

WCA Member Survey 2024

Section 1

Dear Members,

Three and a half years ago, the WCA Board of Directors sent a comprehensive survey to 125 members whose responses informed both the immediate work of the club's committees and the [current Strategic Plan](#).

Since then, membership has grown to about 200 women. The WCA Leadership Team, comprised of all directors, committee chairs and co-chairs, meets quarterly and works diligently to implement that plan. Now it's time to solicit your ideas about where we are as a club.

Finally, you received the [2022-23 Annual Report](#) in August, 2023. In that document, I made a statement that I wish to reiterate: *Every person on every committee and the Board is a volunteer*. Thanks to all who volunteer their time and talent to make the WCA what it is. On behalf of the Leadership Team, we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Monica Trabold, WCA President

About this survey

The survey is anonymous and all questions are optional. Use additional sheets if necessary. If you complete the paper version, please drop it off in the office when you're at the club or mail it to 725 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208 by April 3. Materials like the Strategic Plan, Annual Report and committee information can be accessed on the website womansclubofalbany.com.

Do you have comments on the annual report or is there anything else you would like to see included?

Section 2 WCA: Where women come together

Part 1 of the mission of the Woman's Club of Albany is to *provide a center where Capital District women can pool their time, expertise and energy*.

Your member benefits include free or reduced program fees, rental discounts, members only events and more. What other benefits would you like to see?

What would you like to see/do (more of) at Member Mondays? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Learning more about our community and community service partners
- ☐ Hands-on activities (craft kits, greeting cards, flower arrangements)
- ☐ Sharing of skills and expertise from other members
- ☐ Self care/self empowerment topics
- ☐ Non-programmed evenings

These program ideas are under consideration. What is your interest level in attending?

	Yes, please	Maybe	No, thanks
WCA chowder fest or similar event			
Self defense for all ages			
Defensive driving course			
Bus/car trip to a women-themed site			
Outing to theater/concert/opera			
Performances at the house			
Writing events			
Visit local museum/historical site			
Hike or other outdoor activity			
Arts and crafts at the house			

If we take a day trip, which do you prefer?

- ☐ Self drive/carpool--less expensive, more flexible.
- ☐ Bus--need a minimum number of participants.
- ☐ Either is fine.

Club activities can be held at various times. What works for you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Weekdays
- ☐ Weekday evenings
- ☐ Weekend days
- ☐ Weekend nights

Do you have input or feedback to share about the following recurring events?

- **Member Monday:** *Fourth Monday of most months, happy half hour, potluck dinner and a program or activity.*
- **Tuesday on the Porch/Parlor:** *First Tuesday of each month, a fun theme, a chance to socialize and relax with other members.*
- **Home Away From Home:** *3rd Wednesday, Sept.-June, hosted by a director. The Board started HAFH in response to members' requests to have increased access to the house, but attendance is low.*
- **Cabin Fever Self Care Day:** *Lunch and workshops by members, for members only, on a Saturday in January. Free.*
- **Lawson Lake Picnic:** *For members, family and friends, usually on a Saturday in early October. Free.*
- **Book Club:** *Members only, third Tuesday of odd months.*

Section 3 WCA: In service to our community

Part 2 of the mission of the Woman's Club of Albany is to provide a center where Capital District women can *support the well-being and cultural enrichment of women and children in the region.*

The Club fulfills this mission of service in three ways: collection of needed money and/or materials, hands-on activities at the WCA and direct onsite service in community settings.

Have you participated in onsite community activities? (e.g. Ten Broeck Mansion cleanup; FOCUS holiday bags, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Our members have contributed thousands of dollars worth of items requested by community partners (e.g. cake mixes, school supplies, etc.) Have you been able to give to our collections?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

When is the best time to collect items?

- ☐ Drop off at the WCA at a special time
- ☐ Drop off at the WCA at club events such as Member Monday

Have you participated in the hands-on activities at the WCA? (e.g. crafting Valentines, making ornaments, packing materials for distribution such as coloring books for Albany Med or bags for the homeless?)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which of these activities would you like to participate in? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Collection of needed items at the WCA, e.g. books, personal care products
- ☐ Hands on activities at the WCA, ex. creating cards, bagging contributions
- ☐ Activities offsite in the community

Do you have any ideas to share?

Financial Support for Community Partners

The Club provides some financial support to community partners through our budget and special events. For example, the recent performance of "Love Letters" raised over \$4,000 for donation to Community Education Programs for Teens at Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center.

What are your thoughts about how the club should proceed in its mission of financial support to service partners?

Section 4 WCA: Stewardship of the building

Part 3 of the mission of the Woman's Club of Albany is to *preserve the historic building that is our home.*

Responsible stewardship requires budgeting for ordinary expenses like utilities and insurance; repairs and maintenance of our old house; and major capital improvements like the pillars and east porch.

The three income-generating committees are Development, Membership and Rentals.

We open the house to the community for educational and entertainment programs in addition to our meetings and membership events.

Fundraising Activities: Do you have input or feedback to share about the following fundraising activities? Helpful notes in italics.

- **Garage Sale:** *Drop off donations Tuesday and Wednesday after Labor Day, preview sale Thursday from 5-7, sale on Friday and Saturday from 9-3, cleanup on Sunday. Raised about \$9,000 in 2023.*
- **#GivingTuesday:** *In November 2022, we raised \$3,450 to restore the pillars, completed in 2023 and helped by grant funds. In November 2023, we raised about \$5,000 for repairs to the east porch.*
- **Tulip Tea & Holiday Tea:** *Held on a Saturday in May and December, each generates a profit of \$2,000 to \$3,000.*
- **Stuff Your Piggy Bank Raffle:** *2022-23 fundraiser, tickets cost \$50, 5 winners won \$1,000 each, 5 sellers won \$100 each, and the club earned \$5,000. Should we try this again?*
- **Rentals:** *Perhaps you have feedback after renting the house, attending a rental as a guest, or reasons for hosting your rental elsewhere.*

Section 5 Volunteerism and Engagement

The principle of donating time and energy toward a greater cause

The mission of the Woman's Club of Albany is to provide a center where Capital District women can pool their time, expertise and energy in activities that support the well-being and cultural enrichment of women and children in the region, and to preserve the historic building that is our home.

What skills do you have/want to contribute to the club to further our mission?

Do you feel that you have opportunities to do so?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you currently a committee member?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which best describes your volunteerism at the WCA?

- ☐ I am very active and do a lot, perhaps too much.
- ☐ I do my part and am satisfied with my level of participation.
- ☐ I'd like to be more active, and I'm not sure where to start.
- ☐ I can't volunteer at the WCA right now, sorry, but I'm proud to support the club and its mission through my membership.

Do you like to be recognized for your contributions to the club?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How do you want to be recognized/acknowledged for your participation?

It's discouraging for organizers to plan events that have few participants. What holds you back from participating in WCA activities? (*Membership events, programs, community service activities, fundraisers, special events.*) Check all that apply.

- ☐ Day or time of the activity
- ☐ Not interested in the topic/activity
- ☐ So many WCA events, can't do it all
- ☐ Forgot to register/attend
- ☐ Too busy to participate
- ☐ Cost

The Membership Committee and Leadership Team have had many conversations about member engagement. Do you have suggestions to increase and facilitate member volunteerism and attendance at events?

Through cooperative planning, the Leadership Team has developed these themes for 2023-24, with several committees offering related activities:

Oct./Nov.--Literacy

Jan./Feb.--Health and Wellness

March--Women's History Month

April, May, June--Revitalization

Do you like the idea of central themes or have any input to share?

Would you be interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

If you are curious about joining the board, please provide your name below, OR to remain anonymous, email the club at womansclubofalbany725@gmail.com OR Sara Hotopp, Nominating Committee member, at sarahotopp@yahoo.com.

Opportunity: Feeling motivated to get involved? Here are the [committee descriptions and chairs](#) and the [club calendar](#). Reach out to the chairs for more information and attend a meeting to see if it's a good fit for you.

If you could change ONE aspect of the Club to make it better, what would that be?

Shout outs: This survey seeks your input about moving the club forward and focusing on how to improve rather than on the many things we have already accomplished and are doing well. *Here is a place to share your gratitude and appreciation for achievements and members who have positively impacted your experience at the WCA.*

Do you have any other questions or comments to share about the WCA?

Section 6 Demographics

Finally, let's learn about our members through some QUICK demographics. *Why are we asking these questions?*

- Grant applications often request demographics.
- One strategic plan goal is to increase diversity in club membership.
- This information may help organizers to target programming to groups of members, i.e. parents, retirees.

How did you hear about the Woman's Club of Albany? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Family or friend
- ☐ Internet search
- ☐ Table at a community event
- ☐ Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Meetup
- ☐ Activity, Program or Rental at the WCA house
- ☐ Other _____

Why did you decide to join? Check all that apply.

- ☐ To make friends/meet people
- ☐ To volunteer my time and get more involved in my community
- ☐ To support stewardship of the historic building

How long have you been a member?

- ☐ Less than one year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

Race & Ethnicity: which of these apply to you?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic or Latinx
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

5. What is your age?

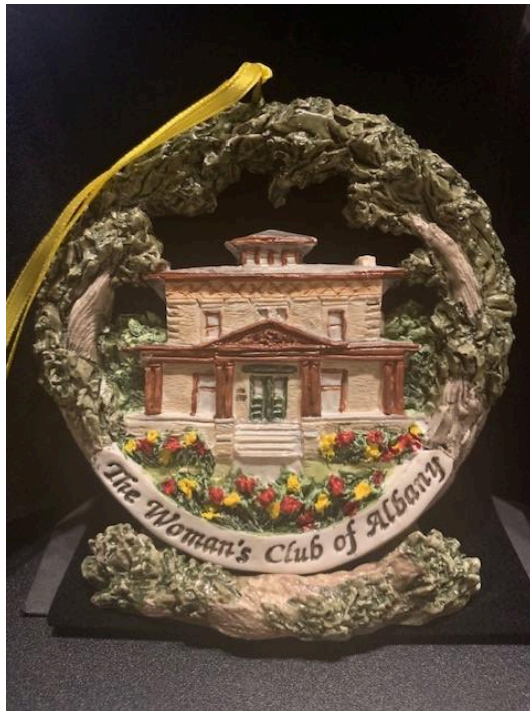
- ☐ 18-39
- ☐ 40-55
- ☐ 56-69
- ☐ 70+
- ☐ prefer not to answer

6. What is your employment status?

- ☐ Working full time
- ☐ Working part time
- ☐ Not working
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

7. Do you have children? What are their ages? Select all that apply.

- ☐ No children
- ☐ 0-10
- ☐ 11-18
- ☐ Adult children
- ☐ Prefer not to answer



WCA House Keepsake

*As a thank you for a **House for the House** donation of at least \$25, donors will receive a custom-designed, handcrafted keepsake of the landmark WCA building, which can be picked up at the WCA.*

Click the "DONATE" button on the website or pay when you're at the house.

Thank you for completing this survey.