

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 22, 2018



Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a nervous system disease that leads to communication issues between the brain and the body. It affects 400,000 Americans and about 2.5 million people worldwide. MS is at least two to three times more common in women than men. It's an unpredictable disease, and patients experience different symptoms. Some of the most common ones include fatigue, balance problems, numbness, and vision problems. Many people with MS experience symptoms that aren't visible to outsiders. This can be a frustrating experience, especially when others assume someone with MS is fine, when in reality they are suffering. That's just one example of where shedding light on the disease can have an important impact on those who have it. There is not currently a cure, but the progression of the disease can be slowed down and symptoms can be managed.

Advances are made every year through research, and you can help keep that momentum going. To take action this month, wear orange to spread awareness and join a Walk MS or Bike



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

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

MS in your area. You can also support GFWC Partner Easterseals, which offers services to individuals with disabilities, including clients with MS who have issues with mobility and accessibility. Learn more about their services by visiting the [Easterseals website](#). The [National Multiple Sclerosis Society](#) is also a great resource for learning how you can advocate for change and make a difference in the lives of people with multiple sclerosis this month!



Spring Fling Fundraising

With the arrival of spring comes fundraising fever! GFWC clubs are getting creative with events of all kinds. The Plainfield Junior Woman's Club (Illinois) has done a Spring Fling Casino Night for five years. They started with 200 attendees and now they reach well over 300! The exciting, semi-casual event includes music, hors d'oeuvres, casino action, cash prizes, raffles, and auctions—both silent and live. They added sponsorships 2 years ago, and last year brought in over \$20,000 from various businesses and members. To make the event a great success, the club tries to have every member involved with securing sponsors, baskets, and auction items. The club was proud to earn over \$50,000 in proceeds last year.

The GFWC Brandon Service League, Inc. (Florida) has done a Spring Fling fundraiser for years, and it has taken many forms, from a barbecue to a fashion show. This year they're hosting a

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

Cares & Concerns

Congratulations to Lyndsey White Miller, Past Louisiana State President (2012-2014) and Past Louisiana Director of Junior Clubs (2008-2010) and her husband Mark on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on March 4. She is named after three generations of GFWC clubwomen: Past GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Nannette Elizabeth White Flowers (Louisiana), Judith Ann Ervin (Ohio), and Pauline Elizabeth Swing (Florida).



It's Our Time to Connect: Convention Registration

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](#).

movie night. The events always include a 50/50 drawing and opportunity baskets. For the past several years, the CSP committees have been responsible for both a basket theme and items for the basket, and the results are amazing!

The Spring Fling Sing-a-long has been an annual Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC, Inc. (Connecticut) event since 2015. This year, the featured film is the classic musical *Singin' In the Rain*. A local caterer prepares dinner for attendees to enjoy before the movie. The club has come a long way since 2015 when the movie was shown on a small portable screen projected by a laptop computer. The current automated screen is the length of the stage and the projector is state-of-the-art. Club members design, produce, and distribute posters throughout Newtown; work with various media outlets to maximize publicity; design and produce beautiful table arrangements and room decorations; and sell and purchase tickets. The Spring Fling Sing-a-long is an event that draws more than 75 people each year, and everyone has a good time.

This year, celebrate the beautiful spring season with a fundraiser that's fun for everyone!



Today is World Water Day

Environmental damage, together with climate change, is driving the water-related crises we see around the world. Floods, drought and water pollution are all made worse by

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 is your guide to this year's GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. It has all the facts about voting, speakers, tours, and more! The Call was included in the March + April GFWC Clubwoman Magazine, but you can also access the call [online](#).

Interested in Advertising in the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention Program?

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.

degraded vegetation, soil, rivers, and lakes. When we neglect our ecosystems, we make it harder to provide everyone with the water we need to survive and thrive.

Nature-based solutions have the potential to solve many of our water challenges. We need to do so much more with 'green' infrastructure and harmonize it with 'grey' infrastructure wherever possible. Planting new forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, and restoring wetlands will rebalance the water cycle and improve human health and livelihoods.

The World Water Day 2018 theme 'Nature for Water' aims to show the potential of nature-based solutions for water and how they can be considered for water management policy and practice.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

Follow these links for more information: [International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development \(2018 - 2028\)](#) and [2018 UN World Water Development Report - Nature-Based Solutions for Water](#)

Legislative Corner

Gun Violence – Domestic Violence and School Safety

Background Checks: It is anticipated that the Fix NICS legislation will be included in the pending FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill scheduled for final action this week. The measure would direct federal funding to states to make certain that domestic violence records are submitted into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) accurately and promptly, and creates a Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention Initiative to focus state efforts specifically on domestic violence records. GFWC supports this bill and has participated in congressional briefings on Capitol Hill and utilized our Legislative Action Center for clubwomen to advocate to Congress.

School Violence: Efforts led by Reps. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Bobby Scott (D-VA), bipartisan leadership of the House Education and Workforce Committee, have secured almost \$1 billion in the pending FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill for



Fundraising

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In the News

The Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club (Illinois) was featured in [The Beverly Review](#) for their seventh annual Work Out Domestic Violence Benefit Day. The

the Title IV grant program to bolster school safety and help students with mental illnesses. The program is currently funded at \$400 million. GFWC met with Rep. Virginia Foxx on March 13 to express support for this and other issues.

VAWA Reauthorization

On March 20, the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) held its first hearing on the programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which are due to be reauthorized in 2018. Witnesses included the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women; Rise – a survivor led organization which advocated for the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights legislation which passed Congress and many state legislatures; Vital Voices Global Partnership currently working in 181 countries; and a Deputy District Attorney from San Diego representing the National District Attorneys Association.

event will raise awareness and funds for a local domestic violence agency that provides counseling, legal advocacy, education, and support at no charge to families affected by domestic violence.

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes

If less than a dozen members are on a small board see Robert's pp. 487-488 for complete information on "Informal Procedure in Small Boards."

Board members may raise a hand instead of standing when seeking to obtain the floor, and may remain seated while making motions or speaking.

A board member may speak any number of times on a debatable question, except that the regular rules apply to appeals.

A motion does not have to be pending in order to discuss a subject informally.

Votes can be taken initially by a show of hands.

In putting questions to a vote, the chairman need not stand.

If the chairman is a member of the board, she can, without giving up the chair, participate in debate.

Picture of the Week



On March 13, the GFWC San Tan Valley Woman's Club (Arizona) was chartered with 14 members. In addition to the clubwomen, Charlie, a service dog for Cheryl Chase, was initiated with her very own membership pin! Seated officers pictured (L-R): Club President Lori Leiman, GFWC Arizona State President Celene Post, and Club Vice President Cheryl Chase. Standing officers pictured (L-R): Club Treasurer Elsie Dustin and Club Secretary Ginny Valdespino.



GFWC Marketplace: Embroidered Emblem Patch

This four-color GFWC Embroidered Emblem Patch has a 3in. diameter and is on a twill background. Great for sewing on bags, jackets, or banners, this item makes a fantastic PR tool! Available for \$1 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

Our Contact Information

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