

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 8, 2018



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10 marks the 13th observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. A quarter of the HIV positive population in the U.S. are women, and women account for more than half of the HIV positive population worldwide. The Office on Women's Health reports that only about half of HIV positive women are getting treatment, and only 4 in 10 of them have the virus under control.

It's important to end the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, and that starts with proper education. Understanding the difference between the two is a good first step. HIV is the virus that causes the HIV infection, while AIDS is the most advanced stage of that infection. The [Office on Women's Health website](#) offers valuable information (including facts for both [women](#) and [girls](#)) that you can circulate, as well as resources for how you can take action.



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.

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What can you do to acknowledge the day? Read up, spread awareness, and share resources on your social media accounts. Speaking up about the issue is a vital first step. The stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS marginalizes those affected, leading to discrimination and reduced access to health services. Many people resist getting help in the first place for fear of being ostracized. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to open up a dialogue so we can both make sure women know how to prevent or reduce the risk of HIV and support women who have it.

President Shea Attends Congressional Briefing

In celebration of the 24th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), GFWC President Sheila Shea attended a March 1 congressional briefing. It was hosted by the National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence and Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), chairman and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Speakers from the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, End Violence Against Women International (which focuses on the criminal justice response to sexual violence), and a retired police officer and survivor described the benefits of many of the programs created by VAWA that are funded on an annual basis. GFWC is a strong advocate for these comprehensive, effective, and cost-saving programs through its [Legislative Action Center](#).

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



Vote in Our GFWC Shares Polls!

Spring is almost here and summer is around the corner! In honor of the back-to-back holidays of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we want to hear about your favorite memory of your parent or parents! We also want to know what you're most looking forward to about summer. Let us know and your responses might be included in the May + June edition of GFWC Clubwoman Magazine. [Click here](#) to vote!





Read Across America Day 2018

The GFWC Fine Arts Club of Bruce (Mississippi), pictured above, was one of many clubs who participated in National Read Across America Day on March 2. It's a popular tradition that matches GFWC's dedication to increasing literacy rates and fostering a love of reading. Members of the GFWC Fine Arts Club of Bruce went to their local elementary school to read to children in the hopes that it will motivate them to pick up books on their own.

Some members took the festivities a step farther by dressing up as Dr. Seuss characters! The GFWC Las Vegas Women's Club (Nevada) had several members dressed as Cat in the Hat, and they visited classrooms and delighted young readers.

We hope you enjoyed Read Across America Day as much as the children to whom you brought so much joy. By the looks of the smiling, (and sometimes painted!) faces of GFWC members, it seems you did!

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!



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



Partner Spotlight: Easterseals

April welcomes spring and Autism Awareness Month. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S. Easterseals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and other special needs. For nearly 100 years, they have been offering help and hope to children and adults living with disabilities, and to the families who love them. Through therapy, training, education, and support services, Easterseals creates life-changing solutions so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and play.

While there are a number of organizations researching to find the cause and cure for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Easterseals is unique as the nation's leading provider of services and support for children and adults living with ASD and their families. They're working internationally to provide children and adults with ASD individualized treatment plans and comprehensive services. To learn more, [click here](#).

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

By GFWC Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes

Example of a Typical Meeting

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](#).

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.

Presiding officer says, "The meeting will come to order."

Opening ceremony: Based on customary rituals.

Roll Call: The chair says, "The secretary will call the roll of members (if customary)."

Reading and approval of minutes. After the minutes are read, or if they have been previously distributed, the chair asks, "Are there any corrections to the minutes?" (Pause)

If there are none, the minutes are approved as written."

With corrections, the chair will say, "The secretary will make the corrections. The minutes are approved as corrected."

Secretary will read correspondence.

Treasurer's Report. A treasurer's report is not adopted. It is placed on file for the auditor's annual report.

Report of Officers, Standing and Special Committees, Board. Action is taken on motions made or under New Business.

Special Orders: Announced only if there are such matters.

Unfinished Business and General Orders: Announced only if there are such matters previously introduced but not finished at the previous meeting.

New Business: The chair takes up any new business that is listed on the agenda. Action is taken on recommendations.

Announcements: The chair makes announcements.....and asks, "Are there any other announcements?"

Program: The chair does not "turn the meeting over," but says, "The program chairman will now present the program."

Adjournment: The chair will ask "Is there any further business?" (Pause) "Hearing none, since there is no further business, the meeting is adjourned." OR...."A *motion to adjourn is in order.*"

Legislative Corner

House Passes Bill to Fight Online Sex Trafficking



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In the News

To honor the brave and selfless men and women who gave so much for our country, the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield (New Jersey) created lap robes

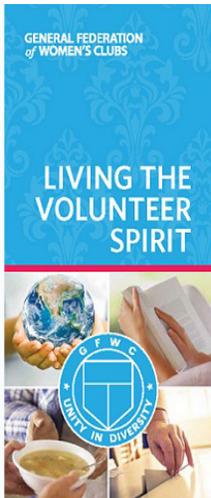
On February 27, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1865, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA), sponsored by Reps. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Mimi Walters (R-CA), and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). For too long, websites like Backpage.com that actively facilitate sex trafficking advertising have been able to escape accountability for their role in selling trafficking victims, due to the ambiguity of our federal laws. H.R. 1865 would give federal, state, and local prosecutors the tools they need to hold companies accountable. The measure also includes provisions included from S. 1693, the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, introduced by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). Next, the Senate must adopt this bipartisan legislation; action this month is expected.

and presented them at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home. You can see photos and read the article in [Tap into South Plainfield](#).

Video of the Week



The GFWC Little Women of Fernandina Beach (Florida) wanted to stir up interest in their club, so they made an entertaining recruitment video. It sure makes us want to join! If your club is looking for a creative way to attract new members, consider taking a page out of their book. A recruitment video is a great way to show the personality and camaraderie of your club members. You can watch their video [here!](#)



GFWC Marketplace: GFWC Brochure

Share GFWC with all your audiences using the updated general brochure, which includes a brief history of the Federation and details on our members, programs, and mission. Packs of 25 available for \$3 at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

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