



# LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

[www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org](http://www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org)

December 2025  
VOLUME LXIV No. 4

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

It is so WONDERFUL to belong to such a community of women who GIVE so much. My transition back into this leadership role has been so easy.

*"One Day is there of the series  
Termed Thanksgiving day,  
Celebrated part at table  
Part in memory-"*

~ Emily Dickinson

That certainly is something to be THANKFUL for now and always.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR GENEROSITY AND CARING.**

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford  
Co-Presidents



**Carole Clifford**



**Linda Clifford**

## SURVEY RESULTS

Last May a survey was conducted in an attempt to learn how to best serve our members.

Here are some of the results.

- 90% of members expect to renew membership next year
- Membership is thriving; nearly 50% have been a member 5 years or less
- Ladies Choice is the best way to communicate with members
- Members enjoy the luncheons and are willing to serve on the Tea Committees
- As expected, there was a limited response to assuming leadership roles
- Some Action items include shorter meetings. Follow up on absent members and more promotion of upcoming events

**DECEMBER ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON (SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 • 11:30 AM

CENTURY HOUSE 107 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ACUSHNET

## HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I grew up in Chicago and lived in Illinois for most of my life, except for five years when I lived in Connecticut in my 20s. These years involved grad school and my first job at the CT Department of Environmental Protection. That was enough to get me hooked on the East Coast! My family subsequently vacationed in New England every summer. My husband (Matt) actually has cousins who live in Mattapoisett, so many of our trips included stays in this area.

I worked for the University of Illinois for most of my career as an environmental scientist. My job included some teaching, but I mostly specialized in site assessments to identify potential environmental hazards or concerns that would impact infrastructure projects throughout the state of Illinois.

My daughter (Kelsey) decided to attend college at UMass/Amherst. While there, she met a guy from Massachusetts; they married and settled in Portland, Maine. My granddaughter (Keegan Rose) was born in 2020. After my husband and I retired, we decided to relocate to New England to be closer to them. However, the weather in Maine seemed a little too extreme, so we moved to Mattapoisett in September 2023.

I quickly got involved with the Mattapoisett COA, taking Shakespeare classes, tai chi, and signing up for a class to learn how to play Mah Jongg, taught by Mary Dermody. One day I was playing at a Mah Jongg table with Mary and Sandy Hering when they mentioned that the MWC would be a great place for me to meet people and get more involved with the community. So, I took them up on the idea and joined the MWC in September of 2024.

I have really enjoyed the special interest groups that the MWC offers, including the Walking group, Garden group, and the Book club. Thanks to all the members for making me feel welcome!

~ *Phyllis Bannon*



## MWC News & Information

### GIFTS TO GIVE CLOTHING DRIVE

It's with tremendous pride to let the members of the MWC know that our clothing drive was a great success! Through the generosity of the membership, we donated 402 pieces of children's clothing to Gifts to Give. This included both new and gently used items, plus a large bag of hats, socks, mittens, gloves and toiletries. The thought and care put into the donations were amazing!

On behalf of G2G, I thank the people who dropped off clothes at my house or directly to G2G and by Amazon. We also raised \$220 to purchase needed warm clothing for our children on the South Coast.

I am very proud to be a member of such a caring group of ladies, and I hope you all are as well.

~ *Mary O'Keefe*

## MWC News & Information

### **A LITTLE GIRL, A MEAL, AND SOME HELP FOR MOM**

As many of you may know, Jocelyn Chin's 2-year-old child, Stella, will be having surgery in December. Recovery is extensive and will include an almost full body cast. We are hoping to help the family by providing meals so that Jocelyn can devote her time to caring for Stella and stay out of the kitchen. (Jocelyn is an MWC member, Mom, active participant in the Garden Group and in charge of MWC Instagram.)

We are looking to provide about 15 meals between December 12 and January 30 for a family of 3. If you would like to prepare a meal, we can deliver! A "care calendar" is being set up to coordinate meals. Gift certificates for pizza, sandwiches, or Chinese food are also an option. The Chins have no dietary restrictions. Please contact Sue Mitchell if you can provide a meal or would like further information.

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### **PROGRAM CHANGE**

Our January speaker, Michelle Cusolito, has been given the opportunity to travel to Antarctica with WHOI for January and February, so she has been rescheduled.

Her replacement is the Mattapoisett Library Director, Jenny Martin, who will talk about her career in libraries and as an author. Please be sure to be there to welcome her to Mattapoisett!

*Eileen Marum, Gail Roberts*  
*Program Committee*

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### **DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY LUNCHEON COMMITTEE**

**Hostesses:** Roxanne Bungert

**Committee:** Phyllis Bannon, Lois Ennis, Barbara Ketchel, Deborah Ward

Ladies, please refer to pages 39-41 in your Blue Book for helpful information.

### **GET A SMALL GIFT FOR THE GOLFER ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!!**

Lightly Used Golf Balls, \$10 for a dozen, packed in egg cartons, will be sold by Robin Lepore at the monthly luncheon.

She collects them in her yard next to the Reservation Golf Club and donates ALL the money to the Scholarship Fund. Be sure to look for Robin at the December luncheon.

A Total Profit Fundraiser for the MWC!!

*Robin Lepore*

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### **GREETINGS AND REMEMBRANCES**

December arrives with its array of seasonal festivities and its long nights and short days. All of this can contribute to some of our MWC members feeling isolated and less than jolly. Let us be mindful and perhaps more attentive to those around us. If a card, a call or a visit seems appropriate, please let this committee know. Communication by all is key to the success of this effort as is confidentiality.

*Linda Clifford*

507-207-6572

## MWC News & Information

### VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

This year in honor of Veterans Day, the bell ringing at the Congregational Church was combined with the ceremony at Center School. The Mattapoissett Woman's Club welcomed everyone and provided refreshments in support of the Tri-Town Veteran's Office and the American Legion. Many townspeople stood outside silently hearing the bells chime eleven times on November 11, at the 11th hour and then moved to Center School for the Veterans Day program. Connie Eshbach of Rochester was the Speaker. The Showstoppers and the Old Hammondtown School Band provided wonderful music.

Last year, our late President Kate Brown appointed Mary O'Keefe and me to the Mattapoissett Patriotic Events Committee. Mary has sponsored ringing the bells for the past eight years. As a US Army military spouse, the love for the military and our country are close to my heart.

Thank you to all the Greeters who signed up and to those who joined us. What a joy to see all the families! Your beautiful smiles and warm hearts made all the guests so happy. Thank you for helping to make this annual event special!

~ Elaine Botelho & Mary O'Keefe  
Patriotic Events Co-Chair



## MWC News & Information

### HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MATTAPOISETT'S OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION!

Mattapoisett is updating its 10-year Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) — a vital roadmap that guides how the town protects and improves parks, trails, beaches, and natural areas. An updated plan also makes Mattapoisett eligible for state funding to enhance these important community spaces.

We need your input! Please take 10 minutes to complete the Mattapoisett Open Space and Recreation Survey. Your feedback will help the OSRP Steering Committee understand how residents use open spaces today and what improvements or priorities matter most for the future.

Your responses are anonymous and will directly shape the town's goals and recommendations for preserving open space, improving recreation facilities, and enhancing community life.

Thank you for helping keep Mattapoisett's natural spaces vibrant, accessible, and resilient for generations to come!

Scan QR Code or [click here to open the Mattapoisett Open Space and Recreation Survey](#)

~ Victoria Alfaro  
Town Planner



### Mission Statement

*In its quest to uplift women, the Mattapoisett Woman's Club  
inspires, empowers and challenges all to grow.*

#### GOALS

##### **Social:**

To provide opportunities to connect with others in a warm, friendly, kind and caring atmosphere.

##### **Civic:**

To support and participate in local civic responsibilities and activities.

##### **Philanthropic:**

To promote the well-being of others through gifts of time, money and talent.

##### **Education:**

To offer entertaining activities and educational programs to encourage lifelong learning.

##### **Community Outreach:**

To work in the community to build relationships, cultivate participation, access, equality and joy.

## November Luncheon Meeting

Amid beautiful fall-themed table settings, fifty-six of MWC members gathered to hear about the on-going renovations of the historic Zeiterion Theater from its President and CEO, Rosemary Gill. Her slide show depicted before-and-after views of the interior and exterior, showing how the transformations will impact the power of the performing arts and our community at large. We all look forward to its reopening in January.

After a delicious luncheon of extensive buffet offerings, hosted by Myra Hart, Candace Seely and their committee, Co-President Carole Clifford conducted the business meeting. Because of the absence of filling the role of Recording Secretary, the meeting was being recorded. Thanks to Sue Perkins and Ann Tisdale who stepped in for November and October minute-taking.

Carole mentioned that the financial audit submitted to the IRS by our Club auditors was approved. She emphasized that our status as 501C3 means donations to our Club are not tax-deductible. New member Bonne DeSousa reminded us that the hearing of the Mattapoissett Street project will be December 4 at 6:30 pm at ORR.

Cindy Turse, Sue Perkins and Sharon Doyon of the Garden Group are asking for volunteers to gather greens, assemble wreaths and swags in Sherry Hoines' heated barn and to assist at the Greens Sale on Dember 6th. Mary O'Keefe thanked the members who participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at Center School and thanked those who generously contributed to the Gifts to Give clothing drive.

Sue Mitchell told of member Jocylin Chin's 2-year-old daughter Stella who will be having surgery on December 9th and will be in a full-body cast during a long recovery period. To lighten Jocylin's load Sue is organizing meal deliveries for the family of three. Contact Sue for more information.

Don't forget to get your \$40 check to Lois Ennis by December 7th to ensure your reservation for our Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 11 at the Century House in Acushnet. It will be a festive affair!







## *Holiday Newsletter Message*

The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes a spirit of joy, warmth, and togetherness that brightens even the coldest winter days. This time of the year invites us to pause from our busy routines, reflect on the blessings we've received, and share meaningful moments with family, friends, and our wider community.

Gatherings around festive tables, cheerful conversations, and the laughter of loved ones remind us of what truly matters. Whether it's exchanging thoughtful gifts, enjoying holiday traditions, or simply spending time with those we care about, these moments weave lasting memories that carry us into the new year with hope and gratitude.

As members of our Club, we are fortunate to share not only common interests but also a sense of fellowship that extends beyond our activities. The holidays allow us to celebrate that bond, to wish one another well, and to look forward to the adventures and accomplishments that await us in the coming year.

In this season of giving, let us also remember those in need and extend kindness wherever possible. A simple gesture of goodwill can make a world of difference.

From all of us, may your holidays be filled with happiness, may your homes be blessed with health, and may your journeys be safe. Here's to a joyful holiday season and a bright, promising new year ahead!

Happy Holidays,

*Eileen J. Marum*



## Mattapoisett Woman's Club Holiday Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

### CENTURY HOUSE

107 South Main Street, Acushnet

Gathering at 11:30 am, Lunch served at 12:30 pm

Last day for reservations is **December 7th**

Ladies, we are going to the newly renovated Century House in Acushnet.

It will be a DELIGHTFUL buffet. The cost is \$40.

### **BUFFET INCLUDES:**

Bourbon Tenderloin Steak Tips

Chicken Piccata

(chicken breast sauteed with lemon, white wine butter sauce)

Five Cheese Tortellini

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Caesar salad

Focaccia Herb Bread

Chocolate Mousse for Dessert

CASH BAR

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Fill in the information below and bring to the November luncheon.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If mailing, respond before December 7 and send to:

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Holiday Luncheon,

PO Box 1444, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

or drop off in the black box by Lois Ennis' back door at the far end of the driveway.

She will respond upon receipt.

Be sure to include a \$40 check payable to Mattapoisett Woman's Club

## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Great Decisions

Registration is filling up for this year's Great Decisions Program! We have ten enrollees so far with a cap of 30 people. We plan to announce the program in the Wanderer and Sippican Weekly at the end of the month so please sign up soon if you are interested.

For those of you who are new to the Club, Great Decisions is a weekly in-person gathering where local residents meet to discuss foreign policy topics in a structured conversation. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos, as well. Materials are provided by the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association.

The program meets every Wednesday for 8 weeks from 1:00-3:00pm at the Mattapoisett Public Library and starts January 14, 2026. The side door is accessible with an elevator to the lower level. We offer light refreshments with coffee and tea.

#### How to register:

Registration is limited to 30 people and is available on a first come, first served basis. This program is open to all members of the Mattapoisett community and surrounding towns.

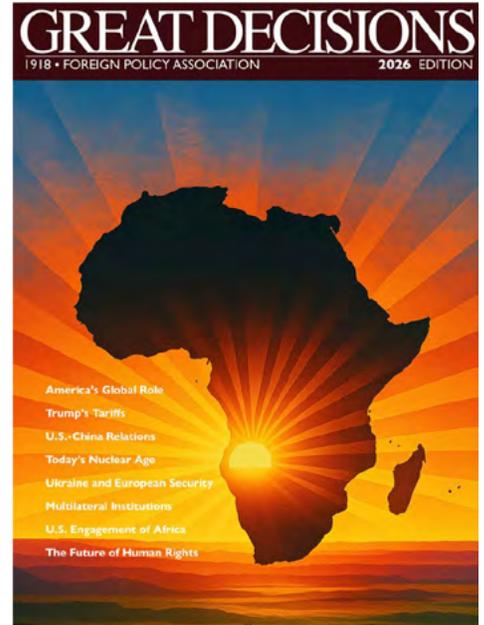
To register please submit your information here: <https://forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9> and send a check made out to the Mattapoisett Woman's Club for \$40.00 to cover text and expenses. If you are two people sharing one book the price is \$50.00. If you prefer not to register online, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and send it with your check to:

Mattapoisett Woman's Club  
Box 1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739  
Attn: Treasurer  
(memo on check Great Decisions)

The texts will be available in early January and can be picked up at the Mattapoisett Public Library. We will notify you by email when they arrive. Your registration is pending receipt of payment.

If you have any questions, please email Co-Chair, Kristen McCormack at [kmac@bu.edu](mailto:kmac@bu.edu) or Ellen Stone at [ellenstone@gmail.com](mailto:ellenstone@gmail.com). We look forward to your participation!

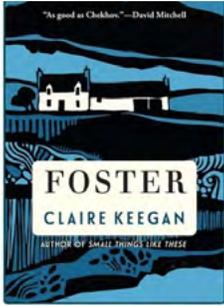
~ Kristen McCormack & Ellen Stone, Co-Chairs



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Literature Group

Wednesday, December 10 9:30 am



The December book will be the novella "Foster" by Claire Keegan. A child is taken to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be brought home again. We will meet at 9:30 am on December 10 at Myra Hart's house, one meeting only. Books are available at the Mattapoisett Library. For more information, please contact Gail Roberts at [peggsmom@gmail.com](mailto:peggsmom@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining in.

~ Gail Roberts



**Gail Roberts**  
Literature Group Chair

### Knitting & Crafts

Thursday, December 18 2:00 pm - 4:00pm

The Knitting and Crafts group met in November with our projects in hand. We continue to love meeting at The Yarn Lady, located on Rte. 6 in Fairhaven. The shop provides us with a well-lit workspace that is conducive to our conversation and the crafts that we each bring. All members are invited to attend. Our next meeting is December 18th, from 2:00-4:00 pm. Please reach out to Sandy Hering or Roberta Oakley if you plan to attend.

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Bridge Group

**Tuesday, December 16 1:00 pm**

Our November 18th meeting at Ann Butler's home was enjoyed by all. We were happy to welcome substitute players Pat Goss, Bobbie Ketchel and Barb Van Inwegen. The next gathering will be at Marianne Mattison's on December 16th at 1:00 pm.



For those of you who would like to get back to bridge or start learning, please consider joining us. Please consider joining our group if you have enjoyed the game in the past or would like to learn. All abilities would be welcome. Please contact Elaine Grant, [grant5687@comcast.net](mailto:grant5687@comcast.net)

~ Elaine Grant

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### Mah Jongg

**Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street**

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club partners with the Mattapoissett Council on Aging (COA) to offer Mah Jongg play year-round on Wednesdays at 1:00-3:00 pm at the COA building. This is a very active group, with enough participants each week to make up at least a couple of tables with 3-4 players. We play non-competitively and without partners. If you have played Mah Jongg before, please join us! If you have never played and would like to learn, the group occasionally offers instructional classes. Please reach out if you would like more info or would like to be notified when classes are offered.

Contact: Phyllis Bannon (217) 493-7807 or [Phyllis.bn@gmail.com](mailto:Phyllis.bn@gmail.com)

*NOTE: The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.*

*Sponsored by Mattapoissett Woman's Club and the Mattapoissett COA.*

If you do not have your 2025 Mah Jongg card, you can order one at [www.nationalmahjonggleague.org](http://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org) In January, information will be provided on ordering the new 2026 card, which comes out in April of each year.

- STANDARD size card is \$14 (including shipping and handling).
- LARGE size card is \$15 (including shipping and handling).

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### Social Cocktail Group

The winter Social Cocktail gathering will take place on Sunday, January 11, 2026, from 5-7pm at the home of Myra Hart, 115 North St., 832-282-5995, [myralhart@gmail.com](mailto:myralhart@gmail.com). You may park in her driveway or on Winter Hill Street which is directly across from her home. Do not park on North Street.



Please bring an appetizer to share and your drink of choice. Guests are always welcome. For this gathering, please RSVP directly to Myra. There will be a sign-up sheet at the December luncheon meeting. Hope to see you there.

~ Linda Clifford 508-207-6572

## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### MWC Walking Group: Autumn Walks

This fall has been full of interesting local walks. On Halloween eve we walked along Wolf Island Road in Mattapoisett. Legend has it that this road is haunted, and ghosts are sometimes seen hanging in the Ellis cemetery. Although we didn't see any ghosts, we enjoyed viewing a neighbor's elaborate Halloween display.

In November we walked along Marsh Island, Fairhaven's newest park. Once called "tin can island," this area had been an illegal dumping ground. Recently it has been cleaned up and is now a restored salt marsh with scenic walking paths and boardwalks. MWC members also enjoyed walks throughout the beautiful Stone Estate in Marion and along the Tinkham Bog in Mattapoisett. This working bog is privately owned and operated by a local resident. With the owner's permission, we walked "off the beaten path" and into the woods to view the bog. At the end of our walk, the owner left us with several bags of fresh Mattapoisett grown cranberries just in time for Thanksgiving!

*Sue Mitchell*



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Ladies Who Lunch

November's gathering was at the historic Inn on Shipyard Park where everyone enjoyed a scrumptious meal. Ladies Who Lunch will meet at noontime on Wednesday, December 17, at the recently reopened National Club Mexican Cantina on 24 Union St. New Bedford. Operated by Servedwell Hospitality, this is how they tantalize prospective customers:

"Savor our contemporary and elevated Mexican cuisine, featuring a combination of authentic dishes and traditional favorites with our own inventive twists. Experience the modern, upscale decor reminiscent of Mexico City, as well as the sensations of our vibrant cantina, featuring an expansive menu, robust cocktails, and an extensive selection of tequila, mezcal, and margaritas. Please gather with us often to experience exceptional dishes, attentive service, and our commitment to the community." <https://www.nationalclub-nb.com/>

I am happy to answer your questions or give you more information. You can contact me at 508-944-8919 or [katherinegaudet52@gmail.com](mailto:katherinegaudet52@gmail.com).

~ Katherine Gaudet



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### MWC's 6th Annual Wreath & Greens Sale!

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is delighted to host its 6th Annual Wreath & Greens Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the porch at What the Taco.

(Rain date: December 7)

This popular pop-up fundraiser will once again offer a festive array of decorated fresh wreaths, swags, holiday centerpieces, and bunched greens—all crafted with care by MWC members. Shoppers will also find limited-edition MWC ornaments, note-cards, and postcards, perfect for gifting or enjoying at home.

Please encourage friends and neighbors to arrive right at opening time. Items sell quickly, and the sale will conclude once everything is sold out.

We gladly accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

All proceeds benefit the scholarships, programs, and community outreach of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club.

Happy Holidays to All!

~ Cindy Turse



**The Mattapoissett Woman's Club  
6th Annual Holiday Greens Sale**

**December 6th, 2025**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm (unless sold out earlier)**

**Rain Date: December 7th, 2025**



**Featuring  
Decorated Fresh Wreaths, Swags & Centerpieces  
Bundled Evergreens & Holly Branches  
2025 Christmas Ornaments**

**"What the Taco" Porch & Parking Lot  
20 County Road/Route 6  
Cash, Checks, Credit Cards Accepted**

**\*The Executive Board consists of Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees**

**\*OFFICERS - 2025-2026**

**Co-Presidents**

Carole Clifford  
Linda Clifford

**Vice President**

Robbin Peach

**Recording Secretary**

Open

**Corresponding Secretary**

Diane Brown-Couture

**Treasurer**

Beth Inglis

**Assistant Treasurer**

Lois K. Ennis

**\*STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Media**

Chair, Cindy Turse

Includes Publicity (Bethany Couto);  
Facebook (Cindy Turse); Instagram (Jocelyn Chin);  
Website (Gail Roberts);  
Ladies Choice Editor (Elaine Grant);  
and Proofreader (Pat Goss)

**Membership**

Chair, Sharon Doyon

**Garden Group**

Chair, Cindy Turse  
1st Wed., 10 am, Library

**CHAIR, SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Bridge**

Elaine Grant

3rd Tues., 1:00 pm, Hostess' home

**Great Decisions**

Co-Chairs, Kristen McCormack,  
Ellen Stone

8 Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm starting Jan. 14

**Greetings & Remembrances**

Linda Clifford

**Historian**

Gail Roberts

**Hospitality**

Erin Burlinson

**Knitting & Crafts**

Bobbie Oakley, Sandy Hering

**Ladies Choice Publisher**

Debra Nettles Design

**Ladies Who Lunch**

Katherine Gaudet

**Literature Club**

Gail Roberts

2nd Wed., 9:30 am & 1:00 pm

**Mah Jongg**

Phyllis Bannon

Every Wed. 1 pm, COA

**Patriotic Celebrations**

Mary O'Keefe

**Photographer**

Ann Tisdale

**Programs**

Chair, Eileen Marum

Gail Roberts

**Social Cocktail**

Linda Clifford

**Walking Group**

Sue Mitchell

**Scholarship**

**(Term ends 6/30)**

2026 Chair, Alice Openshaw

2027 Diane Brown-Couture

2028 Jen Shepley

**Auditors**

2026 Chair, Sue Mitchell

2027 Jan Hubley

2028 Deb Ward

**Directors**

2026 Roxanne Bungert

2027 Sandra Hering

2028 Ann Tisdale

**Appointed Committee**

*(each January)*

Nominating Committee:

Sue Mitchell, Chair

Sharon Doyon

Jan Hubley

Christine Voss

Geneva Woodruff

Refer to By-Laws Article V Sec 2 and Article VII regarding Committees.