

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - May 11, 2017



GFWC Celebrates Mother's Day

Did you know that the history of Mother's Day includes a member of GFWC? Long before Mother's Day became an official holiday, Julia Ward Howe, a social activist, leader of the New England Woman's Club of Boston, and the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," called for the creation of the holiday. In 1870, during the aftermath of the Civil War, Howe wrote a Mother's Day proclamation as a call for peace.

Unfortunately, it took an additional 44 years and the unrelenting efforts of another social activist, Anna Jarvis, for the crusade to accomplish its goal. Mother's Day became a national holiday in 1914 during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. President Wilson's declaration called on Americans "to show the flag to honor those mothers whose sons had died in war."

This year, children across the country will continue the tradition by thanking their mothers in a myriad of ways. On Sunday, mothers will receive phone calls, flowers, and

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

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homemade art projects as their children show their appreciation.

If you are still searching for the perfect gift for your mother, take the advice of author and speaker Mary Lou Sanelli who will be a featured presenter at the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention. As a Mother's Day treat for clubwomen, Mary Lou has written a blog post eloquently expressing her ideas on this day dedicated to the most important women in all our lives. [Click here to read Mary Lou's blog post and get an advanced peek at the outstanding work of our Convention speaker.](#)

Keeping Club Members Motivated

By GFWC Membership Committee Member Nancy Burdick

There are moments in every club's development when some of its members lose motivation and consider leaving. Retaining current members can be just as difficult and important as attracting new members. Here are a few ideas on how your club can persuade members to stay:

Set a good example. A positive attitude is contagious. If club leaders foster an enthusiastic and supportive atmosphere, club members will feel encouraged to participate. Club members will share their ideas and in turn remain committed clubwomen well into the future.

Be open to change. At your next club meeting, give every member the opportunity to anonymously submit changes that they would like to see in the club. This activity will show members that you care about their opinions and are willing to make adjustments to ensure their happiness. Implement as many of the changes as possible and monitor the responses of members.

Make sure members share in the club's success.

Recognize clubwomen with quality project ideas and members that go above and beyond in their service. Celebrate achievements with the entire club and get everyone

our partners, and our work on a national and local scale.

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Best Wishes Rosemary Thomas!

GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea, the Executive Committee, and GFWC staff wish Chief Operating Officer Dr. Rosemary M. Thomas continued success as she departs her leadership role at GFWC. Rosemary will be leaving May 15 to become the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Institutional Advancement at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia. Rosemary has served as COO of GFWC since June 30, 2014 and made substantial and positive changes in our organization. From oversight of the Campaign for the Future and Annual Conventions to strengthening communication with clubwomen, Rosemary's contributions will have a lasting impact on GFWC.

We congratulate Rosemary on her new position and thank her for three years of dedicated and distinguished service to GFWC.

involved. GFWC offers certificates, pins, and awards to acknowledge outstanding clubwomen.

Add variety. Part of keeping a member's interest includes doing more than routine meetings. Have members brainstorm activities and events they would like to organize and projects they are interested in supporting. Have fun while bonding as clubwomen by visiting a museum, participating in a craft fair, or attending a concert.

Reach out. Take notice of members who have become inactive. Assign a clubwoman to contact them either by phone or with a personal visit to tell them of recent activities and invite them to the next meeting.

These are just a few steps your club can take to keep members and remain a strong presence in your community. Start thinking outside the box and you are certain to find even more ways to retain and attract members!

GFWC West Virginia Is Feeding the Future

Every child deserves to have their most basic needs met. However, according to the West Virginia Department of Education many of the state's children are at risk of being tragically undernourished. In fact, sixty percent of the state's school-aged children qualify for free or reduced price meals. That is more than 173,000 children whose family's income is below or nearly below the federal poverty level.

Thankfully, government funding and programs supply low-income, school-aged children with breakfast and lunch on the days they attend class. What the government does not do is provide adequate nutrition on weekends and holidays. GFWC West Virginia President Sharon Sheridan and Director of Junior Clubs Sarah Jarrett are working to fill the gaps left by government meal programs with their joint Special Project "Feeding the Future".

"Feeding the Future" is the overarching theme of GFWC West Virginia's many efforts to provide children with meals and snacks during school breaks. Thirteen clubs operate their own

Cares & Concerns

We send our belated condolences to the friends and family of GFWC of Louisiana Past President [Lenore Shoemake](#). Mrs. Shoemake passed away on December 27, 2016. She will be greatly missed by her Federation Sisters, the students she taught during her 30 year career as an educator, and by members of the many other humanitarian organizations to which she belonged.

Please keep GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs Deidra DeVore and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this time. Deidra's mother, [Sandra DeVore](#), passed away on May 9. Funeral services will be held Friday, May 12.

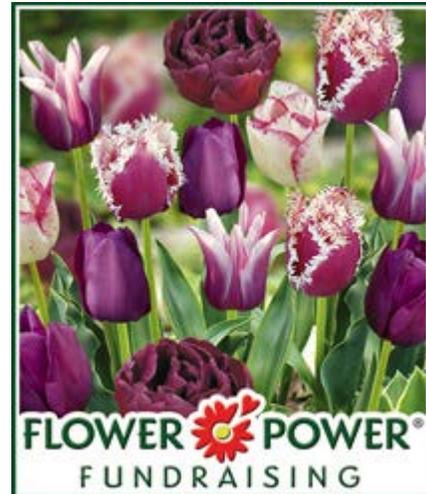
Get Ready for Convention with the GFWC App

With June just around the corner, it's time to make sure you are well-prepared for the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Springs, California. One way to get ready for this year's fun-filled Convention is to download the official GFWC App on your iPhone or Android phone. The app now lists important Convention information such as the agenda, sponsors, exhibitors, and more.

For instructions on how to download the app as well as an in-depth description of all the app's features, check www.GFWC.org/news/gfwc-app-launched.

Backpack or Brown Bag programs, while many others donate monetary contributions and their time to established charities within their communities. Forty-eight clubs have taken part in the Special Project since March 2016 allowing for the provision of an astounding 23,847 meals.

GFWC West Virginia clubwomen are clearly accomplishing their goal of alleviating the hunger of as many children as possible. They know that a child whose basic needs are met will have a happier and more productive future.



Every Superhero Needs a Cape

Elgin Junior Woman's Club (Illinois) is brightening the days of children fighting illness at the local hospital by creating superhero capes. The club hopes the superhero capes will give children the extra boost of strength and courage they need during their hospital stay. Clubwoman Courtney Meyer said the capes were easy to construct. In fact, 5 members of the Elgin Club assembled 9 capes during their two-hour meeting in April. Courtney advises checking with your local hospital prior to taking on the project as each hospital will have different guidelines on the types of donations they are prepared to accept.

If your local hospital is unable to accept superhero cape donations, consider supporting the Capes for Kids project at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent (Indiana) or

Be The Hero

There can not be an easier way to be the Hero and support your cause. Earn 50% profit and the bulbs get delivered directly to your supporters. They are 100% guaranteed, with no minimum order and no upfront cost required! Order your free sales supplies to start your door to door fundraiser or build your online campaign today!

Raise fantastic profits, all the while beautifying your community and rejuvenating Mother Earth.

Earn 50% profit from sales!

An extra 5% from every sale goes directly to GFWC to support national projects.

www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC
or call 1-888-833-1486.

another national program. Capes for Kids provides [directions for both sew and no-sew assembly of capes](#).

Gifts to Headquarters

Your 2017 Gifts to Headquarters donations are designated for upgrades to appliances and flooring. Contributions received earlier this year have allowed GFWC to purchase and install a new refrigerator and stand-up ice chest as well as complete a floor repair project in the President's Suite. We hope your continued support will enable us to make additional needed improvements to our historic Headquarters.

Gifts to Headquarters donations will be acknowledged at the Gala Banquet on Monday, June 26. Contributions received prior to and during Convention will be listed in the September/October issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. [Click here](#) to download the Gifts to Headquarters donation form. Donation forms will also be available during the Gala Banquet. For questions or assistance, please call GFWC Headquarters at 202-347-3168.



Partner Spotlight: March of Dimes

The partnership between March of Dimes and GFWC continues to blossom and grow through the years. March of Dimes is grateful that the team approach is effectively giving all babies the chance at a healthy start. March for Babies was

Rosies Kept America Running during World War II

Are you a Rosie? Rosies worked in factories and shipyards during WWII to make sure soldiers on the front lines were never short of vital warfighting equipment. Munitions, planes, tanks, and ships by the score were manufactured by American women. If you count yourself among these heroes, GFWC Headquarters would like to hear from you. We are in the process of writing a feature article for *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* that will recognize your invaluable contribution to the war effort. Please email pr@gfwc.org or call 202-347-3168 to tell us your story.

Help GFWC Tennessee Win a \$100,000 to Promote Literacy

GFWC Tennessee is looking to promote literacy by competing in Gannett's ACT (A Community Thrives) Grant Program. If they win, GFWC Tennessee clubwomen would use the \$100,000 grant to build Christmas trees constructed of children's book at hospitals throughout the state. **Help GFWC Tennessee win the grant so they can promote literacy! Visit <http://act.usatoday.com/submit-an-idea/#/gallery/60443919>, where you can vote for the project daily until May 12.** Share the link with your club members and encourage them to vote for this great cause.

a huge success with the assistance of GFWC clubwomen. Clubs across the country participated and the overall numbers were at a 50 percent year over year increase. Way to go GFWC! The March of Dimes is so proud of you.

March of Dimes offers GFWC members numerous ways to get involved in their communities including; volunteer opportunities, fundraising efforts, and advocacy initiatives which support the March of Dimes' mission. GFWC continues to be the March of Dimes longest-standing partner. From Polio to Prematurity, GFWC has been by the March of Dimes' side and they value the time and talent you share. Take pride in this worthwhile partnership and visit the March of Dimes booth at the 2017 Convention in Palm Springs, California this summer!



Marketplace: GFWC Address Labels

These [professional address labels](#) are full color and include GFWC's emblem. Premium quality address labels are perfect for any correspondence. You have the option of including your club name and title on the labels. Labels are .75" tall by 2.25" wide. Purchase in quantities of 144 for \$20, 288 for \$27, or 360 for \$35.

*Due to the customization required for this product, please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

**Shipping included in cost. Shipped separately via UPS, which does not ship to P.O. Boxes

Apply for the Easterseals Shelby P. Hamlett Award

GFWC clubs and states across the country are participating in Easterseals' campaign to provide services for children and adults with disabilities. To recognize the clubs' efforts from January to December 2016, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and Easterseals will bestow awards at the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in three categories: Enhancement of Awareness of EasterSeals Services, Fundraising Efforts for Easterseals, and Volunteer Service for Easterseals.

[Click here](#) to learn more and download the application. The deadline to apply is **May 19, 2017**.

In The News

Co-President of the **Wood River Woman's Club** (Illinois) **Cheryl Maguire** was recently elected mayor. While 130 years have passed since the first woman became a mayor in the United States, female mayors remain a rarity. Of the 100 largest U.S. cities, only 19 reported having women mayors as of December 2016. [Click here](#) to read how Cheryl overcame the odds and her advice for others who wish to enter politics.

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