



# Arts & CRAFTS COMPETITION

The Punta Gorda Woman’s Club opened the new year with a burst of color, imagination, and hometown pride as we hosted our annual Arts & Crafts Competition on January 9, 2026. This cherished tradition—part of the statewide program encouraged by GFWC Florida—invites clubwomen across Florida to showcase their artistic talents in Arts, Crafts, and Photography. Our members stepped forward with original works that reflected not only skill, but heart. From delicate beadwork to luminous fused glass, each entry told a story of creativity nurtured within our club community.



January 2026



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## Club-Level Judging & Ribbon Winners

Entries were judged at the Club level, with winners earning 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and Honorable Mention ribbons. First-place winners will advance to the District competition, and top District entries will continue on to the State level—a journey that begins right here in our own clubhouse.

Blue Ribbon Winners –  
Advancing to District  
These outstanding first-place entries  
will represent PGWC at the next  
level:

- Juanita Whitney – Jewelry:  
Beaded Necklace
- Mary Sebehar – Glass: Fused  
Glass
- Julie Smith – Paper Crafts:  
Greeting Cards



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## Best in Show

A special highlight of the event, these pieces captured exceptional craftsmanship and artistic expression:

1. Mary Sebehar – Fused Glass
2. Julie Smith – Handmade Greeting Cards
3. Juanita Whitney – Swedish Weaving Blanket

## A Celebration of Talent & Sisterhood

The Arts & Crafts Competition is more than a contest—it's a celebration of the creativity that thrives within the Punta Gorda Woman's Club. Each entry reflects the passion, patience, and artistry of our members, and we are proud to cheer on our Blue Ribbon winners as they move forward to represent PGWC at the District level.



*Best in*

**SHOW**



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Red Ribbon – 2nd Place

Lori Ann Mertens – Jewelry:  
Beaded Necklace

Yellow Ribbon – 3rd Place

Lori Ann Mertens – Beadwork:  
Beaded Key Chain



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Before a single ribbon was awarded, the room was already glowing with something extraordinary — the sheer range of creativity our members brought to this year's Arts & Crafts Competition. Every table, every display board, every carefully arranged piece told its own story of imagination, patience, and heart.

This section is dedicated to the phenomenal works of art created by members across all categories. Whether crafted with beads, glass, fabric, paper, or paint, each piece added its own spark to a truly inspiring showcase. Not every piece received a ribbon — but every piece mattered.

Every creation contributed to the warmth, vibrancy, and spirit of the event. Together your work made this year's competition unforgettable. ★



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A Celebration of Talent, Heart & Sisterhood

This year's Arts & Crafts Competition reminded us of something special: creativity thrives when women lift one another up. Every entry—every stitch, bead, brushstroke, and spark of imagination—reflected the spirit of the Punta Gorda Woman's Club.

Today, we honored all our ribbon winners for sharing their gifts with our community:

Blue Ribbon Winners

Juanita Whitney – Jewelry, Hand Embroidery

Mary Sebehar – Glass

Julie Smith – Paper Crafts

Red Ribbon Winner

Lori Ann Mertens – Jewelry

Yellow Ribbon Winner

Lori Ann Mertens – Beadwork

Best in Show

#1 Mary Sebehar – Fused Glass #2

Julie Smith – Handmade Greeting Cards #3

Juanita Whitney – Swedish Weaving Blanket

Wishing You All the Best at District

As our Blue Ribbon winners move on to the District competition, we send them forward with pride, excitement, and the full support of their PGWC sisters. Your creativity represents not just your own talent, but the heart of our club.

Shine brightly. Create boldly. And know we're cheering you on every step of the way.