

NCSU Woman's Club Newsletter

February 2025

www.ncsu.edu/womansclub



February 20th Meeting at a Glance

Program	Hostess	Lunch Menu
Dr. Med Byrd, NCSU College of Natural Resources Banana Leaves Make a Difference in Africa	★ Nancy Thorne	Mixed Green Salad; Country Fried Pork Chop Served with White Pepper Gravy; Rice Pilaf; Steamed Broccoli; Rolls, Water, Tea & Coffee

President's Message

I hope everyone stayed warm and enjoyed the snow in January. I like it when the snow is here for a day, or maybe two, and then melts away. What I don't like are temperatures in the teens!! I am glad to see that February is going to be a much warmer month.

February is another one of my favorite months of the year. I remember receiving lots and lots of great Valentine cards in elementary school. The handmade cards were always very special. Did you know Hallmark Cards produced the first Valentine's card in 1913? Currently, Americans send 145 million Valentine cards each year. This number doesn't even include kids' valentines at school. Valentine's Day is the second biggest holiday for exchanging cards after Christmas.

Candy is the most popular gift to give on Valentine's Day. The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was created on Valentine's Day in 1861 by Richard Cadbury. Today more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold each year. That's 58 million pounds of chocolate. WOW - that will add a lot of sweet pounds to love!!

Have a great Valentine's Day. Look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Thursday, February 20th at 11:30 a.m. – **Dean Simpson, President**

Program Committee

Wow. What an interesting and informative presentation we had in January from Dr. Michael Kay. His topic was Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Kay was most kind to hang around as people were still asking questions long after our meeting adjourned. Our President Dean Simpson had moving "bots" at every table. . . .in addition to a larger robot that could wander on the floor! Clever.

This month we are looking forward to our talk from Dr. Med Byrd from the NCSU College of Natural Resources. He has so much to offer us. Please again invite friends, husbands, and neighbors to attend on February 20th. – **Grace Hodgson, Chair**

Speaker - Dr. Medwick V. Byrd, College of Natural Resources

Dr. Medwick V. Byrd



Medwick V. Byrd, Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator for the Paper Science and Engineering program, Ph.D. North Carolina State University. His research interests are mechanical pulping, chemical pulping and bleaching, and non-wood pulping. Other areas of his research and technical service are agricultured fibers and biomass. Dr. Byrd is a member of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

Membership

It's Time to Renew Your Woman's Club Membership!

Hello ladies of the NC State University Woman's Club! We are nearing the end of our 2024-25

Woman's Club year, and that means it is time to renew your membership for the 2025-26 Club year. The membership form is online here: [NC State Woman's Club Membership Form](#). It is also attached to this emailed newsletter (those who receive the newsletter by mail can pick up the form at the February meeting or print it from the website). Remember that the contact information at the top of the form doesn't need to be completed UNLESS there have been changes to addresses, emails, phone numbers.

Do remember to check off the committee(s) you wish to join. If you have program ideas, use the form to let our Programs Vice President know!

Please don't pay for lunch and membership together. Our Reservations/Nametag Chairs are keeping up with the lunch payments, and it's not fair for them to have to track other payments as well. Your membership checks should be with the form (don't staple, please) and submitted to me at a meeting or via mail (10017 Bushveld Lane, Raleigh NC 27613). Make the check payable to NC State University Woman's Club and write "2025-26 Membership" on the memo line.

We already received 2025-26 membership payments from these early-bird folks. If your name is here, please don't pay again:

Sue Banks
Ann Collins
Grace Hodgson
Deb Lovell
Susan Gambill Nicholas (gift membership)

Some ladies did not pay for the 2024-25 Club year, and I will send you another reminder. You may pay for both years at the same time. If you don't receive a reminder, don't worry about the current Club year, as you're in good standing.

Keep recruiting new members! We are down to just 39 paid members as I write this. We have such terrific programs and a deep devotion to NC State -- we can't let our Club just fade away! -
Chris Cammarene-Wessel, Membership Vice President

Slate of Officers for 2025 – 2026

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present the new slate of officers for our club as follows:

President...Dean Simpson
1st Vice President...Betse Hamilton (pending)
2nd Vice President...Chris Cammarene-Wessel

Secretary...open for nominations
Treasurer...Luann Peterson

Thank you, ladies, for stepping up to guide our club for the next year. You are much appreciated! It is shaping up to be another exciting year with a great Executive committee! Elections will be held at the March business meeting.

As you can see, the office of Secretary remains open. This is your chance to join the executive committee and be at the center of your club's activities! The duties can be read in your yearbook under policies, page 28. We encourage and welcome you to offer your service in this capacity. Please call or contact a nominations committee member before our February meeting. Committee members are:

Pat Grady 919-414-7547
Betsy Meldau 919-414-1263
Barbara Sullivan 919-271-3283
Sharon Ayers, chair 919-280-1933

See you at the luncheon!

Our Carol Caldwell Scholarship Endowment

Attached to this message is the NC State University Foundation Endowment Report on the fiscal status of our NC State University Woman's Club Carol Caldwell Endowment. We will post this on our website. Also attached are the recipient biographies for the scholarship. These will be available online as well.

Members who receive the monthly newsletter by mail can review the report on the Woman's Club website. A hard copy will also be available for review at the February meeting.

Feed the Pack - The Food Pantry at NCSU

The NCSU Woman's Club has received acknowledgements and thanks for our support of Feed the Pack. To date, we have collected 20.2 pounds of food for the pantry. Let's keep it up.

Any food and/or financial donation is very much needed and appreciated! Make checks out to: NC State Foundation and write Food Pantry on the memo line. Check the link here for the most needed items at this time: <https://feedthepack.dasa.ncsu.edu/support-feed-the-pack/what-to-donate/> Thanks! – Luann Peterson, Treasurer

Reservations/Name Tag Committee

We're looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, February 20th, at our NC State University Woman's Club meeting. Your lunch reservation is due by either calling or emailing our President, Dean Simpson, regarding your attendance. As a reminder—**Reservations are due by Fridays prior to our Thursday meetings.**

Please have your checks ready and made payable to the "NC State University Woman's Club" at the time of registration. If you are paying with cash, please have the correct amount as we do **NOT** have cash available to make change for you.

Also, if you're paying membership dues (either one-half year or annual dues), please provide a separate check as it tends to be confusing with our lunch monies when membership dues are mixed with one check. FYI...annual membership dues are due by April 1, 2025.

FYI....the same policy remains -- If you make a reservation, but do not attend or cancel your reservation after the deadline, you must still pay for your lunch(es).

To make a lunch reservation, please call or email Dean Simpson as follows:

Email: jsimpson57@nc.rr.com

Cell: 919-616-3649

Cost: \$27.00 per person

Make check payable to: NC State University Woman's Club

Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, February 20th!

Helen Crane and Carolyn Bunn

Co-Chairs, Reservations/Name Tag Committee

Dean Simpson, President
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