



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

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Our Mission: Empowering women & enriching the community, while preserving the historic home & promoting the Club’s legacy.

THIS NEWSLETTER PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



“Handbags for Hope” Holiday Party Dec. 11 ▪ Making History: Women’s History Resource Center ▪ New Logo for the New Year!



Marion marketing professionals (l-r) Diane Watson, Ellen Messenger and Steve Badertscher were unanimous in their selection of the Club’s new logo selected from nearly 100 submissions.

New Club logo connects past to present & future

“I really like how the logo visually connects the past to the future,” said one longtime Marion Club woman after the new logo was unveiled at the Women’s History Resource Center dedication ceremony.

That’s the effect its designer, Jason Coldren of Atlanta GA, winner of the Club’s logo contest, wanted to achieve. “After reviewing the Creative Brief in the submission process, I knew the historic home should be front and center,” he explained. “The ‘Marion’ type face is custom, reflecting the Club’s uniqueness.”

Coldren’s mother, Donna, is a Marion Women’s Club board member, while his grandmother was a longtime Club member in Michigan.

Watch for the new logo making its appearance!



Clearly representing the Women’s Club historic home, the Club’s new logo features both feminine and modern touches through its unique shape, typeface and scrollwork.

‘Momma’s life’ inspires Club gift

by Lisa Laraby-Cudd, Member, Marion Women’s Club & Home (at right w/ ‘Momma’)

“My Momma, Bernice Barney Laraby, was born in 1924 in a tiny village south of the Canadian border. After graduating high school, she became a secretary for the Department of Immigration. I often heard stories where she would have to hop on a train to meet female immigrants. **She was very intelligent and a supremely kind woman.**

“She had some dates with my dad before he enlisted in the Army and was sent off to fight in WWII. They continued to write...and when he came home, he proposed...

“Even though Momma quit her job, as most women did back in the day once they married, she continued to donate her skills to our church as secretary to the Rosary Society. **She was my hero.**

“I lost Momma when I was five years old. Whenever anyone asked me, no matter what age I was, what I wanted to be when I grew up, **I always answered with "a momma and secretary — just like my momma."** Dreams do come true!

“History and genealogy are very important to me, and I figure what better way to honor Momma than to help the Club share the history of Marion's fabulous women by purchasing a state-of-the-art scanner for the Club. **I imagine there are lots of "Bernices" in Marion!"**



Lisa Laraby-Cudd and her ‘Momma’



Please join your fellow Women's Club members for...

Handbags for Hope HOLIDAY PARTY

WHEN: Thursday, December 11, 2025; Social Time: 5:30pm; Dinner, 6pm, \$20, PRE-PAID RESERVATIONS ONLY, please. Bring a Guest!
WHERE: Marion Women's Club & Home, 1126 E. Center St., Marion
MENU: Baked Potato Bar, Salad Bar, Desserts, Infused Water
RSVP: Drop your \$20 check/cash in WCH mailbox by Nov. 29. Or mail your \$20 check to Marion Women's Club so it arrives no later than Nov. 29 (address, above). Your payment is your reservation.

REQUESTED ITEMS to fill HANDBAGS:

- ◆ Nail polish, remover, nail care kits
- ◆ Loofahs, Mascara
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products
- ◆ Warm socks, hats & gloves
- ◆ SPECIAL REQUEST: Twin air mattresses

HANDBAGS will be DONATED to:

- ◆ Turning Point
- ◆ Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter

HOME Sweet HOME

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Marion Women's Club & Home

Fall 2025

Making history for the next generation



—photo courtesy Amy Evers Roston

FOR THE AGES—On a clear, brisk October day, the Marion Women's Club made history.

Over 100 Women's Club members, donors and friends helped make history Oct. 28 at the **Dedication & Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the Club's new Women's History Resource Center**, inside what was the original carriage house, built in 1903.

In her remarks, State Rep. Tracy Richardson, who was instrumental in securing State funding for the project, commended Club leaders for their persistence. **"They had a beautiful vision... a permanent home for their archives tracing their impact over the last 130 years,"** she noted, complimenting Clubwomen for "their ability to carry forth that history into the future."

Former U.S. Treasurer and Marion Women's Club Member Mary Ellen Withrow, noted, **"I'm so very grateful for what has happened here that is now 'history' for Marion."**

In addition to providing a safe, secure location for the Club's archives and "a living resource" for students, historians, and genealogists, the Center features a conference room for 20, and a work room for the Club's growing operations.

To request archival research and information, email MarionWomensHistory@gmail.com

To watch the dedication, search "HHS Telecom" on YouTube, courtesy of Harding High School's Telecom class, led by Instructor John Mullins.

Valerie's Views...

'Carry on, loyal Clubwomen!'

I've always loved history, but I never thought I'd be able to say I was actually **making** history.

It happened Oct. 28 as fellow Club women, elected officials, dignitaries and history lovers joined me to officially open our new Women's History Resource Center (left). Quoting Club Archivist Keily Cunningham, **it will be 'an open, vibrant resource where our archives are not only stored, but shared...building bridges across generations, preserving the past and inspiring the future.'**

On display that day was a 1926 edition of "The Reader," where the National Federation of Women's Club president wrote, "Tighten your grip upon today and **live it as intensely and as sincerely as you can... Educate yourselves for leadership, for service. Have convictions. Learn to take a stand. Prove your position...**" adding, "I believe in women. I believe also in men..."

Her words resonate 100 years later as we continue to serve, educate, and take a stand, believing in the power of women — and men — working together to make an impact. **Our own stories will one day be among the thousand of lessons we continue to discover inside our treasured archive collection.**

You're a part of that history, too. Because without you, our story is not only incomplete, it's nonexistent. Thank you for making history with us.

Carry on, loyal and faithful partners!

Valerie

Valerie Wigton, President
Marion Women's Club & Home

Locals dance to make history

Rain or shine, these eight (left) local celebrities will be "Dancing in the Rain" at the Club's 7th Annual Celebrity Dance Gala fundraiser March 7, 2026: (from top left, clockwise): Amanda Styer, Cass Sisler, Lily Lloyd, Liz Feliciano, Jay McDonald, Sarah Hogan, Robb Koons, and Jon Fetter.

Gala funds will be designated to repair the historic home's dilapidated back porch — deemed unsafe — and estimated to cost \$60,000.

Always a sellout, Gala tickets are \$125 and can be purchased through a dancer, or by emailing WomensClub-Home@gmail.com with GALA TICKETS in the Subject Line.



CARRY ON—Women's Club President Valerie Wigton (inside the new Center) encouraged guests to continue doing good works in Marion, while preserving the Club's archives. **'Carry on, faithful and loyal Clubwomen!'** she noted in her speech at the Dedication & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with local Chamber Ambassadors.

