

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - April 27, 2017



GFWC Supports Veterans with Honor Flight

On Tuesday, April 25, GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea, clubwomen, and staff had the privilege of welcoming veterans on the West Central Florida Honor Flight Mission 29 to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Meeting with these veterans and welcoming them to D.C. was a humbling experience, but only one component of the Honor Flight program. These veterans have a very busy schedule, leaving Florida early in the morning, visiting memorials in D.C., and then returning home the same day.

Thanks to volunteers like the clubwomen of GFWC Florida, these veterans are sent off and welcomed home in fashion. GFWC Florida is involved in the entire Honor Flight in several ways, one of which is sponsoring soldier guardians who accompany the serviceman or woman for their day in D.C. In addition, clubwomen don their red, white, and blue and wait with signs for the return of the veterans at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport to welcome them home and to thank them



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.

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC

for their service. A band plays old songs as well as songs for different branches of military service. Clubwomen applaud the veterans and spend time with them to learn about their experiences and what their day in D.C. was like.

"I have had many a WWII serviceman cry on my shoulder and say that it was the best day of his life," said Carole Weaver, GFWC Florida President.

In addition to sponsoring guardians, GFWC Florida clubwomen support the Honor Flight by writing letters of appreciation for the veterans to read on the flight. The GFWC Fabulous Florida Flamingo Flock Cyber Club wrote so many letters that there are enough for the veterans of the next four flights.

Show your appreciation for our nation's veterans—visit www.honorflight.org to learn more and consider getting involved with an Honor Flight in your area.

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

Last December, under the leadership of President Linda Hershey, GFWC Tennessee members made the world's largest children's book tree consisting of 10,300 books. Now, GFWC Tennessee is looking to continue 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 children's book Christmas trees at hospitals throughout the state. GFWC Tennessee also plans to reach the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest pyramid made of children's books. **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. Gannett will choose a winner from the ten finalists with the most votes, so let's help GFWC Tennessee receive a grant for their book tree project.

Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Cares and Concerns

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Past Iowa State President **Wilma Hall Mitchell** (1990-1992) on April 6. As Wilma's [obituary](#) states, "She was a doer who quietly made a difference in everything she touched."

GFWC Video Contest

On Federation Day, in the spirit of coming together to recognize our dynamic past and exciting future, we launched a special video contest. We encourage you to take the time at your next club meeting and film a 30 to 60 second video with your club answering the question: "What does being a GFWC clubwoman mean to you?" You can use your smartphone to film the video. Once you're happy with the video, email it to pr@gfwc.org. Videos will be shared on the GFWC Facebook page, and members will vote for their favorites. We encourage you to be as creative as you'd like with your videos! Let's show the world what being a GFWC clubwoman is all about.

Voting for the club videos will begin May 15, 2017, and the winning club will be announced June 1. The winning club will receive a \$100 gift card for the



Get Ready for the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention

Are you attending the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Springs, California? If so, take a few moments to read the latest GFWC blog post, [17 thoughts for the 2017 Annual Convention](#). The article will help you to prepare and detail the many wonderful events taking place during Convention.

- GFWC has contracted a \$1 per night resort fee with the JW Marriott. If your reservation or final bill shows anything other than \$1 per day, please contact GFWC staff.
- In a slight departure from recent Conventions, state/group photos will be taken on two evenings—EC States and WSR States on Friday and the remaining states scheduled on Saturday.
- Remember to wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes on the “Soaring Heights and Celebrity Sites” tour. Temperatures at the summit can be 30 degrees cooler than on the ground...which may make the mountaintop the most pleasant place to be outside in late June.
- To follow along with Resolutions and Bylaws discussions, we advise bringing the Call to Convention found in the March/April issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*. The Call to Convention is also located on the [GFWC.org](#) website.

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

GFWC Marketplace. Stay tuned to the GFWC [Facebook page](#) for more details.



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.

A Home Away from Home for Military Families

Fisher House Foundation is a network of homes where military and veterans' families stay free of charge while their loved ones receive medical treatment. The homes are located near major military and VA medical centers nationwide. Over the last 27 years, Fisher House has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$360 million in out of pocket cost for lodging and transportation.

After being introduced to the Fisher House Foundation through a fundraiser of the GFWC Sokico Women's Club, GFWC Washington President Tina Bair selected support of the Foundation as the Special Project for her administration. Having four brothers and a sister who served in the armed forces, President Bair has a clear understanding of how much the services provided by Fisher House mean to the military community.

While Fisher Houses have full-time salaried managers, they rely on volunteers such as GFWC Washington clubwomen to enhance daily operations. Volunteer opportunities at Fisher Houses include: bringing meals and snacks for residents, helping with general housekeeping chores, and organizing drives for items such as paper products and cleaning supplies.

GFWC Washington clubwomen have proven very generous in their support of the project. From bringing non-perishable food items to the fall board meeting to donating boxes upon boxes of paper products, the clubwomen have truly taken the cause to heart. One club even provided a Super Bowl party with all of the requisite food items for a family staying at the local house.

If you would like to follow GFWC Washington's lead and help provide a "home away from home" for military families, [click here](#) to find the location near you.

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**.

Travel to Aruba with the GFWC Juniors!

GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth invites you to the Caribbean island of Aruba January 25-28, 2018. During the tour, you will stay at the all-inclusive Barcelo Aruba Resort located in Palm-Eagle Beach.

While on the trip, each traveler will assist the GFWC Women's Club of Aruba during the Day of Service. You will have your choice of helping with one of two projects the club regularly supports. The Dress a Child Project provides over 300 local children with a complete outfit once a year, while the Medio Ambiente Goes to School Project donates lunch



GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club Wins Grant from the Allstate Foundation

Congratulations to the **GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (LWC)** (Georgia) for being recognized by the Allstate Foundation as a positive force for change in their community. The Allstate Foundation offers several grant programs to support charitable organizations where Allstate agency owners and employees volunteer. It is thanks to LWC's newest member, Arthy White, that her club was considered for recognition and given a grant.

Arthy, who is a 5-year cancer survivor, has requested that part of the grant be used to support the Lilburn Relay for Life. While the club participates in the Relay each year, this year's donation will be covered in full due to the Allstate grant. In addition to their annual donation, club members also hosted a reception for more than 60 cancer survivors and their caregivers prior to the event. After the reception, the survivors gathered together to take the first lap around Lilburn City Park surrounded by family and friends who cheered them.

Relay for Life, the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, takes place in 5,200 communities and 27 countries. During the event, teams such as the Lilburn Woman's Club take turns walking around a track. Each event is 6 to 24 hours in length and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps. If your club is interested in forming a Relay team, [click here](#) to learn more.

We thank clubwoman Patty Gabilondo for sharing this story with GFWC Headquarters.

boxes and water bottles to all first grade students on the island.

The trip rate is \$825 per person (double occupancy) and payment is due September 1, 2017. The fee includes three nights deluxe accommodations, all meals, a cocktail party with the Women's Club of Aruba, round-trip ground transportation to and from the hotel, and taxes/fees. A \$70 per person deposit will hold one of the 32 available rooms.

For additional information visit www.gfwcjunortour.com or call Abora Travel Agent Diania Pimenta at 813-563-2404.

Interested in Advertising in the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention Program?

The Convention Program will be distributed to each clubwoman when they register in Palm Springs, California. The program contains meeting schedules, maps of the convention center, a complete agenda, exhibitor profiles, and information on local attractions. The program also provides an excellent opportunity to recognize the achievements of your Federation sisters.

[Click here](#) to find advertising rates, artwork specifications, submission deadlines, and the commitment form.

Check Your Mailbox for GFWC's Membership Quarterly

GFWC has created a new publication, *Membership Quarterly*. Each club president will receive a copy in the coming weeks. The theme of the first issue is the "Benefits of Belonging". The publication outlines many of the valuable reasons to be a part of GFWC and how to find additional information about perks and programs. We ask that club presidents share their copy of the *Membership Quarterly* during upcoming club meetings.

If club presidents do not receive a copy of the *Membership Quarterly*, they may email Membership Services and Programs Director Melanie Gisler at mgisler@gfwc.org.



Marketplace: GFWC Bracelet

The GFWC bracelet is the perfect accessory for the modern clubwoman. The bangle can stretch slightly to accommodate a range of average women's wrist

sizes, and features a 3/4" diameter circle charm with an engraved GFWC logo. Bracelet made of silver; charm made of stainless steel. Available for \$15 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).



Boost Your Donation

Many GFWC clubs across the nation will participate in the March for Babies with GFWC Juniors Special Program Partner, March of Dimes. Work to increase your donation in the next few days by sending one more email, text, or post to friends and family! #marchforbabies

In The News

The **Naperville Junior Woman's Club** (Illinois) was profiled on Naperville Community Television for its 50th anniversary. The segment features a history of the club and an interview with club leaders. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

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