

Women of the Pines
General Membership Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2024
Forest Creek Golf Club

Kathy Newcomb, President, opened the meeting at noon. She welcomed the members and reminded them, per her recent eblast, there will be no food substitutions today and thanked them for their continued support. She also thanked the hostesses Barbara Summers and Helen Kirk. Brenda Sorrese was the honored board member for the month. Brenda joined WOTP in 2015 and has adeptly handled the treasurer's duties for the past two years. She oversees all the monies of the organization, presents reports, maintains records mail and reimbursements, monitors all fundraising monetary operations and the requirements of the tax-exempt status. Brenda is a highly respected and active member of WOTP. Brenda presented a prayer of the season.

LUNCH - (Members silenced cell phones.)

TOYS FOR TOTS – Amy Walters, program co-chair, introduced her husband, Charles Walters, Director of the Moore County Toys for Tots warehouse. She added that Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 by Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. Charles thanked the WOTP membership for their generosity of the monetary donations of almost \$500 and an over-flowing box of toys. He informed the ladies that 12,000 toys were distributed last year to at-risk children, as informed by churches, schools, community and social services.

PROGRAM (1 pm): Valerie Mountcastle, WOTP member and bell ringer, introduced the Southern Pines Methodist Church Bell Ringers and the Director of Choirs, Taylor Hickey. Mrs. Hickey is a professional soprano who teaches private voice and piano students. The bell ringers introduced themselves and played three beautiful pieces under the direction of Mrs. Hickey.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Kathy Newcomb, President, called the business meeting to order at 1:20 pm. All members received the November membership meeting minutes as an email attachment. Amy Cooper moved to accept the November general membership meeting minutes. Nancy Mack seconded the motion. Motion carried. Kathy thanked Danielle Kays for the \$764 donation to WOTP from the annual Turkey Trot race and also the volunteers Brenda Sorrese and Liz Ferry. Kathy reported the 2nd annual Red Brick Cottage Candlelight event took place on December 13, and she thanked all those that attended, the committee and docents. All proceeds go to WOTP; there is no final amount to announce, but hopefully will be close to last year's \$11,000.

Committee Reports:

Membership

Membership chair Kathy Maresca presented the guests and prospective members. The total membership number is 73.

1st Visit

Suzanne Malinowski, guest of Laura Morgan
Ann Wright, guest of Barbara Summers

3rd Visit (no second visits)

Martha Irvin, guest of Tina Arno
Kathleen Michalek, guest of Pauline Nicopoulos

Casino Night

President Newcomb gave an update on the planning for the February 15 2025 Casino Night event. Mary Hilgenberg created a flyer and Kathy asked members to distribute and/or post. Mary Ann Gerney set up ticket sales on the WOTP website and the early bird ticket price is \$75 until January 13 2025. There are benefits for table captains with tables of 8, 10, 12, and 15. Kathy reminded the membership the importance of sponsorships for the organizations and sponsorship packets are available and self-explanatory. In addition, Kathy mentioned the sign-up sheets are on the tables at the side of the dining room and asked for volunteers to set-up and/or breakdown the event and dessert table donors.

Kathy Newcomb asked Danielle Kays to give an update on the casino night silent auction items. Danielle gave the membership the themes for silent auction items: golf, fashion, Americana, wine/bourbon baskets, and she asked members to drop off related items to these themes to any of the three drop-off locations. Kathy asked Helen Kirk to give an update on the bar set-up and casino games. Helen asked the members to donate the last few bottles of red wine, white wine and prosecco via the sign-up sheets, but everything else for the bar is covered, including four bartenders for two bars, alcohol permit and bar supplies thanks to Barbara Summers. Drinks are \$6. The casino game dealers are covered, but a second poker table would be ideal if there are any interested in learning an easy version of poker. There is a dealer practice party at Danielle's home on January 11, and an rsvp email will be sent after January 1.

There will be grand prizes for casino night: Man's World, Shopping, Art-Related
Kathy Newcomb requested members look out for emails related to Casino Night planning since there is no January membership meeting. Committees will meet in the front room after the business meeting. She asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:45 pm. Tina Arno made a motion to adjourn; Pattie Corbin seconded the motion.

Submitted by,

Helen Kirk, Secretary

12/18/24