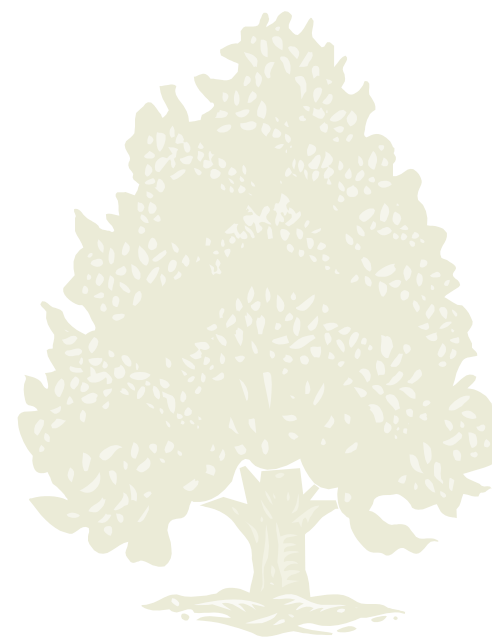


**MAMMOTH LAKES
WOMEN'S CLUB**



New Member Guide

Welcome

We are so happy you have joined the Mammoth Lakes Women's Club! We are a service organization dedicated to raising money and helping our community while having fun accomplishing those goals.

Who can join? Any person who desires to work with others to better society, help promote education, community service, civic advancement, cultural work, and have fun.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you understand our club and what we do. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask another member.

Mammoth Lakes Women's Club

P.O. Box 1569

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

www.mammothlakeswomensclub.com

Visit us on Facebook

Closing Message

Welcome and we hope you enjoy your Women's Club experience! We are proud to be members of the MLWC, and we want you to be proud of membership as well. We encourage you to become involved in committee work to enhance your service experience. We also welcome all ideas to enhance our fundraising efforts, community service, and social activities, so please speak up and be involved.

In this welcome packet we are also providing you with a copy of our by laws, a member information sheet for you to fill out and return to the Membership Committee, and a volunteer tracking /instructional sheet.

If you have questions regarding membership or our Club, please don't hesitate to ask.



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Organizations

We are part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. (GFWC) is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. The GFWC website (www.gfwc.org) has a wealth of information, and we encourage you to visit it to learn more about GFWC and find ideas to help our local community.

We belong to the California Federation of Women's Club (CFWC) which is part of the General Federation. Their website is www.cfwc.org. Organizationally, the CFWC is divided into Areas and Districts. Our club is a member of the Sierra-Cahuenga district in Area C.

The Sierra Cahuenga district includes the following clubs:

Lancaster	San Fernando
Mammoth Lakes	Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes
Chatsworth	Sherman Oaks
Palmdale	Quartz Hill
Canoga Park	Reseda
Westlake	Westlake Juniors
Granada Hills	Woodland Hills

Community Service Programs

Education—For more than a century, education has been a cornerstone of GFWC beliefs and practices. The Education CSP works to improve literacy and education awareness. Clubwomen are dedicated to promoting a commitment to literacy and lifelong learning by encouraging the fostering and supporting of educational opportunities for all ages. GFWC offers an honorary educational society, Epsilon Sigma Omicron, to all members which promotes a structured reading program.

International Outreach—In a world where half of the population lives on less than \$2.50 a day, and 21,000 children die each day due to poverty, the GFWC encourages us to reach beyond our own community and consider how we can make a global impact. The International Outreach CSP is designed to enable members to become better world citizens through advocacy, education, and action.

Home Life—The Home Life CSP is designed to inform members of issues that affect the well-being of individuals, families, and communities by providing opportunities and resources to meet and address needs through volunteering. Through this program, clubs may develop and implement projects that promote a healthy lifestyle; increase awareness, prevention, research, and treatment of disease; address the issues of hunger, inadequate housing and homelessness; and prevent or correct financial difficulties.

Public Issues—This CSP is meant to actively connect members with effective projects and activities relating to civic engagement. This program focuses on the areas of Citizenship, Veteran Affairs, Emergency Preparedness and Safety.

Community Service Programs

Community Service Program (CSP) areas are identified by the General Federation of Women's Clubs. There are currently six program areas. A general description of the purpose and goal of each program area is listed here. At the end of each year, our Club compiles reports for District and State which detail the volunteer hours and dollars our Club and its membership donated to these programs. Awards and grants are awarded to Clubs on a district, state, and federal level based on their contributions so it is important that members track their individual time and donations so we can compile our reports.. A copy of our activity sheet and instructions are in your welcome packet. They are also available on our website

For more information on these programs and ideas of community service projects, please refer to the Club manual on the GFWC website.

Arts—Art is essential to quality of life. The Arts CSP encourages members to promote and support arts activities including music, drama, and dance. It is designed to inspire clubwomen to engage in the creative ambiance within our lives.

Conservation—Our natural resources are among our most precious treasures. The Conservation CSP is designed for members to gain an appreciation for our environment. Through preservation, maintenance, and restoration of our natural resources, we strive to educate members on the importance of beautifying our communities, preserving, maintaining and restoring natural resources, and stimulating citizen action to address these concerns.

Member Benefits

The General Federation of Women's Clubs unites the best and brightest of today's women into a strong coalition that promotes community improvement through volunteer service. The many benefits of belonging to MLWC and GFWC are:

- * Strength in unity.. Members gain a stronger voice in shaping public issues through the combined efforts of women serving at the club, district, state, and national levels.
- * Support and encouragement. Our club offers members a network of women with similar interests and concerns. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are a big part of the Women's Club experience.
- * Leadership training and professional development. Knowledge and experience gained through community service can help open career doors, enhance a resume, obtain academic credit, or build a new business.
- * A varied volunteer menu. Our club supports many different community organizations both through fundraising and volunteer hours. We also offer a variety of activities so there is always something for everyone.
- * Health and happiness. Studies show that the personal satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference in their communities helps volunteers live longer, function better, and have lower rates of depression
- * Social activities. Our club is a great way to meet new people and have fun in our community.

Member Responsibilities

Our personal time and interests vary so we ask our members to participate to a level they are comfortable with. Committee work can be very rewarding and we encourage you to help with our on-going membership, communication, fundraising, and social committees. We also form temporary committees throughout the year to help with events and activities such as scholarships, family barbecue, Snack Shack and holiday auction.

We ask our members to serve as hostesses or co-hostesses of our meetings. Typically members volunteer to serve once a year. The hostess offers the use of their house for the meeting and provides a non-alcoholic beverage. Each meeting we have 3 co-hostesses that bring light food fare.

We hope that all of our members participate in our major fundraisers. For the holiday auction, members donate 3-4 auction items such as bake sale items, baskets, homemade gifts, individual gift items, or donations from local establishments. We also ask members to work approximately 6 shifts in the Snack Shack between May and October.

Dues are payable by April 1 and can be paid at a meeting or sent to the club by mail.

Meetings and Etiquette

The Mammoth Lakes Women's Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. November we hold our Holiday auction instead of a meeting. Our December meeting is our holiday party, and in August we hold a family barbecue. Meetings begin with a social at 6pm followed by the business meeting at 6:30pm. We have light fare during the socials provided by the co-hostesses. We often try to hold some type of social activity after the meeting for those who want to stay for some fun. Agendas are sent out in advance so everyone can see the topics for discussion or if there are any important votes that will be held.

Meetings follow a set procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules of Orders. In an effort to keep the meetings short and not offend members, we ask that everyone follow proper meeting etiquette.

- * Turn off cell phones or place them on vibrate
- * One member speaks at a time
- * Please do not hold side conversations.
- * Follow the agenda
- * If you have an item that needs to be on the agenda, let the Club President know in advance.
- * We welcome guest speakers at our meetings; however, please coordinate this in advance with the President to avoid scheduling conflicts.