

Meet the West Orange Women, a civic and social organization whose members live and/or work in Southwest Orange County, Florida. They meet each month with a mission to build friendships within the club and the community through various activities, committees, luncheon meetings, and events. The women network and serve the community and raise money and donations for local charities related to the needs of women and children, all with an emphasis on having a good time! "Our tagline is Fun, Friendship, Philanthropy!"

The Fun!

"West Orange Women (WOW) is an organization of dynamic women from around the community with no religious or political affiliation," shared Cynthia Johnson-Guarino, WOW PR & Reservations Liaison. "It was formed in 1993 as a 501c4 (nonprofit social welfare organization) when Welcome Wagon disbanded in Orange County. WOW was formed for members with a desire to laugh, make new friends, and to give back to the local community." WOW currently has 220 members and holds monthly luncheon meetings at area restaurants and country clubs.

The Friendship!

WOW members are all local volunteers who share a common interest in forming friendships and helping the community. "They join when they first move into the area, are looking for a way to integrate themselves into the community, or when they retire and are looking for new friends and activities. Joining WOW is a quick way to have over 200 new friends instantly, always have something fun to do, and to participate in projects to give back to the local community."

Getting involved is easy as the organization facilitates over 20 unique activity groups (pre and post-pandemic) that meet in restaurants, country clubs, theaters, private homes, and other venues. Like many groups, the pandemic presented challenges to their usual meetings, and members started to get creative. WOW members have stayed connected through cards, online meetings, different activities, and newsletters."

Philanthropy!

WOW is not just a social club for women but an organization that emphasizes community. Every year the nonprofit selects a charity to support. The women organize all fundraising activities to support local charity events through food and clothing drives, jewelry sales, 50/50 raffles, change jars, and craft donations.

"There are local charities that do not receive government funding that depends on organizations like WOW to assist their growing population." Their most recent focus was on local charity Matthew's Hope, where the organization provided funds and collected goods.

Many great organizations are serving Central Florida but what makes this organization unique is the people and their mission! "Everyone is very friendly, welcoming, and focused on having fun. We offer the opportunity to participate in over 20 activity groups and to start new activity groups. Members can participate in established fundraising activities, lead new fundraising activities, and become group or board leaders. And the agreement that when WOW women get together, they always have a good time."

WOW luncheon meetings are held September through May. For more information, contact Mary Borgan at mborgan@hotmail.com or visit WestOrangeWomen.com.