

Shine Brightly... the world needs your light!

AWC Newsletter Volume 61 Issue 1 October 2025

A Message from the President Linda Smith

I don't even know where to begin to say thank you enough times to Cynthia Berend, and her amazing Opening Coffee committee. It was the most perfect day ever, I had no idea what to expect and it was so much better than what I thought it might be. There was so much purple and sage, lights, disco balls, and so many smiling faces. Being greeted and welcomed with a crown, wand, scepter and sash was overwhelming. Not to mention being serenaded by Dancing Queen!!! The best day I have had in a long long time. I will cherish and always remember your beautiful faces and my extreme happiness. I can't highlight any certain people, because I know everyone did their job and did it well. It was the best Opening Coffee ever.

Hopefully you have picked up your yearbook, joined at least one department, and are already back into the swing of things for AWC 2025-26 Shine Brightly.....the world needs your light year.

If you did not get tickets for any of our events, General Membership Meetings, Fundraiser, Christmas Tea, or give to a Giving Circles, you can purchase or donate in the office with Monica.

Speaking of Fundraisers, it is November 18th starting at 5:30 p.m. We will have pop up stores from all local merchants featuring Christmas gifts, clothes and jewelry, dinner from Marcona Kitchens, wine, Chico's, Soma, and Clothes by CAS will be doing a holiday style show featuring holiday apparel. It is going to be a magical evening and you can knock out some Christmas shopping in the process. Some of our pop-up stores will be: Anything Goes, Twisted Chicks, Urban Country Florist, Donna's Closet, Jazzy Jems fine stone jewelry, Wild at Heart with a Touch of Class, Jennifer Winget, clothes by CAS and Ashlaroo just to name a few. Grab a ticket, they are only \$40.00 for an entire evening of holiday fun and food. The club will be decorated for Christmas- bring your sister, neighbor, daughter, granddaughter or a good friend and join our fun. All proceeds go to a great cause - Arlington Woman's Club.

We are off to a great start, there are two exercise classes each week, Monday and Wednesday starting at 3:00 p.m. in the Thompson/Reeder room. We have added night meetings to the Mah Jongg department, departments are reporting record new members joining, and we have just welcomed 3 new members. Our floors have been refurbished, all outside concrete has been power washed, and the club is looking exceptionally spiffy. I am proud to be a member and President of Arlington Woman's Club. I know each of you are proud to be members also.

Please find a place you can SHINE BRIGHTLY..the world AND AWC needs your light. Here's to the best year ahead.









A Message from the 1st Vice President Cynthia Berend

Welcome to the new year! I hope you enjoyed Opening Coffee. My committee worked all summer, and I think it was a great success. I got the ultimate compliment from a member who said, "What a great party!" that is what we were hoping for. Who knew we could sing! That was another spontaneous surprise. The food was delicious, and the decorations were over the top. It was a beautiful purple paradise. Please thank the ladies you see in the picture following my article. They gave their time, money and creativity. I thank them!

I think we had great participation from our members in purchasing tickets and signing up for departments. The new members seemed to happily join the regulars in chaos! Welcome to those new members.

Rentals are going well. We have had two and there are 5 in the books. There have been several inquiries. I hope to have several more.

Thank you for all your support and I hope you have the best year Ever in Arlington Woman's Club!



A Message from the 2nd Vice President Lee Ann Harmon, Membership

Welcome back for a new AWC year! The year started off with a blast at the Prospective Member Open House on August 23. The enthusiastic attendance by our club members was so inspiring to the prospective members. We had over 50 members attend and 20 prospective members. My Membership Committee did an excellent job decorating, setting up the slideshow, preparing food, and many other tasks.

THE FANTASTIC NEWS IS THAT WE HAVE GAINED 20 NEW MEMBERS!!!!



New for this year, the newsletter has brief bios about our new members. Please invite them to sit with you at meetings and make them feel welcome.

Rene Ashton - sponsored by Ann Pickel. Rene grew up in Arlington; was a member of Junior Woman's Club and Junior League. She enjoys bridge, crafts, reading, and wants to learn Mah Jongg.

Lucy Ballowe - sponsored by Janet McConnell. Lucy is a reinstatement to AWC.

Tricia Brock – sponsored by Sandy Reams. Tricia was a member of the Junior League; is a member of First United Methodist Church and has been a Meals on Wheels driver for 18 years. She plays Mah Jongg and pickleball and has 6 grandchildren she loves to talk about.

Judy Floyd – sponsored by Judy Steffens. Judy is a reinstatement to AWC.

Pat Ford – sponsored by Lisa Landolt. Pat recently retired from the healthcare field; volunteers at the Mansfield Mission Food Bank; was a Big Sister in Big Brothers & Sisters; likes reading, travel, and learning to play Mah Jongg.

Teri Foster – sponsored by Jackie Sims – her mother. Teri is president of The Oakridge School Owl Fan Club; likes crafts, travel, reading.

Elizabeth Hill – sponsored by Sarah Bland. Elizabeth likes reading, crafts, exercise and swimming; she is a member of PEO, and a woman's physicians club that she organized.

Heather Kubiak – sponsored by Brenda Turner. Heather retired from a career in education; is on her Homeowners Association Board; likes to read, travel, cook and entertain, and play Mah Jongg.

Sharon Langlotz – sponsored by Vicky Dixon. Sharon recently retired as a CPA; she lives with her husband and chihuahua in Interlochen where they do the bare minimum of Christmas lights. She is interested in Book Review and Mah Jongg.

Elaine Langston – sponsored by Patti Franz. Elaine likes reading, gardening, Mah Jongg, games and exercise; she is a member of Theatre Arlington Guild, SAGE, and 4 Saints & Friends Episcopal food pantry.

Lisa McCoy – sponsored by Martha Stallings. Lisa's mother Lou Gray was a long-time AWC member. Lisa is a reinstatement to AWC.

Lynda Nunez – sponsored by Martha Stallings. Lynda is a reinstatement to AWC. Lynda grew up in Arlington and is looking forward to learning Mah Jongg.

Marianne Petrelli – sponsored by Linda Church. Marianne owned The Primer School in North Arlington for 30 years; is a devoted volunteer at her church, Most Blessed Sacrament, and was a Junior League member.

Gretchen Phineas - sponsored by Linda Lummus. Gretchen is a retired AISD teacher; she likes art, reading, animals, knitting, antiques and theater. She is looking forward to making friends and giving back to the community.

Linda Sears – sponsored by Betty Farrow. Linda likes travel, gardening, cooking, and helping friends and family.

Shiela Shallcross – sponsored by Aida Arce. Shiela loves to cook and entertain; play Mah Jongg; is an avid birder and travels extensively for birding; has traveled to all 50 states and five of the seven continents.

Dorinda Smith – sponsored by Lynn Binion. Dorinda is a Mah Jongg player who is looking for new friendships and fun; she likes the philanthropic opportunities at AWC.

Becky Turney – sponsored by Patti Bryant. Becky is a retired Spanish teacher; member of PEO; enjoys reading, travel, Bible study, Pilates, yoga, and walking.

Sara Van Sickler – sponsored by Helen Machala. Sara volunteers at Huguley Hospital, Arlington Metroplex Resale, and Oak Grove Baptist; likes to cook, enjoy the outdoors, and attend grandkid's activities.

Amy Wiles – sponsored by Karen Raschio. Amy is director of a local hospice company; she loves making a difference in people's lives. Amy and Karen give presentations to local churches to help aging adults and their families.

A Message from the 3rd Vice President Kim Murphy

It was good to see everyone at Opening Coffee on Thursday, September 4th. I hope you are looking forward to the new season at Arlington Woman's Club.

It is so exciting to finally be starting our new year. Our Program Committee will be bringing you some great programs that we're planning just for you during our club year. Our first and only "night" General Meeting will be on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Chief Bret Stidham, Arlington Fire Department, will be our speaker. Remember that your spouses and friends are invited to attend this meeting with you.

Spring Creek Barbeque will again be catering our delicious meal. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased in the office from Monica. Friday, October 31, 2025, will be the last day to purchase tickets. After that you will be put on a waiting list. If you know you can't use your ticket, you can let Monica know. Monica will call the first person on the waiting list and that person will be able to purchase your ticket.

Are you feeling lucky? We will be selling raffle tickets for the 2026-27 dues at the November, March, and April General Meetings. They are \$5 each or six for \$25. The drawing will be at the April General Meeting, and you do not have to be present to win. Good Luck! Please remember that the raffles and meal tickets are the way we fund our General Meetings.

I really appreciate your support and I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting in November. I just know it will be a great evening of fun, food, and celebration.

Treasurer Donna Tucker

What a wonderful success Opening Coffee was! Linda was certainly surprised and delighted. Cynthia and her committee did an awesome job. Attendance was great, and advance ticket sales were outstanding. It looks like many club members will be attending the varied events which AWC has to offer this year!

Building and Grounds Cheryl Wilson

To maintain and preserve the beauty and functionality of our club, we undertook several improvement projects this summer.

We arranged for professional cleaning of the carpets and tiles, and had the wooden floors refurbished to restore their original shine. The exterior of the building, including the side patio, was power washed by professionals to enhance curb appeal and overall appearance. In addition, we completed necessary repairs on the sidewalk, ceiling sprinklers, and the burglar alarm system to ensure safety and operational efficiency.

During the summer, we encountered issues with three of our air conditioning units. We successfully repaired one unit and replaced the other two to maintain a comfortable environment for our members and guests.

Looking ahead, our future activities include upgrading the lighting in the Thompson-Reeder room and installing occupancy sensor lighting to provide automatic illumination in the bathrooms, promoting energy efficiency.







Christmas Tea

Sandy Harris and Joyce Spinks

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tea"



Arlington Woman's Club Christmas Tea December 7, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 PM
Tickets \$5
Tickets will be available at Opening Coffee
Guests are welcome
Come and enjoy entertainment by the Performing Arts Department and shopping at the Art and Design Department boutique.

Communications

Beverly Behgam

The Communications Committee keeps members without emails informed of programs and activities of the club through phone calls, phone messages, or texts as requested by each member. Keeping in touch with these members is important to keep them involved and active. Members often request specific types of information or ask to be called when specific activities occur. Visiting with each member individually provides an opportunity to ask how we may better serve them or what additional needs they may have. These members are often longtime AWC members and have a special place in our Club.

Community Service

Vicki Dixon

To continue our support of those in need, the Community Service Committee has eight projects planned to assist local organizations and individuals in need. Thanks to the generosity of our members, last year we exceeded the goals for all our community service projects. Let's try to do even more this year.

Here is a list of the projects for this year. Please consider how you can help with your time, monetary and/or material contributions:

Arlington Life Shelter - Toiletries, socks, and children's underwear collected year-round.

Open Arms Health Clinic – Collect/deliver snacks for clinic volunteers, usually, the 1st or 2nd week of each month. Departments select a month to collect and deliver the snacks.

"Sock it to Me" Sock Drive - Collect new socks and underwear (adult & children) for Greenbriar and Heritage Oaks nursing centers, and the Arlington Life Shelter.

October 1 – November 12, 2025.

Angel Tree - Gifts (wrapped) for Greenbriar Nursing Home Residents. November 10 – December 11, 2025.

Toys For Tots – Collect toys (unwrapped) November - December 11, 2025.

Spring Fling, February 21, 2026 – Collect donations to purchase food for NEW DAY. On February 21st, members bag the food which NEW DAY distributes to AISD school children during Spring Break.

Christian Women's Job Corps - Collect gently worn professional clothes, shoes, jewelry, and purses for women seeking employment. April 23-24, 2026.

AND don't forget to document ALL your community service hours and turn them into the office each month. This is critical to support the Club's 501-C3 status.

Computer

Kim Murphy

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Philanthropy

Lawayne Putman & Martha Rew

The Philanthropy Committee has had their first meeting and the next one is October 14 at 1:30pm.

The theme for the Philanthropy Event is Let the Good Times Roll, April 17 starting at 6:00 pm.

We are also selling tumblers for \$20.

If you would like to purchase a tumbler, please contact Martha Rew or Lewayne Putman.

Scholarship

Polly Walton and Melinda Underwood

After carefully reviewing hundreds of scholarship applications and interviewing 22 finalists, the 2025 AWC Scholarship Committee Members, Cynthia Berend, Susan Day, Karen English, Susan Fusco, Robin Harlan, Lee Ann Harmon, Cheryl Illingworth, Laura Lace, Cheryl Pauley, Donna Powell, Martha Rew, Vicki Scully, Doris Short, Jan Taborsky, Brenda Turner, and Cheryl Wilson selected seven recipients.

A scholarship was awarded to six high school seniors from each of the six Arlington high schools and one senior who is the child of a First Responder. Each received a \$6,500 scholarship at the May 4, 2025 AWC Scholarship Event. We all at AWC have once again helped seven deserving students pursue their dreams of attending college.

The amount of the scholarships in 2025 were increased, thanks to our generous AWC Giving Circles, and the amazing profits raised at the very successful Philanthropy Casino Event in April chaired by Joy McKee and Peggy Martin. This is what can happen when everyone participates!

The 2025-26 AWC Scholarship Committee, co-chaired by Polly Walton and Melinda Underwood, hopes to see another successful year at AWC to be able to continue giving larger scholarship amounts again in the Spring of 2026. We shall have to wait and see how things go with our Philanthropy and Giving Circles again this year. We all have high hopes!

If you would like to be a part of helping this worthy endeavor, please join an AWC Giving Circle. There is information available and opportunity to do so at any time. Please also support the hardworking Philanthropy Committee by attending and contributing to, Let the Good Times Roll! on April 17, 2026. Bring your friends to this event for a fabulous dinner and a fun evening of bingo and blackjack!

The 2025 AWC Scholarship Award Winners
Hayden James White, Arlington High
Savannah Griffin-Nelson, Bowie High
Kelsey Cooner, Lamar High
Reid Bewley, Martin High
Samantha Lejia, Sam Houston High
Andrew Carranza, Seguin High
and Madelyn Knight, Daughter of a First Responder

SCRIPT LAURA LACE

All About Ordering Scrip Gift Cards

It will soon be time to order gift cards for fall and winter events and holidays! By ordering gift cards through our Scrip program, you are supporting and raising money for AWC. Last year's orders brought in over \$1000 for our club!

You will find order forms in the club office listing over 400 area companies, stores, services and restaurants. Some of our favorites include Target, Amazon, Chipotle, Olive Garden, Tom Thumb, Williams Sonoma, Home Depot and Walmart. And so many more! Have a look!

When you're ready, fill out your order form and write your check to AWC, adding \$3 to help defray shipping. Give your check to Monica in the office and leave your order in the bright green zipper folder you'll find there too. Cards usually come in less than a week's time, and you'll be notified when they are available to pick up in the office.

Plan ahead for all the gift cards you'll need, for yourself and for others. The deadline for turning in orders for fall and winter is

Tuesday, November 18th

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Antiques & More Linda Lummus, Chairperson

Meetings are the Fourth Monday and Dues are \$15.00 12:30 p.m. Refreshments – 1:00 p.m. Meeting

Art & Design Jackie Finch, Chairperson

Meetings are the Third Wednesday and Dues are \$10.00 10:00 am Refreshments - 10:30 am Meeting

Our September meeting highlighted several of our members talents with demonstrations and displays.

Being an AWC member you're always welcome to visit our department. Join us in the small meeting room on the third Wednesday at 10 social and 10:30 meeting. October's speaker is Robin Gage from Merry Go Round Stained Glass and in November we'll be making a ceramic bowl or mug with Camarie Wellin at Creative Hands Ceramics.

The Art And Design Department's Boutique will be 'Shining Brightly' in the small meeting room during the December Christmas Tea.

This is your opportunity to purchase hand crafted items made by our talented members. Food items will also be available, frozen casseroles, cakes, cookies, fudge, jams, puff corn and many more delicious products.

Proceeds benefit AWC and our Scholarship Fund.

Our boutique items will also be available for sale the following week after the tea, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

Thursday will be our half price sale.

Join us on our creative journey.











Bible/Joyful Living Sharon Friend, Chairperson

Meetings are the Second Monday and Dues are \$15.00 12:30 p.m. Refreshments – 1:00 p.m. Meeting

DOES IT SEEM LIKE GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE HAS TURNED YOUR OWN PLANS UPSIDE DOWN?

HAVE YOU FOUND YOURSELF QUESTIONING WHERE GOD IS AFTER SOMETHING SEEMINGLY DEVASTATING HAPPENED?

M.I.P. (Miracle in Progress) is a powerful memoir of faith and resilience. A journalist's life is changed when he learns his unborn son will face serious challenges. Through doubt and fear, he discovers God's grace, turning hardship into a miraculous blessing that strengthens his faith.

The speaker on October 13 for the Bible/Joyful Living department is Chip Waggoner and his wife. It is a guest day. You are welcome to come and hear an interesting speaker.

Book ReviewLinda Dunson, Chairperson

Meetings are the First Wednesday and Dues are \$20.00 12:30 p.m. Refreshments – 1:00 p.m. Meeting

Duplicate BridgeSandi Martinez, Chairperson

Meets First and Third Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Dues & Hospitality are \$20.00 - Cost Per Meeting is \$5.00

Thursday Bridge Cheryl Illingworth, Chairperson

Meets Fourth Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Dues are \$4.00 - Cost Per Meeting is \$4.00

Thursday Bridge would love to have you join us on the fourth Thursday of each month. We play party bridge and rotate between tables. Our ladies are known for being congenial and we always have a special day and lunch.

If you are a new player, we can arrange for tutoring to set you off on a fun year playing with our department.

Tuesday BridgeMontie Green, Chairperson

Meets First and Third Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Dues are \$5.00 - Cost Per Meeting is \$3.00

Creative LivingSally Cabanski, Chairperson

Meetings are the Third Thursday and Dues are \$10.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments -10:00 a.m. Meeting

Hello, everyone! What a Fantastic Opening Coffee and Welcome Day we had on the 4th. President Linda Smith is Truly the Dancing Queen! The Creative Living Department is Dancing with the Light of wonderful Programs each month! Starting on September 18th we are going to have a fun morning getting to renew old friendships, welcome our beautiful New Members and shine our lights on the start of a fantastic year in Creative Living. We have interesting and fun programs that are Creative, Informational and Joyful.

If you have not signed up for being a Creative Living member, please come on September 18th and join in with our Spectacular Ladies of Creative Living. Dues are \$15 and we meet on the Third Thursday of each month.

I am including a beautiful message from Creative Living to you all!

A disco ball is made from hundreds of pieces of broken glass - yet together, they create something dazzling and full of light. You are not broken. You're a disco ball. Keep shining.

Garden & Gourmet Jennifer Winger, Chairperson

Meetings are the Second Tuesday and Dues are \$15.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments – 10:00 a.m. Meeting

The Garden & Gourmet Department met on Tuesday, September 9th where the group enjoyed a lovely presentation by Nancy Ranc, Master Gardner. Nancy took us on a "before & after" tour of her backyard where she highlighted the type of plants used in each space. Nancy also shared that the range of color, year-round blooms and depth of stacking plants were all intentional in each of the spaces she created.

Our October 14th meeting will feature Tommy Teasdale of Urban Country Florist Co., who will be presenting on the Topic of "Fall Flair".







Literature Study Laura Horton, Chairperson

Meetings are the Second Thursday and Dues are \$15.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments – 10:00 a.m. Meeting

The Literature Study Department held its first meeting for the club year on September 11. Laura Lace led the discussion about "The Queens of Crime" by Marie Benedict, the true story of Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie, and three other women crime writers of the 1930s, and how they solved an actual murder of a young nurse. Phyllis Staton demonstrate some of the styles of hats popular in the 1930s era. Hostesses for the meeting were Bette Rathjen, Mary Jo Cook, Gayle King and Jan West.







Mah JonggLana Ogden, Chairperson

Meetings are the Third Monday
9:30 am Refreshments 9:50 am Meeting
(Regular Play After Meeting)
Additional Play
First Monday 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
October, November, February, March & April
Dues are \$10.00 and Cost Per Meeting is \$2.00

We're excited to share that our department has grown this year. We welcomed both brand-new members to the club as well as longtime members who are new to our group!

To make sure everyone has more opportunities to play, we're adding an evening session in addition to our regular monthly meeting.

- Regular Meetings & Play: 3rd Monday of each month (includes meeting + play)
- New Evening Play: 1st Monday, 5:30–8:30 PM (October, November, February, March, April)

The evening sessions will be casual play only, no meeting beforehand, just an extra chance to gather, have fun, and enjoy the game together.





Night DepartmentCindi Cunningham, Chairperson

Meetings are the Third Monday and Dues are \$15.00 6:45 p.m. Dinner - 7:15 p.m. Program

Performing ArtsPat Rohloff, Chairperson

Meetings are the First Thursday and Dues are \$10.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments – 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Quilts Etc.Jackie Hutson, Chairperson

Meetings are the Fourth Tuesday and Dues are \$15.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments – 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Our Quilts, Etc. department meeting will be next Tuesday, September 23.

We hope everyone had a good summer and are ready for some demos and examples of making rope baskets with Denny Cornett at our first meeting.

I would appreciate knowing who is planning to come to the meeting on Tuesday so the speaker can prepare some handouts. Just reply to me if it is convenient. Thanks.

We have 15 signed up for the retreat October 28-30. We have room for 30. Guests will be able to go to the spring retreat.

Please come to the meeting, or call Barb Cain to sign up for the retreat and/or bring your money to the meeting. We can also take payment at the retreat.

October 28-30
Tuesday 9:30 - 5:00
Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 - 5:00
Lake Arlington Event Center

Theory of Games Joyce Spinks, Chairperson

Meetings are the Second Wednesday and Dues are \$10.00 9:30 a.m. Refreshments – 9:45 a.m. Meeting

We had so much fun this month playing Uno Flip, we forgot to take pictures.

Come join us on October 8 at 9:30 am for breakfast and an exciting came of Crazy Bridge. You do not have to know how to play bridge to play this game. We are going to email the rules of the game in advance of the Theory of Games meeting.

We will be collecting new stuffed animals to distribute to Alliance for Children.

Hope to see you on the second Wednesday of the month.



Theory of Games Officers:

Travel

Sharon Phemister, Chairperson

Meetings are the Fourth Wednesday and Dues are \$10.00 Meeting Time: Varies – TBA – Hostess Dues \$10.00

2025-2026

September 24 – Trip Preview at 10:00

October 22 Denison

Dwight Eisenhower's birthplace, lunch at The George Tavern, shopping on Main Street USA and a visit to Sherman Museum. **\$90 due September 24**

November 19 Dallas

Biblical Art Museum, shopping at North Park and lunch on your own.

\$70 due October 15

December 14 Granbury

Historic Granbury Opera House for a matinée of "A Christmas Carol." Dinner at Rockfish Restaurant in Fort Worth. \$115 due

September 24

January 28 Denton

Guided bus tour of Denton, lunch, guided tour of Bayless Selby House, shopping at Grapevine Mills Mall. \$100 due December 19

February 25 Terrell

Visit No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum, lunch at Lula Mae Bistro. City tour of Terrell and a visit to a privately owned 1897 Mansion. **\$85 due January 28**

March 25 Mystery Trip.

\$95 due February 25

April 21-23 Austin

Lunch in Georgetown, tour Bob Bullock Museum and dinner at Juliet's Italian Kitchen. Visit Lady Bird Wildflower Center, lunch at The Texas Hill Country Olive Co. shopping at the Arboretum, dinner at Corinne's. A visit to our State Capitol, lunch and a tour of the Georgetown Firehouse will conclude our trip.

1st payment: \$400 due October 22

2nd payment: \$350 due February 25

Total \$750

May 27 Diamond Oaks Country Club

Installation of Officers.

\$110 due April 17