



Citizenship in Action Program

OBJECTIVE:
Educate members and others about the importance of active citizenship, and encourage participation in related activities

ACTION PLAN

VETERANS AFFAIRS

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

- o 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.
- o Honor local servicewomen, women military leaders, and women veterans. Provide support for these women in the community.
- o Sponsor WIMSA registration drives at the club, district, or state level. Although two million women have served, only 15 percent are registered. (See Resources)
- o Encourage the governor, mayor, or city council to proclaim the week preceding Veterans' Day as "Women Veterans Recognition Week."
- o 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.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- o Assist with the cataloging of monuments at national cemeteries.
- o 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. (See Resources)
- o Conduct projects that recognize and honor all veterans.
- o Support and create ways to observe the National Day of Remembrance. Promote the Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day each year. (See Resources)
- o Encourage young veterans to join the Veterans Association. (See Resources)

SEW MUCH COMFORT

Sew Much Comfort fills the adaptive clothing need for veterans with special medical devices and situations. Volunteers design, create, and deliver clothing that provides service members with comfort and helps them maintain their dignity.

- o Investigate Sew Much Comfort's website at www.SewMuchComfort.org for information.
- o Consider club participation as seamstresses; request an informational packet online.
- o Support Sew Much Comfort with monetary donations.



GFWC HAS SUPPORTED THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SINCE ITS INCEPTION. *Our clubs worked to raise funds for the memorial, and recognizing the contributions of women veterans and other service people continues to be a GFWC priority.*





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SUPPORTING MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- o Collect and send coupons to military families overseas. When received, volunteers onsite sort and distribute. Note that military commissaries will redeem coupons up to six months after they have expired. Visit <http://couponing.about.com/blexp.htm>.
- o Support Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit group that builds specially adapted homes for disabled veterans. Visit www.HomesForOurTroops.org
- o Support Fisher House, a home that helps family members to be close to loved ones during hospitalization for an illness, disease, or injury. Visit www.FisherHouse.org.
- o Investigate the 10 in 10 Project developed by the Brain Injury Association. Visit www.10in10Project.org.

CITIZENSHIP PARTICIPATION

- o VOTE and encourage others to do the same.
- o Invite candidates to speak at club meetings or organize a community forum, making sure all candidates are included. Use the GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Program resources as a further guide.
- o Encourage qualified women to seek elected or appointed office. GFWC members can use leadership experience gained through GFWC activities to become effective legislators.
- o Urge members to become registrars, work at the polls, and give rides to voters in need.
- o Consider running for public office.
- o Encourage schools to engage future voters, our youth, with innovative programs on elections and the legislative process. Encourage young people to vote.
- o Encourage young people to take active roles in community decisions, including urging students to sit on school boards.
- o Investigate what you should expect from judicial candidates. Visit www.ABANet.org.
- o Work with the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political membership organization that encourages informed, active participation of citizens in government. Visit www.LWV.org.
- o Investigate Liberty Day, a nonpartisan grassroots celebration of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Visit www.LibertyDay.org
- o Celebrate the National Anthem Project, the campaign to get America singing “The Star Spangled Banner” while spotlighting the important role music education plays. Visit www.TheNationalAnthemProject.org.
- o Celebrate International Human Rights Day, December 10. Visit www.UN.org for information.
- o Help someone study for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Visit www.USCitizenship.org for more information.
- o Investigate and support The White House Project which is dedicated to advancing women’s leadership by enhancing public perceptions of women’s capacity to lead and fostering the entry of women into positions of leadership. Visit www.TheWhiteHouseProject.org.





Citizenship in Action Program

RESOURCES

BY THE PEOPLE

MacNeil/Lehrer Productions | 2700 S. Quincy ST, STE 250 | Arlington, VA 22206

P: 703/998-2810 | Fax: 703/998-5707

Contact: Anne Bell, Associate Producer | E: abell@newshour.org

By the People is a national conversation about America in the world. Communities across the country have the opportunity to “weigh in” on critical foreign policy issues facing the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

810 Vermont AVE NW | Washington, DC 20420

P: 202/273-8952 | F: 202/273-9040 | W: www.VA.gov/Volunteer

Contact: Laura Balun, Director Voluntary Service

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.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

5510 Columbia Pike, STE 302 | Arlington, VA 22204

P: 703/533-1155 | P: 1800/222-2294 | F: 703/931-4208

E-mail: hg@womensmemorial.org | W: www.WomensMemorial.org

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.

WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

1750 New York AVE NW | Washington, DC 20006

P: 202/783-4665 | F: 202/783-1168 | E: remembrance@ngl.org

Contact: Carmella LaSpada, White House Liaison and Executive Director White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance

AWARDS

CLUB

A \$50 award is given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective Citizenship in Action Program. The award is based on narrative reports. State GFWC Citizenship in Action Program Chairman should forward the winning state entry to the national GFWC Citizenship in Action Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.





Citizenship in Action Program

STATE

GFWC certificates are awarded to one state federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in the GFWC Citizenship in Action Program. Award presentations are made annually in honor of junior and general membership participation.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

WIMSA will award certificates of appreciation in 2010 to those states that have done outstanding work with the Foundation from 2008-2010 in honor of junior and general participation.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs will award certificates of appreciation in 2010 to those states that have done outstanding work with the Department of Veterans Affairs from 2008-2010 in honor of junior and general participation.

