

# GREATER MUSKEGON WOMAN'S CLUB

*continuing the legacy*



## The President's Pen

**President, Loribeth Clark**

July is such a quiet month at the Club. It's hard to find something to write about. So I thought I would share with you what the experience of being your president has been so far.

On average, I get about two phone calls and six emails a day regarding the Club. Often they are from Club members asking various questions, but other times it is from members of the community. The new website has increased the number of inquiries I've been getting via email. A few have been junk mail, wanting me to press a link to buy a fake pair of Louboutin shoes (how do they know I love shoes?) or a fake Coach bag -- I just click delete and move on. But we have also received a few emails through the website inquiring about renting the Club, so it's all good.

We had our Club Pride Day, and I have to say the ladies who came to clean worked VERY hard. We were scheduled to be there from 9am until 3pm. We actually were pretty much finished by noon! The Club looks fantastic. This was a very good example how of many hands make for light work, and we even had fun doing it. Well done, Ladies! Thank you for your help! The Board has been very busy getting ready for September, when we have our first Membership Tea. The Budget is almost completed. The Communications Committee has been working on the Yearbook, and that is coming right along. Events are being planned, speakers are being lined up, and agendas are being made.

There is a lot going on in the background, but yet the Clubhouse is quiet in July. It is as though it's patiently basking in the warmth of summer, waiting quietly for the return of its beloved members to bring laughter and friendship back into its doors.

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Be safe and have fun!

*Loribeth*

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### Upcoming Events

#### August

5	Book Talk	7PM
	No General Club Meeting	
10	Club History Tour	2-4 PM
20	Board of Directors Meeting	12 N
22	Newsletter Articles Due	5PM

#### September

2	Book Talk	7PM
3	Membership Tea	1PM
4	Golf Tournament	5:45PM
17	Board of Directors Meeting	12N
19	Newsletter Articles Due	5PM
21	Club History Tour	2-4PM

### 2013/2014 Board of Directors

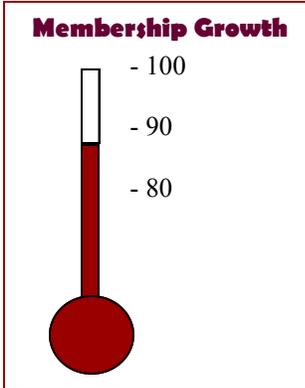
Loribeth Clark, President
Lindy Olechnowicz, Immediate Past President
Deborah Matrone, Vice President
Melissa Slorf, President-Elect
Stacy Hollenbeck, Treasurer
Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary
Sharon Beck, Corresponding Secretary
Karen Andrie, Finance Chair
Nancy Bierenga, Communications Chair
Lindy Olechnowicz, Membership Chair
Dolores Brondyke, Activities Chair
Barbara Scott, Member at Large
Dorothy Brink, House and Grounds

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Lindy Olechnowicz, Chair

Welcome to New Member:  
 Rochelle Anderson  
 3801 Sweet Lake Ave  
 Twin Lake, MI 49457  
 231-750-5809  
 kickinkitchenllc@yahoo.com

Shelly and her husband own Kickin Kitchen on Holton Road. Stop in to meet Shelly or to say hi if you've been in before. Be sure to tell her how happy you are that she joined the club!



**A Sincere Apology**

To Florence (Bright) Stahl. We spelled her new name wrong in last month's newsletter! So sorry, Florence!

**Your Assistance is Needed:**

The Club Guest Book is missing. Have you seen it? Did it get packed up in a box from an event you held at the club? Please return the book if you find it...it is an important historical document that we keep to document guests and events at the club. It has a Monet picture on the cover with a note asking that it not be removed from the club.

**August Office Hours You will be able to access the club during the following times:**

- August 2 7PM-8PM
- 10 2PM-4PM
- 20 12N-2PM



**Wish List**

- ◇ Tower Fans for building use (approx. \$40) Either donate money and we'll buy the fans or you may just go buy one and donate. We would like to add more than one more fan. They should be on sale soon.
- ◇ Upholstery for Parlor Furniture (\$200/chair, \$500/sofa)
- ◇ Variety of Hat Stands for seasonal decorating (used or new)

**Philanthropy**

Carolyn Bowen

Monthly donations for the upcoming year will go to:

- |           |   |       |   |
|-----------|---|-------|---|
| September | Local Red Cross                             | March | Pound Buddies                                     |
| October   | Baby Shower for Pantry/<br>Books for Babies | April | Mission for Area People Meds/<br>Books for Babies |
| November  | Food Drive for Rescue Mission               | May   | Every Woman's Place                               |
| December  | Gifts for Nursing Home Residents            | June  | Sacred Suds                                       |
| February  | Meals on Wheels                             |       |   |



## Days Gone By

Karin Carlson

### “A Long, Long Journey”

*“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any other state on account of sex.”*

**Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution**

**August 26, 1920**

As you have no doubt discerned, Dear Readers, this month’s article digresses from the customary club history traditionally chronicled here in order to recount and remind us of a pivotal moment in American history, particularly women’s history – the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution signed into law on August 26, 1920. To memorialize this momentous occasion, Congress, in 1971, passed legislation designating August 26<sup>th</sup> as *Women’s Equality Day*.

As is so often the case, the journey to achieve equal status for women under the law was long and arduous and exacted a heavy toll on the suffragettes whose journey began in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 with the convocation of the first women’s right convention ever held in America. Called by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to protest the mistreatment of women socially, economically, politically, and religiously, 300 men and women attended and issued the first formal demand for women’s suffrage.

As the struggle continued into the 1850s and ‘60s, early leaders of the movement emerged on the national level including Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Lucinda Stone (more about this remarkable woman next month) to name a few. Countless suffrage campaigns were held throughout the United States and its territories followed by legislative petitions; however, women’s suffrage was not the sole intent of the early suffragettes as they worked diligently for the franchisement of all citizens including not only women, but also the newly emancipated slaves. Their efforts were only partly successful with the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution which franchised only newly emancipated African men, not their female counterparts, nor the suffragettes who had helped to win this victory for them. From then on the focus of the suffragettes was solely on the franchisement of women and resulted in a massive, peaceful, civil rights movement as well as an amazing story of triumph over countless challenges. It was a dangerous journey for them as they were jeered, pelted, spit upon, beaten, and arrested; yet they endured. It would take three generations and seventy-two years before their dream became reality with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Many who fought the good fight did not live to see their dream realized while others picked up the torch they passed and carried on the fight. To all of those who have gone before, we owe a debt we cannot pay.

And so, in their honor, celebrate August 26<sup>th</sup>, *Women’s Equality Day*, with pride and gratitude and exercise the right they worked so hard to achieve as we celebrate these amazing women of character, courage, and commitment.

**Manners and Morals** can’t reprinted from the book *Manners and Morals of Victorian America* by Wayne Erbsen

### Proposals of Marriage

#### Men Propose Thoughtlessly

After the first few times, men propose as thoughtlessly and easily as they dress for dinner, they devote no particular study to the art, thinking that constant practice makes them proficient, and that almost any girl will do when the proposal mood is on. (1901)

#### Moonlight Proposals

No wise girl would accept a man who proposed by moonlight or just after a meal. The dear things aren’t themselves then. Food, properly served, will attract a proposal at almost any time, especially if it is known that the pleasing viands were of the girl’s own making. (1901)

#### Don’t Be Afraid

Given a pair of hands, a brave heart, and a small salary, a young man should not be afraid to ask a sensible girl to share his lot. (1910)

#### Written Proposals

A written proposal is extremely bad form. A girl never can be sure that her lover did not attempt to fish it out of the letter-box after it had slipped from his fingers. (1901)

LIFESTYLES

Nancy Bierenga, chair



Summer golf dates have been cancelled. We're all just too busy! If you would like to participate in one fall outing on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 5:30PM., please contact Debbe Matrone or Lindy. Debbe can be reached at 231-638-0002 after 5PM or dsm@waterstoneinsurance.com. Lindy can be reached at 231-206-0558 or lindy@platinumbuilders.net. Let's make this one big fun evening. If we get enough response to warrant the work, we will make it a tournament best ball-style and have prizes and dinner to follow!



Next Gotta Get-Away Oct. 18

The fall get-away this year will be October 18 (note this is a date correction from last month's newsletter). It will be a shopping "local" in Saugatuck. We will leave Muskegon about 9 AM, take the colorful and scenic lakeshore down to Holland for a coffee stop, then on to Saugatuck. Lunch will hopefully be at or with the Saugatuck Women's Club. We will then shop some more and end the day with dinner at Salt of the Earth in Fennville.

The cost for this full day excursion, including meals and bus (but not including our morning coffee stop in Holland) will be based on the number who attend, with a minimum of 30 to hold the trip. The maximum cost will be \$80 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting Nancy Bierenga by phone or email. A deposit of \$25 pp, non-refundable, is required to hold your seat.



Literature and Drama

Toni Seyferth, chair



Book Talk ~Let's Get Together!!!!

Attendees are asked to bring a snack or beverage to pass. Please feel free to join us at any meeting if you're interested in that book, whether or not you've had time to read the book. August 5th—*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant in the Tea Room Hostess is Paula Martin September 2nd--*Annie's Ghosts* by Steve Luxenberg October-7th--*Beach Music* by Pat Conroy (note- this is a longer book, so please plan extra reading time!) November 4th—*People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks December 2nd—*The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh The board has requested the Book Talk group to add a review of each book for the newsletter in the future!

Yes! I'd like to help provide a Fine Arts Scholarship to an area high school student! Enclosed is my check.

Name

Address

Phone

At the July meeting, the Board of Directors voted to eliminate the Year in Review from the annual Yearbook and include it in the newsletter instead. Back copies of the newsletter are available on the website and in our historical documents.

### 2013 – 2014 President's Annual Report

The 2013-2014 club year began with a very productive two-day Strategic Planning Retreat with seven of the newly elected board members in attendance. During this time, board members reviewed and updated both the club bylaws and its five-year Strategic Plan. The flow chart of departments and committees was also reviewed, updated, and clarified. A calendar of club events and fundraisers was planned. The time spent together afforded board members the opportunity to become better acquainted and to develop a sense of camaraderie and cohesiveness that served us well throughout the coming year.

Many much needed repairs and improvements to the clubhouse were undertaken and completed. After years of fundraising, we were finally able to replace our antiquated boiler. In conjunction with the new boiler, we also replaced faulty water heaters with a high efficiency model and had the radiators repaired and recalibrated. Our goal is to eventually install a series of splitters that will help cool the clubhouse when necessary which will benefit all of our meetings and enhance our rentals.

A leaking roof necessitated repairs to our 112 year old tile roof; however, the repair completed by *Grand River Builders* is only a temporary solution as a new roof is needed which will require extensive fund-raising to cover the cost.

Once roof repairs were completed, it was necessary to repair and repaint the ceiling in the ballroom. We were very fortunate to have both paint and labor donated by *Ludington Paint and Glass* and *Rustic Interiors*, respectively.

Other ongoing issues were addressed and resolved this year including the following:

◇ Clubhouse Insurance: It was brought to the board's attention that the contents of the clubhouse were woefully underinsured; therefore, an antique appraisal was completed and the insurance adjusted accordingly. A video inventory of both the clubhouse and contents was also done for insurance purposes. After much research and discussion, we also changed insurance carriers to *National Trust Insurance Services*, which specializes in covering historic buildings like our clubhouse. In the event that the clubhouse is ever destroyed, it will be possible to rebuild.

◇ Contractor Liability: This issue was resolved by hiring a business for lawn care and snow removal as well as obtaining a DBA for the club's janitor.

Other accomplishments this year include:

◇ Re-keyed the clubhouse and implementing a policy for tracking keys issued to club members.

◇ Revised and implemented a new Membership Dues Policy.

◇ Established "Club Pride Day" two times annually to clean, inventory, and organize the clubhouse and contents.

◇ Established a "Student Art Program" in which the work of local students is displayed at the clubhouse.

◇ Increased membership with ten new members

◇ Received the *Above and Beyond Community Impact Award* in recognition of the club's ongoing contributions to Catholic Charity's Baby Pantry.

And last, but not least, a grant application is in process to hopefully cover the cost of installing period light fixtures in the ballroom.

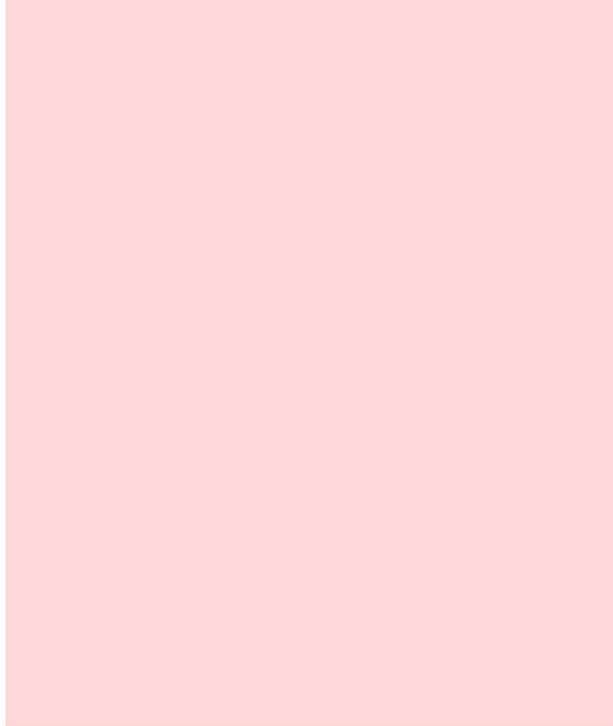
### Thanks to Everyone who showed up for our Club Pride Day in early July

Nancy Bierenga, Dorothy Brink, Dolores Brondyke, Karin Carlson, Loribeth Clark, Sandy Garrett, Kay Meyers, Kay Ostrom, Barbara Scott and her niece, Alijah McLamb, Melissa Slorf, and Sandy Wellington all worked on the club building. Special thanks to Kay Ostrom for taking the lace tablecloths home to wash them and getting them back for the Saturday Open House. And thanks to Karen Andrie for the iced tea! We worked hard and got everything sparkling in record time. Thanks for helping to keep our Pride in our Club growing!



Greater Muskegon Woman's Club  
280 West Webster Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440

We're on the Web!  
[www.MuskegonWomansClub.org](http://www.MuskegonWomansClub.org)



Follow us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterMuskegonWomansClub>

**Our Mission Statement:**

To promote a high quality of life in the greater Muskegon community.

**Our Vision Statement:**

The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club serves the community through:

- Education
- The Arts
- Service
- Community Activities
- Scholarship

These aspects are accomplished through a combination of social and philanthropic efforts and by providing an historic meeting place.



**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to this month's celebrating members!

- |   |                 |    |                  |
|---|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Barbara Boucher | 10 | Margaret O'Toole |
|   | Karen Panozzo   | 21 | Sarah Rooks      |
| 4 | Claudia Nepley  | 25 | Sandy Garrett    |
| 5 | Jill Barnes     | 27 | Kendra Andrie    |
| 6 | Karen McMahan   | 30 | Douglas Hughes   |
|   | Barbara Scott   |    |                  |
| 9 | Toni Seyferth   |    |                  |



**July Board Action Items**

- ◇ Approved three annual "Get-Aways" so planning can be done without specific approval
- ◇ Approved having a Norwex Party with cleaning products with the club being the beneficiary of the hostess gifts
- ◇ Approved Tea Part/Etiquette Class schedule for winter and spring
- ◇ Noted new website is live and getting traffic. New email addresses for functionaries based on positions not on person in the position.
- ◇ Approved having Yearbook printed and assembled by the ISD rather than in house. Cost this year is \$1.50 per copy.
- ◇ Discussed hiring cleaning service to clean the club semi-annually and have members concentrate on redecorating.