



GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program

2010-2012 Club Manual

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PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

The GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program is designed to enable members to continue its long-standing advocacy and proven historic involvement towards investigation and development of programs and projects relating to veterans, citizenship, and safety.

Just as GFWC advocates “Unity in Diversity” to mark co-operation between different organizations within our society, we can move our members towards stronger partnerships and grassroots collaborations in an effort to provide new avenues of community involvement. Members are very familiar with the work done through the efforts of GFWC in their campaign for instituting a juvenile court system, establishing local veteran memorials, preserving historic landmarks, making our highways safer for travel, keeping our families safe in their homes, and responding to disasters.

Our legacy of community service will enable a more dynamic response moving forward to help rehabilitate, educate, and transition our veterans and their families to civilian life.

Participation in GFWC Community Service Programs and using our GFWC Resolutions to advocate on legislation and policies supported by GFWC will enable us to move forward and instill our youth with patriotism and pride in their heritage, and enable our clubwomen to rise to more involved and prominent community leadership roles.

We encourage citizenship in action at home, in our communities, and in the event of an emergency or disaster anywhere. By joining with law enforcement and first responders and working with or developing neighborhood programs and coalitions, we can better serve the safety and well-being of our citizens, be it in everyday activities, disaster preparedness, or addressing consumer concerns.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals for the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program are listed below in order to assist you in measuring project success and positive change in your communities. The listed objectives further outline how we can build projects that support these goals.

Goal 1: Provide comfort and resources to members of the armed forces and their families in recognition of their sacrifices to protect our country.	Objective 1. Develop creative participation in citizenship activities and involvement with our military in all aspects of service to our freedoms and defense.
	Objective 2. Investigate ways to establish and/or promote legislation in support of veterans’ issues.
	Objective 3. Promote recognition and honor military personnel and seek opportunities for transition to civilian life.
Goal 2. Utilize our GFWC	Objective 1. Encourage youth and women emergence into community

Resolutions to increase members' patriotism, pride in heritage, and to become more involved in community leadership roles.	leadership positions.
	Objective 2. Celebrate patriotism.
Goal 3. Create safer communities and overall well-being of all citizens.	Objective 1. Partner with first responder agencies to increase public awareness and work toward elimination of safety obstacles.
	Objective 2. Educate GFWC members and their local communities on disaster awareness, preparedness, recovery, and relief.
	Objective 3. Endorse home safety programs, hazardous product recalls, Internet safety issues, and promote hands-on safety training.
	Objective 4. Ensure families have the tools and training to protect their children both in and around vehicles.

CALL TO ACTION

We have outlined ideas to help you and your club in attaining the goals and objectives that have been set forth in the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program, including ways to educate yourself, inform others, and create change.

Educate Yourself

- Code Adam is a powerful search tool for lost and possibly abducted children currently used in tens of thousands of establishments across the nation. Investigate whether Code Adam has been adopted by stores in your community.
- Find out about your state's current legislation regarding double and triple trailer trucks and longer single trailer trucks on state highways. If larger trucks are permitted, work with your state legislators to tighten regulations or cap weight and sizes allowed. If larger trucks are not permitted, work with your federal legislators to support freezes in truck weight and length on Federal Highway System roads.
- Find out if your local law enforcement agency and fire/rescue personnel have taken courses in the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Child Passenger Safety training. If not, provide information on the need for training and how it can be obtained, including sources of possible subsidies to reduce costs to participants.

Inform Others

- Work with your local fire department or hospital community liaison to hold a fire safety awareness day for children and parents. Include topics such as home fire drills, what to do once you've escaped a burning structure, residential sprinklers, safe storage of combustibles, and special concerns for children and older adults.
- Establish an awareness campaign to remind community members to change batteries in smoke detectors when clocks change back to standard time.
- Join forces with a local hospital or health clinic to present first aid and CPR classes at a club meeting or program.
- Work with your local office of aging or senior center to present a community forum on safety for older persons. Contact the Center for Disease Control's SAFE USA office and AARP for information on how to obtain materials on a variety of safety concerns for seniors.
- Recognize the dedication and patriotism of women who have served in defense of the country by inviting them to speak at club meetings and community forums.

Create Change

- Promote the proper use of child safety and booster seats. Booster seats are for children who are too small to be properly protected by adult seatbelts, but are too big for child safety seats. These generally are children from ages four to nine, and under 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Honor local servicewomen, women military leaders, and women veterans. Provide support for these women in the community. Encourage the governor, mayor, or city council to proclaim the week preceding Veterans Day as "Women Veterans Recognition Week."
- Seek volunteer opportunities through the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. Assist with the care of outpatients in community care clinics as well as in Veterans Hospitals.
- Conduct projects that recognize and honor all veterans, and encourage young veterans to join the Veterans Association.

- Support and create ways to observe the National Day of Remembrance. Promote the Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day each year.

IMPORTANT DATES

Plan projects and events around days, weeks, and months of celebration and commemoration in the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program.

January	National Poverty in America Awareness Month
January 17, 2011	Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Day of Service
January, 16, 2012	Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Day of Service
February, 6-12, 2011	National Burn Awareness Week
February, 5-11, 2012	National Burn Awareness Week
April	Alcohol Awareness Month
April	National Trauma Awareness Month
May, 21 2011	Armed Forces Day
May 19 2012	Armed Forces Day
May 30, 2011	Memorial Day
May 28, 2012	Memorial Day
June	Home Safety Month
June 14	Flag Day
July	Fireworks Safety Month
July 4	Independence Day
August 3, 2010	National Night Out
August 4	Coast Guard Day
August 6	Hiroshima Day
August 7, 2011	National Night Out
August 9, 2010	Victory Day
August 8, 2011	Victory Day
September 6, 2010	Labor Day
September 5, 2011	Labor Day
September 20-26, 2010	Child Passenger Safety Week
September 18-24, 2011	Child Passenger Safety Week
September 19, 2010	Army Day
September 21, 2011	International Peace Day
October	Crime Prevention Month
October 3-9, 2010	Fire Prevention Week
October 9-15, 2011	Fire Prevention Week
November	Child Safety and Protection Month
November 2, 2010	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day

COLLABORATIONS

Within the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program, GFWC clubwomen are uniquely positioned to educate the community about the importance of active citizenship and encourage action in regard to safety issues facing their communities. Members have initiated many projects to create nonpartisan voter awareness, held forums to discuss political issues, and taught the importance of voting and citizenship to young people. Clubwomen have embraced causes dedicated to supporting our troops and veterans. They continue to prepare care packages for soldiers overseas, hold fundraisers, and volunteer to help injured soldiers transition back to civilian life.

In the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program-Collaboration, GFWC clubs will:

- Research, plan, and implement projects, programs, and advocacy based on its interests and the needs that the club members believe are important. This is the club members' opportunity to think out of the box and do it their way.
- Report. It is imperative that clubs report the projects that they have developed so that as an organization, we can better see where our members' interests lie and those statistics can be used in working with and recruiting new GFWC Partners, grants, and advocacy opportunities.

- Reporting is also important so that we can highlight and share your club's creativity and interests with our membership so that they can also be inspired to either implement a similar project or use it for inspiration for their own.

Explore examples of what your fellow GFWC clubs have done around the country to implement projects related to public issues in their own communities. For more information about any of the following GFWC club projects, please contact GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program Collaboration Chairman or the GFWC Programs Director.

If you have a successful project that you would like to share with GFWC and your fellow members, please contact GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program Collaboration Chairman or GFWC Programs Director at GFWC@GFWC.org.

GFWC South Fork Woman's Club (California) focused on community safety and making sure they are prepared for natural disasters and unforeseen accidents. They accomplished the latter by starting a new program to teach children how to swim. There is a wild river and a huge lake in the valley where GFWC South Fork Woman's Club is located, and until they filled the void, there were no swimming lessons available. The club members worked to secure a grant for \$10,000 for a period of two years. This money allowed them to cover the program's cost and only charge a fee of \$10 for swimming lessons. The valley will now have a swimming program for at least the next five years thanks to the hard work of the club members. The valley is also prone to fires and had a year that was worse than most—with a fire every week for six weeks straight and a major fire that raged on for almost three weeks. To help ensure safety of the community-at-large, the club supported the fire fighters by allowing them use of the club property for a staging area. While the firefighters worked from the club, the members provided them with food at least once a week and visited the hospital to attend to victims of the tragic fire.

GFWC Argo-Summit Bedford Park Woman's Club (Illinois) was proactive about vehicle safety by working in conjunction with the department of public health, Illinois State Police, The Village of Bedford Park, and its police and fire departments to sponsor "Touch-A-Truck and Safety Seat Check." During this event, Illinois State Troopers checked car seats, of which 80 were corrected or replaced. The club members registered event participants and handed out children identification stickers for the participants' car seats. Over 250 children visited the "Touch-A-Truck" area, which included a Haz-Mat truck, fire engine, street sweeper, front end loader, school bus, and a tow truck. Each truck had a driver who was there to answer questions and educate children on vehicle safety. The club members rented out tents to hand out refreshments, and handed out safety pamphlets, balloons, gliders, stickers, and bubbles.

GFWC Murray Woman's Club (Kentucky) participated in community safety activities in the newly formed drug court (an alternative special court with jurisdiction over cases involving drug-using offenders). A drug court member spoke to the club's board; subsequently, a clubwoman decided to serve on the drug court advisory council. Several club members attended planning meetings to strategize for future action and to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas for the future safety of the community. Members also helped organize an open house to acquaint the community with the purpose and activities of the drug court program and volunteered at the open house by serving refreshments and donating supplies for the occasion.

GFWC Louisiana focused on emergency preparedness in an effort to combat the damage done by hurricanes which frequent the state. Clubs reported members planning for hurricane season by collecting supplies, generators, and information to inform the public on hurricane safety. Many members assisted after hurricanes Gustav and Ike, storms that caused severe damage to the state and left many in need of assistance. Members housed those whose homes were damaged or left without water and electricity. The clubs aided by feeding and providing laundry assistance to victims of the storm.

GFWC Heritage League of Lincoln (Nebraska) donated \$500 to the MAD DADS of Lincoln. This is a group of fathers working to prevent youth from joining gangs. They do this by collecting bikes and teaching youth how to repair them. They then sell the bikes to underprivileged middle school children from low-income families for \$1 each. Additionally, they provided military families with some of the repaired bikes.

GFWC St. Helen's Woman's Club (Oregon) club members assisted with the "Minor in Possession" classes. Judges are holding young people and parents accountable and sending them to a three-hour class addressing issues such as substance abuse, marijuana use, potential results from abuse, and the effects on the brain. A morning class is held for juveniles and their parents. At the end of the class parents receive a packet of information that includes the latest research and data. An afternoon class is for clients 18 to 21 who have been referred through the courts. The emphasis is slightly different due to the maturity level of the clients. The clients receive information on issues such as domestic violence, date rape, and unplanned pregnancies in addition to the information provided in the morning classes. One club member coordinates all the court records and researches the material covered in the class to keep the information up-to-date. Attendees often come in very resistant to the classes, but thank the presenters at the completion of the class.

GFWC Aiken Woman's Club (South Carolina) worked for community safety by promoting awareness of the danger of child abuse. The members wore and distributed blue ribbons to the community in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month (blue ribbons are worn each April in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse.) In addition they also persuaded the local school district to serve blue Jell-O in all the school lunch programs one day in April to increase awareness and foster discussions in the classrooms on how to prevent and protect children from the grips of abuse.

PARTNERSHIPS

GFWC Partners are organizations that operate at the national or international level and offer unique and customized services such as project materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs to enhance the effectiveness of the GFWC Community Service Programs and Special Projects within their communities. These partners are aware of GFWC clubs' specific needs and organizational structure.

These GFWC Partners will assist in monitoring the donations generated by GFWC members. To ensure that your donation, whether at the individual, club, district, or state level, is included in the GFWC total, please make sure to:

1. Write on your check that you are a GFWC member or club.
2. Submit your check to the GFWC Partner Contact listed in the *GFWC Club Manual*, even if it has a local or state representative.
3. Notify GFWC of your donation by calling or e-mailing the GFWC Programs Director at 202-347-3168 or GFWC@GFWC.org.

If you have any questions regarding donations to GFWC Partners, please contact the GFWC Public Issues Partnership Chairman or GFWC Programs Director at GFWC@GFWC.org.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, LLC | www.CABT.org

901 North Pitt Street, Suite 310 | Alexandria, VA 22314
E: CABT@earthlink.net | P: 888-CABT-123 | F: 703-535-3322

The Coalition Against Bigger Trucks is a national, nonprofit grassroots organization with the single mission of preventing increases in truck size and weight because of safety, infrastructure, economic, and environmental concerns. The website provides maps showing truck size and weight restrictions by state, as well as current legislation information.

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation | www.SearchDogFoundation.org

501 East Ojai Avenue | Ojai, CA 93023
E: Rescue@NDSDF.org | P: 888-459-4376 | F: 805-640-1848

The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation's mission is to strengthen disaster response in America by recruiting rescued dogs and partnering them with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. They offer the professionally trained canines and an ongoing training program at no cost to fire departments.

National Safety Council | www.NSC.org

1121 Spring Lake Drive | Itasca, IL 60143-3201
E: CustomerService@NSC.org | P: 630-285-1121 | Toll Free: 1-800-621-7615 | F: 630-285-1315

The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities,

and on the roads, through leadership, research, education, and advocacy.

- Download information to assist with educating on defensive driving, emergency care (including trauma, online or onsite for standard first aid, CPR, and AED), and workplace safety.

Safe Kids | www.SafeKids.org

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1000 | Washington, DC 20004 | P: 202-662-0600

Safe Kids is a nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages one to 14. They educate families, provide safety devices to families in need, and advocate for better laws to help keep children safe, healthy, and out of the emergency room. More than 600 coalitions and chapters in all 50 states bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments, and volunteers to educate and protect families.

- Hold a club or community program on keeping children safe from unintentional injury. Contact Safe Kids for coalitions and chapters near you.

Sew Much Comfort | www.SewMuchComfort.org

13805 Frontier Lane | Burnsville, MN 55337

P: 952-431-6233 | F: 952-236-7300

Contact: Michele Cuppy | E: Michele@SewMuchComfort.org

Sew Much Comfort provides adaptive clothing “free” to support the unique needs of our wounded service members from current conflicts and all branches of the military and national guard. SMC also supports many previously injured service members as they also need adaptive clothing. Medicine doesn’t address the basic need of clothing that will accommodate medical devices, such as; fixators, prosthetics, and casts. For many service members the only option they have is a hospital gown. SMC adapts clothing from either store-bought or sewn using our custom-designed patterns. The clothing is designed to appear as normal civilian clothing, and is constructed for ease of dressing, fostering self-care. Most of all, it gives them something to wear besides a hospital gown, and communicates to them that a grateful America has not forgotten them or their sacrifice. Sew Much Comfort is the only organization providing adaptive clothing at no cost to our wounded service members.

Together Sew Much Comfort and GFWC can make a difference. You can help in the following ways:

- Collect new clothing from our list of acceptable clothing.
- Contact your local sports teams to see if they will donate t-shirts, shorts, pants.
- Hold fundraisers to collect money so that Sew Much Comfort can purchase needed garments and supplies.
- Sign up to become a volunteer seamstress on our web site.
- Have a group sew day. One person needs to lead and be the quality checker to ensure that all sewing meets quality standards.

Sew Much Comfort will send packets that have details on how GFWC members can help make a difference and provide comfort and dignity for wounded service members. Contact the Sew Much Comfort representative above, and include in the subject line: GWFC, also noting your name and mailing address.

Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. |

www.WomensMemorial.org

5510 Columbia Pike, Suite 302 | Arlington, VA 22204

E: HG@WomensMemorial.org | P: 703-533-1155 | Toll Free: 800-222-2294 | F: 703-931-4208

Contact: Marilla Cushman, Director of Public Relations

The purpose of WIMSA is to recognize and tell the stories of the commitment and patriotic service of all women who have served in the defense of this country. By focusing on these women, WIMSA makes their contributions a visible part of history and presents them as role models for future generations.

- Sponsor WIMSA registration drives at the club, district, or state level. Although two million women have served, only 15 percent are registered.
- Find and identify women veterans (members and non-members, living or deceased); send their information to WIMSA with designation that the names were sent by a GFWC club.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional resources, including a listing of governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations are provided to assist you in researching and creating your projects.

Governmental

Amber Alert | www.AmberAlert.gov

The AMBER Alert™ Program is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry, to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and the safe recovery of the child. Order a Toolkit for Raising Awareness with success stories, publications, posters and fliers, state contacts, and public service announcements at www.AmberAlert.gov/ToolKit.htm.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | www.CDC.gov/SafeUSA

SAFE USA™ is a working alliance of major public and private partners dedicated to significantly reducing the high rate of injuries and deaths that occur annually in the United States.

Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service | www.VA.gov/Volunteer

VAVS partners with volunteer organizations to improve the quality of life for veterans. Volunteers work with veterans in hospitals and Community Based Outpatient Clinics and in the community at large. In addition, volunteers provide support and assistance to national cemeteries.

Federal Citizen Information Center | www.Pueblo.GSA.gov

For more than 40 years, the Federal Citizen Information Center has been a trusted one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. Consumers can get the information they need in four ways: by calling toll-free 1-800-FED-INFO, through online and printed publications, and through various social media channels and FCIC's family of websites: www.USA.gov, www.Pueblo.GSA.gov, www.Kids.gov, www.ConsumerAction.gov, www.GobiernoUSA.gov.

Federal Emergency Management Agency | www.FEMA.gov

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, initially created by Presidential Order in 1979. The primary purpose of FEMA is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the United States and that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities.

Federal Trade Commission | www.FTC.gov

The responsibility of the FTC, in part, is to assist consumers and to ensure fair business practices are employed. The FTC offers a series of informational materials covering a variety of consumer issues, including cars, credit, health, homes and real estate, and sales practices. The FTC is also responsible for the National Do Not Call registry.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control | www.CDC.gov/NCICP

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has information that relates to children and home safety.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration | www.NHTSA.DOT.gov

NHTSA is under the U.S. Department of Transportation and was established by the Highway Safety Act of 1970, to carry out safety programs. NHTSA is responsible for reducing deaths, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. This is accomplished by setting and enforcing safety performance standards for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment, and through grants to state and local governments to enable them to conduct effective local highway safety programs.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission | www.CPSC.gov

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's toll-free hotline. Free publications on a

large variety of subjects are also available by visiting www.CPSC.gov. These publications describe some of the common hazards associated with the use of consumer products and recommend ways to avoid these hazards. All publications can be viewed on the website. Clubs may copy all materials.

U.S. Department of Agriculture | www.USDA.gov

Created in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, the USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

U.S. Fire Administration | www.USFA.FEMA.gov

The U.S. Fire Administration is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency whose mission is to reduce the number of deaths and economic losses resulting from fire and related emergencies. Customers can choose from over 200 free publications available through the Publications Center.

Non-Governmental

AARP | www.AARP.org

AARP is the nation's leading organization for people age 50 and older. It serves their needs and interests through information and education, advocacy, and community services that are provided by a network of local chapters and experienced volunteers throughout the country. Program materials may be obtained through their website or by telephone or letter. To locate a 55ALIVE/Mature Driving Program near you, call 888-227-7669.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. | www.BlueStarMothers.org

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political organization that provides support for active duty service personnel, promotes patriotism, assists veterans organizations, and are available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts.

Council of Better Business Bureaus | www.BBB.org

The Council is an umbrella organization for more than 180 Better Business Bureaus in the U.S. and Canada, which are supported by 230,000 local business members. The Council publishes wise buying tips booklets for consumers, business advisories for companies, and reference material for associations and advertising agencies. Write for a copy of the brochure, "Tips on Avoiding Telemarketing Fraud" (\$15 per 100). To find local Better Business Bureau information, go to www.BBB.org.

National Association of Town Watch | www.NATW.org

The National Association of Town Watch is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized community crime prevention activities and to the groups and individuals participating in local crime watch efforts. NATW sponsors National Night Out, an annual crime and drug prevention event. It is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

- Involve community officials in National Night Out; register and receive the NNO kit filled with how-to materials. Registration is free at www.NationalNightOut.org/NATW.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children | www.MissingKids.com

NCMEC is a private, nonprofit organization that provides services nationwide for families and professionals in the prevention of abducted, endangered, and sexually-exploited children. It serves as a clearinghouse of information, operates a tip line, and offers training programs to law-enforcement and social service professionals.

- To submit information on missing children call 1-800-THE-LOST.
- To report information regarding child sexual exploitation go to www.MissingKids.com

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information | www.CALIB.com/NCCANCH

The Clearinghouse serves as a national resource for the acquisition and dissemination of child abuse/neglect information. It develops publications and services to meet the needs of users.

National Consumers League | www.NCLNnet.org

The League is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that represents consumers and workers on a variety of issues, including health care, food and drug safety, financial services, telecommunications, and fraud. The League operates the National Fraud Information Center hotline at 800-876-7060, which provides consumers with accurate information on how and where to report fraud, and offers advice for consumers who seek information. The League also offers a variety of informational materials.

National Council on Child Abuse and Family Violence | www.NCCAFV.org

The Council serves as a referral to victims or others seeking information related to child abuse, domestic violence, or elder abuse. It also provides free fact sheets.

National Crime Prevention Council | www.NCPC.org

NCPC is a nonprofit organization that works to enable people, acting individually and together, to reduce crime and build safer, more vital communities. NCPC offers a wide range of assistance in community crime prevention programs, including: training and technical assistance; educational materials, including books, brochures, posters, and reproducible materials; McGruff the Crime Dog; and locally-based demonstration programs as learning labs for effective prevention strategies.

National Organization for Victim Assistance | www.TryNOVA.org

NOVA is a private, nonprofit organization of victim and witness assistance practitioners, criminal justice professionals, researchers, former victims, and others committed to victims' rights. NOVA offers information, referral, and advocacy services for crime victims and their helpers; provides training programs for victim assistance; and promotes public support for victims' rights and services.

Project Vote Smart | www.VoteSmart.org

Project Vote Smart, a national non-partisan research organization, tracks the job performances of more than 40,000 candidates and incumbents at the presidential, congressional, gubernatorial and state legislative levels, and provides the information at www.VoteSmart.org and over the toll-free Voter's Research Hotline (1-888-VOTE SMART/1-888-868-3762), which also serves as a help line. Through its Voter's Self-Defense System, you can compare what your representatives said during the campaign with how they actually voted on the record; access biographical and contact information; view the results of candidates' responses on issue positions; evaluate their special interest group ratings; read their public statements; and review their campaign finances.

White House Commission on Remembrance | www.Remember.gov

This independent, non-partisan government agency was established by Congress to promote the values of Memorial Day by acts of remembrance throughout the year. The Commission seeks to provide a sense of history to our citizens ensuring younger generations understand the sacrifices made to preserve our liberties. The major initiative of the Commission is the National Moment of Remembrance. Each year at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, Americans unite in a National Moment of Remembrance, which honors America's fallen and their families. During this Moment, 200 Amtrak trains blast their whistles, approximately 500,000 major league baseball fans are joined in silence, and countless other participants make a vow to remember.

AWARDS

Club

A \$50 award will be given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective **Public Issues Community Service Collaboration Program**. The award is based on narrative reports. State chairmen should forward their state's winning entry to the national GFWC Public Issues Community Service Collaboration Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.

A \$50 award will be given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective **Public Issues Community Service Partnership Program**. The award is based on narrative reports. State chairmen should forward their state's winning entry to the national GFWC Public Issues Community Service Partnership Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.

State

GFWC awards will be presented annually to one state federation in each GFWC membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in both the **Public Issues Community Service Collaboration Program** and the **Public Issues Community Service Partnership Program**.

Contests

Please see the Contests section of the *GFWC Club Manual*.

Grants

There are no grants currently offered through the GFWC Public Affairs Outreach Community Service Program area at this time. Please subscribe to GFWC's *News & Notes* at www.GFWC.org to receive updated information regarding grants and other member benefits.