

**NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
**TOP TEN PROJECTS 2024**

1. The **Woman's Club of Vineland** held a Membership Orientation at their clubhouse for new/prospective members in November during GFWC Membership Week. Their local newspaper and Facebook Page were used for advertisement to encourage women to attend and learn about their club and Federation. **Eleven new members and three prospective members** attended. The event began with a social icebreaker, and everyone enjoyed getting to know each other. A brief explanation of our club history, Community Service Programs, activities and Federation were explained by the President and Membership Chairman. The membership process and Q & A segment followed with much interest from attendees. Refreshments were provided while attendees participated in making flower tray favors for a local nursing home. A club handout and trifold were distributed listing our purpose, programs and ways to get involved. Follow-up letters via email were sent to all attendees thanking them for coming and telling them about upcoming activities and meetings. Photos were taken and sent to local newspapers and Facebook advertising the Club's recent membership drive.
2. At their January general meeting, the membership of the **Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills** decided to do something special for all their members, thanking them for always stepping up with donations and volunteering. They came across a small poem for a Survival Kit, gathering the items needed and placed them in a cute cellophane bag with the poem attached and presented all members with a gift. Some of the items were a Rubber Band to remind them to be flexible, a Tootsie Roll to remind them to let the small things roll off their shoulders, Smarties to remind them to share their thoughts and Life Savers for the times others need their help and they need theirs. There was also a Band-Aid to heal problems and hard feelings. It was well received. In fact, at their next meeting a member told them she was out and needed a band-aid and quickly remembered she had her Survival Kit in her purse which contained one.
3. Each year, during the winter months **The Haddon Fortnightly Club** works with the Membership Committee on a new member fundraising project called a "Stay at Home Tea". They send a tea bag and an invitation, inviting the recipient to enjoy a cozy cup of tea at home and then make a donation to support the maintenance of their historic clubhouse. The new members and the members of the Membership Committee work together by gathering for an envelope stuffing party (and a cup of tea). They enjoy getting to know each other better by working together. The new members now understand the club workings and have new friends.
4. The physical setup of the **Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club's** meeting room was changed from an audience style with a head table to tables arranged in a circle. The officers are encouraged to sit among the members to create a feeling of unity. The first meeting of the new club year consisted of an open forum discussion and to get a sense of the direction that the members want their club to take. The 2024-2026 NJSFWC Supplements were available for project ideas. Possible projects were discussed and accepted or rejected. The agenda for each general meeting includes time for group discussion so that members' concerns and ideas can be addressed. Members' inputs are solicited for the choice of fundraisers and to decide where the funds raised for philanthropy are directed.
5. During the year The **Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights** holds several workshops to educate and work on club projects. They have found not only are the workshops productive, but also a great opportunity to continue to get to know one another on a more personal basis. As they gather together in a relaxed atmosphere and work on projects, they learn more about each other by sharing their stories and find out how much they all have in common. Much laughter and silliness have become a big part of these gatherings as they work together. They have also found that the more their members "let their hair down" allowing them to share even more stories

and in ways making them all realize they are not alone even in their darkest of times, but that a group of women do understand and maybe even have undergone similar experiences.

6. The **Woman's Club of Lacey** new members are paired with a mentor when they attend their very first meeting. The mentors are responsible for making the new member feel welcome and introducing her to others. New members are hosted at a breakfast in September at their community hall where a delicious buffet is prepared by the Board members. Each new member receives a handwritten invitation to the breakfast. All department chairmen are in attendance, and each give a brief talk about what their department does. At the September general meeting, members select the departments they want to work with, and this orientation gives new members all the information they need to make an informed choice.
7. To help with retention and member satisfaction the **Haddon Fortnightly EMD** club conducted a **Membership Satisfaction Survey**. The survey asks: *Overall, how satisfied are you with your membership in our Club? Considering our club's culture, members and meetings, indicate your agreement with the following statements: Club meetings are a good use of my time; My club does a good job involving new members; My club's members care about one another; My club reflects the demographic of our community; My club seeks to involve all members in projects and activities; The amount of fundraising is appropriate.* Most responses were very positive, but they also learned where improvements could be made.
8. Each year the **Roxbury Woman's Club** participate in an event in their town which has become their **main membership event**. It includes community non-profits, vendors, entertainment and is a fun-filled day. This year, they occupied two spaces, allowing them to have more room to have a membership table as well as a game area. They set up two canopies for their designated area, with added help from several of their spouses. Their club had six club members working shifts throughout the day, **engaging with interested women, prospective members and their children who participated in their games**. Their club members wore their club shirts for this event. This was a great draw to their area as the parents visited along with their children. Their table consisted of their brochures, a sign-up sheet for those wishing for more information and a display detailing the projects and groups they support. They also hung their banners and put out donation jars.
9. **Woman's Club of West Milford** and their mayor and town council hold an Annual Volunteer Night at their town hall. All volunteer organizations are invited to talk about their club and how they encourage volunteerism in the community. The Club President and Membership Chairman both attended and spoke on behalf of their club. The evening is televised on their **town's community channel for a month**. This helps to get the word out. It also helps to explain what their club activities are, details their projects, and gives them exposure in their community.
10. The **Woman's Club of Brielle** has a **Mentoring Group** which consists of four members who are long-time members and can answer all their questions. Also, their responsibilities are to sit with prospective and new members who might be timid going to their first couple of meetings. Until these newer members are acquainted with more members, this group will be there for them. They are also sending all new member info to the state. This group meets with them at an Orientation before they have been to three meetings. At this Orientation, they encourage each new member to join at least one committee so they can meet other members in a small group. This "system" helps integrate members at a comfortable and welcoming pace.