



February 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

December Activities:

Feb 13 General Meeting 10:00 am
Feb 13 Puzzle Competition 6:00 pm

Visit GFWCVIA.com for the current calendar.

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community, as well as partnering with local schools to support education. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

WWW.GFWCVIA.COM



viagcs@gmail.com

*VIA is a member of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs
(GFWC)*



*VIA Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday
of each month at the clubhouse,
17 N. Palmetto Ave, Green Cove Springs.*



President's Message

Didn't we start the year off right! This past month was so full of activity, and you handled all of it beautifully. Even with the scheduling changes, we had a great meeting, and you did an awesome job hosting the D4 ladies! Every committee has had their first meeting of the year, and I have loved listening to all your plans. We are going to make this year fun and productive!

At our last meeting, I asked each of you to provide some great ideas for fundraising for the upcoming year. I loved reading all your suggestions, and your ideas were awesome! All of them sounded so fun and I know they will be productive. I am still going through them and trying to decide where to begin. I plan to look at our schedule very seriously so that we can focus on the ones that will bring us the most revenue with the least cost and manpower. I am confident that we can make all your ideas work.

It has become very clear to me in the last few weeks, however, that this club has always prevailed! There was a time when we had only 11 members, and we still showed Green Cove Springs who we were! We are still doing exactly that. Our goal this year is to continue our service projects, make some needed repairs on our beloved clubhouse, and to have FUN! You all are amazing!

Larriane

l.stutts@aol.com





D4 GFWC Raises Awareness of Human Trafficking

In January, Larianne Stutts, VIA President, and Janey Fox, VIA's Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Representative, along with other VIA members attended a D4 GFWC event designed to share information about the Villages of Hope. To get involved, please contact Janey Fox at Janeyfox1052@icloud.com



Following is an excerpt from the Villages of Hope website.

Florida ranks third in the United States for sex trafficking, with Jacksonville being the third highest within the state. In light of these alarming statistics, there is hope for Jacksonville: Villages of Hope has received a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds for 2024. This grant will support the construction of a 14-tiny-house community by Villages of Hope, aimed at serving women seeking a life free from sexual exploitation and addiction.

Extensive research has identified a critical gap in Jacksonville: the lack of adequate housing where survivors can be safe and receive proper care. Existing options, such as sober living homes, homeless shelters, and rape crisis centers, present significant challenges and are not long-term solutions.

To date, the \$2.4 million capital construction project has raised over \$1.3 million and is fully permitted by the City of Jacksonville. The challenge grant requires Villages of Hope to raise \$600,000 to receive the \$500,000 grant that will fund the remaining cost of construction.



We encourage you to help us with our mission to provide a sanctuary, a place of refuge, healing and restoration for women seeking a life free from trafficking, sexual exploitation, and addiction. Please consider joining in the "Build With Us" campaign. Together, we can provide safe, supportive housing for local women survivors of human trafficking.

For more info, please visit villagesofhope.org





VIA Hosts D4 GFWC Meeting



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
Living the volunteer spirit



Thank you!

A huge thank you to those who volunteered and made this such a special event. VIA can be proud of the event we hosted from setup, to meal prep, to service and cleanup...

WAY TO GO, ladies! A TRUE TEAM effort!





January Meeting Recap

I don't know about all of you, but I thought our January meeting was amazing! Some things had to be adjusted, but I love that we focused on our clubhouse and how much joy it has brought to the community over all these years. The video that was created by members of City Hall and City Council was so heartwarming, and it displayed the strength, growth and resilience of our community for 150 years. The VIA was such a huge part of that, which was evident in the video.



And didn't our house look beautiful in the video? They used our archive room, our auditorium and our stage for some of the settings. I was so proud of our clubhouse.

Ladies, we have a lot of repairs to make. We have cared for the outside; it looks beautiful! We must now focus on the inside. We all know that our rentals are our best source of income, and we need to make some necessary repairs. I loved and appreciated all your fundraising ideas. We will begin working on them right away. We also need to be aware of any other possible sources for grants or assistance. Keep your eyes and ears open! I am hoping we can get a lot of the top priority repairs done in 2025!





Welcome

New Members

Christy McCarthy

Interests: Interior Design

Profession: Founder of Interiors Revitalized

Committee Interests: Environment

Christy is also our neighbor in the beautiful new home behind our clubhouse. Please extend a warm VIA welcome to Christy!

A Gentle Reminder from Our Club Collect

Every VIA monthly gathering includes reciting the Club Collect at the start of our meeting. The Collect was not intended as a creed. Rather, every line is a petition, a prayer that is, a Collect. Among the most significant is the last line, ***“And, oh Lord God, Let us forget not to be kind!”***

Mary Stewart, the Collect’s author, certainly understood the need to be kind, especially in a club. According to the Collins Dictionary, “someone who is kind behaves in a gentle, caring and helpful way towards other people.” This includes being thoughtful and inclusive in our actions and conversations so that all members of our club feel welcome at all times.

Let’s continue to strive to always be kind, welcoming and inclusive with each other.



Celebrating in February...

9 Nancy Klopfenstein

14 Jackie Kujala

14 Mary Justino

15 Gale Miller

16 Karen McClaren

19 Marnie Buchanan

26 Jayne Amos



Unity Outreach, Inc.

1st Annual Wide Open Open 4 Man Scramble Magnolia Point Golf Course

Anticipating a MARCH 2025 Date

(Aiming for a Saturday, after March 10th)

Unity Outreach, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that offers hope, financial support and resources for Breast Cancer victims in our community. They provide services for the uninsured and help with any needs not available for those which agencies do not cover.

The Woo will graciously donate all proceeds from the WOO, “Wide Open Open” golf outing. This year’s Pirate theme welcomes golfers to dress up in your favorite *thievin’* costume (plastic swords only).

You can support this event by volunteering to assist with registration, holes, sponsorships or serving. Assistance could include registering to participate in the gold outing; and or by donating a gift certificate or item from your place of business; and or by making a donation. Golfers have been very generous in the past in the silent auction tables.

For further information, please contact Cheri Starnes at Cstarnes2326@gmail.com



SAVE the DATE: Social and Puzzle Making Competition
A Piece of Our Heart Fundraiser

Register now - Contact/text Donna: 413.519.1845
Join us for this fun event ~ open to all.
Get your team of 5 together for a great evening.

Please feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks to share.

Celebrate **Heart** Month in February, with our

Social and Puzzle Making Competition

Win a Raffle Basket!

Thurs, Feb. 13th
Social: 6pm
Puzzles: 7pm

BYO drinks/snacks
Drinks/Snacks available for donation

Entry Fee
\$10 per person

To Reserve Your Spot:
Donna Shibley
413.519.1845
Call/Text

Set Up: Teams of 5, Singles will be matched to a team
Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

Valentine's Day is also National Organ Donor Day

This is a day to bring awareness and educate others on the need for organ, tissue, marrow, platelets, and blood donation. Every 10 minutes a new patient is added to the national transplant waiting list, which currently consists of 113,000 individuals. The need is so much greater than the availability. Most organs are donated upon death. A single donor can save up to 8 lives and help as many as 75 people. However, blood, marrow, platelets, tissue, and some organs can be donated while living. According to the National Institute on Aging, NIH, "there is no age limit for donation or signing up. In 2021, one out of every three people who donated organs was over the age of 50. You're never too old to make a difference — as of 2021, the oldest organ donor in the United States was 92." You can sign up through your state registry or when renewing your driver's license at your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

For more information, please visit:
[nia.nih.gov/health/frequently-asked-questions-about-organ-donation-older-adults](https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/frequently-asked-questions-about-organ-donation-older-adults)

Questions about the Health & Wellness Committee, please contact Donna Shibley at dmsibley@gmail.com

Next Month's Meeting

On February 13th, the Health & Wellness Committee presents Andrea Crowder, Executive Director of the Wayfree Medical Clinic. Please support the center by bringing In baby diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes.

Mark your calendars for this special event and please wear RED!





History

GFWC Member Inducted into Florida Women's Hall of Fame

On January 15, 2025, May Mann Jennings was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of her significant contributions to improve the lives of women and all citizens in Florida.

Ms. Jennings (1872-1963) was the First Lady to Governor William Sherman Jennings. In the 1920's, she headed the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and was co-founder of the Florida League of Women Voters. "She campaigned for women's suffrage, prohibition, better treatment of children and prisoners, education funding, historic preservation, Seminole Indian reservations, fence laws and highway beautification," according to the state Archives.

Ms. Jennings is known as the "Mother of Florida's Forestry," due to her efforts to lobby the Florida Legislature for the establishment to the State Board of Forestry, today's Florida Forestry Service. The 1,800-acre Royal Palm Hammock, which she helped to create in 1915, was the eastern entrance to the current Everglades National Park.

Pictured below are members of the D4 GFWC who traveled to Tallahassee for the induction ceremonies. VIA member, Teresa Crockett (center), was instrumental in accomplishing this recognition.



May Mann Jennings





Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding or Baby Shower?

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party.

*For more information, please email:
Terry Abbott at viagcs@gmail.com*



Village Improvement Association

- President:** Larianne Stutts
l.stutts@aol.com
- Vice President:** Cheri Starnes
cstarnes2326@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Sharon Nellis
sjnellis@bellsouth.net
- Correspondence Secretary:**
Deborah Page
page4rwe@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Cherie Wilson
cheriewilson@comcast.net
- Historians:** Clara Freeman and Theresa Crockett
bigcfreeman@bellsouth.net
theresac425@gmail.com
- Arts & Culture Committee:**
Sandi Dunnivant and Terry Wilson
bookladi2012@gmail.com
ktsswil@bellsouth.net
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**
Karla Logston and Martha Mangus
karlalogston@bellsouth.net
mangmarth@gmail.com
- Education & Libraries Committee:**
Sherry Kelly
s_kelly1947@yahoo.com
April Pearson
aprilapearson@gmail.com
- Environment Committee:**
Christina Treadway
teacherckt@gmail.com
- Health & Wellness Committee:**
Donna Shibley
dmsibley@gmail.com
- Building Rental Committee:**
Terry Abbott
gmatea65@gmail.com
- Membership Committee:**
- Parliamentarian:**
Janey Fox
jmf1052@aol.com
- Head Start Program:**
Gale Miller
galemiller001@gmail.com
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:** Janey Fox
jmf1052@aol.com

Newsletter articles are due by the 17th of each month.

Please email them to: l.stutts@aol.com

Photo submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.

Larianne Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Stubbs, Newsletter Contributor Coordinator

Deborah Page, Newsletter Design & Layout



VIA Member Services Directory

Accounting/Tax Services

Susan Hess CPA, P.A.

Susan Hess

(904) 500-2100

Auto Body Shop

Darren's Custom & Restoration Body Shop

Darren Stutts

(904) 509-2420

Beauty

Rodan & Fields Skin Care Consultant

Larriane Stutts

(904) 251-4995

Financial Advisor

Hess Financial Group

VyStar Investment Services

John Hess

(904) 269-8772

Raeanne McCarty

(904) 908-2495

Home Care

Assisting Hands Home Care

Tracy Hardy

(904) 746-1036

Pet Services

Jen's Pet Sitting Service

Jenifer Dunnavant

(904) 657-4460

Realtor

Davidson Realty, Inc.

Christina Treadway

(904) 548-7775

Restaurant

Corner Pocket

Cheri Starnes

(904) 284-1992

Scents

SCENTSY

Jo Potter

(541) 279-0595

Web Development & Photos

Unicorn Web Development /FotoFusion Photo

Bobbi Nagle

(904) 891-4538

Women's Clothing

One Swanky Chic Boutique

Kristina Byrd

(904) 671-3819

Let's support the businesses of our members and their spouses!

