

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - October 12, 2017



Raise Your Voice Against Domestic Violence

It is time to speak out against domestic violence! While the rate of domestic violence in the United States has declined over the last two decades, it remains a cause for great concern. Nearly 1 in 4 American women aged 18 and older have been the victim of physical violence by an intimate partner, and domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women.

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), use your voice to promote the safety and to protect the rights of women subjected to abusive behavior at the hands of those closest to them. There are a myriad of ways clubs can raise awareness at the local level. For instance, you could follow the example of the **GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla** (Texas) by wearing purple, the official color of DVAM, to your next club meeting. Alternately, you could ask your town's mayor to proclaim October Domestic Violence Awareness Month as the **GFWC Warren Woman's Club** (Ohio) did on October 6. No matter how your club chooses to voice their support, make sure



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

Subscribe to *News & Notes*

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.

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate

every community hears that GFWC clubwomen are fighting to improve the lives of women and providing assistance to domestic abuse victims.

If you would like to contribute to GFWC's national efforts to aid domestic abuse victims, enroll in the [GFWC Legislative Action Center](#) and promote the [GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship](#). By joining the Legislative Action Center you increase the collective power of GFWC as we advocate for federal laws to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence. In other words, the more clubwomen who urge congress to enact laws relevant to GFWC Resolutions, the greater likelihood our grassroots efforts will succeed.

The [Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund](#) grants \$2,500 scholarships to women who have experienced abuse, allowing them to attend college and continue their journey to recovery. The number of scholarships awarded each year is determined by the generosity of GFWC clubwomen. If you would like to contribute to the fund, [click here](#) to download the donation form. If you know of domestic abuse survivors eligible to receive a scholarship, please share the [2018 application](#) with them.

Domestic violence will continue if we do not raise our voices. Please speak out during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and every day of the year.



Bringing Smiles to Children

Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Cares and Concerns

We send our condolences to Bylaws Committee Member Patrice Booze on the passing of her mother, Mary Collins. Please keep Patrice and her family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

It is with sadness that we announce the loss of Past Idaho State President [Clara Lee Leafgren](#). Clara's family described her as "an amazing being, exemplary in all she accomplished with her hands and heart." She will be greatly missed by her Federation sisters.

New on the Blog!

There is no scarier thought than your child going missing, but you can take precautionary steps to safeguard your children. Read the GFWC Blog to learn how the **Women's Club of Danbury-New Fairfield** (Connecticut) is helping parents do just that by supporting events for the AMBER Alert Child ID Program, which makes it easier and faster for the police to broadcast an alert.

http://bit.ly/GFWCblog_AmberAlert

Greet America's Heroes on October 24

"We love children and we realize that surgeries to correct cleft conditions give children a chance for a better life. That is why the **GFWC Nokomis Club** (Kansas) supports Operation Smile," said Club President Pat Varner.

For over six years, members of the Nokomis Club have met to sew items for Operation Smile. They have made dolls, hospital gowns, no-no bands, blankets, and stuffed animals. If your club would like to support Operation Smile by contributing items to help patients through the medical process, [download the 2017-2018 Service Projects Guide](#). This helpful publication provides updates on what items are most needed, instructions for creating each of the service projects, and guidance for shipping your completed donations.

Another way your club can support Operation Smile is through a financial gift. Your donations will enable Operation Smile to increase the number of life-saving surgeries they conduct and possibly grant a member of your club the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a medical mission. To learn more about the medical mission to Guadalajara, Mexico and how your club can earn an entry in the upcoming raffle, visit gfwc.org.

Illinois Junior Clubwomen Making Creative Change

GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs Jeanette T. Wells created the motto "GFWC Illinois Juniors...helping design better lives" to match her decision to not choose a single, specific Special Project. Instead, Jeanette is asking her state's clubwomen to affect change where they feel it is most needed. During her administration, clubwomen have the opportunity to identify their own areas of interest and design programs, projects, and fundraisers to improve the lives of others.

One of the many charities that continues to be of great interest to Illinois Juniors is the Children's Research Foundation (CRF). Forty years ago, the GFWC Illinois Juniors adopted CRF as the State Project and have raised over \$400,000 to sustain the organization since that time. That's almost 45 percent of CRF's total funding for those years. The foundation provides financial assistance to young physicians who are considering devoting

GFWC is committed to supporting our nation's veterans and is proud that our members are major supporters of the Honor Flight Network, a national organization dedicated to transporting veterans to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C. GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea and staff will welcome veterans from the Honor Flight of West Central Florida on October 24. We invite you to join us at 10 a.m. at the United States Air Force Memorial. The memorial is located at 1 Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

For more details, please call 202-347-3168 or email gfwc@gfwc.org.

Quick Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian
Shirley Gomes

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- Calling the meeting to order
- Reading and Approval of minutes
- Report of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees
- Reports of Special Committees
- Special Orders (matters which have previously assigned a type of special priority)
- Unfinished Business (matters which have come over from the preceding meeting or which have been scheduled for the present meeting)

their careers to researching life-threatening childhood diseases. Many of these physicians become highly successful and make significant contributions to our understanding of pediatric illnesses. Under Jeanette's leadership the GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman's Club was created specifically to promote CRF and launch fundraising efforts.

With Jeanette's open-ended approach, the options for Illinois Junior Club members are endless. When asked, she named just a few of the projects clubwomen can pursue: "Helping a child learn to read; supporting our libraries; helping a sick or disabled child by supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Easterseals, or CRF; helping our military; helping feed the hungry; helping a community by starting a new club; or helping a member take the step into leadership." Jeanette's winning approach emphasizes greater creativity and a broader scope for making change.

Partner Spotlight: Sew Much Comfort

Sew Much Comfort will proudly celebrates its 13th Anniversary this November! Since 2004, Sew Much Comfort has supported those who serve in our armed forces. Sew Much Comfort seamstresses have selflessly volunteered their time and talent producing more than 155,088 pieces of adaptive clothing. Without adaptive clothing, wounded service members are limited to wearing hospital gowns during their recovery. Sew Much Comfort has stepped in to fill this need by creating normal looking adaptive clothing (t-shirts, athletic shorts, lounge pants) which are designed to greatly enhance their comfort and dignity during the recovery process. Sew Much Comfort's adaptive clothing is sent to military hospitals and individual service members.

Sew Much Comfort is the only charity providing FREE adaptive clothing to wounded military personnel. Over 97 percent of every dollar donated to Sew Much Comfort is used to provide FREE adaptive clothing to our wounded service members.

To learn how your club can help, visit the Sew Much Comfort website at www.sewmuchcomfort.org Under the "Volunteer" heading, select "GFWC" from the dropdown options. Here you

- New Business (matters initiated in the present meeting)

Optional Headings:

Opening Ceremonies or exercises immediately after the call to order and before the reading of the minutes may include the Invocation (which if offered should always be placed first), the singing of the National Anthem, the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, a ritual briefly recalling the objects or ideals of the organization. Opening ceremonies should be followed by Roll Call to establish a quorum.

Announcements:

Program: If there is to be a talk, film, or other program of a cultural, educational, or civic nature it is usually presented before the meeting is adjourned. Although the program is commonly placed at the end of the order of business, in some cases, it can be received by special rule or practice before the minutes are read. If, in courtesy to a guest speaker who is present, the chair wishes the talk to be located at an unscheduled point within the business portion of the meeting, the chair can usually obtain unanimous consent for a suspension of the rules by simply announcing, "If there is no objection, we will hear our speaker's address at this time."

will find suggestions on how your club can help and printable brochures. For assistance contact Michele Cuppy at mmc.cuppy@comcast.net

Legislative Action Corner

Domestic Violence

GFWC joined other advocacy groups in opposing legislation that would make it easier to buy firearm silencers and would loosen restrictions on transporting firearms across state lines. GFWC also urged congress to reject legislation which would force all states to honor concealed carry permits granted by other states. In the wake of the Las Vegas mass shooting and in response to constituents' pleas, leadership in the House of Representatives decided not to bring these bills to the floor for a vote. We must continue to work to keep guns out of dangerous hands to reduce domestic violence and improve the safety of women and families.

Children

Through the [GFWC Legislative Action Center](#), we have urged Congress to enact reauthorizations of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. CHIP provides health insurance to nearly 9 million low-income children across the country. The lesser known MIECHV program funds evidence-based home visiting for vulnerable families that are living in poverty or facing other risk factors. Funding for both programs expired September 30 and Congress is now considering new proposals to sustain these vital initiatives. If you have not contacted your members of Congress, please do so today!



Be The Hero

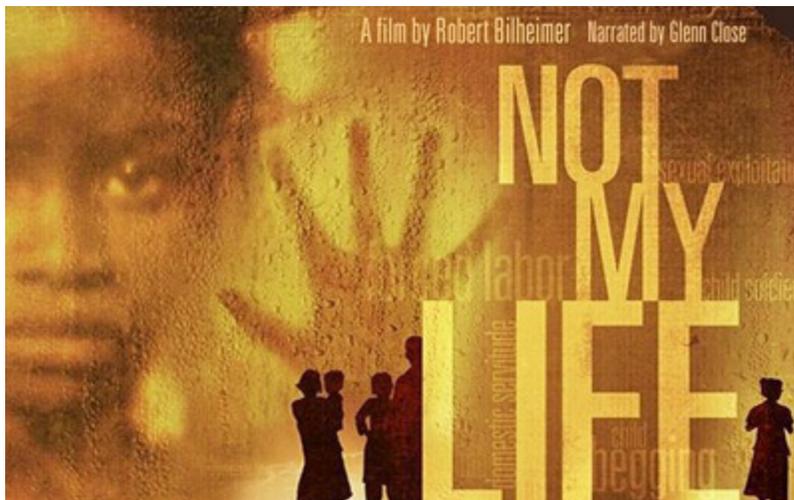
There could not be an easier way to be the Hero and support your cause. Earn 50% profit and the bulbs get delivered directly to your supporters. They are 100% guaranteed, with no minimum order and no upfront cost required! Order your free sales supplies to start your door to door fundraiser or build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

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.



Attend the GFWC Headquarters Screening of *Not My Life*

When people hear the name UNICEF, they often think about UNICEF's work in providing children with necessities like emergency aid, therapeutic food, clean water, and medical care. UNICEF also has a strong record in protecting children from violence, exploitation, and abuse. That is why GFWC has joined UNICEF in its End Trafficking Campaign to stop human trafficking both domestically and internationally.

On Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 4 p.m., GFWC and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF will be sponsoring a movie screening of the documentary *Not My Life* at GFWC Headquarters. Filmed on five continents and in a dozen countries, *Not My Life* takes viewers into a world where millions of children are exploited through an astonishing array of practices including forced labor, domestic servitude, sexual violence, and child soldiering. Challenging though it may be, *Not My Life's* message is ultimately one of hope. Victims of slavery can be set free and go on to live happy and productive lives. Those who advocate for slavery victims are growing in numbers, and are increasingly effective.

If you plan to attend the movie screening, please RSVP to Director of Membership Services and Programs Melanie Gisler at mgisler@gfwc.org.



Download the *GFWC Membership Quarterly*

The focus this quarter is on [Membership Recruitment](#), which is timely for planning recruitment strategies and events for this club year. The issue is full of ideas and themes for recruitment events and how to plan them, strategies for finding potential new members to invite and bring to events, and ideas for communication with potential members after events.

In the News

The **GFWC Glendale Woman's Club** (Arizona) went back to basics this summer by providing sewing classes to Glendale's Landmark Middle School students and community residents. The classes were held at the clubhouse to provide participants a fun summer activity. "Education is the focus of our organization," said GFWC Glendale Woman's Club President Grace Kobjek in her interview with *The Glendale Star*. "Club members wanted to offer these classes because they felt sewing is not always offered in school and there is an interest on the part of the students to



Marketplace: GFWC Pashmina Scarf

GFWC Pashmina scarves feature beautiful detailing that lends elegance to any event and guarantee you'll find the perfect complement to any

outfit. All scarves feature a 2-1/2" emblem in tone-on-tone embroidery. Available in ash grey, black, and red for \$15 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

learn about the basics of sewing." If you would like to read more about this exciting project, [click here](#) to view the full article.

Our Contact Information

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N. Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-347-3168
www.gfwc.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)

email powered by  bloomerang