in its charging station and use a broom to remove cobwebs from exterior door and window frames.

Membership Committee chair Angela Lane announced her committee members as Shirley Bucci, Carol Chisholm, Marianne Dise, Ann Kenna Dwyer, Chris Franey, Janet MacDonald and Lori Riley. She encouraged all members to seek out new members and welcome them.

Scholarship Committee chairman Dorrie McGuinness announced this year's committee members as Nancy Garner, Fran Kuhne, Caryl Ersenkal, and Denise Klotzbucher. The committee's first meeting will take place in early October.

Tea Chairman Joyce Schlesinger thanked Fran Kuhne and Carol Kelly for chairing this month's tea. She also noted that volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future meetings and a signup sheet was circulated.

Interest Groups

Book Group chairman Jacque Smith reported that 15 attended the first meeting to view the movie and discuss the book "The Remains of the Day." Members and non-members may attend regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 in the clubhouse. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 8, at 10:30 AM, featuring the book "Camera Girl – The

Coming of Age of Jackie Bouvier Kennedy" by Carl Sferrazza Anthony. Monica DeMarco will lead the discussion.

Duplicate Bridge chairman Mary Jo Kubeluis invited bridge players to join the Duplicate Bridge group on the second Thursday of the month at 12:30at the club.

Green Thumb and Culinary chair Therese Photiadis announced the first regular meeting of the combined groups will be on Friday, October 17th beginning at 9:30 with a demonstration of focaccia-making followed by a presentation on wintering over gardens by Ken Morgan of Robin's Nest flowers. The November 21st meeting will feature an international food event yet to be determined and on December 5th at 9:30 the annual wreath-making session will occur. The group will charge \$5 per meeting.

Dessert Games chairs Judy Shepard and Carol Elliott announced the first meeting for October 15th at 12:30. Games include bridge, Rummicube, Hand & Foot and other games. Tables of three or four are preferred but individuals may join and be placed with a group. The cost is \$35 per year for seven events.

Fiber Arts Group co-chair Julie McCahill invited all needlework lovers to join the group at its regular meetings the second Wednesday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8th at 1:00. All are welcome.

Tuesday Games chair Carole Baltzell invited members to gather on Tuesdays at 1:00 to play games of your choice until 3:30. The cost is \$3 per session.

Mah Jongg group member **Diane French** invited members to join the Mah Jongg group on Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 to play American Mah Jongg. The cost is \$3 per session.

Christmas Cookie sale co-chair Diane French announced the annual cookie sale will take place at the general meeting on December 3rd. A sign up sheet for bakers was passed around or bakers may call chairman Elaine Bednarz to volunteer. Packaging for the cookies will be available at the November general meeting. Cookies, candies or dog treats are all welcome.

Tea Hostess Fran Kuhne thanked those who prepared refreshments including Nancy Garner, Ruth Clark, Cheryl Albus, Marianne Dise and Laura Manfuso.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Lenfest and seconded by Susan Davis.