

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - December 14, 2017



## GFWC Leaders Go to Washington

Last week, First Vice President Marian St.Clair, Secretary Suellen Brazil, and Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth met with congressional representatives on Capitol Hill to advocate for GFWC's legislative priorities. These discussions allowed our leaders to present the Federation's views on a variety of matters relevant to GFWC's Resolutions such as tax reform and the protection of abused women and children.

During the group's presentation, Marian St.Clair focused on two proposed tax reforms of particular interest to clubwomen. Namely, she expressed GFWC's support for the Universal Charitable Deduction and urged that current tax deductions for medical expenses remain in place. "It seems especially unjust when families are financially challenged through no fault of their own by medical expenses to take away deductions that can provide some relief. Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, and many other illnesses cause tremendous emotional and physical stress, and these families need our support," stated St.Clair.

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

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If you haven't yet subscribed to *News & Notes*, the best source for all things GFWC, what are you waiting for? Signing up is easy and gives you access to timely news items from around Headquarters, our partners, and our work on a national and local scale.

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Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth powerfully advocated for increased funding for programs that address domestic and sexual abuse. Federal support for these programs is needed to supply lifesaving emergency shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse treatment, and educational programming. "As a former educator on a college campus, I have seen firsthand the positive effects these programs can have on young women," voiced Frankfurth.

The main topic about which Suellen Brazil spoke was the negative impact firearms can have in domestic violence altercations. "The strengthening of background checks and passage of the Fix NICS Act of 2017 would significantly decrease the opportunity for an abuser to legally obtain a gun. How? By ensuring that state and local domestic violence protective orders are entered into the federal database. This would help address the deadly connection between domestic violence fatalities and an abuser's ability to access firearms," stated Brazil during the meetings.

Following their day in Washington, all three leaders praised the warm reception they received from congressional representatives and expressed their hope that additional clubwomen would become active advocates. As Marian said, "I want all of our members to stay engaged with current issues and speak up. Each of us can have an impact on the future, if not through visits to the Hill, then via the GFWC Legislative Action Center, or by just picking up the phone."

Pictured in the top right are Suellen Brazil and Congressman Bradley Byrne.

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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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## Cares & Concerns

We send our condolences to the family and friends of Past New England Region President [Annette M. Keessen](#) (1994-1996). Annette was a 50 year member, as well as Treasurer and President of the Whitinsville Women's Club (Massachusetts). She also served as President of GFWC Massachusetts from 1980 to 1982.

Our hearts are also saddened by the loss of Past GFWC Massachusetts President [Laura Coppola](#). Laura passed away on December 9. Her obituary marked her involvement with GFWC by stating, "Among her proudest achievements was, at the age of 86, being installed as the President of GFWC Massachusetts."

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## A Virtual Tour of GFWC Headquarters

The doors at Headquarters are always open to clubwomen who would like to come visit, tour the building, and learn more about the history of the home and of GFWC. Unfortunately, it is not always easy or possible for all clubwomen to make their way to 1734 N Street. However, we feel that should not be an impediment to learning its history. A virtual "tour" of Headquarters is now available to download on the



## Join the Capital Campaign Crew

In just four years we will celebrate a century of owning and operating our historic Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the Capital Campaign Committee is doing all it can to ensure the building will be preserved for generations to come. To date, nearly \$1 million has been pledged to the Campaign and substantial improvements are being made at Headquarters as a result.

To further our goal of protecting GFWC's legacy, the Committee is inviting you to join the [Capital Campaign Crew](#). Members of the crew will be easily identified at conferences and club meetings due to the hard hat pin on their lapel. The pins are provided as a show of the Committee's appreciation for donations of \$100 or greater. So be on the lookout for the generous clubwomen who have contributed to the Campaign and consider becoming one yourself. Any donation you choose to make will help sustain the property and programming of GFWC.

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Resources page, under the label "[WHRC House Tour](#)." The tour includes a PowerPoint with pictures of the home and a [script](#) with some basic historical information. Please feel free to use this resource as a personal guide to Headquarters or as a presentation to give at meetings. If you have any questions on the presentation, Headquarters, or GFWC history, please feel free to contact WHRC manager Alyssa Constad at [aconstad@gfwc.org](mailto:aconstad@gfwc.org).

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## Group Exemption Applications Now Available

GFWC is now accepting applications for tax-exempt status as a benefit of membership under GFWC's group exemption umbrella. Applications can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). The application is fillable, however you must save your completed application to your computer and attach the saved application to your email to GFWC. If you skip this step, you will lose your completed application and GFWC will receive a blank application. All applications must be completed and submitted to GFWC by email or postmarked by **March 1, 2018**.

To learn more, visit our [Group Exemption Applications webpage](#).

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## Turning Point: It Is Time to Honor Our Heroes

"In 1917, suffragists were arrested, dragged to court, and thrown into prison at the notorious Occoquan Workhouse. There they were beaten, forced to work, and fed food crawling with maggots. Their crime? Silently picketing the White House for the right to vote!" This is the powerful opening statement of a recently released presentation by the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association.

Earlier this year, the GFWC Executive Committee unanimously voted to endorse the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association and the organization's effort to inspire women to "remain vigilant in the quest for liberty, freedom, and equal rights." If you are asking why a memorial is needed, consider how few young women are aware of what it took to gain their right to vote. Also, consider that of all the memorials in the United States a mere 8 percent are dedicated to the achievements of women. As a women's organization and a leading supporter of the suffrage movement, we must work to ensure that our history is preserved and shared with future generations.

The Turning Point presentation has been customized to highlight GFWC's contributions to the suffrage movement with the assistance of Connecticut State President Helen Barakauskas. On December 9, President Barakauskas debuted the speech at her state's Executive Board meeting where it received an overwhelmingly positive response. If you are interested in learning more about GFWC's role in the



## Wreaths Across America Day

Please consider taking part in [National Wreaths Across America Day](#) on December 16. This annual event, at which wreaths are placed on graves, aims to honor our nation's veterans and ensure they are remembered for their sacrifice. Ceremonies will take place at Arlington National Cemetery and at over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad.

**If you would like to participate at the Arlington National Cemetery event, you are welcome to join President Shea, local clubwomen, and the GFWC staff as we volunteer on Saturday, December 16.** GFWC's volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. in front of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Wreath placement will begin at 9:15 a.m.

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suffrage movement and the proposed Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, [click here](#) to download the [presentation](#) and accompanying [talking points](#).

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## Quick Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes

WHY TO LAY ON THE TABLE IS ALMOST **NEVER** IN ORDER

In a recent edition of the *National Parliamentarian*, it is stated that Lay on the Table is *“The All-time, Ultimate, Hands-Down, Undisputed, Most Misused Motion in the World.”* It went on to say that the motion, improperly used, *“infringes on the rights of the minority to debate.”* The motion is not debatable.

Needless to say, the article got my attention. I reviewed Section 17 of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, (RONR) and found the intent “to table” is to interrupt the pending business so as to permit doing something else immediately. To lay aside the pending question indicates something else of immediate urgency – or something else needs to be addressed before consideration of the pending question is resumed. By adopting the motion to **Lay on the Table**, a majority has the power to halt consideration of a question immediately without debate. Such action would violate the rights of the minority and individual members if the purpose is to kill the measure or avoid dealing with a measure. Rather than ruling *Lay on the Table* out of order, the chair could offer assistance in choosing the proper motion for the desired outcome, such as a motion to “postpone the question until ...”

If the vote to Lay on the Table is approved, see RONR (Chapter 9) for time limits, rules, and explanations for *Taking A Question From The Table*. When a question is taken from the table, it is before the members, with everything adhering to it, and exactly as it was when laid on the table.

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## Legislative Corner



## Be the Hero

There could 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!

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[www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC](http://www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC) or call 1-888-833-1486.

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## In the News

The **GFWC Woman’s Club of Antioch** (California) was recently featured in the

## It's All About the Money

Congress has passed a short-term extension for the FY 2018 budget so federal programs and services will be able to continue working until December 22. Negotiations continue to finalize funding for defense and non-defense programs for the remainder of FY 2018 which ends September 30, 2018.

GFWC has urged Congress to fully fund education programs, prevention programs, and support services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse.

GFWC also joined other health care and prevention groups to support maximum funding for opioid treatment and prevention programs in FY 2018.

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On December 6, the House of Representatives approved the Fix NICS Act of 2017 to strengthen background checks and require domestic violence records be entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS); the measure is supported by GFWC. However, the House leadership combined two bills – the Fix NICS Act with the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act - which would make it more dangerous for domestic violence survivors and GFWC opposes.

Contact your Senators today and urge them to approve **The Fix NICS Act of 2017** and to oppose the **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act**. [Take Action Here!](#)

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Track bills, contact your local representative, and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions with the GFWC Legislative Action Center. [Click here](#) to utilize this powerful tool for GFWC's advocacy efforts and enroll to receive updates.

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*East Bay Times* due to publicity surrounding their 63rd annual Holiday Home Tour. Each year, the 110-year-old club coordinates the tour which includes both businesses and private homes decorated for the season. As the group's primary fundraiser, the tour enables the club to support the Antioch Community Scholarship Fund and various other local charities. In addition to the tour of homes, visitors were treated to a reception and live musical performances. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Antioch club's successful event.

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## Marketplace: 2018 Buy A Day Calendar

Hot off the presses! Start the year off right with the 2018 GFWC Year in Pictures Calendar. Featuring the 2018 GFWC Year in Pictures contest winners, this colorful calendar is a great addition to any home and makes a useful and beautiful gift. Available for \$10 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

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### Marketplace Shipping Notice

GFWC Headquarters will be closed for the holidays beginning December 21, 2017, and will re-open on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Orders can be placed at the Marketplace during this time, however any orders placed after Monday, December 19, will not be shipped until January 3. We appreciate your understanding and hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

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### Our Contact Information

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