



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GFWC Sisters:

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I welcome each of you to the 2016-2018 GFWC Administration. I am truly honored, privileged, and extremely humbled by the reality that I am serving as your 51st GFWC International President. In this great country and organization, we have much to be grateful for. We have a rich and storied history of success and achievement which our talented members, leaders, and staff can build upon. And as I have previously stated, "If We Build It, They Will Come." From this statement, you can see Membership Recruitment and Retention (both members and clubs) will be a major focus of this administration as well as our commitment and passion for Legislative Issues and Advocacy.



We must be committed to increasing advocacy in all facets of our GFWC programming as we try to return to our roots and our strength of advocating for legislative initiatives—this was the call to action and unifying force for our members in the past and we need to revisit what our organization was founded on—our resolutions and our passion for positive change in our communities through our members' support for passage of timely and critical legislation.

I believe the strength of this organization is in its members and clubs and the incredible work they accomplish in their individual communities every day. For over 126 years, the belief in our mission and our dedication to community improvement has never wavered or changed. We know there is strength in belonging to a national organization, where accomplishments can be shared with and duplicated by others, and the good work that we do can be multiplied by the number of clubs and members throughout our great country. Our accomplishments have received far too little recognition in recent times. But we are working on it! And it is beginning to change!

Thank you for placing your trust in me and affording me this incredible opportunity to serve as your 2016-2018 GFWC International President. We are indeed all unified by our diversity and whether you are a Woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniorette, or International Affiliate Club member, we are all GFWC. Together, we are an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. We are GFWC, *Living the Volunteer Spirit* each and every day in our communities throughout the world. Together, we can build the organization so others will want to join us. We have a story to tell and we should shout it from every rooftop. We should be extremely proud of our membership in this organization, which has made such a significant impact in the global community over so many years. We have celebrated 126 years of service and yet, We Have Only Just Begun! Together we can accomplish great things as members of this great and strong women's organization GFWC. Please join me in making this vision a reality for all our members, clubs, state federations, regions, and GFWC!

Forever *Living the Volunteer Spirit* Through GFWC,

Sheila

SHEILA E. SHEA
2016-2018 GFWC International President