



# Inner Wheel District 696 Newsletter



March 2020

Together We Can

## District 696 Meeting Filled With Purse-onality



Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, and Vera Bradley – they were all in attendance at Inner Wheel District 696's winter meeting on January 11 in Fort Myers. Well, at least their beautiful creations were as Fort Myers kicked off the meeting with a silent auction of more than 85 beautiful designer handbags. Club attendees bought tickets at the door and then scoured the purse-lined tables surrounding the room, dropping their tickets in whichever handbags tickled their fancy. The girl-powered fundraiser netted a profit of \$800.

Another special guest in attendance was IWUSA Foundation Chairman Patricia Picard who flew in from California to join us. She shared how her 93-year-old mother had been a member of Inner Wheel and that she has now been a part of the organization for more than 30 years. "Inner Wheel is a blessing to so many," she said. When Patricia met Inner Wheel's first prosthesis recipient named Andreas, he told her that his new limb literally gave him his life. The IWUSA Foundation has now served more than 75 children across the country with hand and arm prosthetics that they otherwise could not afford.

IWUSA Foundation Chairman Patricia Picard shows off the designer handbag she won at the District 696 Winter Meeting in Fort Myers, FL. The silent purse auction raised \$800.



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## INNER WHEEL DISTRICT 696 OFFICERS 2019-2020

**Paula Edwards**  
Chairman

**Rebekah Kogelschatz**  
Vice Chairman

**Suzanne Robinson**  
Immediate Past Chairman/  
Secretary

**Billie Jo Morrison**  
Treasurer

**Lesley Shaw**  
Editor

**Deloris Donnelly**  
Foundation Coordinator

**Gay DiGiovanni**  
ISO

**Merchandise Buyer**  
Suzanne Robinson

### *More photos from our Winter District Meeting ...*



Top left, Jean Wiglesworth shows off her new colorful tote handcrafted by IW Fort Myers member Betty Gould. Below, an Inner Wheel selfie by Patricia Picard.





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## AVON PARK



### Celebrating Christmas with Friends

IW Avon Park members enjoyed all the festive décor of The Hotel Jacaranda just before Christmastime. The historic hotel in downtown Avon Park, built in the 1920s, is known for hosting its share of celebrities in its heyday including Babe Ruth, Clark Cable, and even Al Capone.



Above, Avon Park members confer at their January 16 meeting.

## BATON ROUGE

### IW Baton Rouge wraps up another successful Attic Trash & Treasure Sale



Inner Wheel of Baton Rouge held their 30th annual Attic Trash & Treasure Sale earlier this month, welcoming guests to their new, bigger location with even more treasure to choose from. The 3-day sale, held this year at a vacant furniture store, is an enormous undertaking that involves months of planning but with huge results. Shoppers lined up outside each morning before the doors opened waiting to check out an assortment of furniture, clothing, books, dishes, gardening supplies, jewelry, and holiday items available for sale inside. The main beneficiary of this year's fundraiser is St. Vincent de Paul Baton Rouge. However, nine other charities also will receive assistance from the colossal sales event. Congratulations to event co-chairs Kay Nelson, Becky Smith, Kema Bueche, and Nikki Spencer along with their entire team. Well done, ladies!



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## DUNEDIN NORTH

- **Book Reading Project with Dunedin Head Start**

There is a special joy that comes from reading to young children. And IW Dunedin North members continue to experience that joy as they volunteer weekly to read to 4-year-olds at a Head Start program in downtown Dunedin.

- **Memorial Service for Jean Clarke**

Jean Clarke, the mother of longtime club member Terry Rejko, passed away on Feb. 8. She was 88. A memorial service is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. April 4 in the Mease Manor auditorium.

- **Silent Auction Opportunity**

Dunedin North plans to host a silent auction as part of the Dunedin Rotary Club's Casino Night which was recently postponed to Aug. 28.



IW Dunedin North celebrated Christmas and IW friendship at its annual holiday dinner and ornament exchange on Dec. 19 at Sea Riders Restaurant in downtown Dunedin.

## FORT MYERS



### IW Fort Myers members learn about the confidence that comes from new shoes

In January, members of Inner Wheel of Fort Myers heard a presentation from Jean Nealon about her unique charity, Laces of Love. This non-profit has provided new shoes (mostly sneakers) to more than 200,000 needy students in Southwest Florida. They also provide cleats to student athletes who cannot afford the proper gear. Some 60% of students in Lee and Collier counties are economically needy, she told them. Ms. Nealon shared that the shoes they donate to local schools are often the first pair of *new* shoes the children have ever had. For more information, visit [lacesoflove.org](http://lacesoflove.org).



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## HAINES CITY



Haines City Mayor Morris West (center left) poses with members of Inner Wheel of Haines City after reading a proclamation that recognized the month of February as IWUSA Foundation Month.

- **City Proclamation** - Haines City Mayor Morris West presented a proclamation to Inner Wheel Haines City members proclaiming February as IWUSA Foundation Month. The proclamation coincided with Inner Wheel's annual emphasis on our national charity — providing prosthetic arms and hands to children under 18.
- **Soup's for Dinner** - IW Haines City recently hosted its 34th annual Bean Soup Luncheon at the Haines City Community Center.
- **Memorial Service for Kermit Sims** - Kermit Sims, husband of beloved Inner Wheel member Joy Sims and grandfather of Inner Wheel member Maleah Hinkle, passed away on March 12. Kermit served his Lord, his family, and his community with impeccable grace. Cards can be sent to Joy at 415 Dyson Road, Haines City, FL 33844 and to Maleah at 145 S. Dale Mabry Blvd., #10108, Tampa, FL 33611.

## NORTH JACKSONVILLE

### St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper expected to raise plenty of green for North Jacksonville

IW North Jacksonville will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper and Live Auction this coming week. The event raised more than \$2,700 last year which was used to support several of the club's local charities including a homeless shelter food bank and Hubbard House, a safe haven for abused women and their children.



### In Memoriam - Dotty Elise Hobbs

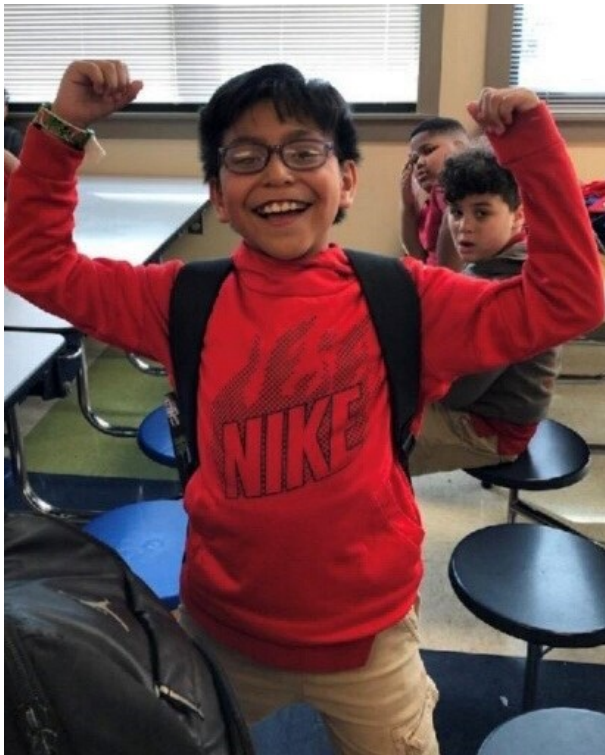
Dotty Hobbs, a longtime member of IW North Jacksonville passed away on Nov. 18, 2019, less than a month before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She served as president of the club for many years. She is survived by her son, Edward Ruffin Hobbs; nephew, Vance Gregory, Jr.; nieces Susan Smith and Theresa Mintz; and her loving friend, Marilyn Atkinson, among other family and friends.



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## SLIDELL, LA

### IW Slidell holds first Reading Challenge awards celebration at Brock Elementary



IW Slidell recently held their first 9-week awards celebration for students participating in their Brock Elementary Reading Challenge. Third-graders are required to read a minimum of six books on their reading level during the 9-week grading period. They also must submit a handwritten book report for each book they read.

Of 60 third-graders participating in the program, 36 of them qualified for an award. In addition, a major prize will be given to one third-grader at the end of the school year. Brock Elementary is a Title I school where 96% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

## ST. THOMAS, VI



Carole Nelthroppe (above) was named recipient of the 2018-2019 Year of Achievement Award by IW St. Thomas. Our district chairman, Paula Edwards, presented Carole with a plaque for the occasion.





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## INNER WHEEL FOUNDATION

**INCORPORATED IN THE US IN 1988**

**80 CHILDREN**

As of August 2018, 80 children were provided assistance in receiving the latest in limb technologies.



**CLINICS 800**



In 2009, IWUSA Foundation partnered exclusively with Hanger Clinic. Children across the US can now easily access the care needed.

**\$2M ASSETS**

Donations to the IWUSA Foundation surpassed \$2,000,000 this past year.



**DONATIONS \$100**



"Foundation Friend" recognition is given for any person donating \$100 per year. "Rose Council" is recognized for \$1000 over 10 years.

**TURNING POSSIBILITIES INTO REALITIES**

Become an IWUSA Foundation Benefactor

**IWAP GOAL IS \$1000 ANNUAL GIVING**

## District 696 Spring Workshops and Installation Luncheon

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Spring Workshops and Installation Luncheon to be held **Saturday, May 2, at First Presbyterian Church, 104 State Road 544, Haines City, FL 33844.**

**Special workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. followed by our installation luncheon. The lunch meal costs \$15.**

*Please send your reservations, including workshop choices, to Lois McGlashon no later than March 27. See workshop details below.*

### Workshop 1 : Being an Inner Wheel Officer Made Easy

Find out more about what's involved in becoming an Inner Wheel club or district officer.

### Workshop 2: Foundation 411

Gain a better understanding of the IWUSA Foundation and the process of outfitting new recipients with prosthetics.

### Workshop 3: Promoting Club Activities through Social Media

Learn how you can use Facebook to attract new club members and community awareness. Bring your smart phone with you!

### Workshop 4: Bringing in New Members and E-Membership

Do you have a family member or friend who wants to join Inner Wheel but can't make your monthly meetings? Find out how e-membership may be just the answer.

**"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."**

**— Audrey Hepburn**

