

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 19, 2016



## Legislation in Action: GFWC Members Advocate for Change

Becky Weber, GFWC's Legislation and Public Policy Chairman, and Tina Estopare, a member of the **GFWC Plainfield Junior Woman's Club** (Illinois) recently had the opportunity to testify in front of a subcommittee in the Illinois General Assembly in support of Stephanie's Law (Illinois SB 2201.)

This bill will require a person charged with battery to register under the Sex Offender Registration Act when the court finds that the battery was sexually motivated, as defined in the Sex Offender Management Board Act.

The current system is enabling these perpetrators to molest without any severe consequences. Stephanie's Law will close the loophole in Illinois legislation that allows sexual predators to literally "erase" their offense from the criminal record.

Tina Estopare has been working tirelessly for over two years to support this bill. In 2011, her 15-year-old daughter was sexually molested by a neighbor as she was babysitting his



GFWC — an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service

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two-year-old son. He was charged with battery and sentenced to the maximum penalty for that crime. In the state of Illinois, battery is not listed as a sex offense, so he did not have to register as a sex offender. He was able to bypass the system that is in place at schools that checks names against the Illinois Sex Offender Registry.

The Illinois Senate Criminal Law Committee recently decided to leave the bill in committee and work on the language, so it is not dead! When GFWC members work together to make changes that protect our women and children, nothing is impossible.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Stephanie's Law. If you have a story to share about your club or state's grassroots legislative efforts, please email [programs@gfwc.org](mailto:programs@gfwc.org).

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## Partner Spotlight: Sew Much Comfort



*Sewing Our Support for the Troops® Since 2004*

The **Providence Women's Club of Madison** (Alabama) is hosting the April Fool's Chips for Charity Fundraiser on April 1 from 6-10 p.m. **Sew Much Comfort** is grateful to again be a recipient from this

fundraiser. If you live in or near Huntsville, Alabama, please consider participating. You can order tickets at: [realestaterow.com/events](http://realestaterow.com/events).

This is the fourth fundraiser the Providence Women's Club of Madison has held for Sew Much Comfort. The previous three fundraisers have raised an amazing \$17,930.00. The wonderful ladies of The Providence Women's Club of Madison are awesome and Sew Much Comfort truly appreciates all their dedication, hard work, and commitment. Thank you for helping Sew Much Comfort to "honor, remember, and support" our wounded service members as they recover from their injuries and transition back into their communities.

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Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at [kgarlick@gfwc.org](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org) and you're all set!

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## Sad News

It is with great sadness and very heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary Davis, the mother of GFWC Parliamentarian Barbara Whitaker. Mary served as GFWC Ohio Director of Junior



## Congratulations to the Grand Bahama American Women's Club!

Recently, GFWC International Affiliates Chairman Elaine Ko-Talmadge, along with International Affiliates Committee Member Mary Kaye Ernest, had the opportunity to visit the Bahamas, where they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the **Grand Bahama American Women's Club**. Elaine shares this report from her trip:

On March 8, we flew from Atlanta to Freeport on the island of Grand Bahama. We were greeted by Jo Morasco, the club's president, and Joy Larsen, Program Chairman. Later that day, we met the club's Executive Board for beverages at Pelican Bay. The next day brought a delicious lunch and a beautiful tour of Garden of The Groves, a botanical garden complete with waterfalls, birds, flora, and a greenhouse.

Over 60 guests gathered on the evening of March 9 to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. We enjoyed a delicious buffet and dancing at Taino Beach. The highlight of the event was the presentation of a letter and proclamation from GFWC International President Babs J. Condon. Each member also received a gift, and the club recognized Virginia Mosvold, its founding member and first president.

The day after the celebration, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Old Bahama Bay, surrounded by colorful oceanfront houses. We were amazed at the huge container port, the oil rigs out in the sea, and cruise facilities, but were saddened at the devastation that hurricanes bring to the island.

Clubs from 1956-1958 and as GFWC Ohio President from 1978-1980. She was an outstanding leader in GFWC, serving for many years at the state and national level. Mary was a recipient of the Jennie Award, the highest recognition an individual clubwoman can receive. Our sympathy goes out to Barbara and her family. GFWC Ohio has lost an inspiring and dedicated volunteer and leader. Funeral services were held on March 18 in Nelsonville, Ohio. Please [click here](#) to read Mary's obituary.

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## Women's History Month Fun Fact

GFWC has made a large impact in shaping the history of the United States. Celebrate all of GFWC's accomplishments and mark Women's History Month by sharing this fun fact on Facebook and at your next club meeting! Did you know that GFWC was instrumental in the passing of child labor laws? In 1898, GFWC unanimously passed a resolution against child labor. With the help of clubwoman Jane Addams (1860-1935), child labor became a major area of concern for the Federation. In 1901, Addams headed the Federation's Child Labor Committee to work for the maintenance and improvement of child labor laws.

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We are so grateful that we had the opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion with the Grand Bahama American Woman's Club.

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## GFWC Strategic Plan: Special Projects and Community Service Programs

GFWC aims to provide diverse Special Projects and Community Service Programs for its members. The Strategic Plan encourages member clubs to implement projects based on respective community needs. Five strategies are listed to achieve this objective:

- Provide guidance for the attainment of assessment tools to assist member clubs with evaluating community needs
- Focus on positive outcomes and community impact
- Measure the value of, impact of, and recognition garnered
- Recognize and reward community impact and project creativity
- Continually update The GFWC Club Manual in digital format

[Click here](#) to read the GFWC Strategic Plan to gain an understanding of how GFWC is planning for the future.

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## Heifer Hope Award Nominations due May 15



Heifer International presented the Heifer Hope Award for the first time at the 2015 GFWC Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee to Carol Spiker of GFWC California. And, like the amazing woman this

award is named after, Carol empowered the women around her to work toward a more hopeful world and went above and beyond to further the mission of Heifer International.

## A Look Back at GFWC Directors of Junior Clubs

Starting with Charlotte Emerson Brown and ending with current GFWC President Babs J. Condon, GFWC's 50 Past International Presidents were spotlighted on Facebook last spring leading up to the 2015 GFWC Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. We hope you enjoyed this journey through GFWC's history! This year, GFWC is excited to announce that we will soon begin spotlighting Past Directors of Junior Clubs as the countdown to Convention draws closer. Stay tuned to the [GFWC Facebook Page](#) for this inspiring look at all Past GFWC Directors of Junior Clubs!

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## Call to Convention Now Available Online!

The March+April edition of *Clubwoman Magazine*, featuring all the information you could need about the 2016 GFWC Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, is on its way! While you're waiting for your copy to arrive, check out the complete *Call to Convention*, now available on GFWC.org. The *Call* features Convention details such as transportation, tours, daily activities, a preliminary awards schedule, and a full agenda. [Click here](#) to download the *Call*.

If you're not subscribed to *Clubwoman Magazine* yet, be sure to do so today! [Click here](#) to subscribe. Follow this link to download the *Call to Convention*: <http://bit.ly/1Z9NHyo>.

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The Heifer Hope Award is named after Linda Dennis, who was a member of many clubs during her almost thirty years in GFWC. While President of GFWC Florida from 2008-2010, Linda led the women in her state to gift an enormous amount of "hope" to families in need through Heifer International.

Heifer International will be presenting the Heifer Hope Award at the 2016 GFWC Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Please send a one-page nomination letter that includes your name and contact information, as well as the name and contact information for your nominee, by May 15 to the attention of Asmi Patel at [gfwc@heifer.org](mailto:gfwc@heifer.org) or 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202.

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## Take Action: Tell Congress to Honor Female Veterans Like Elaine!

Elaine Harmon, a Women's Airforce Service Pilot who served during World War II, left handwritten instructions detailing her wish to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Elaine passed away last year, and her request was denied. Elaine's ashes are now being stored in her granddaughter's closet. Learn more about Elaine by reading [this Washington Post article](#) and watching [this video](#) from CBS News.

Elaine is one of the 1,102 women who were trained in Texas and went on to fly non-combat military missions so that all their male counterparts could be deployed to combat. These women piloted every kind of military aircraft, and logged 60 million miles flying missions across the United States. They

## Calling All Club Websites!

Does your club have a website? Is it listed on [GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org)? We strive to include every club's website, so please [click here](#) to check! If your club's website isn't listed, please email your club name and the website URL to GFWC Communications and Public Relations Director Michelle Furman at [mfurman@gfwc.org](mailto:mfurman@gfwc.org).

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## Visit Headquarters during the Cherry Blossom Festival!

Spring is a beautiful time to visit Washington, D.C., especially with the [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#) taking place from March 20-April 17. But no visit to our Nation's Capital is complete without a tour of GFWC Headquarters! This year, GFWC is proud to once again invite clubwomen and guests who are visiting D.C. during this wonderful season to visit Headquarters. So if you are planning to be in D.C., reach out and make plans to visit 1734 N Street! The doors are always open to our members. Please email [gfwc@gfwc.org](mailto:gfwc@gfwc.org) to let us know the date and time you

were never awarded full military status and were ineligible for officer status. Following the war, the women pilots paid their own way home. And for the 38 women who died in the line of duty, their families were saddled with the costs to transport their bodies and arrange burials.

Tell Congress to honor Elaine and other female WWII vets by reinstating WASP Inurnment Rights. [Click here](#) to take action at the GFWC Legislative Action Center.

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## From Donna Shibley, GFWC Fundraising Chairman

Fundraisers fall into three categories. Know your club members to find the type of fundraiser that fits the strengths of your group.

**Events:** Includes food/dessert/beverages, a program/entertainment (e.g., award banquets, style shows, silent auctions, competitive/sporting events, walkathons, Bunco/Bingo games.)

**Sales:** Items produced/sold by club members, merchandise/food sold by club members, merchandise sold in partnership with a fundraising product company such as candy, nuts, flowers, gift wrap.

**Direct Soliciting:** Capital campaign to gathering funds to purchase/ renovate/maintain a clubhouse, business partnerships (e.g., working with local restaurants/car washes on a special day where a portion of the proceeds benefits your club's project.)

The **two** most important aspects of fundraising include:

**Planning:** Successful fundraising requires planning, followed by execution of that plan. Good planning requires a willingness on the part of the entire club, leaders, and members, to be as open, accountable, and professional as possible during the fundraising process.

**Asking:** This is the most difficult step, because most people do not like to ask—or be asked—for donations of money. Club leaders should recognize that directly asking for funds is

would like to visit.

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## In The News

Like GFWC clubs across the country, The **GFWC Carrizozo Woman's Club** (New Mexico) was instrumental in the development of the local community. Some highlights from the club's history include advocating for child labor laws in Santa Fe in the 1920s, helping to establish the town's library, and having the club's building added to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Read more about the club's fascinating history [in this article](#).

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uncomfortable for some members. There are other jobs that may be more appropriate for those members. Fundraising is a team effort.

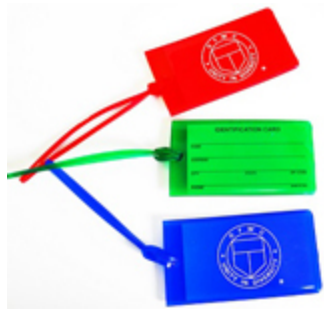
And the **one** most important fundraising fact:

***Relationship building*** is the one foundation on which most fundraising and development takes place. People give money to people!

**Remember:** Establishing a Fundraising plan will help sustain the financial security and integrity of your club, State, and Region as well as our Federation.

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## Marketplace: GFWC Luggage Tags



Spot your luggage coming down the conveyor belt with these bright GFWC luggage tags. Attention-getting soft vinyl tag features a matching strap—just thread around your luggage handle and off you go! Durable, seamless construction can withstand some rough

handling in the cargo hold. Stock ID card is included, but the slot also fits a standard business card. Available for \$3 each in red, green, or blue at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

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