

General Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2026

Following a presentation by Chesapeake Forum Director Lynn Randle, the meeting was called to order at 1:57. The president led the group in the pledge of allegiance and the invocation.

January birthdays were recognized for Rayona Bennett, Carol Elliott, Karen Gladden, Carolyn Kelly, Laura Manfuso, Billie Jane Marton, Mimi O'Neill, Judy Sheperd and Ann Kallen Smith.

Visitors were welcomed and included Sandra Wilbanks, Carolyn Prout, Donna Matthews, Carol Atchinson, Angela McQuay, Susan Barklow, Sharon Haines and Trish Kurtz.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated by email, was made by Carla Howell and seconded by Diane French and approved.

In her report, president Cheryl Albus reminded members of the email distribution of the winter newsletter and said another will be sent in March. Committee chairs were asked to submit short articles to the president before the end of February. She also reminded members to watch for news about upcoming fundraising events.

First vice president Kit Damonte said she is looking for ideas to camouflage the new propane tanks and is looking into getting the piano tuned.

Second vice president Maggie Jarboe announced that the February speaker will be the former mayor of Chestertown.

Treasurer Susan Lenfest reported that current bank balances are \$10,761.24 in the Operating Account, \$12,370.03 in the Capital Expense Account and \$33,429.52 in the Scholarship Account of which \$20,861.30 is previously committed, leaving a useable balance of \$12,568.22. In addition, a 13-month CD contains \$12,000.00 and the Endowment CD remains at \$25,000.00.

The Holiday Cookie Sale realized a Net Profit of \$1,254.23 of which 60% went to Scholarship and 40% went to Operating Account. The Green Thumb Wreath Sale brought in \$270.00. The Green Thumb Wreath-Making workshop brought in \$214.00

Several generous donations were received during December, some specified for the Scholarship Account and others specified for the Capital Account. If donors have not received an acknowledgement letter, they should call Susan Lenfest. A donation was received from Johnson & Johnson, matching a gift from Naomi Clark-Turner.

She also offered a report submitted by assistant treasurer Jan Thorkelson noting 158 paid members and 13 unpaid members whose memberships will be cancelled.

Jean Ritterman offered the Civics Committee report saying volunteers are needed for Care Packs sessions scheduled for January 9th, February 6th, March 6th, April 10th and May 8th at Anchor Church Easton from 10:30 - 11:30am.

Career Community Connection chair Sharon Yateman reported that January is National Mentoring Month, and she will host a special event on January 29th with local speakers discussing mentoring. More information will be forthcoming and posted on the website.

Ground Committee chair Sara Walker reported that the winter clean-up has been done.

Tea Chairman Joyce Schlesinger thanked members for helping with teas and noted that she needs members to help with March and April teas. She thanked Kate Latimer for planning today's tea and Monica DeMarco, Kath Nilsen, Jacque Smith, Julie McCahill, Mary Jo Kubeluis, Mona Birmingham and Cheryl Albus for providing refreshments for today's tea.

Book Club co-chair Monica DeMarco announced the next meeting on January 14th. In February the regular meeting will be on the 11th and trip to Tred Avon Players will be on Sunday the 22nd. Plans for a lunch preceding the theater trip are pending. A sign-up notice will be available soon.

Culinary/Green Thumb chair Therese Photiadis thanked Naomi Clark-Turner for chairing the December wreath-making workshop and thanked the planning group that helped to solidify the upcoming events schedule. On Friday, January 16th, All About Chocolate with the Arnaz Chocolate Co., will begin at 10:30. On February 13th a soup and bread extravaganza with lunch will be held at the clubhouse. Volunteers are needed to make breads. In March a different international dinner will take place each Friday with a maximum of ten members at each dinner to be held at Bombay Takka, Pho Van, El Dorado and Olive Branch. In April, Michaela Bowley from Maryland Extension Service will talk about pollinators. On May 14th, a Thursday, a trip is planned to Winterthur in Delaware. Depending on the number who sign up soon, the trip will use either a large or smaller bus, and a price will be set once the bus size is determined, Members should contact Therese Photiadis to sign up for any of these events.

Fiber Arts chair Janet MacDonald said the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th at 1:00 in the club house.

Mah Jongg chair Karen Thomas reminded members that the group meets every Monday from 1-3 and new members are invited to come and observe and learn.

Diane French announced she will pick up the donation boxes for eyeglasses on Tuesday, January 13th to be donated to the Lions Club. So far 70 pairs have been collected.

She also announced the Spring Games Party will be held on Friday March 27th. Committee members are needed to help plan the party and assist on the day of the party.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded by and affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie McCahill
Recording Secretary