

# Voices & Visions



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

March, 2026

*General Assembly meeting, March 17th, 7:00PM*

**North Branford Police Department's Community Room**

## Presidents' Report

***Courtney Cleary & Nicki McNeill***

It is the month of the Irish!  
Our meeting is on Saint Patrick's Day this month. Join us in the North Branford Police Department's Community Room for a guest speaker from the Alzheimer's Association. Emily Rorke will be talking to us about Brain Health.

Dress for the occasion--Wear your best Irish outfit!

Let's hope that this spring weather stays and we can enjoy more sunshine!

### ***Upcoming dates:***

**Tuesday, 3/17/26**—General Assembly Meeting, 6:45PM

**Tuesday, 4/7/26**—Board Meeting, 6:30pm  
Smith Library

**Saturday, 4/11/26**—District Day,  
Westbrook Elks

**Tuesday, 4/21/26**—General Assembly Meeting, 7:00pm

**Friday, 4/17/26**—Military Whist

## Vice-President/Membership

***Leslie Ciarleglio***

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

## Treasurer's Report

***Elissa Orio***

The savings account has been closed and the money has been put into the checking account. The balance is: \$8,5613.03.

## Corresponding Secretary

***Liz Boissard***

Condolence cards were sent to Stephanie Capasso and Deb Duval, co-president of the Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain. We received a thank you card from Homes for the Brave for our \$300 donation

## Programs

### **Lynne Nielsen**

The Program for this month will be a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association.

At our April meeting we will have a presentation from Debbie Bagley from Cat Tales. As a club we will be collecting Friskies canned cat food as well as pelletized bedding available at Tractor Supply (\$7.79 for a 40 lb. bag) to donate. Please bring these items to either the March or April meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Nielsen.



### **NAMI:**

Please remember that the NAMI cards are due back to Lynne by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Social Media/Publicity

### **Lisa King**

Posts were made on social media about our upcoming meeting. Information about the Whist will be posted and also sent to the papers.

## Website

### **Patty Meglio**

No report.

## Hospitality

### **Barbara LaFrance & Cathy Cook**

This month's theme is St. Patrick's Day. Please wear green to the meeting. The hostess is Cathy Cyr-Cook. The co-hostesses are Cyndi Basil and Leslie Ciarleglio.

## 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](mailto:me.collett@snet.net).

## Education/Scholarship

### **Rose Lynch**

We selected our choice of one applicant from two applications. The second applicant's information will be forwarded to the North Haven Club so that they can submit it to the state.

## Garden

### **Mary Connolly**

No Report

## Parliamentarian

### **Kim Wollman**

No report.



**DISTRICT DAY, Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:** District Day will be held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge. We hope that you can attend. It will be a fun day at a great location. Please let Elissa know if you can attend. The cost is \$45 (the club is picking up \$10 of the \$55 registration fee). Please let Elissa know by the general assembly meeting if you can attend. The absolute deadline to get the registration to Pam Lerner is March 28<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any crafts or art that you would like to display, please let us know ahead of time. Photography will be judged at the District Day meeting. Please bring any submissions you might have.

We are also collecting toiletry items to put into baskets for the table centerpieces. They will be presented to the speaker from The Umbrella Center of Domestic Violence Services. Please bring items to the meeting if you are able to.

**MILITARY WHIST FUNDRAISER:** Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Totoket Valley Elementary School. Doors open at 5:45pm, games start at 6:30pm, \$12 per person. Items are needed for raffle baskets and if anyone could solicit for some gift cards, it would be much appreciated. Please bring any items to the March general assembly meeting. The volunteer signup sheet will be passed around again at the general assembly meeting.

## **Collections:**

**North Branford Food Pantry:** The food pantry is in need of cereal, canned goods, non-perishables, cake mixes and icing. If you would like to donate, it would be much appreciated. Please give items to Lynne Nielsen.

**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.

**St. Joseph's Cathedral Pantry:** Household items, clothes, bedding , sheets, etc. Please pass them along to Elissa.

## RECIPE FROM SOUP AND BREAD NIGHT

### Pasta Fagioli

(from Rachel Ray and adapted by Kathy laquinto)

#### Ingredients:

2-3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 Cup chopped onion  
1 Cup chopped celery  
1 Cup cut up carrots  
Salt, pepper, garlic powder or chopped garlic to taste  
2 Tablespoons Italian seasoning  
2 cans cannellini beans or small white beans  
1 Quart chicken broth  
2 Cups water  
2 Cups tomato sauce  
2 dried bay leaves  
Less than ½ lb. ditalini macaroni  
Grated Parmesan cheese

Brown seasonings, onion, celery and cut up carrots in olive oil.

Mix in the two cans of beans. Add tomato sauce. Mix.

Add chicken broth and water. Add bay leaves. Add a little grated parmesan cheese. Bring to a boil. Lower heat and cover. Cook about 20 minutes.

Boil ditalini separately. Drain. Add most of it to the soup. Save a little of it out to see if you need it. It can thicken the soup. Simmer covered for about 15-20 minutes. Serve with grated parmesan cheese.

A hunk of crispy bread goes well with it.

Note: I cook it on the stove top, but it could be adapted to the crock pot.