



# Jennie Award

## OBJECTIVE:

Spotlight one clubwoman from each region who has been judged on club, state, region, and national levels for her outstanding performance as a volunteer within her club, community, and family

## ACTION PLAN

During the 2004-2006 administration, the Federation awarded the first GFWC Jennie Award to one clubwoman from each of GFWC's eight regions. These women were chosen by their clubs, states, regions, and a national GFWC Jennie Award Committee at GFWC Headquarters for their outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. The award is named in honor of Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC's founder.

Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. It is the highest honor bestowed by GFWC.

## CONTEST RULES

- o Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria articulated in this outline.
- o Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- o Clubs must complete and submit the official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form along with a maximum 500-word written narrative. Narratives should include descriptions of the nominee's:
  - Club activities
  - Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional
  - Commitment to her nuclear or extended family
- o Clubs must submit the following supportive materials along with nomination form and narrative:
  - Photograph of nominee (no larger than 5 x 7 inches)
  - Clips of two-three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name)
  - Letter of endorsement from club president
  - Letter of endorsement from a representative of another organization
- o Nomination forms and supporting materials, including photographs, will not be returned.
- o Club nominations must be submitted to the state president postmarked by June 15, 2009, for state-level judging.
- o State nominations (one per state) must be submitted to region presidents postmarked by Aug. 15, 2009, for region-level judging. States will notify the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman regarding the names of those persons being forwarded to the regions.



**"AS I REMEMBER MY SISTER IN EARLY LIFE, THE SUNNINESS OF HER NATURE IS THE FIRST AND PREVAILING CHARACTERISTIC THAT I CALL TO MIND; a spirit of indomitable independence, courage and persistence in purpose characterized her from childhood. She must think her own thoughts, and mark out and follow her own path."** John Cunningham, brother of Jane Cunningham Croly, 1904





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- o Region nominations (two per region) must be submitted to the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman, postmarked by Dec. 15, 2009, for initial judging. These entries will be forwarded to GFWC Headquarters where they will be judged by the GFWC International President and GFWC Executive Director.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS GUIDELINES FOR THE JENNIE AWARD

While it is important for the Federation to honor its own with the GFWC Jennie Award, it is also important to view this award for its potential public relations impact on the club, state, region, and national levels. Here are some suggestions for each stage during the 2008-2010 administration:

### CLUB

When a club is ready to submit its narrative describing a nominee's qualifications in June 2009, it should send a news release or article about the person to local television, radio stations, and newspapers. Clubs might also consider having a ceremony during a club meeting and inviting a reporter to cover the event, or sending a photo and caption of the session to local newspapers.

### STATE

State presidents should appoint a state GFWC Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process. State presidents or chairmen who receive multiple entries for review should consider forming an outside panel of judges (comprised of such leading citizens as reporters, teachers, clergy, and business people) to assist in selecting the single state nominee. This stage offers an opportunity to honor all nominees, either at a state meeting in August/September 2009, or at some other meeting, where each finalist is awarded a special certificate. Reporters could be invited to cover the event, or a photo and caption should be sent to local papers.

### REGION

Upon receiving the state nominations, the region president might also want to call on a committee of outside judges to help select the two nominees whose names will be forwarded to the national level. As suggested for the states, the region president should consider planning an event to which she can invite press to interview all the nominees or just the two whose names are going forward. (Reminder: entries to Headquarters must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2009). GFWC will prepare certificates for the 16 region finalists and will list their names in a future issue of *GFWC Clubwoman* magazine.

### NATIONAL

At the time of the awards ceremony during the GFWC Annual International Convention in June 2010 (which all eight national honorees are required to attend), a news release will be issued by GFWC to major U.S. newspapers as well as to media in the states, cities, and regions of all eight honorees. Clubs, state federations, and regions that have winners also should take the opportunity to inform the press about their nominees. Club PR chairmen should notify officials and organizations (mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, etc.) on the local level and arrange photo sessions if their GFWC Jennie Award nominee is a medal recipient.





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## JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria (nomination form on next page):

### COMMITMENT TO CLUB

The nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement not only in terms of her club's volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her activity to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteering. She should be kind, loyal, and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment to GFWC should be continuous, rather than a one-time activity.

### COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g. schools, hospitals, an elected/appointed position, scouts, etc.) and/or through the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteering.

### COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising her grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The definition of a family member may include persons who are older or younger than the nominee. It may include nuclear as well as extended family members. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the well-being, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an ongoing basis, separate and apart from club and community work.

Each of the eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded:

- o Roundtrip transportation to attend the 2010 GFWC Annual International Convention in Omaha, Neb.
- o A Medal of Honor and a special certificate presented by the International President and GFWC Jennie Award Chairman at the 2010 GFWC Annual International Convention.





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## GFWC JENNIE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please attach a narrative of a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced using a 12-point font and 1 inch margins on all four sides.

**1. NOMINEE** (please note that nominee must attend the 2010 GFWC Annual International Convention if selected as a national award winner)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ State Federation \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. CLUB ACTIVITIES

Name of project(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Duration of involvement with project(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Results, if any \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. RECORD OF CLUB LEADERSHIP

What year did nominee join club \_\_\_\_\_ Positions held \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. NON-CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE

Name of organization(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individuals with whom nominee works \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Names of nuclear and/or extended family members \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of individuals \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. NOMINATOR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUBS:** Submit completed nomination form, narrative, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials postmarked by June 15, 2009, to your state president. (Please note: materials will NOT be returned).

**Questions? Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman.**

