



# JENNIE AWARD

## AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

 Visit [www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/) for updates and more information.

### THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD HONORS ONE CLUBWOMAN FROM EACH GFWC REGION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CLUB, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY.

They are chosen by their clubs to compete at state, region, and national levels for the Federation’s highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym “Jennie June.” The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence in purpose through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, elsewhere in the community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

Since it is an award for lifetime personal excellence, club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians for Jennie Award nominees. Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee’s packet of supporting materials as professional as possible because it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders.



#### 2016-2018 JENNIE AWARD

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### JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

#### COMMITMENT TO CLUB

The nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement, not only in terms of her club’s volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her activity to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteerism. She should be kind, loyal, and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment should be continuous, rather than a one-time activity.

#### COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g. schools, hospitals, an elected/appointed position, scouts, etc.) as well as through the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteer work.

#### COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising her grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The definition of a family member may include persons who are older or younger than the nominee. It may include nuclear as well as extended family members. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the well-being, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an on-going basis, separate and apart, from club and community work.



The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page of this section and may be downloaded from [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES**

An important reason for participating in the GFWC Jennie Award is the tremendous public relations impact it can have on the club, state, region, and national levels. Here are some public relations suggestions for each stage during the 2016-2018 administration:

### **CLUB**

Once your club selects its GFWC Jennie Award winner and is ready to submit its narrative describing a nominee's qualifications, you should send a news release or article about your nominee to local media outlets. Consider holding a ceremony during a club meeting and inviting a reporter to cover the event, or sending a photo and caption of the session to local newspapers.

### **STATE**

State Presidents should appoint a state GFWC Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process. State Presidents or chairmen who receive multiple entries for review should form an outside panel of judges comprised of leading citizens to assist in selecting the single state nominee. This stage offers an opportunity to honor all nominees, either at a state meeting in summer 2017, or at another appropriate venue, such as your State Convention, where each finalist is awarded a special certificate. Reporters should be invited to cover the event or a photo and caption should be sent to local papers.

### **REGION**

Upon receiving the state nominations, each Region President should call on a committee of outside judges to help select the two regional finalists whose applications will be forwarded to GFWC on the national level. The Region President should consider planning an event to honor all state nominees in her region. The 2017 GFWC Region Conferences are an ideal occasion to honor all state nominees with introductions by State Presidents, presentation of special certificates, and photo opportunities. Reminder—entries to GFWC Headquarters must be postmarked by December 1, 2017. GFWC will prepare certificates for the 16 region finalists and highlight them in the January+February 2018 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.



## **AWARD RULES**

- Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria for this award.
- Nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Her tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive not concurrent.
- Current and past members of the GFWC Executive Committee are ineligible.
- Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- Clubs must complete and submit the official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form along with a maximum 500-word written narrative. Narratives should include descriptions of the nominee's:
  - Club activities
  - Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional
  - Commitment to her nuclear or extended family
- Clubs must submit the following supportive materials along with nomination form and narrative:
  - Photograph of nominee (no larger than 5x7 inches)
  - Clips of two-three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name).
  - Letter of endorsement from club President
  - Letter of endorsement from a representative of another organization
- Nomination forms and supporting materials, including photographs, will not be returned.
- Clubs must submit nomination materials to their respective State Presidents postmarked by June 1, 2017, for state-level judging.

## NATIONAL

At the time of the awards ceremony during the GFWC Annual Convention in June 2018, which all eight national honorees are expected to attend, a news release will be issued by GFWC to major U.S. newspapers as well as to media in the states, cities, and regions of all eight honorees. Clubs and State Federations with GFWC Jennie Award medal recipients as well as each GFWC Region should also take the opportunity to inform their local press about the national honor. Club Communications and Public Relations chairmen of the national recipients should notify local officials and organizations such as the mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, and state elected officials to arrange photo opportunities and recognition events.



## **AWARD RULES, CONT'D**

- State Presidents must submit nomination materials (one per state) to their respective GFWC Region Presidents postmarked by August 1, 2017, for region level judging. State Presidents must forward the name of their respective state finalists to the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman.
- Each GFWC Region should submit nomination materials (two per GFWC Region) to GFWC Headquarters, postmarked by December 1, 2017.
- The 16 Region finalists will be announced and featured in the January+February 2018 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.
- One clubwoman from each of the eight GFWC Regions will be selected for national recognition as a GFWC Jennie Award honoree.
- All eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded:
  - Roundtrip transportation to attend the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.
  - A Medal of Honor and a special certificate will be presented by the GFWC International President and GFWC Jennie Award Chairman at the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention.



**GENERAL FEDERATION**  
*of* **WOMEN'S CLUBS**

# Jennie Award Nomination Form

*Please attach a narrative of a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins on all four sides.*

## 1. NOMINEE

*Please note that the nominee must attend the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention if selected as a national award winner.*

Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Fax

Email

Club

State Federation

Region

## 2. CLUB ACTIVITIES

Name(s) of project(s)

Duration of involvement with project(s)

Results, if any

### 3. RECORD OF CLUB LEADERSHIP

Year nominee joined a GFWC club

Positions held

### 4. NON-GFWC CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE

Name(s) of organization(s)

Names of individuals with whom nominee works

### 5. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Names of nuclear and/or extended family members

Age of individuals

### 6. NOMINATOR

Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Fax

Email

Clubs: Submit completed form, narrative, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials by June 1, 2017, to your State President. Please note: materials will NOT be returned.

Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman or the GFWC Programs Department with any questions: 1-800-443-GFWC or ***Programs@GFWC.org***.