



# PUBLIC ISSUES

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

 Visit [www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/) for updates and more information.

## 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.



### 2018-2020 PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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#### 2018-2020 INITIATIVE

In 1994 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January was declared a National Day of Service. Each and every club in GFWC is asked to do a service project on that day. It may be in any area, any type of project. OUR GOAL IS 1,000 CLUBS PARTICIPATING.

- 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](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).



**RIGHT TO VOTE**

The **GFWC Glendale Woman’s Club** (AZ) created a mock voting scenario for fourth graders at their local school. They created the entire voting process from registering a voter to actually casting a vote. Members prepared lessons – “What is a Leader,” “Agree to Disagree,” and “Why is Voting Important.” The goal was for students to take away the importance of voting for all Americans.



**FIRST TIME BUS RIDER**

The **GFWC Agawam Woman’s Club** (MA) organized a program for kids riding the bus for the first time. A volunteer dressed as “safety bug” introduced safety procedures to all children. The children were then escorted to an actual bus for their first ride! Parents can accompany children who aren’t quite ready to go it alone.



**FISHER HOUSES**

The **GFWC Nisqually Woman’s Club** (WA) supported both Fisher Houses at Joint Base Lewis-McCord by providing an Easter dinner with all the trimmings. They partnered with the neighboring GFWC Capital Club to provide a Super Bowl Sunday dinner and celebration for the service men and women.

**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.
- Help someone study for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Visit [www.USCitizenship.org](http://www.USCitizenship.org).
- 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](http://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.



**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.

**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.

- 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](mailto:mmc.cuppy@comcast.net)

**P:** 952-431-6233

**W:** [www.SewMuchComfort.org](http://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](mailto:scleveland@uso.org)

**P:** 571-212-6872

**W:** [www.USO.org](http://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



015-510	Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project
015-520	Safety for Air Travel
015-540	School Violence and Disruptions
015-550	Sexual Assault
015-560	Sexual Exploitation of Children
015-570	Sex Offenders
015-580	Social Security
015-590	Statehood for Puerto Rico
015-600	Strikes in Essential Public Services
015-610	Transportation
015-620	Uniform Probate Code
015-630	Unionization of Members of the Military Services
015-640	United States Postal Service
015-650	Victim/Witness Assistance
015-660	Valuing Volunteers
015-670	Volunteer Liability Protection
015-680	Volunteer Participation in Federal Programs
015-690	Voter Registration and Voting
015-700	Water Safety
015-710	Women in Public Policy-Making Positions
015-720	Women in Transition
015-730	Sexual Assault of Women Serving in and with the Armed Forces
015-740	Elder Abuse
015-750	Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing and Bullying
015-760	Safe Highways and Infrastructure
015-770	TSA Loose Change Act
015-790	Direct Dial 911
015-800	Shop Locally
015-810	Firearm Safety and Responsibility
015-820	Human Trafficking
015-830	Opioids
015-840	Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention
015-850	Safe Children
015-860	School Bus Safety