



January Activities:

1/2 ~ Executive Board Meeting

1/8 ~ January Meeting (see page 2)

1/16 ~ VIA hosts GFWC Florida District 4 Meeting (see page 6)

Visit our website WWW.GFVCVIA.com for the current calendar. Our club email:

viagfvc@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings>

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

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

VIA is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and GFWC Florida.



President's Message

Wow! Can you believe it is already 2026? It is difficult for me to comprehend that I am beginning my fourth year with you amazing ladies! I hope you know how much each of you have enriched my life and added so much purpose and enthusiasm to my days. I am so grateful for this club, this organization and everyone that is a part of it. What a blessing you are and continue to be!

I had so much at our "end of the year" meeting! Seeing all of you so relaxed and enjoying each other was amazing. I loved seeing so many of you dance your way down the runway and celebrate the accomplishments of our members. Please know and never forget that each of you is vital to what we do. Many of you are at every function, but there are also members that offer so much support through a kind word, a beautifully written text, or simply a beautiful response to an email at a much-needed moment. This club is what it is because of you!

We have so many exciting plans for the upcoming year! We have set the bar high, and we will continue with the events that we have established, as well as adding some new and exciting ones. I am looking forward to our January Meeting, as well as hosting the D4 meeting. I am so excited about another year with you fine ladies.

Larriane
l.stutts@aol.com



January 8th Meeting 2026

The **Arts & Culture Committee** will host the January club meeting, featuring a speaker who is the grandson of one of the original Florida Highwaymen painters.

The Florida Highwaymen were a group of African American artists who, beginning in the 1950s, created vibrant landscapes of Florida and sold their paintings directly to tourists and businesses along the state's highways. Working outside the traditional gallery system, their art helped preserve Florida's natural beauty and has since gained national recognition.



Willie Daniels Untitled [Sabal palm shoreline] n.d. Oil on Upson board 24 x 36 in. Courtesy of the Lightle Collection © Willie B. Daniels Photography by Tariq Gibran

Wishing all our members a healthy, happy New Year.



December 13th Meeting 2025

In true holiday fashion, our December meeting was a **Holiday party!** Members gathered in festive spirit, enjoyed delicious goodies and celebrated club accomplishments. Committee members enjoyed their time on the red carpet posing for the camera as President Larianne summarized projects and programs over the past year. Winners of the opportunity raffle were announced, and unique Christmas cards made by Sherry Kelly to were sold as a fundraiser for VIA. More pictures on page 5.

Every holiday season, the VIA historically “gives back” to a needy cause to make the holidays brighter for someone and many donated much needed athletic pants for Charles E Bennett Elementary School.



Opportunity Raffle

Thank you to all who purchased and sold tickets for our Opportunity Raffle. The winners were drawn at our December meeting.

- \$500 VISA, won by Cherie's brother, **Dave Page**
- “Sailing at Sunset” acrylic painting by local artist Beth Hazlip won by **Miggy Cobreiro**
- Airplane ride for two (donated by Martha Mangus and her husband) over St. Augustine won by Corner Pocket patron

Health and Wellness

Thank you to all who supported our **Poppin' Popcorn** fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed your tasty purchases.

Causes to support in January:

- National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Glaucoma Awareness Month
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- National Blood Donor Month
- January 27 ~ International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Join us for "A Piece of Our Heart" fun event
Sponsored by the Health and Wellness Committee

Celebrate Heart Month in February, with our
Social and Puzzle Making Competition

Thurs, Feb. 12th
Social: 6pm
Puzzles: 7pm

BYO drinks/snacks
Drinks/Snacks available for donation

Win a Raffle Basket!

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

February 12th our 2nd Annual Social and Puzzle Making Competition

VIA visits the Historic Triangle, GCS

This **Historic Triangle Site** with a vast collection of records, documents, and artifacts, provides insight into the rich history of our community. Check out the virtual displays and images of the various historical buildings and exhibits and learn about the unique architecture and stories behind each building, including the Old County Jail and Archives Center, the 1890 Historic Courthouse, the History Museum & Railroad Depot, and the TAPS Military Monument. Visit: <https://clayclerk.com/historical-archives/historical-triangle-site/buildings-displays/>

This year's holiday drive-by, walk-by display was viewed by VIA members on November 20th. The event was made possible thanks to the immense time and talent of artists from the Art Guild of Orange Park and in partnership with CCSO work crews, county maintenance colleagues, the Clay County Archives Division and Facilities teams, and Historical Society friends. The Historic Triangle has never looked better!



Christmas in Spring Park

Thanks to Karla Z. and her team of elves, the **VIA Christmas tree** was beautifully decorated and stands among more than 100 decorated trees in Spring Park. The VIA is proud to continue this tradition and to have been one of the first organizations in Green Cove Springs to help establish the custom of memorial Christmas trees in Spring Park.



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

On December 1st VIA attendees and friends learn how to craft a beautiful natural wreath for their home under Christy's tutelage. 5 wreaths were also donated for **Quigley House** as well as over \$300 in donations.



Camp Blanding visit

On December 10th, several board members were able to tour **Camp Blanding** to learn more about the family assistance program. Our tour guide and director of Mission 11th Hour, Mr. Brian Stewart, served as our host. The tour was not only educational, but insightful on ways **Mission 11th Hour** has come alongside families of those serving in the United States National Guard, and also to the Veterans themselves. We enjoyed lunch at the Officers' Club and talked on ways that VIA could partner with Mission 11th Hour to serve our service members and the community at large.



VIA Assisting the Community

Per request from community member and friend of the VIA, Hope Cheesel, on December 13th Jayne and Theresa were able to volunteer at the **Hickory Grove Baptist Church outdoor children's event**. from the VIA. This event had our members assisting with crafts of making Christmas cards for inmates at Clay County Jail and pinecone ornaments for attendees to take home. Pearl the goat was a great mascot.



ESO Tea Party

The Epsilon Sigma Omicron Sorority (ESO) recently hosted a fundraising tea in support of their signature program, Mother Goose: Rhymers Are Readers. More than 30 ladies gathered at Sandi's home for a lively afternoon of tea and fellowship. Books were donated and funds raised (over \$400) will go toward the purchase of Big Books for the program.



More ESO Tea Party pictures are featured on our VIA Facebook page.

More December Meeting pictures



More December meeting pictures are on our VIA website ~ Events, December meeting.

VIA Member birthdays



January:

5 ~ Cheryl Mobley-Gonzalez
12 ~ Lucy Conrad
16 ~ Terry Abbott
20 ~ Bobbi Nagle
20 ~ Sharon Nellis
26 ~ Carol Johnson
31 ~ Cherie Wilson

February:

9 ~ Nancy Klopfenstein
14 ~ Mary Justino
14 ~ Jackie Kajala
15 ~ Gale Miller
16 ~ Karen MacClaren
19 ~ Marnie Buchanan
21 ~ Cathy Settle
26 ~ Javne Amos

Arts and Crafts Competition



January is the time to gather your creations from 2025 and enter them into the **GFWC Florida Craft Competition**. Karla Z. will again be looking for your entries and coordinate our club participation. Look for upcoming details at our January Meeting. Good luck to all our crafters and artists.

Report Writing for Chairmen and Project Chairs

January is also the time to finalize your statistics from 2025 for our club report writing master list. All SP and CSP Chairmen and Project Chairs are asked to submit their individual project/program hours, in-kind donations and dollars donated. Using our excel sheet our totals will be automatically calculated, and we will have better accurate accounting of all we did as a club.



America's women wield some mighty "clubs"!



Augusta Savage Christmas Cookie Decorating

Some of our Education and Library committee ladies brought holiday cheer and sweets to the kids at Augusta Savage. We provided cupcakes, frosting and sprinkles for them to decorate their treats and then have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

VIA to Host District 4 Meeting on January 16

All hands-on deck will be needed for our hosting of the **GFWC Florida D4 Meeting**. More details will be given at our January meeting.

All help is appreciated ❤️



Headquarters Rental

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party. Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding, Family Gathering, Graduation or Baby Shower?

Members task! Anytime the opportunity rises, please share info about our clubhouse.

For more information contact:

Christy McCarthy @ gcsviarental@gmail.com

The Village Improvement Association Venue Rental

17 Palmetto Avenue
Green Cove Springs

gcsviarental@gmail.com
Christy- 904.860.2597

Host Your Event in Historic Elegance

Perfect for showers, receptions, parties, graduations, and business gatherings, the Village Improvement Association's historic clubhouse is the perfect place to bring people together.

Affordable, welcoming, and full of character, this Green Cove Springs treasure is ideal for family celebrations, milestone events, and professional gatherings.

Every rental helps our nonprofit continue serving the community—140+ years strong!

Reserve your space and celebrate with purpose. Book your date today!



<https://gfwcvia.com>



Special thanks to Terry Abbott for her diligent work on the maintenance and rental of our Headquarters building.



Newsletter articles are due by the 18th of each month. Please email them to:

l.stutts@aol.com and dmsibley@gmail.com

All submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.

Larriane Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Donna Shibley, Newsletter Design & Layout

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Building Rental Committee:

Christy McCarthy

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Committee: Donna Shibley

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“The House That Built {Us}”



Apart from all the service projects that we do, the **VIA clubhouse** is also known and celebrated among this community for its historical footprint.

Almost any conversation about our clubhouse included the reference to the fact that it is the oldest building in Green Cove Springs that is still being used for its original purpose.



The **Preservation Society of Green Cove Springs** conducted its second annual Historical House Tour this past December. For both years, the VIA clubhouse has been the first stop on the tour. Guests were encouraged to view the archives,

and our own Janey Fox and Terry Abbott were there to share details about the paintings, the artifacts, and all the wonderful events and projects that have happened within the walls of our clubhouse. They even dressed the part and visitors commented that touring the VIA was like stepping back in time.

Every event that happens within, adds to its history and makes it more loved and valued in our community and in the history of District 4 and GFWC.



GFWC History

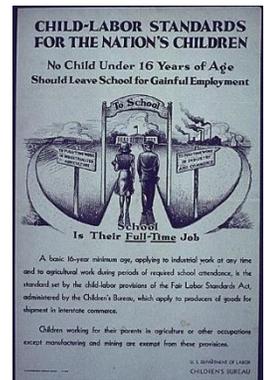


Did you know?

Founded in 1890, GFWC’s roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman’s club - Sorosis. In celebration of Sorosis’ 21st anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women’s clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. **On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women’s Clubs** by ratifying the GFWC constitution. Since 1890, GFWC’s impact has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe.

Part 1 ~ GFWC’s Impact Child Labor Laws, 1898:

GFWC unanimously passed a resolution against child labor. With the help of clubwoman Jane Addams (1860-1935), child labor became a major area of concern for the Federation. In 1901, Addams headed the Federation’s Child Labor Committee to work for the maintenance and improvement of child labor laws.



Juvenile Courts, 1899:

GFWC’s Chicago Woman’s Club supported the juvenile court law, the first ever to be passed in the United States. This law became the model for all subsequent juvenile court laws, many of which were passed at the insistence of GFWC clubwomen. Julia Lathrop (1858-1932) led this club effort and was appointed by President William Howard Taft to head the Children’s Bureau in 1912.

...to be continued next month...



Member/Family Businesses

Accounting/Tax Services

- Susan Hess CPA, P.A. | 904-500-2100

Auto Body Shop

- Darren's Custom & Restoration Body Shop | Darren Stutts | 904-509-2420

Beauty

- Rodan & Fields Skin Care Consultant | Larianne Stutts | 904-251-4995

Financial Advisor

- Hess Financial Group | John Hess | 904-269-8772
- VyStar Investment Services | Raeanne McCarthy | 904-908-2495

Gifts

- Nikki's Custom Gifts | Nikki Glanville | 904-476-2475

Home Care

- Assisting Hands Home Care | Tracy Hardy | 904-746-1036

Interior Design/Home Staging

- Interiors Revitalized | Christy McCarthy | 904-860-2597

Pet Services

- Jen's Pet Sitting Service | Jenifer Dunnivant | 904-657-4460

Outdoor

- Space Coast Green Fence and Gates | Teresa Moore | 904-678-7754

Realtor

- Davidson Realty, Inc. | Christina Treadway | 904-548-7775

Restaurant

- Corner Pocket | Cheri Starnes | 904-548-7775

Scents

- Scentsy | Jo Potter | 541-279-0595

Specialty Women's Clothing

- One Swanky Chic Boutique | Kristina Byrd | 904-671-3819

Web Design Development and Photos

- Unicorn Web Development /Foto Fusion Photo | Bobbi Nagle | 904-891-4538



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

