

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - April 26, 2018



National Poetry Month

April is the month we celebrate poetry, and GFWC is no stranger to poets! Before GFWC bought the building, Headquarters itself was decorated with poetic sentiments by former owner and poet, Grace Hoffman White, whose collection of poetry can be found in the [Library of Congress](#).

There is a long tradition of appointing GFWC poet laureates. One of their duties was to select poems to appear in each issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*. In 1931, Lizette Woodworth Reese, was named poet laureate. Her work was widely acclaimed, particularly her sonnet, "Tears."

Reese not only inspired but was succeeded as GFWC Poet Laureate in 1933 by Edna St. Vincent Millay, who had become the third woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1923. As a pacifist and an advocate for women's rights, her work was often socially conscious. Her 1920 collection, *A Few Figs From Thistles*, stirred controversy for its exploration of feminist issues.

When Lizette Woodworth Reese died, her vacancy was taken by Angela Morgan. Morgan was the first woman to read poems



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 Membership Services Manager Kate

from the pulpit of Chapel Royal, Savoy, in London. That honor had only ever been granted to male authors before.

These are just a few of the inspiring women whose literary work was recognized and appreciated by GFWC!



Federation Day

GFWC club members everywhere made sure that Federation Day was celebrated in style! Thank you to everyone who participated in our Federation Day of Action to support the Equal Rights Amendment! Two California clubs, Oak View Woman's Club and Ojai Valley Woman's Club, met for a joint luncheon to celebrate Federation Day. They encouraged all members to support the ERA through GFWC's Legislative Action Center. There was no better way to celebrate the founding of this organization than by raising our voices to encourage elected officials to guarantee equality, regardless of gender.

President Shea marked the day by joining the GFWC West Valley Federated Women's Club (California), Bette and Leo Shanley from Virginia, and GFWC Staff in welcoming veterans from the Honor Flight from West Central Florida at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

The GFWC of Nevis Study Club (Minnesota) celebrated a combination of Federation Day and Earth Day by visiting a local nursery to plant a flower pot. This was followed by a lunch where they read about past GFWC members that were true

Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

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

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.

leaders in their time so that others could learn about the organization.

Federation Day serves as a reminder that GFWC has been supporting our local communities for 128 years thanks to dedicated volunteers like you!



Ensure Your Club Website's Traffic Doesn't Suffer

Don't get caught off guard by Google's plans to discourage traffic to your club's website in July! We recommend contacting your technology provider as soon as possible to install an SSL certificate to prevent website visitors from receiving security warnings. Google already ranks websites without an SSL certificate lower in Internet searches, so it may become even harder for prospective members to find your club website online. You can read more [here](#).

Legislative Action Corner

Enjoy Our National Parks!

The Interior Department announced an across-the-board \$5 increase at all national parks that charge a visitor entrance fee, abandoning an earlier proposal to dramatically increase fees for 17 highly-visited national parks to pay for infrastructure improvements. A wave of angry public comments convinced the Department that the fee hike would result in a decline in visitation and decreased revenue. The new fees will take effect in June.

You may also contact the programs department at 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!

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Living the Volunteer Spirit

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REGISTER ▶



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](#).

Picture of the Week



The GFWC Yucaipa Woman's Club (California) donated "Spa Boxes" to every woman veteran registering at the Juliette Clinic at the Loma Linda Veterans' Hospital. Each beautifully decorated box contained scented soap, a body scrubber, scarf, candle, and notepad. There were also cards inside that read, "Welcome Home. Thank You for Your Service, from the Ladies of the Yucaipa Woman's Club." This project started 3 years ago when members recognized that women returning from military deployment did not have any down-time before most of them were expected back in their role as wife and/or mother. The members wanted to do something special for women veterans who are often not recognized as having served their country. Over 450 boxes have been delivered, all made possible by donations from club members. The hospital values this project, stating that the women are thrilled that someone recognizes their service. A special shelf in the nurse's office has been set aside for these boxes. This will be a continuing project for the club.

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](#).

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



GFWC Marketplace: Member Year Pins

GFWC members know what it means to make a lasting commitment, and now you can honor that commitment to service with the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40-year pins. These special items are the perfect way to say "Thank you" to members with multiple years of service. Each pin is made of imitation cloisonné with a pin back and measures 1.25" in diameter. Available for \$5 each at [the GFWC Marketplace](#).

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.



Be the Hero

There could not be an easier way to be the Hero and support your cause. Earn 50% profit and the bulbs get delivered directly to your supporters. They are 100% guaranteed, with no minimum order and no upfront cost required! Order your free sales supplies to start

your door to door fundraiser or build your online campaign today!

Raise fantastic profits, all the while beautifying your community and rejuvenating Mother Earth.

Earn 50% profit from sales!

An extra 5% from every sale goes directly to GFWC to support national projects.

www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC or call 1-888-833-1486.

Our Contact Information

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