



MARION WOMEN'S CLUB & HOME
 1126 E. Center St., Marion, OH 43302
 The Marion Women's Club & Home
MarionWomensClub.org
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Mission: Empowering women & enriching the community, while preserving the historic home and promoting the Club's legacy.

THIS NEWSLETTER PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



Meet our 2026 Gala Sponsors • **Making an Impact: Honoring Sharol Herr** • **Barlow Brilliance Award Announced**



Making an Impact: Honoring Sharol Herr

"It certainly was not a one-woman job." Those who know Sharol Herr understand her wanting to share the spotlight the evening the Club bestowed on her its second "Lannette K. Davis Impact Award." With a standing ovation, and a few tears, Clubwomen honored Herr for the significant impact, service and leadership she has provided over the past 10 years.

Among her many accomplishments:

- Stabilized and developed Club membership when only a handful remained.
- Strengthened the Club's financial base enabling crucial preservation and restoration projects in the historic home.
- Created a 21st century vision and mission for the Club.
- Established a network of professionals and community leaders to support Club initiatives to share the impact of women in our community and beyond.

"What an honor to have served the Club," she said. "And I'm not done yet." Sharol will continue as co-chair of the History, Museum & Preservation Committee and assist Club Archivist Keily Cunningham interpreting thousands of documents of Club history.

Past President Sharol Herr accepts the Marion Women's Club "Lannette K. Davis Impact Award."

Board establishes 5-year goals

At its January strategic planning meeting, the Board of Directors identified working goals for the next five years. These include:

- Develop plan to increase the Club's endowment fund at Marion Community Foundation
- Enhance Ida Barlow Award funding
- Add signage to front lawn, along True Avenue entrance, and in front of the Women's History Resource Center
- Enhance Auditorium storage
- Restore interior/exterior windows & doors in the historic home
- Pave the path from AgCredit building; add lighting, signage
- Investigate enhancing current parking lot spaces

Following the Club mission to "empower women and enrich the community," the Board also recommended: 1) supporting the Ida Barlow winner annually, 2) adding a member service element to each quarterly gathering, and 3) establishing a partnership for a woman-centered project.

The Board will review its goals on a regular basis, make adjustments and celebrate accomplishments.



Ida Barlow Winner has 'a Heart' for our Community

Angela Johnson, executive director-Grace Clinics of Ohio, is the 2025 recipient of the Club's 2025 Ida Barlow Brilliance Award for her "Rapid EKG Screening Initiative."

The \$1,000 award will be used to provide reliable in-house EKG testing at the Clinic, located at 140 Court St., Marion, "allowing us to identify potential heart-health issues," explained Johnson. "The new unit will also provide immediate evaluation, and timely, reliable results—a critical component of overall health care." Grace Clinic-Marion partners with Leapin' Ministries and other nonprofits to provide basic necessities to families in need.

Learn more about the annual award, named in honor of Club co-founder Ida Barlow, who willed the historic home to the Women's Club in 1945, at MarionWomensClub.org

Member-Models are Heroes at Handbags for Hope

Following the collection of 300 filled-to-the-brim purses, slings, backpacks, and satchels for Turning Point and the Homeless Shelter, Marion Women's Club members and guests were entertained with a surprise "style show" at the Club's annual Handbags for Hope holiday gathering. Narrated by Board Member Lynette McCullough, the holiday "style show" brought down the house!



Lu Chivington

Judy Tong

Sarah Stalter

Pam DeGood

Phyllis Hendrix

HOME Sweet HOME

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Marion Women's Club & Home

1st Quarter 2026

Sponsors 'dance' to ensure Gala success

They have us spinning and doing the jig! Of all the sponsors of our 7th "Dancing in the Rain" Gala on March 7, the overwhelming majority are **RETURNING SPONSORS**. They've joined us in preserving the iconic Women's Club Home and supporting our mission. Thank you for your continued belief in us.

Join us in welcoming **NEW SPONSORS**: Fetter Brothers Construction, Wilson Bohannan Co., Sisler Companies, Graphic Packaging, OhioHealth'y' Health Plans, Ron & Laura Scharer, and Deb & Treg Stark. Welcome to our family! Thanks for believing "There's no place like home."

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Gala Gals 'Dance' – Rain or Shine

Our Women's Club Gala Gals have devoted countless hours to our 7th Celebrity Dance Gala. (Front, l-r) Doris Schwartz, Valerie Wigton, Nancy Hafer, (Back, l-r) Lu Chivington, Judy Tong, Lynette McCullough, Pam DeGood and Amy Roston. Not pictured Sue Schwamberger, Leslie Schneider, and Terrie Phillips.



—photo by Amy Evers Roston

Valerie's Views...

Dancing with OUR stars

It's become "the" event of the year... and I couldn't ask for a better group of people to join me in planning every detail to ensure our **7th Annual Celebrity Dance Gala on March 7** is another rousing success.



Valerie Wigton

These Gala Gals (see below left) are following in the footsteps of thousands of Clubwomen before us, women like Sharol Herr, **recognized for her passion, vision and dedication** to begin rebuilding our Club a decade ago (see story, over). Now almost 100-strong, Clubwomen will join the Gala Gals when more than 200 guests join in song and dance to celebrate this year's celebrity dancers: Liz Feliciano, Jon Fetter, Sarah Hogan, Robb Koons, Lily Lloyd, Jay McDonald, Cass Sisler, and Amanda Styer.

Our gratitude extends also to our Gala sponsors (left) who have 'said yes to the dance,' **choosing to support us – again and again and again**. You are truly a blessing to us. Thank you.

If you can't join us (we've been sold out since Dec. 1), watch the Gala on Facebook Live March 7. Or go to YouTube, search "HHS Telecom," **thanks to Harding High School's John Mullins, whose Telecom students will capture "Dancing in the Rain" – whatever the weather.**

Want to learn more about the mission that so many sponsors, members, dancers, and friends find meaningful? **Check out our new website: MarionWomensClub.org** Who knows? Maybe you'll be a celebrity dancer struttin' your stuff at next year's Gala!

Valerie

Valerie Wigton, President
Marion Women's Club

SAVE
THE DATE

You asked for it...

MembHERship Gathering Set

Women's Club members and guests are invited to gather at **5pm Thursday, March 12**, in the Abigail Harding Lewis Auditorium for our first quarterly membHER-guest gathering. We'll share laughs, meet new members, explore our mission — and more.

NO RSVP NEEDED! JOIN IN THE FUN!