CIVIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ARE KEY COMPONENTS IN OUR LIVES

The GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program is designed to actively connect members with effective projects and activities relating to civic and social responsibilities. This program focuses on the following areas:

**Citizenship**
- Educate club members and local communities on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Use resources, including GFWC Resolutions, to increase patriotism, pride in heritage, and active community involvement.
- Encourage active involvement in the legislation and regulation of issues that affect the world around you.
- Attend a naturalization ceremony and give each new citizen a flag pin.
- Promote classroom and member education on American heritage symbols and flag etiquette.

**Military Personnel**
- Educate club members and local communities on needs of military families.
- Advocate for legislation that supports active and veteran military personnel and their families.
- Support military personnel and veterans returning to community living.
- Consider projects benefiting homeless women veterans.

**Emergency and Disaster Preparedness**
- Educate club members and local communities on disaster readiness, recovery, and relief.
- Work with law enforcement agencies and first responders to increase public awareness.
- Develop community programs and coalitions to address disaster recovery and relief.
- Work with local agencies to provide community training in disaster preparedness.
- Participate in the national “In Case of Emergency” program (ICE) by distributing brochures and information on disaster supply kit needs.

**Safety and Crime Prevention**
- Educate club members and local communities on home, transportation (including bicycles, rail, and air) and internet safety.
- Provide programs, tools, and training.
• Promote trick or treat safety and organize a Halloween “Trunk or Treat” event in your municipal parking lot. Families park their cars and open their car trunks for trick or treaters.

• Create safer homes and communities through crime prevention awareness.

• Encourage “Neighborhood Watch” groups within communities.

Consider projects that address issues such as running for office; voter registration; elections; democracy; disaster preparedness; road safety; and supporting our military personnel.

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC partners to the Public Issues Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

IDEAS
Program ideas are endless. Below is a list of ideas on how clubs may support the Public Issues Community Service Program.

Citizenship
• Celebrate patriotism.
• Visit, volunteer, and help preserve historic sites, monuments, and homes.
• Promote classroom lessons on American heritage symbols.
• Provide copies of The Constitution to new citizens or school classrooms.
• Participate in the legislative process by encouraging qualified women to seek elected or appointed office.
• Create and support ways to observe the National Day of Remembrance and Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day each year.
• Hold a National Issues Forum.
• Work to promote student volunteer service requirement in schools.
• Work with local shelters for women veterans who are homeless. Provide cleaning products and hygiene essentials for these women.
MILITARY PERSONNEL: 2018-2020 INITIATIVE:
Women serving in our Armed Forces need our continued support while they are deployed and serving stateside. Every GFWC club is asked to include one project devoted to women in the military. OUR GOAL IS PARTICIPATION FROM 1,000 CLUBS!

- Conduct programs and projects to recognize and honor all veterans.
- Volunteer at your local USO office.
- Provide resources to support military families.
- Assist and advocate for severely wounded, ill, or injured soldiers, veterans, and their families.
- Contact Sew Much Comfort to assist them in supplying free adaptive clothing to support our wounded service members. Go to www.sewmuchcomfort.org and under “Volunteer” click “GFWC” in the drop down menu to find suggestions. See GFWC Resources in this Outline for other contact information.
- Participate in the USO’s “United Through Reading’s Military Program.” Deployed parents are videotaped reading a book to their child and the DVD and book are then sent to the child back home. Just $10 gives a child a bedtime story from a deployed parent.
- Donate to the USO’s “Operation Phone Home.” The USO distributes phone cards to service members and offers a Private Telephone Network. For $25, 70 soldiers can call home using this service.
- Promote the hiring of returning veterans.
- Invite returning service members to speak at club meetings and community forums.
- Sponsor baby showers for women assigned to nearby military bases.
- Contact USO (See GFWC Resources in this Outline) to learn about the USO2GO kits through which USO delivers everything from toiletries to art supplies to snacks to troops in remote and restricted areas.
- Contact the USO for more information on how you can participate in support of our troops and their families.
- Donate “Mommy Bags” to a military hospital for new mothers who are veterans. Contents can be lotion, bath gel, nail polish, stationery, candy, etc.
- Contact your local Fisher House, offer to provide food for a special event or sponsor a party for children staying there while visiting a parent.
- Make up “Thank You, Your Bill Has Been Paid” cards and give them to club members who give them to soldiers in restaurants after they have paid the soldier’s bill.

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

- Partner with local health organizations to sponsor First Aid and CPR classes and programs.
- Work with local agencies to provide community training programs on disaster preparedness. Educate communities on the need for preparedness provisions.
- Sponsor a program for members to develop a Disaster Preparedness Toolkit for their homes.
- Build a kit for disaster preparedness.
- Learn about opportunities to get involved and expand resources for first responders.
- Provide in-kind and financial assistance to disaster victims. Consider supporting the GFWC Disaster Relief-Library Replenishment Fund.

HONORING WOMEN VETERANS
Wilmington Woman’s Club (NC) held a tea to honor women veterans from their community and surrounding area. This was the first ever event in Wilmington to recognize women veterans as a group. The keynote speaker was a female West Point graduate and member of the NC House of Representatives. The 39 attendees commented they had never felt so important and appreciated as veterans. The club has been able to make this an annual event.
• Urge members and town residents to help first responders identify health issues, allergies, or medical problems so accident victims can be treated by keeping medical and emergency information in an envelope with a big red “X” on it in their glove compartments.

Safety and Crime Prevention
• Work with local fire departments to provide fire safety awareness. Establish an awareness campaign to remind community members to change batteries in smoke detectors when clocks change back between standard and daylight savings time.
• Sponsor community programs on home fire drills, safe storage of combustibles, and special safety concerns for children and older adults.
• Get involved with local National Night Out™ events. Register, at no charge, and receive the NNO resource kit.
• Develop safety programs that identify children riding in car seats. Whether information is on the car seat or placed in the glovebox, in the event of an accident, responders and rescue personnel have access to medical and emergency information on those passengers who are too young to share the necessary information.
• Work with local law enforcement officials, neighborhood coalitions, and civic groups on crime prevention programs.
• Promote vehicle safety. Work with local officials and schools to encourage driver training and safe driving seminars for young and mature drivers.
• Sponsor community programs on special safety and crime prevention concerns for young children and older adults.
• Distribute stickers to local florists to be affixed to corsage boxes for the Spring Prom. The sticker stated, “Think of your future. Think of your date. Now think before making a fatal mistake. Don’t drink and drive.”

GFWC RESOURCES
Sew Much Comfort
Contact: Michele Cuppy, President and CFO
13805 Frontier Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337
E: mmc.cuppy@comcast.net
P: 952-431-6233
W: www.SewMuchComfort.org
F: https://facebook/sewmuchcomfort

United Service Organizations (USO)
Contact: Susan Cleveland,
Regional Development Manager
2111 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1200
Arlington, VA 22201
E: scleveland@uso.org
P: 571-212-6872
W: www.USO.org

AWARDS
GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Public Issues Community Service Program projects and partnership projects, as follows:
• Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
• $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Public Issues Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS
Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current Resolutions for the Public Issues Community Service Program are listed here by Number and Title. Refer to the complete text of each in the 2017-2018 Resolutions document.

015-010  Abolishment of Pornography
015-020  Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
015-040  Advocacy Rights of Charitable Organizations
015-050  Aging the Case
015-060  Vehicle Safety Systems
015-070  Balanced Budget
015-080  Bicycle Safety
015-090  Child Safety Seats
015-110  Civilian Military Reserve
015-120  Continued Concern for Missing In Action
015-130  Crime Prevention
015-140  Disaster Service Planning
015-160  Driver Education
015-170  Driving Under the Influence
015-180  Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners
015-190  Election Procedures
015-200  Eminent Domain
015-210  Equal Rights and Responsibilities for Women
015-220  Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury
015-230  Fundamental Freedoms
015-240  Gun Control
015-250  Historic Preservation
015-260  Humane Treatment of Animals
015-270  Identity Theft
015-290  Improved Adoption Laws
015-300  Distracted Drivers
015-310  Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
015-330  Labor Exploitation
015-350  Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse Cases Involving Children
015-370  Maintenance of Strong United States Armed Forces
015-380  Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing
015-410  Nomination of Ella T. Grasso to be Honored on a United States Postage Stamp
015-420  Occupation-Volunteer
015-430  Personal Safety
015-440  Political Campaign Finance Reform
015-450  Pound Seizure
015-460  Prison Rehabilitation
015-470  Prosecution of Hate Crimes
015-480  Respect for the Flag of the United States
015-490  Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security
015-500  Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual
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