

Monday @ a Glance

Today might be the last day of Convention, but it's still packed full of great sessions! Start the morning with a second set of **Workshops**, again with content that you asked for!

At 10:15 a.m., join the last business session of this Convention and hear **Stephen Powell**, executive director of Mentoring USA, share the power and potential of mentoring. We'll also hear from the **GFWC Region presidents**, who will let us know what's in store for the fall conferences.

The session ends with an invitation to Omaha in 2010 (you'll all be there, right?) and a drawing for the winner of our **GFWC Exhibit Hall Browsing Bingo** game.

The final session of this Convention was created especially to recognize the hard work and dedication of the members and clubs who make GFWC such an amazing organization. The **Celebration of Service** awards luncheon will be our grand finale, and a fitting end to this successful Convention.

Thank you for sharing this Cleveland experience, and the Vision of Possibilities for GFWC!

GFWC's Women's History and Resource Center Celebrates 25 Years!

Don't forget to stop by the GFWC Member Center to see a display celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Women's History and Resource Center. This is also a great time to become a Friend of the WHRC--the 25th anniversary pin for Friends is lovely and available at the GFWC Marketplace.

GFWC celebrated earlier this year with a reception highlighting our special relationship with *Good Housekeeping* magazine, and now GFWC members can take advantage of this relationship by getting a discounted subscription rate. For more information, see the June + July 2009 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, being distributed here in Cleveland.

To make sure club members can begin and maintain preservation projects in their communities, we've developed a new WHRC brochure and a new timeline for the Federation. We also have a new rack card, which we're using to promote GFWC Headquarters as a historic site and museum for visitors.

A Vision of Possibilities

Celebrating Our Successes

As clubwomen, we dedicate ourselves to improving communities for a variety of shared and individual reasons, but receiving personal accolades is rarely the motivation.

Rather, the thanks and gratitude offered by neighbors, friends, and recipients of our hard work sometimes feels awkward--we're doing things because we care, and we want the attention to be focused on the project and the people it is serving!

Yet it is vital that we take time to recognize and celebrate our successes. It is integral to proving our impact to potential members and funders, keeping us motivated, and demonstrating the power of volunteer service. Although we don't seek pats on the back, we often deserve and should get used to accepting them!

For this reason, I am thrilled that our Convention will end on a very high note--a full-scale Celebration of Service, where all of our awards will be given at once. The magnitude of what we have accomplished on behalf of our communities will amaze you!

Thank you for sharing this Convention and this Celebration. I hope you have been inspired, informed, and encouraged, and that you will take your own vision of possibilities home to your GFWC club.

Yes, we can do it!



Rose



Use GFWC's Publicity Toolkit to Drum Up Some Local Exposure!

Don't forget to take your Convention experience home with you and share the visions of possibilities you've gained by publicizing your Convention attendance.

Use our toolkit to write your own press release and reach out to media, members, and your community to share the insights you have gained in Cleveland!

If you or your club won an award, look for sample press releases to help share the good news in your community!

Visit www.GFWC.org/PRToolkit.

Making Volunteer Service a Family Affair

Whether you realize it or not, GFWC is already an organization geared toward family volunteering. Rare is the husband, child, or friend who isn't recruited into service by the GFWC clubwoman in their life!

Family volunteering is an essential concept for developing strong family relationships and transitioning values and experiences to the next generation of volunteers.

A 2003 report by the Points of Light Foundation found that family volunteering brings the family closer together, strengthens value systems, and builds extended relationships, both youth-to-youth and youth-to-adult.

Mentors Make a Difference

According to Matilda Raffa Cuomo, former first lady of New York and the founder of Mentoring USA, "the three pillars of support for children are the home, the school and the community."

Do you remember someone special who encouraged you to believe in yourself, to try your best? Either a parent, a favorite teacher, or a friend, the mentor made a profound difference in your life. What better way to replay that kindness than to volunteer to be a mentor to a child in need of individual attention and guidance.

Many of today's children are confronted with poverty, substance abuse, social pressures, and separated families. Many lack the encouragement and support to envision positive alternatives. Many are at risk of dropping out of school, or lack the academic skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty. All these children need role models to make them feel special, to complete their education and to reach their full potential. When you become a mentor, you help to make a real difference in a young person's life and give them hope for the future.

Take Convention Home!

You can leave your heart in Cleveland, but make sure you take Convention back to your hometown! Look at what you'll find online at www.GFWC.org/2009Convention.

PICTURES from throughout Convention will be available for viewing and purchasing for six months!

HANDOUTS from all of our workshops can be viewed and downloaded, so you can create local programs based on what you learned at Convention!

GFWC ITEMS that you saw and loved in the Marketplace will still be available for purchase, but you won't have to carry them home!

Get home safely, then get online to keep the Convention spirit alive!

Looking to Omaha

The average June temperature in Omaha, Nebraska, is 77 degrees Fahrenheit. If that isn't reason enough to plan to attend the GFWC 119th Annual International Convention in 2010, here are some additional motivations.

Nestled along the Missouri River in the center of the United States, Omaha's offers a unique brand of adventure. Get lost in the world's largest indoor rainforest and play with a giant Gravitron. Explore the city's ever-changing cultural landscape and unleash your inner artist. Savor legendary Omaha steak and watch as history comes to life.

Raisin Bran, TV dinners, and Fred Astaire were all born in Omaha! Make plans now to attend another great GFWC Convention in another great GFWC town!

Circle the GFWC-related words below in the puzzle at right.

- CHARTER
- CLEVELAND
- CLUBWOMEN
- COMMUNITY
- CONSTITUTION
- CONVENTION
- CROLY
- FEDERATION
- MENTORING
- PASSION
- RESOLUTIONS
- ROSEDDITTO
- VOLUNTEERING
- WOMANCLUB
- WOMENSHISTORY

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand. Woodrow Wilson

Post-Convention Priorities

Now that you've had a great time in Cleveland, you get to take home the excitement and spirit of Convention to your state and club. Here are some ways to spread the Convention-al wisdom!

- Reach out to the new friends and old acquaintances you connected with in Cleveland. Send an e-mail, link to them on Facebook, or make plans to visit again at your Region Conference this fall. These relationships are vital and need to be maintained!
- Take the materials you received in your workshops and other sessions back to your club; there may be topics or speakers that you want to hear more about.
- Get in touch with the GFWC officers and speakers who have asked you for your feedback. Let them know what you think, about Convention and GFWC's ongoing programming and outreach, or whatever you have on your mind. Your input is what helps GFWC grow stronger!
- If you aren't already a member of GFWC's social network, get online and start connecting! Join us on Facebook and Twitter, add your photos



to our Flickr site, and keep sending your club news and images to us via our website.

- Log on to visit the official GFWC volunteers blog at www.ImAClubwoman.org. You'll get to "meet" even more members!
- Spend some time reading about the GFWC Passion Project (www.GFWC-PassionProject.org) and start searching for your passion. Then share it with us!

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Go online to complete our post-Convention evaluation. Tell us what you loved, what you hated, what could've been better, and what you wish we'd had. From programming highs and temperature lows, we want to hear your thoughts on this year's Convention experience. Find the survey at www.GFWC.org/2009Convention.

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