

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - November 16, 2017



A First Look at 2018-2020

From November 9 - 12, more than 100 incoming Board of Directors Members met for the 2018-2020 Administration Orientation in Arlington, Virginia. The incoming leaders arrived ready to learn more about our Federation and to plan for the years ahead.

While in attendance, Board Members celebrated Veterans Day by participating in two service projects. In hopes of making a veteran's day a little sweeter, attendees put together small bags of candy for service members to enjoy. Board Members also wrote kind words of support in holiday cards, signed from the General Federation of Women's Clubs. In total, the group completed over 300 cards which will be distributed to veterans in the Washington, D.C. area.

Incoming leaders were welcomed with a reception at GFWC Headquarters, hosted by International President Sheila E. Shea. Thanks to President Shea's Special Assistants, our historic home was decorated for the holidays and ready for photo opportunities by the Christmas tree. Following the reception,

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

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Board Members enjoyed a Monuments by Moonlight tour of the town's most famous sites including the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

We know these leaders will succeed in continuing GFWC's tradition of community service and ensure our Federation continues to grow and prosper.

Congratulations to GFWC's Operation Smile Medical Mission Winners!

Attending an Operation Smile medical mission is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Mission attendees will have the chance to meet patients as they arrive for screening and follow them through the entire mission experience. Participants will also meet the Operation Smile medical volunteers who donate their time to make these missions possible. They will experience firsthand the transformation that results from a simple surgery, and see the overwhelming relief of parents who poured all their hope into this single day.

Working in collaboration with GFWC, Operation Smile has arranged a medical mission to Guadalajara, Mexico for a small group of clubwomen. Since July 2016, Operation Smile has carefully tracked each club's generous donations. For every \$500 a club contributed to the charity, they were granted an entry into the drawing to win a spot on the mission trip. The drawing took place during the 2018-2020 Administration's Welcoming Reception at GFWC Headquarters on November 11, and we now announce the lucky winners. GFWC Du Midi Woman's Club (Alabama), GFWC Key West Woman's Club (Florida), Tullahoma Woman's Club (Tennessee), and GFWC Cresskill Woman's Club (New Jersey) will each have the opportunity to select a mission participant. Please note that the winning clubs receive the opportunity to choose a mission attendee, but travel expenses are self-funded.

Congratulations to our winning clubs! We look forward to hearing from each of the members who accompany GFWC International President Sheila Shea and Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth in future issues of *News & Notes*.

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

Cares & Concerns

We send our condolences to Communications and Public Relations Committee Member Judi Stankowich. Judi's brother, [Don Dibble](#), passed away on November 1 at his home in Calabash, North Carolina. Please keep Judi and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Call for Articles

As Fall fades into Winter, the next two months will be a blur of family, friends, and holiday events. This time of year always has a way of highlighting all we have to be thankful for as clubwomen, as friends, and as sisters. In light of the season and the spirit of giving, December's edition of the *WHRC Newsletter* will focus on holiday-themed service projects from your club's past. This could mean anything from a Community Improvement Project your club completed 50 years ago, to an annual celebration your club still carries out today. Articles must be no more than 500 words in length and should be sent to WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad at aconstad@gfwc.org by December 4. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Alyssa if you have any questions or concerns.

Headquarters Happenings

Last Wednesday, GFWC Headquarters was bustling with clubwomen for the screening of *Not My Life*, a powerful documentary that follows the victims of human trafficking in 13 countries. It was presented by UNICEF Representative Mansi Mehta, who led a discussion after the film. When Mansi asked attendees what surprised them most about the documentary, many said they were shocked to learn that human trafficking is happening in their own communities. They discussed the frightening reality that children they know could be victimized and brainstormed ways to recognize human trafficking victims. Mansi encouraged the clubwomen to show the film during their club meetings. Raising awareness of the issue is an important first step in fighting human trafficking.

GFWC Virginia Juniors Illuminate the Possibilities

Your child has cancer.

This year, parents of 16,000 children in the United States will hear these words. Sadly, one in five of the children diagnosed with cancer will not survive.

GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs Joy Matkowsky knows what a powerful statement this is and how it can profoundly affect a family. Joy has a lifelong friend, Susan, whose daughter Katie was diagnosed with a juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma (an optic glioma). The brain tumor was discovered just after Katie's first birthday in 2001. In 2007, Susan and her daughter spent seven weeks at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital living in the Ronald McDonald House. During a weekend visit with Susan and Katie, Joy was astounded to learn of the services provided for ailing children and their families! Katie continues to face some challenges, but is otherwise a happy and healthy high school student. St. Jude is a miracle for many families!

As a direct result of this experience, Joy selected a theme of "Illuminate the Possibilities" and a goal of raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for her administration. During



Vote in the GFWC Shares Polls

When you think of the holiday season, you probably picture Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, the holiday season doesn't end there! Right afterwards comes New Year's and then Valentine's Day, and so there is always something to celebrate. Take a moment to answer our polls about your New Year's Resolution habits and your favorite Valentine's Day presents to be included in the January + February edition of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. [Click here](#) to vote.

GFWC Holiday Open House

Every year, the historic GFWC Headquarters is transformed into a holiday wonderland, complete with a floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree, traditional décor, and a buffet of delicious treats! This year we invite you to once again join us in celebrating the season at 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 on Wednesday, **December 6 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

2016 clubwomen from all over Virginia made donations, held mini-walks, and even slept in for a cure the day of the St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. All club levels participated and those that walked had a great time. The Virginia Team was back in action this year, and the ladies were delighted to have another opportunity to do it all over again. In total, the GFWC Virginia Team has raised over \$10,000!

Joy and the GFWC Virginia Juniors are also working to educate their communities about St. Jude and how the charity utilizes donations. Most people do not know that St. Jude freely shares all of their research breakthroughs with other hospitals around the world. Therefore, your donations not only assist children at St. Jude, but aid suffering children everywhere. Thanks to donor support families NEVER receive a bill for St. Jude treatments, travel, housing, or food. Families are allowed to fully focus on what's most important, helping their child live.



GFWC Clubwomen Offer a Helping Hand to Hurricane Relief Efforts

Over the last few months, the American people have faced many tragedies, both natural and man-made. While the images of devastation that appeared in newspapers and on television screens gained our immediate attention, it is the memories of neighbor helping neighbor in the aftermath of these crises that will remain with us for years to come. As always during times of



Support GFWC on Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global day to help others through your generosity, whether with monetary donations or with your time and community service. It takes place this year on November 28, which is fast-approaching—do you know how you're going to observe the day? Read the latest post on the [GFWC Blog](#) to learn about some of the ways you can make a difference this year!



FUNDRAISING

From Our Family to Yours

rebuilding and recovery, GFWC clubwomen stand out as community leaders and are among the first to offer assistance.

Only two days after Hurricane Harvey made landfall 30 miles north of Corpus Christi, Texas President Patti Poe established the [GFWC Texas Hurricane Relief Fund](#). Clubs from California to Maine have contributed to the fund donating an astounding \$95,000! Immediately following the storm, financial gifts were used to purchase water, food, and other essentials needed by individuals forced to flee their homes. Today, funds are being allocated to help with long-term rebuilding efforts. For example, a relief check was presented to Camp Aranzazu to repair their recreation facility. The camp provides therapeutic programs that are designed to enrich the lives of children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses. A donation was also presented to Dianne Browne, a member of GFWC Woman's Club of Aransas Pass. Dianne operates a daycare that was severely damaged during the storm. Additional funds received will be given to local libraries so that their doors may reopen once again. President Poe sends "A big Texas thank you!" to everyone who has contributed to the fund.

GFWC Florida President Mary Powell is also grateful for the assistance provided by clubwomen in the wake of Hurricane Irma. She recently stated, "Florida is well on its way to recovering from the hurricane, and we are thankful for your generous donations. We are in this together, and together we will succeed. GFWC Florida appreciates all that you have done and continue to do to help your Federation sisters who suffered. You are truly the best!" While great strides have been made in Florida, at least one club continues to face difficulties. The historic clubhouse owned by the [Bradenton Woman's Club](#) experienced extensive structural damage. Club members are currently raising funds to replace the building's roof and restore the interior.

In this season of gratitude, GFWC Headquarters is thankful for the thousands clubwomen across the nation who never fail to be generous with their time, their financial resources, and their hearts. Thank you.

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Quick Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian
Shirley Gomes

Reconsider or Rescind?

Reconsider should be used in the same meeting as the motion that is to be reconsidered was made, or the next business meeting.

Rescind can be used anytime, without regard to when the motion was adopted. Rescind at any later time but may require previous notice.

Reconsider requires a second, is not amendable and is debatable only if the motion to be reconsidered is debatable, in which case, debate can go into that question.



GFWC Attends the Annual Veterans Day Briefing

On November 7, GFWC was represented by Public Policy/Legislation Chairman Becky Weber at the [Women's Congressional Policy Institute's](#) annual Veterans Day Briefing. This year's event addressed health challenges facing women veterans following deployment. Speakers included: Dr. Carolyn Clancy of the Veterans Health Administration; Shurhonda Love a service-connected disabled veteran and representative of the Disabled American Veterans; and Allison Jaslow the Executive Director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Chairman Weber receives weekly briefings from the Women's Congressional Policy Institute. If you would like to receive a newsletter and updates from this nonpartisan public policy organization whose mission is to bring female policymakers together on issues of importance to women and their families, [click here](#). Recent publications have focused on women's preventative health; reducing maternal mortality in the developing world; women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); the gender wage gap; and economic security for women and families.

GFWC is proud of Chairman Weber for her continuing efforts to bring GFWC's policy initiatives to the attention of state and national representatives.

Rescind requires a second and is amendable and debatable.

[Click here](#) to download a chart which shows what commonly used motions require a second, and whether the motion is amendable and debatable.



In the News

The 31st annual Butterfield Overland Stage Days celebration is being hailed a great success. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the festivities was undoubtedly the parade organized by the **GFWC Benson Juniors Women's Club** (Arizona). For this year's parade theme, the club's ten members selected "A Salute to Western Movies." The theme was inspired by the local Old West Movie Set, and the parade's Grand Marshals were the owners of the film and tourist attraction. The parade included 30 entries and featured an assortment of mounted groups, floats, rodeo royalty, fire engines, and tractors. Learn more about Benson Butterfield Days by [clicking here](#).

Legislative Action Corner

Federal Appropriations for Family Violence Prevention

Current federal funding for programs to assist domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and programs to help victims of child abuse, among others, expires December 8 and Congress must either pass an omnibus FY 2018 spending bill or another short-term continuing resolution to keep the programs going. If neither is approved, there will be a government shutdown and no services funded by federal dollars can be provided. If you see your member of Congress during the Thanksgiving holidays, please urge them to pass an omnibus spending bill, so these programs can do this important and critical work in our communities.

Tax Reform

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are considering comprehensive tax reform proposals. Congressional leaders and the White House hope to have a final bill before the end of the year.

Important to GFWC are the proposals regarding:

- Increasing the charitable 14 cents mileage rate deduction for volunteers (GFWC Resolution 015-660 Valuing Volunteers); and
- Allowing tax deductions for medical expenses (GFWC Resolution 013-270 Long-Term Care).

In addition, the Charitable Giving Coalition strongly urges the inclusion of a universal charitable deduction available to all taxpayers. This would assure that contributions to 501(c)(3) charities are not taxed by the federal government and that taxpayers who currently take the deduction for their gifts will continue to be incentivized. The Coalition is concerned that doubling the standard deduction and providing a short-form for filing will dramatically reduce the number of taxpayers who make charitable donations. The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates such action will result in a loss of \$100 billion over ten years. Therefore, the Coalition urges Congress to provide a way for all taxpayers to obtain deductions for charitable contributions, regardless of whether they itemize. The

overall goal is to ensure that our communities and charities thrive and remain strong, diverse, and effective.

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



Marketplace Holiday Sales

Make sure you shop at the [GFWC Marketplace](#) this holiday season to receive some cheerful savings. Take 15 percent off your order on Black Friday, November 24, and 25 percent off on Cyber Monday, November 27. Don't miss out on these great deals!

Our Contact Information

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