

Placentia Round Table Women's Club

May 6, 2026

General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, JoAnn Sowards at 10:07 AM.

Dr Nick Arman and our two veteran scholarship recipients from Fullerton Community College led members in the Pledge Allegiance

Donna Garner led members to sing a beautiful rendition of This Land is Your Land.

Veteran Scholarships Presentation

Sherri Dahl introduced Dr Nick Arman, Director, Counselor and Coordinator for the Veteran's Resource Center at Fullerton Community College.

Nick introduced and shared information about our two scholarship recipients.

Chance Byrd

Chance Byrd is a United States Marine Corps veteran whose life has been shaped by resilience, discipline, and determination. Raised in downtown Los Angeles and spending part of his childhood in foster care, Chance learned early on the importance of perseverance and self-reliance. These experiences instilled in him a strong sense of purpose and a drive to create stability and opportunity for himself.

Following high school, Chance enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he sought structure, direction, and the opportunity to grow as a leader. The values he developed in the Marines continue to guide both his personal and professional journey.

Today, Chance remains committed to building a future grounded in growth, responsibility, and purpose. He actively seeks opportunities that challenge him and values the role of community and mentorship in achieving success. With a deep appreciation for the support he has received and a desire to give back, Chance is dedicated to creating a stable future while inspiring others through his perseverance and continued pursuit of excellence.

Nadine Mao

Nadine Mao is a United States Army veteran whose journey reflects extraordinary resilience, courage, and personal transformation. Born and raised in Southern California, Nadine served six years on active duty, where she developed a strong foundation of discipline, strength, and commitment to service.

Following her transition from the military, Nadine faced a series of profound life challenges that tested her in every dimension: mentally, physically, and emotionally. During a period of personal upheaval, including the dissolution of her marriage, she was also diagnosed with stage II breast cancer. Enduring intensive treatment, including

chemotherapy and major surgery, she confronted these hardships with unwavering determination and strength.

Through these experiences, Nadine discovered a deeper sense of purpose and resilience. Rather than being defined by adversity, she chose to rise through it, reframing her challenges as a source of growth and empowerment.

Today she stands not only as a proud veteran, but as a survivor, an advocate for perseverance, and a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Nadine is committed to continuing her journey of growth, self-discovery, and service to others. With a renewed sense of identity and purpose, she strives to inspire those around her while building a future rooted in strength, independence, and hope.

Both Chance and Nadine had an opportunity to share how much our scholarship meant to them and were very thankful.

Birthdays

This being the last General Meeting of the 2025-2026 session and we won't be meeting until September, JoAnn Sowards asked members with May, June and July birthdays to stand up. Members sang "Happy Birthday" to our ladies.

Recording Secretary

Annie Smith confirmed that the minutes of our April 1st, 2026, General Meeting were read, approved, and will be published on our website.

Installation of Executive Board and Board of Directors

President JoAnn Sowards officiated the installation of our 2026-2027 Executive Board and Board of Directors.

Executive Board Positions

1st VP/Dean Carol Peterson and Jeanne Webb

2nd VP/Ways and Means Susan Hirzel and Karen Mangold

3rd VP/Programs Linda Emrick

4th VP/Membership Heather Barth

5th VP/Sections Kim Deweese

Recording Secretary Annie Smith

Correspondence Jeannie Webb

Financial Secretary Mary Kay McMahon

Treasurer Loree MacMurtrie

Community Liaison Laurie Arroyo and Carol Peterson

Amenities Wendy Queyrel and Barbara Lindblom

Board of Directors

Anne Guss
Loree MacMurtrie
Nancy Melton
Vicki Depsky

Financial Report – Mary Kay McMahon

Deposits – April 2026

Rental Income	\$ 19,896.00
Coin March	200.00
January Luncheon	1,240.00
Membership	1,540.00
District Meeting	300.00
FOT-Tree Sponsors	262.50
Fiesta Friday	800.00
Mah Jongg Tournament	1,450.00
Tommie Scholarship	10,000.00
 TOTAL DEPOSITS	 35,688.50

Treasurers Report - Loree MacMurtrie

April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026

• Brower Investment Account (as of April 30, 2026)	\$558,681.68
• Chase Checking Account (as of April 30, 2026)	\$155,162.26
 Total	 \$713,843.94

Change to Brower Account as of April 30, 2026

Net increase of: \$ 27,156.08

Expenses

For the period April 1 – April 30, 2026 \$ 17,692.44

Loree provided a line-item expense report.

JoAnn Sowards asked the membership to accept financial reports as presented.
A vote was taken, and financial reports have been accepted.
Financial reports will be placed in file.

Parliamentarian – Kathi Baldwin

Bylaws – Article VII Membership

Kathi read for the second time/meeting the recommended changes to our bylaws.
Article VII, Sections 1 through 8.

Kathi asked the membership for their acceptance and approval of the recommended bylaw changes. A vote was taken and motion passed.

First VP/Dean

District – Carol Peterson for Heather Barth

Ten members of PRT attended the District Convention held April 10th at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge. Clubs were asked to wear some kind of attire that represented what their club was known for. After much deep thought our ladies decided to wear “Christmas tree” dresses and not soup bags. PRT was awarded two second place certificates for large clubs; Art & Culture and Education.

The California Federation of Women’s Clubs (CFWC) 123rd Annual Convention will be held at the Ontario Airport Hotel & Convention Center from May 14th through May 16th.

The General Federation Women’s Clubs (GFWC) Convention will be held in Scottsdale, AZ from June 21st through June 29th at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa.

The Orange District Summer Conference is scheduled for Friday, July 31st. The theme is “Sunshine & Inspiration and Bright Ideas” for clubs and their leaders. A one-day conference for incoming 2026-2027 board members and any member interested in learning more about how clubs operate.

More information on conferences is available on the Sections Table.

Coin March – Nancy Melton

Nancy shared with members that during the scholarship evaluation and reading essays from applicants one really touched her heart.

A young man is living in a multi-generational household with many people; there are many mouths to feed and often at the end of the week there is truly little food in the pantry.

Nancy made a motion that we use this month’s Coin March for this needy family.
The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

JoAnn made a motion that the club match any funds generated by the Coin March. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed unanimously.

The Coin March raised \$750 and the club will match for a total of \$1,500 for this family.

Nancy also shared that this young man who has worked hard to attain top grades has been accepted to college, however he does not have a laptop.

Marilyn Pike said she had a new laptop that she will donate to this student.

THANK YOU MARILYN

Veteran's Resource Center

Originally, we had identified the Veteran's Resource Center at Fullerton Community College to be our May Coin March recipient.....so, in the spirit of generosity JoAnn made a motion that we donate \$300 to the Veteran's Resource Center.

The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

Second VP Ways and Means

Festival of the Trees – Deb Whiteford

Deb reminded the members that there will be a meeting at the clubhouse on Thursday, May 28th at 1:00 PM to discuss details for this year's Silent Auction. Deb will have flyers and letters to help members solicit gift cards and/or products from targeted businesses.

End of Year Party – Karen Mangold

Karen reminded members that here is still time to sign up for Fiesta Friday. Currently, we have seventy-five members attending. There will be food, wine, music, and games.

Mah Jonng Tournament – Lola Wilson

Lola reminded members that this year's Mah Jonng will be on Wednesday, May 27th starting at 9 AM. Play begins at 9:30 AM

Soup – Loree MacMurtrie

Soup workshops have been scheduled for July 27th, July 28th and July 29th. She will send a reminder email blast as we get closer to the date.

Reminders:

This year's goal is to assemble 3,000 bags of soup.

If you can make bows, we still need help. Please coordinate with Nancy Melton.

Fourth VP/Membership

Membership – Bonnie Carren for Heather Barth

Our New Member Orientation was held on Wednesday, April 29th. It was well attended feedback was excellent. Heather wants to thank all board members and community chairs that attended and contributed to the presentation for their help.

Today our guests are Barbara Carrasco and Anne Burkhart.

Our new member, Renee Couch, was introduced to the full membership.

Member renewal process is complete; all information and dues have been forwarded to the district. We will begin the 2026-2027 year with 116 members.

Fifth VP/Sections

Community Service Chairs

Scholarships Sherri Dahl

We received 117 applications, which is a 37% increase from last year's applications.

This year we awarded:

- 40 High School \$1,000 scholarships to students going to either a 2-year or 4-year college.
- 10 High School \$1,000 scholarship to students entering the medical field thanks to a donation of \$10,000 from our member Gerry Carnevali honoring her friend and our past member, Tommie Kalman.
- 2 scholarships to veterans attending Fullerton Community College.

Here is our 2026 committee – THANK YOU LADIES!

- Sherri Dahl, Chair
- Gerry Carnevali
- Jan Wagner
- Linda Langford
- Nancy Melton
- Nancy Solesbee
- Margaret Leverett
- Barbara Williams
- Joannette Lima Nativio
- Sharon Gallassi
- Linda Scott

Corresponding Secretary - Kim Deweese

We received thank you cards this past month, from:

- Placentia Police Canine Foundation
- Casa Teresa
- Patriots and Paws
- JoAnn Sowards

Outside House – Sheree Santos

The back lot has been cleared & cleaned. Trees have been trimmed. It looks great.

Before Sheree came to our meeting this morning, she received word from Home Depot that our grant has been approved for \$11,369. This is a material only grant. Sheree will have more details for us at our next General Meeting in September.

Sunshine- Diane Provenzano

Diane will be sending an email blast with detailed information concerning Lyn Baesler's Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 16.

Community Outreach – Laurie Arroyo

Laurie shared that the “Best of Placentia” voting is still open until May 17th. Winners will be announced at the Best of Placentia Gala Dinner May 28, 2026. Just go to www.bestofplacentia.com and cast your votes.

A great place to go and find out more about the city of Placentia is the History Room at the Placentia Library, 411 E Chapman. The History Room is open to the public during regular library hours.

Blessing Boxes- Sally Bontrager

Sally shared with members that we went to the cupboard and the cupboard was bare. We have distributed all the food we had in our pantry and now need to replenish it.

Mary Kay McMahon made a motion that we allocate \$1000 to buy food stuff for our pantry so we can service the Blessing Boxes we are responsible for. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

Humor-

Margie Donovan did it again and brought a smile to our lovely faces.

Amenities – Rachel Drayer

Today’s attendance – xx members plus 2guests

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM

Next Executive Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Next General Meeting – Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Respectfully submitted.

Annie Smith

Date

Documents to file:

Deposit Report

Treasurer’s Report

Approved changes to Membership Bylaws

Thank You Cards

Motions:

That we accept financial reports as presented

That we accept recommended changes to Bylaws - Article VII – Membership and Standing Rule 13

That we match money raised by our May Coin March

That we donate \$300 to the Veteran’s Resource Center

That we allocate \$1,000 to replenish our pantry for the Blessing Boxes