



MARION WOMEN’S CLUB & HOME
1126 E. Center St., Marion, OH 43302
f “The Marion Women’s Club & Home”

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Lisa Bush, Lu Chivington, Donna Coldren, Keily Cunningham,
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Our Mission:
Empowering women & enriching the community, while pre-
serving the historic home & promoting the Club’s legacy.

THIS NEWSLETTER PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



“Creative Women” Aug. 11 & Sept. 8 ▪ Ida Barlow Award Applications Open Sept. 1-Oct. 31 ▪ WHRC Grand Opening: 4pm, Oct. 28



Adam Isler, Owner



Clean as a whistle

Meet our newest sponsor, **Service-
Master by Isler**, covering the cost of
printing and mailing of our “Home
Sweet Home” newsletter through
Spring 2026. “We’re excited to ex-
pand our support of the Marion
Women’s Club & Home,” he says.
“We were a sponsor at the Club’s
Celebrity Dance Gala in March — it’s
a perfect fit.”

Contribute to our endowed funds
at MarionCommunityFoundation.org.



Busy & Brilliant? We want YOU!

Apply for the Ida Barlow Brilliance Award and **win \$1,000 for your
program that complements our Club mission:** “Empowering women and
enriching the community, while preserving the historic home and promot-
ing the Club’s legacy.” Named in honor of Clubwoman Ida Barlow, who
gave her home to our Club in 1945, the award carries on **Ida’s legacy of
innovative community problem-solving and leadership.**

Applications are open to local women nonprofit leaders and small
business owners **Sept. 1-Oct. 31**. For information and application, go to:
MarionCountyFederationOfWomensClubs.com/Ida-Barlow-Award.



SAVE
THE DATE

7th Annual
Celebrity Dance Gala
“Dancing in the Rain”
March 7, 2026

Preserving the past for future generations

by Keily Cunningham, Club Archivist

We are honored to have received a generous donation of scrapbooks from **the Creators
Guild, a once-federated club that regularly held programs at our historic clubhouse.**



SCANNING for the FUTURE—
Women’s Club Board Member and
Archivist Keily Cunningham retrieves
documents from Creators Guild scrap-
books before scanning, forever pre-
serving the records digitally.

Founded in 1974, the Guild met nearly every
week to learn new skills, socialize, and work on
creative projects such as quilting, making corn-
husk dolls, designing table arrangements, and
much, much more.

The club’s stated purpose was “to foster an
appreciation of — and participation in — arts
and crafts and to encourage and assist each
member toward a proficiency in at least one
field of endeavor, thus **actively enriching the
culture of the community.**”

The scrapbooks, which span from 1974
through 2023, are filled with programs, photo-
graphs, and treasured memorabilia that cap-
ture the Guild’s rich legacy.

**We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary Ellen
Dune** (mother of longtime Marionite Carroll
Neidhardt) for graciously donating this remark-
able collection, which will now be preserved in
our archives for future generations to explore
and enjoy. **If you have materials that contrib-
ute to the story of women’s history in Marion,**
please contact us at 740.387.1366.



**Find books for kids —
and adults—in our
new Little Free
Library, obtained
through a Marion
Rotary Club grant.
The Library is located
on our property
along True Avenue
with the door’s opening
facing our parking lot
—so users can safely
park, exit their vehicle,
and casually select
books from the Library.**

Creating a love of reading to last a lifetime

Reid Roston, (l) a 5th
grader at Liberty Elemen-
tary School, and son of
Club Board Member Amy
Roston, selects a book
from the Club’s new
Little Free Library.

“I love to read” said
Reid, “and this will make
it easy for me to grab a
book when I’m at the
Club with my mom!”

Improving literacy rates
has long been a focus of
Women’s Clubs across
the U.S., including the
Marion Women’s Club &
Home, which features a
literacy exhibit on the
2nd floor. **We invite you
to take a book, read a
book, return a book!**



HOME Sweet HOME

Vol. 5, Issue 3

Marion Women's Club & Home

Summer 2025

Ladies laugh & love at luau brunch

Over 250 bathing suits “swam to shore” as guests **opened their hearts for Royal Family Kids Camp**, the Club's service project in conjunction with its “Ladies Luau” Brunch.

Swimwear, beach towels and goggles were donated for the summer camp for abused and neglected children in Marion County.

“Enriching community’ is at the heart of our mission,” explained Pam DeGood, 2nd vice president and Brunch chair. “Our Club members and guests poured out their hearts to treat these special local kids like ‘royalty,’ It’s truly an inspiration.”



SHARING ALOHA SPIRIT—
Lexi Betker and (Grandma) Betty Anderson (top) and (clockwise) Ashlee Cordes, Elizabeth Moore, and Caitlyn Denman are all smiles at the Club's Luau Brunch July 12.

Measuring and installing to ‘make’ history



The transformation of the original carriage house into the new Women's History Resource Center is almost complete, in preparation for our **Oct. 28 Grand Opening Celebration.**

Nathan Glosemeyer and Adel Chedid (l) carry quartz countertops, while Jamie Siefert (r) of Bigelow Glass takes measurements.



Nevaeh Haile

PRESENT MEETS THE PAST—Grant Middle School students celebrated their last day of school with an **educational field trip to the Women's Club & Home.** Club members guided students through all three floors, sharing insights into life over a century ago. “I really liked the artwork...and the ceiling in the dining room was beautiful,” noted Nevaeh Haile (l), who'll be a freshman at Harding H.S. this Fall.

Valerie's Views...

Falling in love with history — and friends

I've always loved history. But I never expected to 'fall in love' with **the history we continue to make** at the Marion Women's Club & Home.

It simply “happens.” With a caring team of fellow Club women at my side (we are ALL volunteers and have NO paid staff), **we operate like clockwork**, sharing the same mission, vision and values — while honoring the thousands of Club women who have done the same — since our Club formed in 1895.

You can't help but fall in love with the historic home, its Mission-style woodwork, mono-grammed entry, butler's pantry, ornate ceilings, and more — even 8th graders love it!

But what I love the most are the people who come to care as much as me — from our contractors transforming the carriage house with tender loving care, to renters who choose to make memories at the Abigail Harding Lewis Auditorium, to Club members and friends who lovingly say “Yes, I'll help.” **It's relationships we cherish the most.**

We count you among our valued partners and friends, and are grateful you've said ‘Yes, I'll help.’

I invite you to fall in love with history — and join our energetic, passionate mission.

Valerie

**Valerie Wigton, President
Marion Women's Club & Home**



LOVING the AUDITORIUM— In surveys, renters of the Abigail Harding Lewis Auditorium say they appreciate the “cleanliness, friendliness and affordability” we offer. **New round tables (thanks to a Marion Rotary Club grant) that seat 8 guests offer another option, in addition to 6' and 8' rectangular tables. Rental income helps offset the facility's operating expenses.**

