

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 1, 2018



It's Our Time to Connect: Convention Registration Opens Today!

Today's the day you've been waiting for — Convention registration is officially open! We invite you to join us at the beautiful St. Louis Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri to celebrate another year of wonderful GFWC accomplishments and to learn about what's next. You can find instructions on how to register for Convention and all events [here](#) on our website. Once you're ready, you can access registration using [this link](#).

GFWC's user-friendly online registration system is quick, secure, and easy. Paper registration is available upon request. Registration closes on June 1. For assistance, contact Jennifer Simpson, Events Coordinator, directly at 202-628-2478 or via email at JSimpson@GFWC.org. The GFWC Room Block at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel is now open, and the best way to reserve a room is online through [this link](#).

The Call to Convention will be in the March + April issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*, which is scheduled for distribution in

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

early March. The Call will provide a thorough look at Convention details, like the agenda, tours, projects, awards, and more. We hope you make plans to attend and see for yourself all the excitement this year's Convention has in store.



Murder and Mystery, Oh My!

Murder mystery events are a popular fundraising venture for GFWC clubs. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (Virginia) member Tricia Jarrell is co-owner of Murder Mysteries Will Travel, a professional acting company that does interactive murder mystery theater. The club first used Tricia's services for their annual awards tea with a staging of "Who Killed the Earl of Grey," which members thoroughly enjoyed. So when they later brainstormed for how to fundraise for their scholarship fund, one member suggested holding a mystery dinner theater. The club planned "A Recipe for Murder" with Tricia and had a goal of selling at least 75 tickets, which they surpassed by selling 95, raising \$1,872 for their scholarship fund. The club has since had many requests to schedule another one, and they hope to within the year!

The GFWC Lake Placid Woman's Club (Florida) has performed seven sold-out mysteries in their clubhouse. One club member writes the script, and then the cast performs each mystery twice — once in the summer, and then again in the winter. Each performance usually raises \$1,200-1,500. Members enjoy the

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

Cares & Concerns

We send our best wishes to International Past President Shelby P. Hamlett, who recently fell and broke her hip. She has had surgery and is currently recuperating in LewisGale Medical Center, Room 412, 1900 Electric Road, Salem, VA 04153. We are sure she would appreciate well wishes and cards from our members.

A GFWC Farewell

We are sad to announce that GFWC Headquarters is bidding a fond farewell to Director of Communications and Public Relations Michelle Furman. She has been a dedicated staff member, an exceptional leader, and an invaluable resource to this organization. Our most sincere thanks to Michelle for her commitment to GFWC. We wish her all the best in her new position.



tradition so much that several of them have done at least three of the plays. With each play requiring at least six weeks of rehearsal, that's no small accomplishment! Cast members bring appetizers, drinks, and desserts to serve during the two intermissions of their three hour event. At the end of the play, the audience votes on which character is guilty. Those who guess correctly are awarded a donated bottle of wine. The club has even shared their scripts with other GFWC clubwomen so they can perform them in their own hometowns. Success is no mystery for these creative clubs, so consider a murder mystery for your next fundraiser!

A Thank You from GFWC California

California experienced the most destructive wildfire season in its history in 2017. It destroyed over a million acres of land and thousands of homes, including those of clubwomen. To help the state and its people through the devastation, the GFWC California Disasters Relief Fund was established, and GFWC generosity came through.

Clubwomen across the country came together in support of the fund. At the last State Board Meeting, \$22,000 was allocated to aid fire victims, and it was distributed to five clubs whose communities were seriously impacted. The money will be used to assist both GFWC members and their communities by helping with food, shelter, personal items, first responders, and reforestation.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this show of love from our Sisters in Federation," said Dori Kelsey, GFWC California President-elect. "You all showed that you are special. Thank you for the love."

WHRC Newsletter: Call for Articles

This March, we will join thousands of cultural and educational institutions in celebrating the 32nd annual Women's History Month. The National Women's History Project has designated this year's theme as "Nevertheless She Persisted." The Project

Join Us for the Annual WHRC Women's History Month Event

The Women's History Month Event will be held on March 8 from 2-4 p.m. at GFWC Headquarters. The event will include a presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session and a brief reception. Our speaker this year is Dr. Marjorie Spruill, a Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of South Carolina. She specializes in women's and gender history and the history of the American South. Dr. Spruill will be discussing her most recent book, *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics*. *Divided We Stand* focuses on the women's movements of the 1970s, particularly the federally sponsored International Women's Year (IWY) conferences of 1977, in which GFWC participated.

We hope you will join us for this very special event!



New GFWC Action Guides

states that this year's theme "presents the opportunity to honor women who have shaped America's history and its future through their tireless commitment to ending discrimination against women and girls. Through this theme we celebrate women fighting not only against sexism, but also against the many intersecting forms of discrimination faced by American women including discrimination based on race and ethnicity, class, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, and many other categories." At Headquarters we are celebrating this theme through our Women's History Month speaker, Dr. Marjorie Spruill, who will discuss the achievements and lasting impact of 1977's National Women's Conference. The WHRC will continue this celebration by acknowledging the triumphs of individual clubs against discrimination. For March's WHRC Newsletter, we ask that you submit stories of how your club used the power of volunteers to persist against sexism, disability, or any other form of discrimination in the past. Submissions should be 500 words or less, and pictures will be accepted but are not required. Please send your submissions to WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad at aconstad@gfwc.org by March 5.

Picture of the Week



The GFWC Woman's Club of Windsor (Virginia) used the profits from one of their fundraisers to start the Backpack Program at a local elementary school. They pay the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank to make a delivery to the club each month. The food bank provides not only food items, but also boxes, tape, plastic

Check out the new [Action Guide section](#) on the GFWC Website! Our guides are designed to help you get educated and take action for issues that matter, and now you can find them in once place. Currently we have Domestic Violence and Campus Sexual Assault Guides. Our Action Guide section can be found under the News & Publications tab on the GFWC website. We urge you to read and share them so that you can make change possible in both your community and the country.

Aviation Museum Searching for Rosie the Riveter

The Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum located at Martin State Airport in Middle River, MD is in search of women who worked in war industries during World War II for participating in its National Rosie the Riveter Day meet and greet on Wednesday, March 21, from 11 am to 1 pm. This day for recognizing the contributions women made to the WWII home front was designated by an act of Congress in 2017. Interested Rosies and their families should sign up at 1-410-682-6122.

Interested in Advertising in the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention Program?

bags, and backpacks. The club also partnered with Keurig Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, which provides a climate controlled, locked room for storage of the items. Club members meet bi-monthly to check the food in, pack the bags, and deliver the loaded boxes to the elementary school. The GFWC Woman's Club of Windsor is proud to provide 50 backpacks twice a month throughout the school year.

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The questions today are from the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP). There is a considerable amount of educational material on their site- www.parliamentarians.org

Question: Our club often refers to “established custom.” Does custom prevail over our bylaws and Standing Rules?

Answer: Established custom, if there is no contrary provision in the parliamentary authority or written rules of the organization, should be adhered to unless the membership, by a majority vote, agrees in a particular instance, to do otherwise. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR pp 54-56) recognizes that deviating from established custom may be by majority vote by the use of unanimous consent. The chair can simply announce the change in procedure and ask if there is any objection. If there is an objection, there would be a vote on the matter. Another way to deviate from established custom is through a point of order and appeal. Someone would raise a point that the established custom was not being followed. The chair would rule, there would be an appeal, and a majority vote would resolve the matter. ***“The deviation process may need to be repeated or a written rule adopted that abolishes or amends the established custom”*** is written by John Berg, PRP, in the *National Parliamentarian*. He also states, “If a customary practice is or becomes in conflict with the parliamentary authority or any written rule of the organization, and a Point of Order citing the conflict is raised at any time, the custom falls to the ground and thereafter the written rule or

The Convention Program will be distributed to each clubwoman when they register in St. Louis, Missouri. The program contains meeting schedules, maps of the convention facilities, a complete agenda, exhibitor profiles, and information on local attractions. The program also provides an ideal opportunity to recognize the achievements of your Federation sisters!

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



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parliamentary authority must be complied with." If the membership favors the established custom and wants to follow it, a special rule of order can be adopted to incorporate it in their organization.

Question: What is a consent calendar?

Answer: RONR, 11th edition, refers to a consent calendar or consent agenda. Some consider it as a way to speed up the meeting. A consent calendar consists of routine, uncontroversial business items. Multiple items of business can be dispensed with a single vote. See RONR (page 361) under Order of Business.

Question: A mistake in our minutes was found several months after the minutes were approved. What can we do to correct this mistake?

Answer: The minutes can still be corrected after they have been approved. Use the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. A member would make that motion to correct the minutes, which could be handled by unanimous consent, or if seconded, would be debatable and decided by a vote.

Legislative Corner

On Wednesday, President Trump met with a bicameral, bipartisan congressional delegation to discuss the Fix NICS Act of 2017. This bill will protect millions of Americans, especially victims of domestic violence, by improving the entry of domestic violence and other criminal records into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). When these records are not entered into NICS, abusers and criminals can easily obtain illegal firearms by erroneously passing a background check.

GFWC recognizes this huge step toward preventing guns from falling into the hands of criminals. We also know that there is more work left to do. Last week's action alert, sent through GFWC's Legislative Action Center, also focused on mental health

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In the News

When GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club (Delaware) President Cindy Winkler spoke about the needs of low income high school students, it inspired a listener to take action. A former teacher took her words to heart and created the Shall We Donate initiative. It benefits in-need high school students with new and gently used warm clothing that the club will distribute. You can read the article in [Sussex Living](#).

and bump stocks. Our efforts will continue forward until these remaining issues are also addressed, but Congress will not act unless they hear from YOU! The good news is that it's not too late; you can still take action on this issue by contacting your members of Congress today! Use GFWC's LAC to demand that your legislators address gun violence by imposing strict regulations on bump stocks, ensuring criminal acts are recorded in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and dedicating funds to address mental health concerns.

[Take Action Here!](#)

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 and to enroll to receive updates.



GFWC Marketplace: GFWC Stainless Steel Tumbler

The GFWC Stainless Steel 20 oz. tumbler features a vacuum sealed stainless steel outer body and double wall construction for insulation of hot or cold liquids. Your drink will stay hot or cold up to 6 hours! It has a spill-resistant

slide action lid with rubber gasket, meets FDA Requirements, and is BPA Free. Available for \$15 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

Our Contact Information

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