

Voices & Visions



A Newsletter of the Northford-North Branford Women's Club GFWC

September, 2025

General Assembly meeting, September 16th, 7:00pm

STW Community Center

Presidents' Report

Courtney Cleary & Nicki McNeill

Hello Ladies and Happy Fall! We hope everyone can come to the kick-off general meeting on Tuesday Sept 16th. We have lots of plans to discuss for the next few months and there will be many sign-up sheets. Please bring cake mix and frosting for the Food Pantry if you can.

The Lake Gaillard walk is happening soon on Sunday, Sept 21st. This is the first weekend after the meeting. We will need 7 or 8 people to help on-site and also 8-10 people to provide apples and water. Mark your calendar!

There are many other fundraisers to go over at the meeting including results from last June and plans for the Whist, Dutch Auction and Trees of Hope. We will review upcoming programs and we will vote on the Charity Budget.

Most importantly, there will be cookies and ice cream. See you soon!

Sunday, 9/21/25 9am-1pm Lake Gaillard Walk

Tuesday, 10/7/25 6:30pm Board meeting at Smith Library

Friday, 10/24/25 Whist 6:30pm, Totoket Valley Elementary School

Tuesday, 10/21/25 7pm General Assembly Meeting at S.T. Williams Community Center

VicePresident/Membership

Leslie Ciarleglio

Two new members, Cathy Cyr-Cook and Cathy Slubowski, were installed into the club at our June dinner. Sue Calamita is scheduled to be installed at the September meeting.

The Meet and Greet picnic was held on August 19th and had interest from three people and a lot of fun with current members.

We have one new member, Kathleen (Kathy) LaQuinto. Please welcome her to the club.

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR CLUB PINS
TO THE MEETING!!!**

Treasurer's Report

Elissa Orio

Checking: \$6,730.61

Savings: \$2,744.36

Please review the charity budget that is attached.

We will be voting on it at the meeting.

Corresponding Secretary

Liz Boissard

A card was sent to Barbara LaFrance for her cataract surgery and a condolence card was sent to Bit Liedke on the death of her husband.

A note was sent to Barb LaFrance who is moving to Branford soon.

Programs

Lynne Nielsen

There is no program for September. A schedule of programs is being worked on. Some possibilities are a craft night in October, Dutch Auction in November, a visit to the police department in January and Soup and Bread night in February. More information to come!

Social Media/Publicity

Lisa King

Articles about the Meet and Greet and the Lake Gaillard Walk were sent to the Totoket Times, The Advisor and the Sound. They were also posted on our Facebook page.

Website

Patty Meglio

The website was updated with photos from the Golf Tournament and the Honor them with a Flag project.

Hospitality

Barbara LaFrance & Cathy Cook

The theme for September is Cookies and Ice Cream.

The hostess for September's meeting is Cathy Cook (centerpiece and water). The co-hostesses are Courtney Cleary (Ice Cream) and Nicki McNeill (Cookies).

Newsletter & Publications

Mary Ellen Collett

Please email reports for the newsletter to me by the Friday after the board meeting. Send them to my email address:

me.collett@snet.net.

We will be working on the member handbooks for distribution at the October meeting. Please hang onto your report covers. Thanks!

Education/Scholarship

Rose Lynch

No report

Garden

Mary Connolly

No report.

Parliamentarian

Kim Wollman

No report.

Golf Tournament Update

Leslie Ciarleglio

The June 21st golf tournament was a great success. We had 17 golfers, 18 tee sponsors and two additional donors. It was a beautiful day at Twin Lakes Golf Club to raise money for New Reach and other local charities.



Lake Gaillard Walk

Sunday, September 21 at 9:00am

\$10 per person in advance, \$15 the day of the walk for ages 11 and up, \$5 for children ages 3-10.

Please sign up to help out by either volunteering to help the day of the walk or by bringing apples or water ahead of time.

Military Whist Card Party

Friday, October 24th

Totoket Valley Elementary School
Doors open at 5:45pm. Games start at 6:30pm

\$12 per person

A sign-up sheet to help out will be passed around at the meeting.

Collections:

North Branford Food Pantry: The food pantry is in need of cake mixes and icing. If you are in the grocery store and can pick up a few and bring them to the meeting, it would be much appreciated.

Calendars for the Veterans: Carol Bellucci is again collecting 2026 calendars to bring to the veterans. If you receive any calendars that you will not use, please pass them along to her. You can bring them to the meeting.

Can Flip Tops: We are collecting flip tops that will be given to Ronald McDonald house. Please bring them along to the meeting and pass them on to Lynne Nielsen.

Upcoming Programs:

Trees of Hope: Patty Meglio will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the meeting for anyone who would like to volunteer to help. She will be scheduling a meeting to come up with a theme.

November Dutch Auction: We will start discussing ideas for this fun night/fundraiser. All suggestions are welcome!

2025-2026 PROPOSED CHARITY BUDGET

TOTAL MONEY RAISED IN 2024-2025:	\$6099.31
ROUND UP	.69
TOTAL AVAILABLE:	\$6,100.00

Required for Finance Budget:	\$1,226.00
------------------------------	------------

Total for Charity Budget:	\$4,874.00

PROPOSED DONATIONS:

	New Reach:	\$ 600.00
Veterans Organizations (\$1,200)		
	Quilts of Valor:	\$ 300.00
	Honor Flight:	\$ 300.00
	Veteran Angler Charters:	\$ 300.00
	House of Heroes CT:	\$ 300.00
Food Insecurity (\$300)		
	Food Pantry:	\$ 150.00
	Community Dining Room:	\$ 150.00
Animal Projects (\$300)		
	A Place Called Hope:	\$ 200.00
	East Haven Animal Haven:	\$ 100.00
Students/Education (\$350)		
	North Branford Scholarship Assoc.:	\$ 250.00
	Project Graduation:	\$ 100.00
Homeless Shelters/Domestic Violence (\$100)		
	Columbus House:	\$ 100.00
Women's Health (\$500)		
	Dignity Grows:	\$ 200.00
	Days for Girls:	\$ 200.00
	After the Storm:	\$ 100.00
Misc. (\$1,250)		
	Fostering Family Hope:	\$ 100.00
	Alzheimer's Association:	\$ 200.00
	North Branford Libraries (\$100 each):	\$ 200.00
	Christmas Wish for Seniors:	\$ 150.00
	Ronald McDonald House:	\$ 100.00
	Special Interests:	\$ 500.00

	TOTAL:	\$4,600.00