



## Administration Reports 2016-2018

### **Sheila E. Shea**

#### International President

This administration began with an incredible installation banquet, ceremony, and reception at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, largely due to the unbelievable planning and preparations provided by GFWC Massachusetts members, as well as the tremendous support from members of GFWC New England Region. My appreciation goes out to each and every one of them for making it such a special evening for me, my family, friends, and so many members and guests.

My husband Steve and I arrived at Headquarters on a very sunny, but extremely humid day in early July. I started bright and early the next morning fulfilling the responsibilities of being your International President. We had a wonderful few days exploring Headquarters and DC on the following weekend. I am indebted to Steve for supporting me on this journey and staying the course in New England to survive two more cold and harsh winters by himself.

The administration started strong with preparations for the August Board of Directors meeting and another *Day in DC* briefing at the U. S. Department of State, tours of the U. S. Capitol and Library of Congress, and an overnight trip to Chicago—before meeting my new granddaughter, Addison Ronnie Shea, born August 18, 2016. The summer months also brought an interview with a Washington ABC Affiliate WJLA Channel 7 reporter and settling into a daily, full-time work routine again. Capitol Hill meetings and briefings were a regular occurrence; topics mostly focused on domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking issues, and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

My trip to the Federation of Asia Pacific Women's Association (FAWA) Convention in Singapore was an awe-inspiring event as a first-time traveler to Asia. It was a highlight of this administration! I was warmly welcomed by attendees and then shared our common passion for addressing human trafficking and child labor issues. I connected with some wonderful women who had the same values, concerns, mission, and vision as our organization and discovered there is very little difference in the overall concerns of women worldwide. I, of course, extended official GFWC greetings and an invitation to attend our 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Desert, California. While I had to miss my own region conference, the insights that I gained in Singapore were too valuable to be measured.

In the winter, the *Dartmouth Decibels* performed at GFWC's Headquarters, and we hosted the Holiday Open House for members and guests. I presented at the 120th Kick-Off Anniversary Celebration for the National League of American Pen Women at their headquarters, toured the White House, and participated in Wreaths Across America.

I also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with the GFWC Georgia Morrow Civic Women's Club at Arlington National Cemetery. I was also privileged to attend the Inauguration of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States! On a local level, I attended and spoke at the GFWC Maryland Montgomery County District, GFWC Virginia Northern District, GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas, "A Tribute to Juanita Bryant," and the Rotary Club of Washington, DC. In addition, I welcomed representatives from the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, Daughters of Penelope, HOBY, National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA), United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Campaign, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, UNICEF, and others.

Spring focused on a favorite activity of mine—visiting with our GFWC members. I was fortunate to travel to West Virginia, Nevada, Florida, Alabama, Michigan, New Jersey, and Connecticut in the spring, (after visiting the Utah state meeting during wintertime). Spring also ushered in a welcomed return of West Central Florida Honor Flights to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia and attending the National Congress of American Indian's Capitol Hill Reception with Tribal Leaders at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, where GFWC was recognized for its support of VAWA. Headquarters hosted a showing of *SOLD*, a UNICEF human trafficking film as well as a Women's

History Month Reception and a Cherry Blossom Princesses' seminar. Headquarters was also the GFWC-DC Club's pinwheel planting site, in collaboration with the GFWC Pierce Arrows.

The majority of my time in Spring 2017 was spent preparing for the GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Desert, California with the theme: **It's Our Time to Shine!** In 120-plus-degree *dry* heat and sunshine, we were warmly welcomed and hosted by a huge GFWC California delegation. We toured celebrity homes and rode The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to the top where it was 30–40 degrees cooler than in the valley. The convention was certainly all that I hoped for and more: palm trees; lush gardens; and glorious days and nights filled with many activities, good friends, good company, good conversation, and good food. I met Canine for Companions dog Shea II in person for the first time and welcomed members, leaders, international delegates, and LEADS candidates.

The summer once again was filled with planning for the August Board of Directors meeting in Quincy, Massachusetts and the *Day in Boston* included an interactive tour, presentation, and lunch at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate as well as a self-guided tour of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Fall presented another opportunity to visit and participate in eight region conferences and hold an Orientation Open House. GFWC hosted a showing of the UNICEF film on Human Trafficking entitled *Not My Life*, and I experienced another highlight of this administration as I welcomed 17 family members to Headquarters for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings. I will forever treasure the memories made that weekend when my family could see firsthand why I chose to spend two years living in our historic Headquarters building in the nation's capital. With staff and members, I also welcomed more Honor Flights from West Central Florida, attended the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence "Take A Stand" Briefing on Capitol Hill and reception at the National Press Club, and attended the NNEDV "Chef's Take A Stand" fundraiser. Regarding infrastructure, I managed the hiring of our new Chief of Operations Patricia (Patty) Budka, a tremendous asset to our organization with her proven experience and acumen for business.

Meetings were held with representatives from Family Promise, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and more also occurred in fall 2017. I welcomed March of Dimes to Headquarters for their Partner Summit and attended their Partner Breakfast the next morning. At Headquarters, I spoke at the GFWC Maryland Women's Club of Chevy Chase and welcomed members from the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, Inc. for their new member induction ceremony meeting and the GFWC Arlington Women's Club for their 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Winter again brought the Holiday Open House, Wreaths Across America, a Domestic Violence Panel discussion with the EC, the United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Champion Summit Reception, and the Junior Volun-TOUR to Aruba, arranged by Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth. A great time was had by all in collaborating on two service projects with the Women's Club of Aruba while we were on their "One Happy Island."

I embarked on the GFWC Panama Canal Cruise in early Spring, complete with GFWC arranged "March for Our Lives" onboard the ship. In Washington, DC, I visited the offices of Representatives Virginia Foxx and Ann Wagner regarding pending bills. It was also again time to plant PCAA Pinwheels with my GFWC-DC Club. I also attended very rewarding and inspiring state conventions in New Mexico, Montana, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Maine, and Kentucky.

Later in Spring 2018, GFWC Annual Convention planning resumed. For the first time, GFWC Mississippi Valley Region will be the official host of a convention in St. Louis, Missouri and the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota made the convention the very best. The theme this year was **It's Our Time to Connect!** and a Convention recap will be in the next issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

As the 2016–2018 Administration closes, I look forward to our new leaders, initiatives, and beginnings! Best wishes to President-elect Mary Ellen Brock for a most successful and fulfilling administration; my heart is certainly full! Members of GFWC: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as your 51<sup>st</sup> GFWC International President.

## **Director of Junior Clubs**

Jolie Frankfurth

Finding the Perfect Fit for GFWC in the lives of women has been the goal of the 2016–2018 GFWC Junior Leadership. State Directors of Junior Clubs have utilized various forms of social media as recruiting tools to get the attention of the largest generations. We extended our global reach with the GFWC Volun-TOUR Aruba trip to assist the Women's Club of Aruba with two ongoing projects: Dress A Child and Medio Ambiente Goes to School. Advocates for Children Week was successful as clubwomen became advocates by working to ensure that children are protected from harmful situations,

encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles, and impact policy to improve children's lives. GFWC Juniors have supported the *Campaign for the Future* because they recognize the value of securing and sustaining the property and programming of the Federation. GFWC Junior members are the piece of the puzzle that makes the difference as they "Live each day trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist."

## **GFWC Great Lakes Region**

Lin Wilken, President

Volunteerism, leadership, and comradery abound. Attendance highs of 167 with 45 first timers in two years gathered to meet GFWC Leadership Sheila Shea & Mary Ellen Brock. Highlights include wine with heavy hors d'oeuvres, enhanced art projects, and a Historic Mail Boat tour of Lake Geneva. Halloween costumes for the "Celebration of Women Through Time— Real or Fiction" were enjoyed. Illinois' "Cruising for Murder" entertained 88 members. Keynote Speaker A'ric Jackson inspired and motivated the Illinois "Captain's Dinner—Sailors of Service." An "Inaugural Lip Sync Challenge" with region entries and encore of "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy" by GFWC Officers kept the room filled.

The "Great 8" provided inspirational reports. Each state's candidate for the Jennie Award motivated. Touching services were held for lost but not forgotten sisters. Future leadership acted as "hostesses for Partners" and provided "inspirations" and "table grace." Great Service projects and workshops held; seven GFWC Partners presentations were the best. Generously supported UNICEF, St. Jude, Fisher House, Autism, and Texas/Florida Hurricane Relief.

## **GFWC Middle Atlantic Region**

Dr. Dana Charles Clark, President

Following the installation of officers at the 2016 GFWC Annual Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland, the Middle Atlantic Region, comprised of the four founding states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania became the *Women Who Can*. Work began on the framing of the theme around the power of women to do the things they were once believed incapable of doing. Financial Review, Budget, Standing Rules, Nominating, and Fundraising committees representing members of all four states functioned successfully. The 2016 and 2017 Annual Region conferences included volunteers from each state threading the theme throughout the programs with speakers, readings, entertainment, and tours reflecting the ability of women to influence current society. One hundred and thirty-six women attended the conference in Pennsylvania and 113 in Delaware. The goal to share and support the values and mission of GFWC International was positively reflected in the evaluations of the conferences and meetings.

## **GFWC Mississippi Valley Region**

LaDonne K. Snavely, President

The Mississippi Valley Region has been very busy during this 2016–18 term, mainly because of hosting 2018 GFWC Annual Convention and being the first "Region" to do so. It's quite a bit easier with Karen Kaler (MN), our General Chairman. Most all of our Chairmen and Committee members "Volunteered" to fill the necessary positions. We held our Region Conferences in Excelsior Springs, Missouri (2016), and Honey Creek, Lake Rathbun, Moravia, Iowa (2017). In Excelsior Springs we had so many volunteers for our Service Project that we had to quickly find another one and even that one filled up. In Iowa, our Service Project benefited women veterans receiving maternity care at the VA Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. At both Conferences we offered Flu Shots to benefit "Shot@Life." We were all saddened by the loss of our own Marijo Shide (ND), GFWC International Past President. She will be missed.

## **GFWC New England Region**

Debra A. Capuano, President

A "Journey through New England," thus far I have visited the clubwomen of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Connecticut; the journey will be completed May 2018 with Maine and New Hampshire visits. I am proud of the commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm of the clubwomen. Clubwomen working locally and globally is evident through

the projects in their own communities and 6,000 miles away. The 107<sup>th</sup> GFWC NER Conference Theme was: “Empower Yourself with Color.” Clubwomen from all over New England experienced “Empowerment with Color.”

The 108<sup>th</sup> GFWC NER Conference Theme was: “It Starts with Us!” Clubwomen from all over New England spent an enjoyable weekend of “US.” GFWC NER clubwomen enthusiastically demonstrate “Empowerment Starts with US” through the volunteer activities they are engaging in. It has truly been my honor and privilege to serve as the GFWC NER President and to represent these amazing women. I look forward to their accomplishments in the future.

## **GFWC South Central Region**

Joyce Ward, President

GFWC South Central Region has lived the motto of this administration “Living the Volunteer Spirit . . . Alone We Can Do So Little, Together We Can Do So Much.” GFWC South Central Region’s focus has been on membership. State Presidents have worked hard encouraging their club members to increase membership, retain members, and build new clubs. GFWC clubwomen of Louisiana and Texas have been through devastating floods during this administration. The entire six-state region’s clubwomen reached out to them in love and support. One of the Region’s service projects was to give gift cards to the GFWC Louisiana Clubwomen. Another was to have members collect personal hygiene products for the YWCA Women’s Shelter in Oklahoma City. Many thanks to all the clubwomen in the GFWC South Central Region for their service to the Region and GFWC.

## **GFWC Southeastern Region**

Mary Jo Thomas, President

We had a busy, productive two years. Team SER soared to new heights with bees and butterflies as we lived the theme “Celebrate . . . Living the Volunteer Spirit” through our projects. Women’s and junior members from every federation were appointed to leadership positions. Our State Presidents, Directors of Junior Clubs, Board Appointments, and Executive Committee are amazing! Our conferences were held in West Virginia “Make It Happen” and Kentucky “FOCUS on Federation.” The District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia participate in many events at GFWC Headquarters. Emphasis was on GFWC programs, partners, LEADS, capital campaign, legislation, membership, friendship, and fun. It was a privilege working with this GFWC Administration as president of an outstanding region. We are SER Proud and GFWC Proud! Thanks to our members, we have many reasons to “Celebrate . . . Living the Volunteer Spirit.”

## **GFWC Southern Region**

Jo Anne Reid, President

Using the theme **T-E-A-M**—“**T**ogether **E**ffectively **A**chieving **M**ore,” the Southern Region members had very successful conferences both years. In Florida, we were “Down by the Riverwalk,” and the following year in Georgia, we were told to “Keep Your Heels, Head and Standards High!” Region leadership positions were filled representing the women’s and junior membership of the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Aruba. At both conferences, special “hands-on” and very successful Domestic Violence projects were implemented. Other emphasis was on LEADS, Capital Campaign, Legislation, Membership, and Health. Members especially enjoyed the **WOW** Moments—**W**ords **O**f **W**isdom from former Region Presidents. The Region’s special project “Just Too Sweet,” helped raise awareness and funds (\$5,000) for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation—JDRF, to find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes. How very proud I am to represent the fun-loving, project-oriented, hardworking, and MOST generous clubwomen of GFWC Southern Region!

## **Western States Region**

Cathi Poer, President

Snowcapped mountains, wide rivers, even smoky wildfires were all part of WSR 2016–18. Our theme, “Western States Stars,” encompassed the gorgeous scenery of Utah and Montana and the achievements of the eleven WSR State Federations. Enthusiastic members were productive at home and at region meetings. September, 2016 in Salt Lake City,

Utah we were high in the mountains watching ski jumpers practice at the Olympic Village, then held a conference with improved attendance and support for UCASA and Sew Much Comfort—all while learning and sharing with our GFWC sisters. Despite the heat, two hundred attended our GFWC Convention meeting in Palm Desert making us proud to be “at home” in our region in California. September 2017, found us in Helena, Montana, with increased attendance including many boosters and 49 first timers. Donating over \$4,700 proved the generosity of our members for Heifer International, the Montana firefighters, and the Placer Pantry. The eleven western states were all stars!

## **GFWC Alabama**

Betty Wellborn, State President

GFWC Alabama embraced my President’s Project, Big Oak Ranch, a Christian home for children needing a chance. The clubwomen of Alabama donated \$20,000 for Christmas gifts in 2017. School supplies were brought to convention. We provided new prom dresses for the senior girls both years. A wishlist from houseparents provided items needed in each home. Value of project \$10,000. In 2018, we helped furnish the Thompson House at the Girls Ranch that was remodeled. Value of project \$15,000.

GFWC Alabama is excited we chartered two new clubs. We adopted a new Strategic Plan, while updating our Resolutions and By-Laws. We began work on a GFWC Alabama Policy and Procedure handbook. GFWC Alabama clubwomen work in all six Community Service Programs, as well as with Special Programs to meet the needs of communities. These are just a few of the projects we have accomplished! I am proud to have represented GFWC Alabama “Joining Together to Give Children a Chance.”

## **GFWC Alaska**

Suzette Mashburn, State President

In the summer of 1915, Mrs. Percy Pennybacker, GFWC President, visited the Territory of Alaska to help the little group of clubs federate. The following November, this work was completed and the Alaska Federation of Woman’s Clubs was born. On May 24, 1916, in an impressive ceremony in New York City, the new and ambitious little Alaska Federation became a full-fledged member of the General Federation’s far-flung family. In Anchorage, the clubwomen built the first schoolhouse in 1915 and continue to share that history with thousands of school children who tour the historic school house and learn this history by clubwomen dressed as 1915 schoolmarms. The children believe the schoolmarms are real! GFWC Alaska also wishes to recognize the Alaska Gold Nugget Club, whose members from across the USA provide monetary assistance for Alaskans to attend GFWC National Conventions. You women rock!

## **GFWC Arizona**

Celene Post, State President

“Key to Community Service” has been our theme for the past 2 years in Arizona! Our members used the “Keys” of Leadership and Membership to educate and welcome 2 new Clubs—GFWC San Tan Valley Woman’s Club and the GFWC Woman’s Club of Mesa! Membership grants were given on the state and district levels. The 2016–2018 President’s Project—GFWC AZ Cares 4 Kids—resulted in over 2,500 kits delivered to children in hospitals, birthday bags for shelters, crisis centers, and emergency bags for foster care workers. One club presented a day-long seminar on Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention. Members participated in a city Art festival where we helped sponsor a Little Library and gave free books to all who stopped by. “Leading by Example,” GFWC AZ Clubwomen compiled the following: Volunteer Hours: 119,653; Dollars Donated: \$496,871; In-Kind donations: \$564,068; Amount Raised: \$339,266 and Dollars Spent: \$182,386. GFWC AZ clubwomen continue to make a difference through volunteer service in their communities!

## **GFWC Arkansas**

Diane Fowler, President

Arkansas participated in every program area during the 2016–2018 Administration, undertaking more than 800 projects and contributing approximately 40,000 volunteer hours and \$250,000 dollars donated. Clubs supported the President’s Special Project, Heifer International, and many members toured the corporation headquarters in Little Rock. All clubs had

excellent fundraising activities and worked to boost and enhance membership, focusing on recruitment, retention, and rejuvenation. Particular excitement was generated when one member saw an article in the *AARP Magazine* that outlined a program for building homes for veterans in various states. It had been discovered that duplexes were under construction at the Fort Roots Hospital and Nursing Home for that purpose. A speaker was invited to Convention to provide additional information and clubs collected and donated household and personal items to aid the veterans. This effort has now been adopted as a continuing project.

## **GFWC California**

Toby Kahan, State President

The 2017 GFWC Convention in California brought together over 200 of our members, many volunteering to make it memorable. At our convention we honored the 82 clubs in Federation over 100 years, and to preserve our history, we published a book highlighting our past presidents and clubhouses. During this administration, California experienced the worst fires and drought in our history. The generosity of our Federation sisters, in and out of the state, made it possible to send financial support to those in need. We also reached out to help Florida and Texas Sisters with our statewide project *Outfits of Love*. The *President's Special Project: The City of Hope Hospital and Research Center* was supported with over \$12,000 in donations and participation in the annual *Walk for Hope*. Legislation participation increased with efforts to pass AB 41 regarding processing rape kits. Now we're working in support of our Bill SB1104 Human Trafficking.

## **GFWC Colorado**

Patty Witzel, State President

"Take Time to Enjoy the Pink Rose," our 2016–2018 motto was very much in action as Colorado reported in Public Issues. Colorado clubs donated coupons to "Support Our Troups"; handmade quilts were sent to "Quilts of Valor." At Fall Board, a USO Director from Fort Carson Military Base told of the wonderful things that happen there to help not only our veterans but also their families. Colorado members donated snacks for the veterans and families. The Pink Rose signifies gratitude and appreciation, and is a traditional way to say thank you, for their service to our country. Colorado's special project this year is to replace a weathered sign at Hemenway House, a cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. Mesa Verde was designated a national park in 1901 thanks to the efforts of GFWC members. The sign at Hemenway House will be replaced soon, thanks to GFWC Colorado members.

## **GFWC Connecticut**

Helen Barakauskas, State President

Open and frequent communication was the top priority for GFWC CT during this administration. An active and progressive Communications and Public Relations Committee was formed. By referring to this group as the CPR Committee, we demonstrated to our members how serious we were about communication. A new website was created to be the focal point for members and others interested in learning who we are. Semi-monthly electronic newsletters and frequent Facebook postings allowed our members to keep current with activities of the federation and of member clubs. Also, we frequently had our state chairmen and officers deliver presentations at state meetings. This gave them training in researching a topic, organizing the presentation, and delivering it to a large audience. Throughout this administration, teamwork and communication were stressed at all levels. As a result, the women of GFWC CT have shared ideas willingly, have collaborated successfully, and have contributed greatly to the success of our organization.

## **GFWC Delaware**

Carolyn Forbes, State President

GFWC Delaware members participated in 1,291 programs/projects, served 63,556 volunteer hours, raised \$149,552.80, donated \$113,854.00, and were supported with \$94,745.50 of in-kind donations. Delaware's geography lends itself to statewide promotion and participation with its 20 clubs, particularly in projects of Home Life, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, and fundraising. Clubs supported the State President's Special Project: *Hands Against Hunger*. Many clubs hosted speakers, shared materials, and hosted events to bring awareness to food insecurity and nutrition needs. Members contributed non-perishable food at every Women's Club meeting or event throughout 2017. The

*Winter Blahs Coffee* event drew in 75 members statewide, and participants donated *Glam It Up* items valued at \$2,800 for area shelters. Our Annual Federation Day celebration in March also brought women together statewide and raised funds for donation to organizations dedicated to improving the lives of others. GFWC Delaware members volunteered with spirit and brought enthusiasm to all they accomplished.

## **GFWC District of Columbia**

Sharon Butler, GFWC DC President

During the 2016–2018 administration, GFWC District of Columbia placed special emphasis on the GFWC Signature Program. GFWC DC supported My Sister's Place (MSP), an organization which offers a full continuum of care to survivors and has ending domestic violence as its goal. GFWC DC contributed items to be used by mothers and children being served by MSP; including hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, diapers, crib sheets, blankets, baby wipes, food, pocket calendars, and store gift cards. GFWC DC also supported the MSP "Clothesline Project," which gives survivors a way to express themselves through artwork on T-shirts displayed on clotheslines in the DC community. In collaboration with the GFWC Pierce Arrows, GFWC DC supported Prevent Child Abuse America by planting pinwheel gardens at GFWC Headquarters in April 2017 and April 2018. GFWC DC also gave to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship fund.

## **GFWC Florida**

Mary C. Powell, State President

What an exciting two years it has been! Clubs embraced the President's Project with a new enthusiasm for "Our Girls" at Hacienda Girls Ranch. It was a special treat to rededicate Royal Palm State Park in the Florida Everglades, host Southern Region Conference, plan for and attend four state meetings, host the EC and JEC meetings, attend club meetings, and share GFWC/GFWC Florida history with many. And what a treat it was to travel to all 14 Districts for the Annual District Meetings and to hear all about our clubs' successful projects and programs. We were overwhelmed and our hearts were touched at the generous donations from State Federations and members after Hurricane Irma roared across Florida. From those funds, we were able to assist many in need. Florida is stronger as we continue *Living the Volunteer Spirit* with help from our Federation Sisters.

Kelly Holmes, State Director of Junior Clubs

"One Voice for Children" is a long-standing project for GFWC Florida Juniors. Clubs are encouraged to participate in projects that have a positive impact on the lives of Florida's children. During this administration, we focused on the Guardian ad Litem Program (GAL). GAL advocates for the best interests of children alleged to be abused, neglected, or abandoned, who are involved in court proceedings. ALL clubs raised funds for the GAL foundation, donated necessities for children in the program, and brought awareness of the program to members of their clubs and communities. Some club members became advocate volunteers in the program, joining many members who already serve in this capacity. As a state we provided gift cards for the needs of the children, Halloween costumes, birthday party kits, and suitcases/backpacks for transporting belongings between foster homes. With participation at all membership levels, we are truly One Voice for Florida's Children.

## **GFWC Georgia**

Ida Dorvee, State President

During the 2016–2018 administration, GFWC Georgia focused on communication and technology. We launched a new website that has proved to be very user-friendly, and we have seen a significant increase in traffic. All reporting forms, dues vouchers, and the State Yearbook can be downloaded directly from the website. We send both the state newsletter and the calls to our State meetings electronically to our members. We began using Constant Contact to allow our members to register online for State meetings and are working to allow online registration for district meetings. The costs associated with the Constant Contact service have been offset by the amount saved on postage. GFWC Georgia maintains an active social media presence and at our State Institute, we held "hands-on" social media workshops, where members learned how to use Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to publicize and promote club events.

Sandy Ahearn, State Director of Junior Clubs

The theme for the GFWC Georgia Junior Conference for the 2016–2018 administration was “Making Memories Through Federation.” Juniors across the State of Georgia have been doing just that, creating memories with our fellow sisters while serving our communities. The Director’s special project for 2016–2018 is entitled “Listen to the Whisper.” Juniors in Georgia helped raise awareness and promote prevention for Ovarian Cancer. Ovarian Cancer is diagnosed in more than 21,000 women each year and kills more than 14,000. This disease is known as the “silent but deadly disease.” Sandy Ahearn, Director of Junior Clubs, hosted a board certified physician Dr. Rhanjan Bhargava, Debbie Mills with Gail’s Anatomy, and Kelly McGlaun-Fields (survivor) to speak to our Georgia clubwomen on signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. Juniors across the state have donated thousands of dollars for Ovarian Cancer research and awareness by hosting Bunco nights, selling bracelets, and making teal bows.

## **GFWC Hawaii**

Kim Ickler, State President

Although our membership continues to age and our numbers to dwindle, our little group of 20 has been awarded prizes for excellence in history to Alpha Beta Epsilon and Hawaii Pacific University.

## **GFWC Illinois**

Phyllis Skubic, State President

The theme “Set Sail . . . Explore the Possibilities” focused on the opportunities found in GFWC. The Director of Junior Clubs and I worked together throughout the administration, combining fundraising, joint Board meetings, and building new leaders with five LEADS workshops held. GFWC Illinois welcomed six new clubs: three Juniorette, two Junior, and one Woman’s Club. Our state website underwent a complete overhaul to update and merge our two websites into one for all members. “Let’s Make Change” was a monetary challenge which benefitted Easterseals, St. Jude, Children’s Research Foundation, and Illinois Leadership Seminar with over \$18,000 donated in two years. Service projects were held in lieu of a gift exchange at meetings to benefit domestic violence shelters, underprivileged children, a Crises Nursery, homeless Veterans, St. Jude, and USO of Illinois. It’s been an incredible honor to serve as Captain of GFWC Illinois with the best First Mate ever, Jeanette T. Wells!

Jeanette T. Wells, State Director of Junior Clubs

“Helping Design Better Lives” is what GFWC Illinois Juniors did this administration! We reported 3,274 projects that involved 116,456 hours and resulted in over \$1,700,000 donated and an additional \$236,000 of in-kind donations. Our Juniors are passionate about children. We’ve supported Children’s Research Foundation for more than 40 years as our Junior State Project and donated more than \$410,000 providing seed money to doctors dedicated to the research of children’s illnesses and diseases. We worked together with the Women’s Club on a service project at each State Board Meeting and Convention in each of the communities we met in. We helped a Domestic Violence Shelter, Easterseals, A Crisis Nursery, Humanitarian Service Project, Homeless Veterans, Sex Trafficking Support Group, and the USO. I want to thank President Phyllis Skubic, an amazing leader and friend! Lastly I’d like to wish all the best to Shelli Fehr and Cherie Sieger for a successful administration.

## **GFWC Indiana**

Betsey Nielsen, State President

Indiana contributed \$10,000 to our Indiana State Museum Historic Sites specifically for the conservation of artifacts in the meeting parlor of the first known Woman’s Club in Indiana, the Minerva Society, established in 1859. We ask that funds be used to create a video highlighting their role in helping spawn the women’s club movement. State-wide we funded our Art and Music Scholarships with donations while awarding \$2,000 in Art scholarships and formed a committee to revise the regulations for music. GFWC IFC’s project with Riley Children’s Hospital culminated in collecting toys along with a cash donation of \$1,190 at the 2018 Convention. We were able to donate Smiley bags to hold the toys with a grant from Walgreens. Under Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, clubwomen were asked to know details of their local Domestic Violence Shelter. We planted pinwheels from South Bend to Fayetteville, planting seeds of hope.

## **GFWC Iowa**

## Betty Wade, State President

Our clubs became very involved in my project, *Empowering Wounded Women Warriors*, over the past two years. We donated more than \$1,000 and over 300 pairs of boxer shorts to Sew Much Comfort, with co-founder Michelle Cuppy being our keynote speaker at our Iowa Convention. Clubs donated newborn items to the VA Women's Center, Canine Companions for Independence, and the USO. We supported Quilts of Valor, inviting a quilter who honored a female veteran with a quilt. Our clubs held blood drives and supported domestic violence centers and libraries. The members receive our Newsletter three times a year and also receive "The Buzz," my updates on GFWC, state, and district happenings. Iowa hosted our MVR Region Conference last fall. All members assisted, making it a very successful event. Our State continues to award between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in scholarships each year, with thousands more given at the club and district levels.

## **GFWC Kansas**

Shirley A. Ferley, State President

The past two years have been busy counting shoes to raise money for the state project, Easterseals, raising over \$1,500 and filling a milk can with donations of over \$1,000 for Heifer. A focus was placed on the needs of family and mental health, holding programs in the communities and at state meetings. The club presidents are members of the state board, having a direct line to the state chairmen and officers following the disbanding of districts. Communication was a priority utilizing the quarterly "Kansas Clubwoman" newsletter and email. Kansas held a state music contest, where a two-year total in music scholarships was given in the amount of \$2,800. As the theme "Discover The GFWC Spirit" ends, I look forward to discovering new volunteer opportunities. It has been an honor to serve the spirited and generous GFWC women of Kansas.

## **GFWC Kentucky**

Susette Redwine, State President

GFWC Kentucky has walked with confidence these two years. Membership and finances became the focus as we installed two new clubs and will end the administration in the black after a rough start. During these two years, we have hosted successfully two Holiday Open Houses, Legislative Days, Federation Days, and Women's History programs. We have awarded two \$5,000 scholarships to two non-traditional students along with two fundraisers to add to the scholarship account. Two highlights have been the hosting of SER and our St. Jude Carnivals at our state convention and during SER. Communication was promised and delivered with six online magazines and a total of 12 newsletters published online. March of Dimes has benefited from the Kentucky Clubwomen. Donation of items for preemies were made during both state conventions to NICUs across the Commonwealth. Forget the glass slippers, these women need slippers!

Preshus J. Howard, State Director of Junior Clubs

It has been a wonderful administration filled with lots of learning, laughter, and new friendships. I have been honored to serve alongside GFWC Kentucky President Susette Redwine and learned so much from her great leadership during this administration. Our Juniors have been hard at work over the past two years with a variety of projects, from participating and sponsoring walk/run events to having fun attending a St. Jude Carnival "Fund" Night that was spent relaxing with Women's, Junior, and Juniorette Club members during State Convention. Kentucky clubwomen came together to support Advocates for Children with a total of 223 projects, volunteered 9,171 hours, and \$679,504 donated or in-kind this year. GFWC Kentucky Juniors participated in an overall total of 751 projects, volunteered 22,322 hours, and a total of \$694,567 donated and in-kind during the 2016–2018 Administration. I am extremely proud and have had a blast these past two years!

## **GFWC Louisiana**

Denise Cannatella, State President

GFWC Louisiana continued to amaze by "Volunteering . . . A Work of Heart" in the term of 2016–2018. With 20 clubs and 385 members, our clubwomen volunteered 57,255.50 hours, donated \$89,296.40, had \$29,136.47 in-kind donations, raised \$28,371.37, spent \$227, and read 44 books for ESO. During this term, Louisiana hosted the South Central Regional Conference. Clubwomen continued to work hard in the program areas of GFWC by striving to improve their communities

and helping those in need. The state president's special projects were Human Trafficking Awareness and Veteran Affairs. GFWC Louisiana clubwomen adopted and continue to support Metanoia Manor, a home built to help in the recovery of Human Trafficking victims, with monetary donations, clothing, and other items needed for the home. Louisiana also learned about the Blue and Gold Star Mothers programs for Military Families.

### Becky Akins, State Director of Junior Clubs

GFWC Louisiana clubs throughout the state strive to advocate, educate, and support organizations that help children. We push programs that promote the safety and education of children of all ages. I am extremely proud of the job our club members have worked tirelessly to complete. As we all know, our children are our future! We have strived to get awareness out about the rise in human trafficking of our children in Louisiana. Our Junior clubwomen have gone above and beyond to raise money for our children. They have given back and tirelessly made efforts to improve our communities. I have been honored to serve the wonderful members of Louisiana for the last two years. I am proud of all of their accomplishments and efforts. I would like to say thank you for this wonderful opportunity!

## **GFWC Maine**

Mary K. Libby, State President

During this administration there has been an increase of attendance at State meetings. Fall conferences were held in each district. It cut down on travel and cost and allowed members who find travel difficult an opportunity to participate. GFWC Maine is also very proud of the President's Project and its effect on the people in South Sudan. What began as a mission to supply the Nyolo Hope Primary School with basic school supplies became more far reaching than we could have ever imagined. Girls are now being supplied with re-useable sanitary pads, as they were missing 53–54 days of school because of the lack of sanitary products. As a result of this project and the relationship forged with the leader of this school, an affiliate GFWC Club has been formed in a Ugandan refugee camp.

## **GFWC Maryland**

Reno Eitel, State President

GFWC Maryland clubwomen embraced this Administration's theme "Women Creating Positive Change . . . Living the Volunteer Spirit." With guidance from the GFWC MD Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee, our Federation consolidated three of its five districts into one new Chesapeake District. Another change was holding a Women's Club-Junior Annual Convention, where the Women's Clubs and Juniors came together for the first time to plan and initiate a combined annual meeting, which was well received with increased attendance and participation. Clubs continued to support Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention and many other projects within their communities. By supporting this President's Special Project: Student Homelessness Initiative Project, members donated clothing, shoes, and monetary support to assist homeless students thereby enabling them to stay in school. After a brief hiatus, *The Maryland Clubwoman* magazine was reincarnated and is now distributed by email. GFWC MD clubwomen truly live the volunteer spirit.

### Rebecca Wagman, State Director of Junior Clubs

This Director led her administration using the theme "Broken Crayons Still Color." There are times we feel not good enough for we are broken. However, each of us has a touch of color to offer this world. We are meant to brighten this world, to encourage those within it, and to serve. Crayons symbolize the creativity and imagination possessed in a child. This director has strived to promote projects that expand our support of literacy programs. Maryland Juniors' goal has been making reading exciting and imaginative for even struggling readers. We have assembled 64 bags, made 100 "write your own story" books, and donated over \$3,000 for patients at St. Jude. We've donated 50 vision board journals for foster teens, donated 300 books to the Boys & Girls Club, and transformed their library. This director has worked to teach children at a young age to keep coloring, to be driven, and to work through their obstacles.

## **GFWC Massachusetts**

Lynne Stader, State President

Massachusetts clubwomen have truly been *Living the Volunteer Spirit*. A major focus was increasing our sponsorship of MassSTAR, a leadership conference for high school sophomores. Clubs donated \$7,700 in two years, an increase of 100%! Massachusetts held its first Flag Retirement Ceremony at Fall Meeting in conjunction with the American Legion. Members donated linens and toiletry kits to *Soldier On*, a facility serving women veterans, and donated 800 items to Project Pack, Inc. used in comfort kits for sexual assault survivors. Clubs supported the Higashi School for youth with autism and distributed \$65,000 in scholarships and fellowships. Members donated \$1,700 to the GFWC Success for Survivors scholarship and \$11,000 to GFWC programs and partners. *President-to-President* emails and *Board Bytes* strengthened essential communications with our membership along with increased visitation to clubs. Members supported the mission of GFWC volunteerism with over 5,000 projects, 105,000 hours, and \$473,000 in donations during this administration.

Martha Casassa, State Director of Junior Clubs

GFWC Massachusetts Juniors embraced the “*Connect- Grow-Change Our World*” Director’s theme. They volunteered 58,400 hours, donated \$342,105, added 108 members and a Juniorette club. Partners, programs, and project areas—each was impacted by our Junior clubwomen. Feeding our state’s hungry was our Director’s Project through Project Bread. Their focus is on solutions for sustainable, reliable access to nutritious food. In Massachusetts, approximately 726,000 adults and children (10.3% of households) are food insecure. Massachusetts clubwomen helped mitigate that with local food pantry donations, weekend school backpack programs, supporting Junior fundraisers, and Project Bread walks, learning what Project Bread does in their communities, and contributing \$1,700 as a state to Project Bread and its partners. Massachusetts Juniors Lived the Volunteer Spirit, collaborated with our women’s club counterparts, and were able to Connect, Grow, and Change Our World for so many. We ARE (and will continue to be) GFWC Massachusetts Juniors Strong!

## **GFWC Michigan**

Donna Brown, State President

Continuing the theme for the 2016–2018 GFWC Michigan Administration, “Envision~Embrace~Empower,” our clubs in 2017 reported a combination of dollars raised, donated, and spent totaling \$679,658 with \$124,946 additional of in-kind contributions. These energetic clubs reported 2,684 projects and 195,408 volunteer hours. During this administration, club members have embraced my special projects of Conservation, Leadership, and Human Trafficking along with projects in each of the community service programs and advancement areas. Members became empowered by working with these projects within the inner-workings of their clubs, in their communities, and internationally; helping the young, the elderly, and families in need; our State Federations that were in jeopardy because of catastrophic weather; while keeping our great State of Michigan safe, healthy, and beautiful. I am proud to be a part of the amazing spirit of the GFWC Michigan Federation. Together, we are truly, *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*

## **GFWC Minnesota**

Pat Mumm, State President

GFWC Minnesota has been very busy making the world a better place as our theme for this administration is “Come Build With Us.” This starts with building our own self worth and helping club members build theirs. We build friendship, our ability to speak in public, and to be a leader. We build our clubs, districts, state, and national organization as well as our own communities. We also build homes for those less fortunate through working with Habitat for Humanity. We have organized pork chop suppers, pancake breakfasts, and golf tournaments to raise money and to find new and younger members as our membership ages. Some of our clubs have been doing well and helping to balance the losses as some of our clubs age out and members pass away. Our newsletter helps to keep everyone informed. We started putting out an extra newsletter that contains only convention plans to encourage members to attend.

## **GFWC Mississippi**

Tinker Forrester, State President

The theme for the 2016–2018 Administration of GFWC MS has been ‘Informing Minds and Inspiring Hearts’ and together we have done just that. The focus for the President’s Special Project has been the EXPRESS Yourself! Art Program with the goal being two-fold: to raise awareness of the creative ability of everyone, especially individuals with physical limitations, and to raise \$25,000 to fund the first-ever endowment for this program. Awareness has been raised and funding for the endowment was exceeded by \$5,000+. Another accomplishment was the culmination of the Proposed Restructuring Plan

(taking our state from five districts to three) that was presented and adopted at the 2017 State Convention and will be fully implemented at the 2018 State Convention with the adoption of new District Bylaws, and the election and installation of District Officers before the opening of the Convention making the new districts fully functional for the 2018–2020 Administration.

## **GFWC Montana**

Joyce Hooper, State President

Montana has volunteered in all areas during the past two years.

**67,870** Volunteer Hours

**729** Projects

**\$301,247** Dollars Donated

**\$114,983** In-Kind Donations

This is a remarkable task for a state of 591 members. This past year, Montana hosted the Western State Region Conference in Helena. Numerous Montana clubs supported and helped to make this event an outstanding success. Montana has donated to various projects and has been successful in helping all communities throughout Montana. The President's Special Project for the past two years has been "Montana Hope Project." The Montana Hope Project started in 1984 from the strong desire of Montana Troopers. The goal of the Montana Hope Project is to make dreams come true for critically ill children in Montana. Our goal for this project was \$10,000. We have brought in \$12,000 and funds are still coming in. GFWC Montana's theme for 2016–2018 was to "Soar with Eagles." They have flown high on eagles' wings and had an excellent two years.

## **GFWC Nebraska**

Karen Crandall, State President

The theme for my administration was “New Creations Volunteering” and my emblem was the Monarch Butterfly. My projects were St. Jude, Relay for Life, and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center—a place for girls ordered by the courts. We hovered throughout our communities, districts, and state, making a difference for those in need. Every club soared to be advocates for children by donating snacks for backpacks and gifts at Christmas time. Pop tabs were collected for Ronald McDonald House. Members flew around tracks to support Relay for Life. We fluttered by mail to another state so children at St. Jude could have another birthday. Some migrated to other parts of the world by sending Operation Smile Dolls and buying animals to eradicate poverty. Pinwheels were planted in our communities to raise Child Abuse Awareness. It's the little things that make a difference; imagine what Nebraska would be without our GFWC butterflies?

Tara Plasek, State Director of Junior Clubs

The Director's project this administration was to work with March of Dimes. March of Dimes has initiated an intensive, multi-year campaign to raise awareness and find the cause of prematurity. I personally have a sister and nephew who were born premature. I have seen firsthand the physical and health problems that a premature birth can cause. Clubs were given two options; to help raise money for this cause, with *Change For A Change*. Clubs used empty pill bottles to fill with spare change. The second option was called *Walk In Their Shoes*. This project asked club members to donate \$1 for every pair of shoes that they currently owned. As of today's date Nebraska clubwomen supported GFWC Partnership-Advocates for Children with 49 Projects, 1,332 Volunteer Hours, and \$13,436.37 donated.

## **GFWC Nevada**

Joan Powell, State President

GFWC Nevada began a theatrical project, “Jazz Age Jeopardy Murder Mystery Theatre.” On March 16, 2018, we presented 90+ guests with an afternoon of good food, exotic drinks, and murder most foul. Twenty-two members and their husbands portrayed the characters from a 1920's Speakeasy. Our members came to the play in 20's costumes in keeping with the setting of the play and gave the password to the doorkeeper. Through the sale of a luncheon prepared by our ladies, a silent auction, opportunity drawings, and donations, we were able to present “Embracing Project” with \$4,050. This donation will help to erase human trafficking. Our members spent 528 hours over 3 months rehearsing, making props, and gathering costumes for their parts. This project showed our love for GFWC and its projects from members and family.

## **GFWC New Hampshire**

Phyllis K. Appler, State President

With the theme “New Hampshire Inside/Out,” GFWC New Hampshire held outdoor meetings around the state and beyond. We met at the Seacoast Science Center, Heifer Farm, the Urban Forestry Center, Sargent Camp, the New Hampshire Food Bank, and The Inn on Newfound Lake. We funded Inside/Out projects in each of New Hampshire's districts, connecting each project to the President's Project of a previous administration. In the Seacoast District, we revived the Audio Trail with new wands and signage. In the Merrimack South District, we visited the Bell Tower at Cathedral of the Pines and paid for the cleaning and preservation of the tower's plaques. That tower honors women who have died in service to the USA. In the Capital North District, the purchase of a granite paver at the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Pavilion will help complete the trail around Profile Lake. We looked out, back, and forward!

## **GFWC New Jersey**

Jean Revis, State President

NJSFWC of GFWC is proud of its accomplishments during the past two years. Clubs filled 2,927 Christmas stockings for our troops overseas and donated over \$15,000. Girl's Career institute, held on Douglass College campus, was attended by 314 junior girls. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Federation's founding of Douglass College saw many celebratory events—a proclamation from the City of New Brunswick City Council, the publication of a book reviewing the history of the first 100 years, and the recognition of NJSFWC by the Associate Alumnae with both a prestigious award and a gala in our honor.

The President's Project, Prevent Child Abuse-NJ, has been embraced by members of Federation. Many hours, projects, and donations have been spent on the project. One project, a baby shower held at Headquarters, saw in-kind donations of over \$5,500. The clubwomen of NJSFWC of GFWC have shown they do "Trust in the Day~ Believe in the Future."

## **GFWC New Mexico**

Mary Jo Montgomery, State President

For the past two years, the theme "Caring About Others by Passing It Forward and Nature at Its Best," offered a twofold opportunity. "Nature at Its Best" promoted photography with an Art Gallery at state conventions, while "Caring About Others" encouraged random acts of kindness outside of clubs, which were not part of regular programs. A recognition contest was held at the 2018 state convention. Additionally, GFWC NM helped Progress Club of Las Cruces to secure art for the new Alzheimer's Unit of the NM Veteran's Center. After building the Alzheimer's Unit, there wasn't enough funding to buy art for the building. Several businesses, clubs throughout NM, and members managed to obtain art, plus photography, books for the new library, and even a record player, for a total of more than \$10,000 of in-kind donations. At state convention, donations for Human Trafficking were collected.

## **GFWC New York**

Karen M. Amann, State President

During the 2016–2018 administration, GFWC New York's motto was "Working Together for a Brighter Tomorrow," and the President's Project was "Aiding Critically Ill Children." Several clubs bought little red wagons for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital while other clubs made monetary donations to St. Jude, as well as to their local children's hospitals. Make A Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, March of Dimes, Easterseals, and a local charity, Friends of Karen, were a few of the other charities benefiting from my project. In addition to my special project, the New York clubs were active in all the Special Program areas, Community Service Programs, and the GFWC Advancement areas. We had a slight increase in membership that I hope will continue. On March 3, 2018, our founding club, Sorosis, celebrated its 150 birthday. In 1868, Jennie June Croly, Kate Field, Alice Cary, and the other founders were inspired to start their own club. In 1890, delegates from more than 60 women's clubs were brought together by Sorosis to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## **GFWC North Carolina**

Dottie Jennings, State President

The President's and Director of Junior Clubs' Theme was "*Focus on Federation . . . Building Our Legacy.*" Through this theme, the focus was to encourage clubs to target the six Community Service Programs, GFWC Special Programs, and GFWC Advancement Areas, to identify how they fit into local communities and to further understand the overall organization of which we are a member. *Legacy* targeted how membership in GFWC North Carolina encompasses skills in leadership: empower, give and grow, achieve, community, and you. Leadership presentations were held at every meeting, and membership was an emphasis using weekly email newsletters. A significant goal was set for the GFWC North Carolina Legacy Fund, which was achieved, as well as creating a new endeavor for GFWC North Carolina, the Corporate Champions for Women & Children Event. Several transitions, changes, and efforts to streamline GFWC North Carolina were accomplished during the administration. It has been an honor to represent GFWC North Carolina during the 2016–2018 administration.

Heather Bolick, State Director of Junior Clubs

The GFWC NC Juniors partnered with our Women's Clubwomen for one collective theme for the 2016–2018 administration: "Focus on Federation . . . Building Our Legacy." A Legacy Fund was established to secure the sustainable future of our state Federation with the goal of raising \$125,000 over the two-year administration. To date, that goal was surpassed through the efforts and generosity of GFWC North Carolina clubwomen. Special attention was paid to projects focused on Advocates for Children including two Walks to End Childhood Cancer and a challenge for GFWC North Carolina to participate in the "GFWC North Carolina Pathway to Hope Project." GFWC North Carolina clubwomen shared the YouTube GFWC St. Jude Video and worked to raise funds to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A brick

will be laid on the Pathway to Hope on the campus of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee honoring those who fight childhood cancer on behalf of the clubwomen of GFWC North Carolina.

## **GFWC North Dakota**

Cynthia Kaldor, State President

North Dakota clubwomen are making an impact on their communities! As communities grow smaller and smaller, clubwomen are ensuring that citizens' needs are met. Whether it's in support of the local food bank, the public library, a homeless shelter, or domestic violence shelter, ND Women's Club members have continued to step up to fill caring and supporting roles. Woman's club members are committed to keeping the arts thriving by supporting the International Peace Garden Arts camps, local galleries, and school art programs. Woman's club members are also committed to caring for future generations by supporting March of Dimes, St. Jude, Hugh O'Brian, Easterseals, and Shot@Life. North Dakota Women's clubs are truly "Training community leaders through GFWC."

## **GFWC Ohio**

Lisa M. Hedrick, State President

We celebrated our great organization by pledging \$50,000 for GFWC by 2022 from the Ohio members. The President and Director worked together supporting the Ohio United project by raising funds for our future. We have collected \$27,000 and traveled to Washington, DC to show Ohio members "their home." We welcomed a new club— GFWC Ohio Junior Cyberlinks—to our membership. This administration had a successful 2-day convention, changed our funds to increase our holdings, published the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of OFWC History, increased scholarship awards to \$10,000, traveled to our State House, talked to our Senators, visited the Ohioana Library, and helped save their funding. Ohio welcomed a new website, magazine editor, and photographer to record our history. The President regularly corresponded with club presidents to be accessible, keeping members informed of state news because "There is no place like home." It has been an honor to serve Ohio with Sheila's Leading Ladies.

Deidra Devore, State Director of Junior Clubs

Ohio Junior clubwomen are an amazing group of women who live the volunteer spirit every day in every way. "Ohio United" was the joint theme of the 2016–2018 Ohio administration. "Ohio United" represents all clubwomen— Women's Clubs, juniors, and Juniorettes—working together to not only make their communities better places but working together for the GFWC Capital Campaign. GFWC Ohio has a long, proud history with the house on N Street and GFWC Ohio President Hedrick and I saw the opportunity to strengthen this connection by pledging the funds for naming rights of the office of the Chief of Operations. Ohio and United are two words with many meanings. It is my hope that these two years have united Ohio clubwomen and left us all with a sense of renewal for volunteering.

## **GFWC Oklahoma**

Miriam E. Costilow, State President

Raising the statewide visibility of GFWC Oklahoma was a major goal for the 2016–2018 Administration. The most exciting result of this effort was a new club, GFWC Tulsa Silver Foxes. We once again have a club in the second largest market in Oklahoma. We also communicated with several women's groups on the advantages and benefits of federating. To enhance our statewide profile, we participated in the Domestic Violence Prevention Summit with the Governor's Council on the Status of Women, the statewide Keep Oklahoma Beautiful program, and the Oklahoma Public Television Authority fundraising festival. Our special projects, butterfly gardens, and art-in-schools programs gave us wide recognition and expanded public awareness of our presence. Emphasis was put on advocacy of issues relevant to GFWC with training offered in effective methods of communicating with local and state legislators and policy makers.

## **GFWC Oregon**

Mary A. Accettura, State President

We may be a small Federation in numbers, but we are mighty in our enthusiasm. This president's project was LITERACY. A library was founded by one of our clubs in their community, it was destroyed by fire in 2015. Our clubs banded together and donated books to their new library. Clubs also donated books to organizations who were advocates for children and to local library programs. "The great common human heart of us all" was the theme of this administration. Our clubs lived up to that theme by their exemplary work with many projects. Women's shelters, day care centers, free meal programs, hospitals, teen care centers, and clothes closets. Clubs spread their generosity outside their communities. Heifer International, UNICEF, and Operation Smile were recipients of this generosity. I am very proud to have been given the honor as President of the great state of Oregon.

## **GFWC Pennsylvania**

Lois A. Richards, State President

Pennsylvania clubwomen heartily endorsed the State President's Project, "Enrich, Educate, Empower—Every Child Every Day" during the 2016–2018 Administration. The ladies of Pennsylvania have improved the lives of children everywhere by collecting school supplies, donating food and snacks, distributing books, hosting children's events, making Project Linus blankets, and much more. Many Pennsylvania clubs were visited by the President, other officers, or committee chairmen, enhancing the connection between the individual members, the clubs, and our organization. In an effort to keep clubs informed and involved, each dues-paying member received four (4) issues of the *GFWC PA Clubwoman*. In addition, the website, E-blasts, Facebook, workshops, and special mailings further informed and guided the Pennsylvania clubs. The GFWC Pennsylvania Board of Directors recently hired a new company to develop and launch a new website and Facebook page, which will be live on June 1. The 2,314 members volunteered more than 168,423 hours.

## **GFWC Rhode Island**

Angela Libman, State President

SMALL is the new big! GFWC RI donated \$50,268 to 541 projects. Two clubs obtained non-profit status and we formed a new Legislation Action Committee, created a PBS promotional video and a new website, and hosted the first New England Region LEADS Program. Fundraisers such as yard sales, a book and author luncheon, and a Tea By the Sea brought in \$56,076.62, while \$15,950 was offered in scholarships and clubs completed myriad projects, including: support to a domestic violence court advocacy program, and supplies to families and local shelters; \$600 to budding artists, sneakers recycling for playground surfaces, and recycled greeting cards used for craft projects; support to a home for women veterans, Boots on the Ground, and Honor Flight; assistance to breast cancer survivors, chemotherapy patients, and games and books to children of incarcerated mothers; plus a rolling library for shut-ins, lending libraries in laundromats, and thousands of books to children.

## **GFWC South Carolina**

Janet Prince, State President

Serving as state president has been one of the greatest honors of my life. We have accomplished much during the past two years. We have improved communication between the state leaders and the local club member by revamping our website, introducing our "Notes with a Passion" emailed directly to our members, and by using "Talking Points" at all district meetings so every member hears the same message no matter who is delivering it. We chartered our very first "Cyber Club" and started a legacy group called "The Jessamine's" after SC's state flower. Our members voted to reduce the number of districts from eight to three adding three officers to each who will now serve on the GFWC SC Board of Directors. We were proud to have our ESO Charter reinstated and enjoyed having a famous author speak at each of our state meetings.

Katie Moydell, State Director of Junior Clubs

During this administration, South Carolina Juniors have shown that the Palmetto Girls have a lot of heart! With over 300 projects reported, right under \$75,000 donated, and almost 11,000 volunteer hours, we Juniors have strived to better our communities. For Advocates for Children week, GFWC SC held the annual statewide Bunco for Babies fundraiser! In an effort to promote the Strategic Plan, I chose to focus on Public Awareness and brand identity—clubs were asked to use #gfwcsc and #gfwcscjunior on club posts on Facebook for a 6-month period with a contest winner being announced at

winter board. My special project, “The Hopeful Campaign,” was supported by Junior and Women's clubs alike. This project focused on advocating for homeless youth and human trafficking. The second annual Millie Crom United Award was given to recognize junior club collaboration. It has been an honor to serve GFWC and South Carolina this administration!

## **GFWC Tennessee**

Linda Hershey, State President

During the past two years, the goal of the GFWC TN administration has been to remind the membership that we are part of a bigger organization and that we can do amazing things when we work together—Unity in Diversity! GFWC Tennessee took on seven projects that clubs could do in their own clubs, districts, and as a state. The first project was a PSA about voting (Tennessee was the state that gave women the right to vote) followed with our GFWC TN banner (the goal was having our picture made in all 50 states), our book tree created out of 10,300 books, butterfly gardens planted, the Tennessee First Lady doll project restarted, a fundraising banquet with guest speaker being Heather Wagner (the first woman to guard The Tomb of the Unknowns), and the Quilt Square Bookcase display. The mission to create unity while having fun was accomplished!

Amanda Guidry, State Director of Junior Clubs

Supporting Advocates for Children partners March of Dimes and St. Jude continues to be the major focus for GFWC Tennessee Juniors. Clubs raised funds via a virtual St. Jude walk, a luncheon hosted at our 2016 Fall Conference, and participated in the Mask Strap project. This spring, each club will bring blankets to donate to March of Dimes for Blankets for Babies (in addition to blankets previously donated). Clubs received their own piggy bank for our Piggies on Parade project and were challenged to decorate their pigs and find creative ways to raise money for March of Dimes. At our 2018 Spring Convention, prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated pig and Most Money Raised, and they will be displayed at various March of Dimes walks throughout the state. Working hard to support children in our communities continues to be a top priority for GFWC TN.

## **GFWC Texas**

Patti Poe, State President

When Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast, GFWC women raised \$125,625 for the victims. We distributed \$75,000 to school districts and families in Texas, and the remaining \$45,000 went to libraries. We raised \$5,000 for Louisiana and Florida to help with their disasters. For the President's State project, we raised \$23,671.03 for Canine Companions for Independence. We saw a need to fight the bigger trucks on highways by working with our congressmen and the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. During this administration, clubwomen donated a total of 220,270 hours to their communities with 4,309 programs and donated \$21,373,974. We brought attention to the drug trafficking and domestic violence in our state. GFWC Texas has been “Preserving the Past—Pioneering the Future.”

## **GFWC Utah**

Mohea Sprouse, State President

The theme for this administration was “Round Up Your Volunteers and Serve.” I don't think the numbers on the statistical form begin to show how our members have come together and served in their communities. They were helping people, not projects. Our clubs sponsored The Fearless 5 K Run, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, and Domestic Violence 5 K Run to bring awareness to Domestic Violence. They had great fundraisers in selling Poinsettias, having a Party in White, and many more. We had a great LEADS workshop using our LEADS graduates. Not only did our members work hard and give to their communities, but they whole-heartedly supported and gave to the president's special project, Operation Underground Railroad. We are able to give them a check for \$2,000 at the end of this administration. It has been a great two years serving Utah and with the 2016–2018 GFWC Board of Directors.

## **GFWC Vermont**

Joyce Lindamood State President

The last year of my administration has demonstrated the best part of being a GFWC member. My GFWC family has supported me and done an outstanding job of picking up the reins while I dealt with my husband's prolonged battle with cancer and his eventual passing. Being a small state both in size and numbers, the members have given over \$4,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors and older women who needed to go back into the workplace or improve their skills. They continue to support Domestic Violence Shelters, Homeless Shelters, Food Pantries, Veterans Hospital, and Adult Daycare Centers. With only 211 members, many in their 70's and 80's, they were able to give over 70,000 hours in serving others. When I try to explain to non-members about belonging to GFWC, this is what I talk about most, it's all about belonging to a big, big family.

## **GFWC Virginia**

Kelly Lane, State President

The women of Virginia embraced the State Project "Dare to Dream of No Hunger." The project had three goals: to educate communities on the need for food assistance, to advocate for support of food distribution centers and provide food, and to raise funds and volunteer at local food distribution centers or pantries. Clubs collected requested wishlist items during club meetings for those in need, supported Back-Pack programs to provide weekend food supplies for students, and participated in their local Meals on Wheels Program. GFWC Virginia supported the Community Service Programs and Advancement areas objectives with Home Life, Education, and Public Issues having the largest support. Virginia established a state team to participate in the run/walk to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and continues to support this partner. GFWC Virginia continues to hold state LEADS once during the administration.

Joy Matkowsky, State Director of Junior Clubs

The focus of GFWC Virginia Juniors has been to "Illuminate the Possibilities" of an end to childhood cancer. All clubs were encouraged to participate in programs and projects that work to this end. Our entire state membership supported St. Jude Walks, answered phones at a local radio-thon for St. Jude, purchased wagons for patients, and had speakers at many clubs. The welfare of children continued to be a theme for our juniors. Members supported Ronald McDonald Houses, filled backpacks for food insecure children, and one club instituted a no texting and driving campaign at local schools. In addition to children, our juniors spent time helping the elderly, underprivileged, and needy. The GFWC Virginia Juniors have let their light shine both locally and globally as they "Illuminate the Possibility" of a better future for all.

## **GFWC Washington**

Tina Bair, State President

Members of GFWC Washington State have embraced the theme for the 2016–2018 administration "**Serving Has Opportunities Everyone Shares.**" Clubs throughout the state truly supported the theme with the many projects they did to enhance their communities. As President, my special project was Fisher House. There are three homes located in Washington, one at joint base McCord/Lewis outside of Olympia and others in Seattle and Vancouver. Clubs were very generous in donating meals to the families and providing non-perishable items for their pantries.

Leadership is another important part of our organization; therefore, we developed a LEADS team. The team was comprised of several of our past state presidents, and the program was tailored after GFWC LEADS program. The team visited the districts within our state. This gave more clubwomen an opportunity for leadership training, as well as encouragement to step into a leadership position.

## **GFWC West Virginia**

Sharon Sheridan, State President

One out of four West Virginia children are food deprived. They depend upon federally funded breakfasts and lunches at school. On weekends and holidays they suffer. Feed Our Future, the GFWC West Virginia's President and Junior Director's special project, focused on weekend, afterschool, and any other project that fed hungry kids. During the administration a combination of in-kind and monetary donations amassed \$15,738 through 230 projects. GFWC West Virginia also chartered a new collegiate club at Davis & Elkins College, Phi Mu Omega, and reinstated another junior club, the Woman's Club of Hamlin Junior Department. Plus, a successful challenge between the junior and Women's Club Members netted over \$3,600 for the March of Dimes in a four-month period! During this administration, less than 2,500 members completed 5,300 projects in 403,923 volunteer hours, and \$563,759 was spent with an additional \$523,365 of in-kind donations for a grand total of \$1,087,122.

### **Sarah Jarrett, State Director of Junior Clubs**

"Feed our Future," a combined state project, encouraged clubs to participate in projects/programs that directly impact the children of our state. One out of four West Virginia children are living in a food-insecure home. The focus of this project was to help end child hunger in our state through the use of backpack programs. Members organized food drives, held fundraisers, worked at food banks, and cooked meals. Together with the GFWC WV Women's Club, we completed 230 projects with over \$15,000 of monetary and in-kind donations. Furthering the efforts of the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children, our Juniors and Women's Clubs competed in a race to raise money for the March for Babies, with a grand total of \$3,600 raised in only a few short months. The GFWC WV Juniors are growing; this year we chartered a new collegiate club and reinstated a junior department.

### **GFWC Wisconsin**

#### **Deb Brossard for Susan J. LaBuda, late State President**

The 2016–2018 Wisconsin President's theme was "Let's Do This!" With a special emphasis on Cancer Research, Susan led the charge to educate clubwomen on how they could contribute toward research efforts and offer the best support to cancer patients. Wisconsin clubs collected items for and donated money to oncology clinics and other local organizations that support cancer patients. From Comfort Bags and Chemo Care Tote Bags to gift cards, personal sundry items, get-well cards, and significant monetary donations, clubwomen embraced this President's Special Emphasis. Under Susan's leadership GFWC WI was also successful in obtaining a \$50,000 discretionary disbursement from a charitable trust to promote and grow a gem of our organization, Wisconsin's Own Library, established to preserve and publicize significant, worthwhile works of Wisconsin authors. Unfortunately Susan lost her battle with cancer on March 22, 2018 but she has made a lasting impact in Wisconsin through her leadership.

### **Loretta Caron, State Director of Junior Clubs**

"Going out on a Limb" was the theme for the 2016–2018 Junior Administration. The women of Wisconsin were wonderful in supporting the state's junior emphasis— educating members on teenage runaways/homelessness and human trafficking. One large statewide project I am very proud of is the bra collection for Free the Girls, a non-profit organization that collects bras for women who are survivors of human trafficking to sell. At state convention, bags and bags of bras were delivered to the hotel. The final count was 2,613 bras with 26 clubs participating from all 6 districts. GFWC WI women "went out on a limb" by embracing several walking challenges. Through these challenges, we were able to donate money to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and also several organizations throughout Wisconsin that work with teen runaways and human trafficking. Thank you GFWC Wisconsin for an amazing two years!

### **GFWC Wyoming**

#### **Leslie Jo Gatti, State President**

My theme for the past two years has been "Bloom Where You Are Planted." During that time GFWC Wyoming has increased its membership by 12% to 464 members. Each year has shown an increase in the number of projects being reported, as well as increases in donations. Fundraising has increased. Each club is certainly "Blooming" in its own community. Clubs are also helping other states hit by hardship to "Bloom" by making donations to Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico after their hurricane disasters. My two areas of focus have been Veterans and Literacy. The increased awareness in these areas has been a success. GFWC Wyoming is "Blooming" beyond the state as well. Wyoming has had a LEADS candidate both years and a Jennie Award candidate last year. The incoming President of the Western States

Region is a GFWC Wyoming member. GFWC Wyoming is in good hands to continue “Blooming” into the future.

## **Special Programs**

### **GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention**

Cynthia Geis, Chairman

Through “Living the Volunteer Spirit,” GFWC clubwomen have joined together to support victims of domestic violence and their families within their local communities and across the United States. GFWC clubs continue to raise awareness of this pervasive problem through their advocacy efforts. Through our partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America, GFWC clubs work to assure great childhoods for all children. As members of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, we are a powerful voice for those who have no voice! This chairman thanks the members of the Signature Program Committee: Jill Passaretti (Middle Atlantic Region); Teresa Sanford-Shipplett (Great Lakes Region); Bonnie Thom (Mississippi Valley Region); Debbie Thomas (South Central Region); Joann Wheeler (Western States Region); Kathy White (New England Region); and Pat Williams (Southeastern Region) for their indefatigable efforts to promote this program.

#### **2016–2017 Statistics**

Number of Projects: **11,325**

Volunteer Hours: **287,629.7**

Dollars Donated: **\$1,878,753.68**

In-Kind Donations: **\$2,203,324.15**

### **Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children**

Deborah K. Allen, Chairman

One does not have to look far to understand that children of today need GFWC clubwomen to be their advocates now more than ever. By having donated almost two million dollars and over 250,000 volunteer hours, GFWC Woman, Junior, and Juniette clubwomen united to “Make a Difference in Our World Through the Life of a Child.” March of Dimes Blankets for Babies and Mask Straps for St. Jude, two GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Signature Projects, were introduced and flourished during this administration. Clubwomen addressed many issues facing children and young adults in very creative ways by offering gently used Halloween costumes, making scrapbooks for children in foster care, playing flashlight games with children in a pediatric hospital, and teaching life skills to teens. Clubwomen also showed support and thanked those who serve children. Thank you for helping to accomplish mighty things in the lives of children.

## **Community Service Programs**

### **Arts Community Service Program**

Kristina Higbee, Chairman

Pablo Picasso once said, *“Every child is an artist, the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”* The clubwomen of GFWC have succeeded in creating programs and projects that spanned all areas of the arts. A few of the standout projects included volunteering as an art teacher for an elementary school that had budget cuts, holding a smartphone photography contest for students, restoring historically significant art work, and making rock art with inspirational messages. Many states held statewide contests for youth and member art. In every state that reported there were Music, Theater, and Art scholarships awarded. Over the 2016–2018 administration clubs reported 23,860 projects, 1,247,769.72 volunteer hours, \$2,382,465.58 in donations, and \$1,486,618.44 in in-kind donations in the Arts CSP. Thank you to all of our clubwomen who continue to value and promote the arts, for the EARTH without ART is just EH . . .

### **Conservation Community Service Program**

Angela Cutrera, Chairman

The GFWC Conservation Community Service Program encourages appreciation of our environment and increased awareness of our natural resources. Club members stepped outdoors to enjoy nature and to ensure its continued existence. GFWC and Conservation were promoted in 2016–2018 within clubs and local communities, through work with partners and support of other organizations to make a larger impact, and through education of children to make a difference for future generations. Recycling and reuse, litter cleanup, animal care, support of wildlife, environmental education, tree planting, beautification, community gardening, and energy conservation projects demonstrated the care our clubwomen have for their environment. They have done their part to make a difference in their communities, their nation, and their world. We can all do one thing each day to benefit our environment. Remember, if we each do a lot of little things, we can make a big difference!

## **Education Community Service Program**

Chris Sienkielewski, Chairman

GFWC clubs continue to provide the most innovative and significant projects that contribute to the learning of all in their communities. During this administration, clubs volunteered 684,604.2 hours in 22,504 projects and contributed \$5,379,733.97 in donations and \$3,388,627.20 in in-kind donations to libraries, schools, literacy programs, and scholarship funds. When there was an educational need, clubs responded with projects that helped to motivate and encourage the youngest to the most seasoned learners. Members tutored, read to children, created new educational programs and workshops, and collected books, classroom items, and laptop computers in order to provide creative solutions to educational issues. Clubs partnered with the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership through sponsorships and responding to specific needs during their state's HOBY weekend giving 10,552 volunteer hours, \$236,611.50 in donations and scholarships, and \$16,807 in in-kind donations.

## **Epsilon Sigma Omicron**

Chris Sienkielewski, Chairman

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an avenue for individual members or as a group to further their knowledge and education. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. During this administration, members read 83,541 books and volunteered 545,465 hours in these programs. GFWC State Federations vary in structure and membership requirements. Some reported that members join ESO as individuals, some formed local and state chapters, while other clubs had small groups of ESO members within their existing clubs. State chairmen utilize annual conventions, fall and spring meetings, Facebook ESO pages, and state websites to provide information, book lists, and ideas to all members seeking to gain more familiarity with ESO.

## **Home Life Community Service Program**

Tammie McCoy, Chairman

GFWC club members have overwhelmingly supported issues that affect the wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities through their volunteer efforts in the Home Life Community Service Program. The statistics show the effect of the work accomplished (Projects—50,324; Volunteer Hours—2,561,879.10; Dollars Donated—\$7,282,867.75; In-Kind Donations—\$6,456,749.94) during this administration. Clubs have supported our partner organizations: Canine Companions for Independence and Easterseals. Clubs have endorsed these organizations by participating in CCI DogFests and supporting puppy raisers while assisting with Autism Awareness Month and disseminating information about Easterseals. Clubs have continued to support The Heart Truth and Inside Knowledge as additional resources by wearing red and holding programs on gynecologic cancers. Club members have worked with food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, breast cancer survivors, clothes closets, and numerous other agencies in order to continue the efforts to make a difference in local communities and beyond.

## **International Outreach Community Service Program**

Janet Trombetti, Chairman

*“Imagine what a large group of women can do to change the world and we have.”—Janet Trombetti*

For this administration, GFWC clubs participated in a total of 10,391 projects, volunteering 296,978.37 hours, donating dollars equaling \$1,489,392.05, and donating in-kind gifts equal to \$1,064,237.65. Through Shot@Life, our clubwomen have given children a shot at life, they have put smiles on children’s faces through Operation Smile, they have rescued trafficked children through UNICEF’s end trafficking project, and they have helped sustain children and their families with food and income through Heifer International. Through their work with other international organizations, our clubwomen have brought clean water to villages, put shoes on children’s feet, provided young girls with feminine hygiene kits, collected bras for trafficking survivors, made dresses for girls in Africa, and so much more.

## **Public Issues Community Service Program**

Nancy Jones, Chairman

Forty states reported 9,427 projects, 43,927 hours, \$1,370,136.78 donated, and \$2,332,812.82 of in-kind donations. The greatest number of programs reported involved veterans and our military. Wreaths Across America, Christmas stockings, picnics for veterans, assisting families of those deployed, and much more was accomplished. Clubs across the country reported helping Texas, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico following the devastating hurricanes. Under citizenship, states reported working closely with local community leaders to save historic buildings, advocate for local issues, voter registration, and many community celebrations headed by clubwomen. Human trafficking was also an area of great concern. Several states reported working with local safe houses to help survivors start new lives. Community forums were held to inform the community of the trafficking problem in their backyard. Safety, crime prevention, and identity theft were topics for club meetings, state meetings, and again community forums.

## **Advancement Areas**

### **Communications and Public Relations**

Darlene C. Adams, Chairman

This committee kicked off its administrative campaign with noticeable buttons stating, “Are you GFWC CPR ready?” No longer wanting GFWC to be the “best kept secret,” this committee outlined objectives with specific tactics shared through monthly CPR Newsletters and archived on the GFWC website. Tactical CPR information was also submitted in each *Clubwoman Magazine*. Committee platform and workshop presentations included navigating the GFWC website, preparing and presenting a presentation, how to put GFWC in the spotlight with techniques for effective product placement, and running a successful public relations campaign. This committee addressed the importance of branding GFWC in everything we do, reminding members, “It’s your job to tell, it’s your job to write, it’s your job to act.” Members heeded the call with an increase in state reports, using strategic and creative ways to promote GFWC in their communities, letting all know—we are GFWC!

### **Fundraising and Development**

Mary Ann Pierce, Chairman

Food, fun, and friends became the mantra for states when fundraising this year. Developing a connection with members and event attendees proved successful. The fundraising focus revolved around relationship building. People give money to people. As community members, our fundraising leaders generated revenue to sustain financial security and integrity of clubs, states, regions, and GFWC while giving back to a variety of causes. Our Federation depended upon the generosity of our members and those who are committed to the idea of improving communities through volunteer service. States raised a grand total of \$52,703,934. Highlights of this administration included the California Dreamin’ Raffle, the Spirit of St. Louis Raffle, and 50/50 raffles. Creating unique 50/50 opportunity raffles for members, our Committee demonstrated that raffles are not just about a roll of tickets. Also the purse and accessory raffles at board were hugely successful.

### **Leadership**

Jan Allen, Chairman

Received 40 reports. There were 12,107 Leadership projects, 1,152,550 hours spent on Leadership activities, and \$1,625,001 dollars invested in Leadership development. The Leadership Advancement Area has been blessed with an outstanding committee: June Ferguson, Tammy Garland, Marjorie Pfeiffer, Karyn Charvat, Sandy Phillips, Vicky Ann Trimmer, and Mary Beth Williams. The focus of the Leadership Committee was three fold:

1. Planning of the GFWC LEADS. Every committee member made a presentation at the 2017 LEADS.
2. Design and development of the LEADS Template for regions, states, and clubs to build their own LEADS program. Every committee member made a contribution to the content.
3. Presenting a workshop at Region and Convention. Committee members took their skill and knowledge and made presentations at their Region meetings. We also put together a list of the “99 Best Ideas from Leadership Reports” and presented a workshop at Convention.

Thank you, Madam President, for this wonderful opportunity!

## **Legislation/Public Policy**

Rebecca Weber, Chairman

The emphasis for the 2016–2018 administration in the Legislation/Public Policy Advancement Area was the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Members were able to check out the “Advocacy in Action” section of the LAC. Here members could view letters that GFWC has signed on to with other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter! During the 2016–2018 administration, the Legislation/Public Policy statistics were: 1,884 projects, 38,807.5 volunteer hours, and \$47,624.82 monies donated. Clubs worked tirelessly advocating for children, women, elderly, and community issues. Countless phone calls, emails, letters, and visits were made to local, state, and national legislators. Many clubs have compiled a list of their local, state, and federal legislators' addresses, email, and phone numbers and added them into the club yearbooks. Members were encouraged to contact their legislators with issues of concern.

Statistics for the GFWC LAC were: Total Subscribers: 3,581; Total Letters Written in 2016–17: 14,569; Total Alerts Sent to Clubwomen: 20.

## **Membership**

Henrietta Belcher-Stack, Chairman

Our Campaign for 2016–2018 is GFWC Membership: *It's The Real Deal*. Our quarterly programs were Let's Go Fish for Members, Let's Bridge the Gap, Game of Hearts and 52 Pick-Up—A Membership Tool. The GFWC Membership Team: Nancy Burdick (Western), Della Gowen (Southeastern), Dana Jones (Great Lakes), Karen Kaler (Mississippi Valley), Penny Peterson (South Central), Jeanne Waseleski (New England), Vicki Weber (Southern), Catrina Sistrunk (Juniorette) and myself (Middle Atlantic Region) has actively shared GFWC News & Notes, GFWC Facebook posts, monthly newsletters, and has always been available to assist our Federation sisters with suggestions and questions about membership. Playing cards were developed spotlighting our members and generating conversations and games in our clubs about membership. The clubs utilized the cards throughout their meetings and publicity. In closing, thank you President Shea for allowing me the opportunity to work with such an incredible group of women. The most important thing we would like to share with you is to be proud and enthusiastic about GFWC and We Are The Real Deal.

## **Women's History and Resource Center**

Kathy Canzano, Chairman

Clubwomen across the country have used great expressions to represent the work of the WHRC: “GFWC A Moment in History, A Proud Past, A Promising Future, We Are the Backbone of GFWC, Wonder Woman Was a Clubwoman, Federation Fridays, Rooted in the Past, Planting Seeds for the Future, Legacy Bricks, 50 Points of Service, Grandma's Study Club Perseveres, and a Porch Party” to celebrate clubhouse renovations and Women of Distinction. There have been GFWC Game Nights and Trivia contests, club lending libraries, and tours of historic places. Women's History Month was a busy time to look back and celebrate. Remembering our past history and moving forward into the future, the WHRC is a source of pride for all clubwomen.

# Awards and Contests

## Community Service Program Award

Hope Royer, Chairman

The GFWC Community Service Program Award continues to provide GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. Participation in GFWC's Community Service Program Award offers an opportunity for clubs to create public awareness of club activities and GFWC, as well as increase membership and develop leadership skills within the club. In response to this Chairman's request of State Community Service Program Award for total number of entries and total number of hours referenced, 33 State Community Service Program Award Chairmen responded with a total of 74 entries received and 61,825.5 hours spent completing projects entered. The request provided valuable information on club level participation in the Community Improvement Program Award. Following judging at the State level, State Chairman sent the names of first, second and third place awards to GFWC for monetary awards. The State Chairman sent the first place award project notebook to GFWC for National Award selection.

## Jennie Award

Jackie Boland, Chairman

During the two-year administration, this chairman answered questions from GFWC clubs, State Jennie Chairmen, and State Presidents. The majority of those questions were concerning the deadline for each level submission and award rules. At the 2017 GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, this Chairman met with the 2016–2018 GFWC Region Presidents. The judging process used when she served as the 2014–2016 GFWC Southern Region President was shared, along with handouts.

It was a privilege to help Southern Region recognize Region Finalists at the 2017 Southern Region Conference. She also attended the Jennie Award judging at GFWC Headquarters. She met with the judges, spent time learning more about them, and answering their questions. It has truly been an honor to serve as Jennie Chairman during the 2016–2018 GFWC Administration. This Chairman would like to thank International President Shea for this wonderful opportunity.

## Photography Contest

Kathryn Sowers, Chairman

It has been a pleasure to be the GFWC Photography Contest Chairman for this administration. I have contacted all state Photography Chairmen, State Presidents, and State Directors of Junior Clubs several times each year since assuming this position. Working with the GFWC staff to make changes to the contest rules before they were printed in the GFWC Club Manual was made so easy due to the expertise and professionalism of the staff and Deb Strahanoski. I have enjoyed talking to chairmen and presidents from across the United States, answering their questions, making suggestions, and allowing several states to mail their entries late due to their state conventions being held after our May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. I am excited to be able to announce the winners at our GFWC Convention in St. Louis and to see our members' talents displayed and printed in a calendar and our *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

## Writing Contest

Mary Kaye Ernest, Chairman

During the 2016–2018 administration, the Writing Contest continued to grow in number of students and GFWC Club Members entering the contest. A total of 35 different states entered during this administration. Youth poetry and short stories now come from our private, public, and homeschooled students. The number of members entering their poetry and/or short stories continues to rise with a greater emphasis being seen on an increase in short stories. The judges that

are asked to judge the submissions are impressed with how GFWC encourages our young people to participate each year in their schools and to recognize their outstanding works.

## **Chairmen**

### **Conventions and Meetings**

Donna Shibley, Chairman

It has been my distinct pleasure and honor to have served as Convention and Meetings Chairman. I thank President Sheila Shea for her confidence.

My responsibilities included working closely with President Shea and GFWC Events staff assisting with all aspects of Convention and Meeting planning and execution.

Conventions and Meetings held:

**GFWC Post-Convention Board of Directors - Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD - June 30-July 1, 2016.**

**GFWC Board of Directors - Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VI - August 25-28, 2016.**

**GFWC Pre-Convention Board of Directors - June 23, 2017, and GFWC Annual Convention - June 24-26, 2017, both - JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa, Palm Desert, CA.**

**GFWC Board of Directors - Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel, Quincy MA - August 24-27, 2017.**

**GFWC Pre-Convention Board of Directors - June 22, 2018, and GFWC Annual Convention - June 23-26, 2018, both - St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO.**

### **International Liaisons**

Elaine Ko-Talmadge, Chairman

The four members of the GFWC International Liaison Committee communicated throughout the two years with all 15 International Affiliates. During the 2016–2018 administration the International Affiliates were asked to fill out a statistical form. Two Affiliates sent delegates to the LEADS program, and the American Club of Toronto was a winner of the Community Improvement Program. GFWC Members attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Women's Club of Toronto, the GFWC juniors and clubwomen enjoyed a trip to Aruba and assisted the Women's Club of Aruba with their Dress a Child project. GFWC Maine sponsored a new Affiliate, the Cam Kwoki Women's Club, in Uganda. These women were displaced during the war in South Sudan and settled in a refugee settlement in Uganda. Their mission is to create a self-reliant group, "to be job creators rather than job seekers, eradicate poverty through training and skills." Their motto, "Hard Work Pays."

### **Resolutions**

Laurie O'Kelly, Chairman

The 2016–2018 GFWC Resolutions Committee met at Headquarters in Washington, DC December 4–6, 2016 and November 6–8, 2017, and reviewed approximately half of GFWC resolutions, as well as resolutions submitted by the State Federations of Minnesota and North Carolina. At the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Springs, CA, the Committee presented 50 resolutions for consideration. The convention passed amendments to 17 resolutions, rescinded 5, approved 4 new resolutions, approved 22 to remain unchanged, and sent 1 back to the committee. Resolution 012–070 Humanities Education was withdrawn. At the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO, the Committee will present 43 resolutions to the convention body for consideration: 15 resolutions are recommended to remain unchanged, 19 resolutions are recommended to be amended, 7 resolutions are recommended to be rescinded, and 2 new resolutions will

be proposed. The Resolutions Committee continued to review the resolutions to make them more concise and to combine like resolutions where possible.