

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - April 19, 2018



## How to Celebrate Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day, and this year's theme is End Plastic Pollution. Plastic Oceans Foundation reports that we produce almost 300 million tons of plastic every year, and half of that is for single use, which is a huge waste. Plastic has toxic impacts on humans, marine life, and our environment.

How can you and your club make a difference not just on Earth Day, but every day? Here are some suggestions for how to reduce plastic pollution. These tips can be used in your home and at your next club event or meeting!

- Whether it's plastic drink bottles, peanut butter jars, cleaning products, salad dressing containers, or milk jugs, make sure to recycle!
- Replace disposable plastics that you use in your daily life. Switch out your grocery bags for tote bags. Use real silverware instead of plastic cutlery, and don't use plastic straws. Use a travel mug instead of getting a coffee cup that has a plastic lid, and use a reusable water bottle instead of buying plastic water bottles.

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

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## Subscribe to News & Notes

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.

- When you eat out at a restaurant, bring your own containers for any leftovers you might have.
- While individuals make an impact, corporations leave a much larger footprint. If there's a company who you think could reduce the amount of packaging they use, give them a call and make your voice heard!

The GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club (Florida) celebrates Earth Day by hosting entertaining awareness projects for children at their local Crews Lake Park. The crafts, made of recycled materials, are used as learning tools to understand the environment, clean air and water, and conservation efforts. Additionally, club members collect and deliver old recycled computers, printers, laptops, phones, televisions, and appliances to a recycling trailer.

Every person who commits to reducing plastic pollution ensures a cleaner earth. Spread the word and get your community to use less plastic, reuse it if possible, and recycle it if not. Together we can protect our planet.



## National Volunteer Month

In April we celebrate volunteers for all of the community service they complete year-round. This month, take a moment to thank and appreciate a fellow GFWC club member who makes your club's efforts a success!

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at [kgarlick@gfwc.org](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org) and you're all set!

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## Honor Flight

Please join with us as we welcome the next Honor Flight from West Central Florida on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m. at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. This has been a long standing activity for local volunteers and staff from GFWC Headquarters. What a fitting tribute in celebration of our GFWC Federation Day!

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## Call for Questions for the 2018-2020 Candidates for Office

During a business session at our 2018 Annual Convention in St. Louis, GFWC will hold a Q&A session with the 2018–2020 Candidates for Office. We are soliciting thoughtful questions to pose to the candidates about their experiences with GFWC. Please send your questions by email to GFWC Elections

During GFWC's annual Volunteers in Action Week, clubs across the country unify to provide community service and prove what GFWC volunteers can accomplish. The event, which takes place April 22-28 this year, always coincides with GFWC's Federation Day, April 24. This year GFWC is celebrating 128 years of service, and we encourage you to honor that legacy by taking action and showing that volunteers are love in motion. Share photos on the GFWC App so everyone can see the creative and compassionate projects you came up with.

Thank you, GFWC clubwomen, for everything that you do!

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## Participate in our Federation Day of Action on April 24

This Federation Day, we will honor the legacy of GFWC by urging our elected officials to recognize and guarantee equality for women through their support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). This amendment will ensure rights are not denied based on an individual's gender. Clubwomen from across the nation will tell their members of Congress to remove the deadline on ratifying the ERA in the states.

In March of 2017, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the amendment. With only two additional states needed, Congress must act to ensure that when the required ratifications occur, the U.S. Constitution will be amended to guarantee equality for all U.S. citizens. Something as important as this shouldn't have to race the clock!

How can you help? Here are some tips to rally your club members for our day of action.

1. Make sure your members are subscribed to our [Legislative Action Center](#) (LAC)
2. Mark your calendars for April 24, 2018 – GFWC Federation Day
3. Through the LAC, you can...
  - o Write a Letter
  - o Make a Phone Call
  - o Post to Facebook
  - o Send a Tweet
4. Create a club event/project – host a club day of advocacy!
  - o Bring Snacks
  - o Prepare Icebreakers

Committee Chairman Susan Martin ([sbm2086@aol.com](mailto:sbm2086@aol.com)) by May 15, 2018.

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## Legislative Action Center Alerts

We've heard that a number of our clubwomen subscribed to GFWC's Legislative Action Center have not been receiving our Action Alerts. This could be because the "**Email Opt-in**" box was not checked when first subscribing. We want you to be up-to-date on all of our advocacy efforts, and the best way to do this is through our Action Alerts. If you'd like to receive our Action Alerts, all you have to do is return to our [subscription page](#), complete your information, and be sure to check the "**Email Opt-in**" box. Completing these steps will update your current information in our Legislative Action Center.

You may also contact the programs department at [programs@gfwc.org](mailto:programs@gfwc.org) with your first and last name, city, state, zip code, and the phrase "Email Opt-in" and we will handle all of the work for you!

We are looking forward to keeping you in the legislative loop!

- Make calls, write letters, and use social media TOGETHER!
- Take photos and share your advocacy day with GFWC

Celebrate 128 years by raising your voice in a collective day of action to make our message louder and stronger!

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## Club Website Admins: Important Security Update

Ensure your club website is as visible as possible in Internet searches and that users do not receive security warnings when visiting it. To learn why installing an SSL certificate through your technology provider is important for the new set of standards that Google has implemented, you can read about it [here](#). An easy way to test if your website is in compliance is to type your club website's URL into a browser; the prefix https:// should display.

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## Subscribe Here

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REGISTER >

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## 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](#).

GFWC's user-friendly online registration system is quick, secure, and easy. Paper registration is available upon request. Registration closes on



## Partner Spotlight: March of Dimes

Now more than ever, moms and babies need a champion. GFWC can make a difference for thousands of families in your community and across the country. March of Dimes helps 4 million babies born each year. March with us to help raise awareness and funds to tackle the issues that threaten their health the most. Start your club team today at [www.marchforbabies.org/gfwc](http://www.marchforbabies.org/gfwc) and make a difference in the life our smallest, most fragile citizens. Step up and out for March for Babies, GFWC clubwomen!

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## Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

**By GFWC Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes**

### Disciplinary Procedures

If a club determines that the conduct of a member is “tending to injure the good name of an organization, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work” the club may choose to take disciplinary action, whether club bylaws make mention of it or not. If the club’s parliamentary advisor is Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), you will find pages of guidance in Chapter XX of RONR, 11th edition, Sections 61-63.

It states, in part, “formal disciplinary procedures should generally be regarded as a drastic step reserved for serious situations or those potentially so. When it appears that such measures may become necessary, proper and tactful handling of the case is of prime importance. It is usually in the best interest of the club first to make every effort to obtain a satisfactory solution of the matter quietly and informally.”

June 1. For assistance, contact Jennifer Simpson, Events Coordinator, directly at 202-628-2478 or via email at [JSimpson@GFWC.org](mailto: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](#).

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## Service Project - Rise Against Hunger

Even at Convention, GFWC never forgets its volunteer mission. We are teaming up with Rise Against Hunger for an amazing, hands-on service project on Monday, June 25. [Rise Against Hunger](#) is an international hunger relief organization distributing meals to the world’s most vulnerable communities. GFWC’s goal is to pay for and package an astounding 36,000 meals!

One way to support this goal is by donating toward the cost of

RONR lists the basic steps that must be taken to ensure a fair disciplinary process. If a determination is made to go forth with charges, such action is determined in an executive session. Due process requires that the matter remain confidential, individual rights are respected, and formal notification is provided.

Hopefully, disciplinary procedures are a very rare occasion in our women's clubs. Interpersonal relationship skills can help resolve differences and negotiate issues. Neither the club or any member has the right to make public any part of this process.

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## Picture of the Week



At the recent Ojai Valley Woman's Club Reciprocity Tea, each guest was given a white, hand-crocheted Matilija Poppy to wear as a symbol of the Ojai Valley as it rises from the ashes and continues to flourish following the Thomas Fire and terrible floods in nearby Montecito.

A special thank you was made to GFWC and CFWC for their kind donations to victims of the tragic fires and floods in Southern California.

Pictured wearing their poppies are President Pat Essick (standing) and First Vice President Carina Solecki.

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creating and distributing the meals. This is where everyone can get involved. The total cost of one meal is only **29 cents!**

We would like to challenge every GFWC club to donate one meal per club member. If your club would like to donate more than one meal per member, we would certainly appreciate the additional funding. Club donation checks can be made payable to GFWC with "RAH Service Project" written in the memo line. All checks can be mailed to GFWC Headquarters.

You also have the option of donating toward the service project during registration. A donation of \$7.25 covers the cost of 25 meals; \$14.50 covers 50 meals, and \$29.00 covers 100 meals! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

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## Fundraising



## GFWC Marketplace: GFWC Gavel

Perfect for your club president or leadership, this American Walnut finish gavel (10.5in) features a jewelers brass band customized with printing of the GFWC color emblem and General Federation of Women's Clubs. Available for \$30 each at [the GFWC Marketplace](#).

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### Our Contact Information

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