



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

MARCH 30, 2023



2023 GFWC Annual Convention

[Register for
Convention](#)

[Book Your
Room](#)

Early Bird Deadline: Register by April 1 at 5:00pm ET

[Register for Convention](#) by the **April 1** Early Bird deadline to enjoy savings (through the DERBY DEAL). Tours are filling fast, the Twilight Tour is almost at capacity, but we have room on the Friday tour – sign up now! View the [Convention Agenda Page](#) for the preliminary schedule, available as a printable PDF or as an interactive calendar.



Convention Program Ads Due TODAY

If you want to place an ad in the 2023 Annual Convention Program, please [complete the form](#) and return it to [Nishu Raina](#) by Thursday, March 30.

Sparkle and Shine in Louisville with Kentucky's Host State Pin

This 3 ½-inch pin is a showstopper that will catch the eye of all. Get yours before they

are gone!

Two sponsorship levels are available:

\$100 for Red or Blue

\$50 for Pink



All patrons will be listed in the Annual Convention Program if purchased before April 21.

Please contact Peggy Barnes at 859-619-8475 or peggybarnes00@gmail.com to place your order. Checks or credit cards are accepted as forms of payment. A shipping fee of \$10 will be added to the total cost if mailed. Or you can pick it up in Louisville at the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention.

GFWC Kentucky looks forward to welcoming you to our great state!



SAVE THE DATE for the Inaugural

GFWC National Day of Service

GFWC is excited to announce its inaugural National Day of Service on **September 30**, to combat hunger and food insecurity.

GFWC's National Day of Service is an international, GFWC-wide campaign. We encourage GFWC clubwomen in all 50 states and internationally, old and new GFWC friends, and GFWC team members to participate in activities on September 30, to collectively work to end hunger in our communities.

Please put **Saturday, September 30**, on your club calendar to start planning now in your local communities. Stay tuned for additional information about upcoming activities and a National Day of Service Toolkit in *News & Notes* and on the GFWC website.

To participate, please email:

Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, mgisler@gfwc.org and
copy Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President,
dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

REGISTER NOW

[#GFWC23NDS](#) *Living the Volunteer Spirit* www.GFWC.org

GFWC Marketplace Temporary Closure

A new GFWC Marketplace experience is coming to you in mid-April!

The **GFWC Marketplace is closed temporarily** while we undertake a major renovation to the site. Stay tuned for a redesigned store, enhanced user experience, and new products for you to purchase for yourself and the clubwomen in your life. We will keep you up to date on our progress and announce the launch date of the new GFWC Marketplace in *News & Notes*.



Mississippi State President's Project Bloom Where You Are Planted

by: Theresa Buntyn, GFWC Mississippi State President

Mississippi's theme for the 2022-2024 Administration is "Bloom Where You Are Planted." We are getting back to our GFWC roots by promoting public libraries, education, and literacy. My "Why" statement is, "To engage others in finding their passion and purpose and improving lives by serving others." Our public libraries improve the literacy levels of individuals and support lifelong learning.

Some projects from this Administration include raising awareness of Library Card Sign-up Month, celebrating Dr. Seuss Day, donating books to "Big House Books" prison ministry, participating in local summer reading programs, organizing literacy events at local schools, and a Read Across America event.

With one small project or gesture, we can make a difference. The

butterfly effect teaches us that small things matter and that our actions today are the results of previous actions, and this could, in turn, lead to future action. Our club ladies are making a difference across our state by volunteering in their community, educational institutions, and public libraries. Mississippi towns are beginning to see that our public libraries and educational institutions are not only the place to be but promote life-long learning.

Due to the recent tornado devastation in Mississippi, GFWC is including the following message from Theresa Buntyn, GFWC Mississippi State President.

I am sharing some thoughts that would help those in Mississippi. We appreciate the members of GFWC for reaching out to help us. Here are some ideas from our Northern District Ladies and our State Federation.

You may send gift cards or monetary donations to:

Becky Watkins
MFWC Treasurer
PO Box 749
Quitman, MS 39355

[Pay with Venmo:](#) @MSFederatedWomensClubs-MFWC

The treasurer and I will distribute monetary funds to the communities that were hit hard, Rolling Fork, Cleveland areas, and smaller communities that need our support. Egypt Road and Wren Road area are currently most in need that we are aware of, but of course, there are more.

Another organization to donate to - [Eight Days of Hope](#), which also provides support:

Eight Days of Hope
PO Box 3208
Tupelo, MS 38803
(662) 844-6934
info@eightdaysofhope.com

Sincerely,
Theresa Buntyn
GFWC Mississippi State President
mfwctab@gmail.com





Legislative Corner

by: Juliet Casper, GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman

To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.

During Women's History Month, the White House hosts several events highlighting successes and challenges ahead. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski attended the very inspiring special White House event honoring Women's History Month held on March 22, with more than 30 members of Congress present. The topics included women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, paid family and medical leave, pay equity and access to capital for women business owners, funding for childcare centers, and making permanent the Child Tax Credit. GFWC International President Strahanoski and various staff members also attended a Women's History Month White House Open House Tour on March 25.

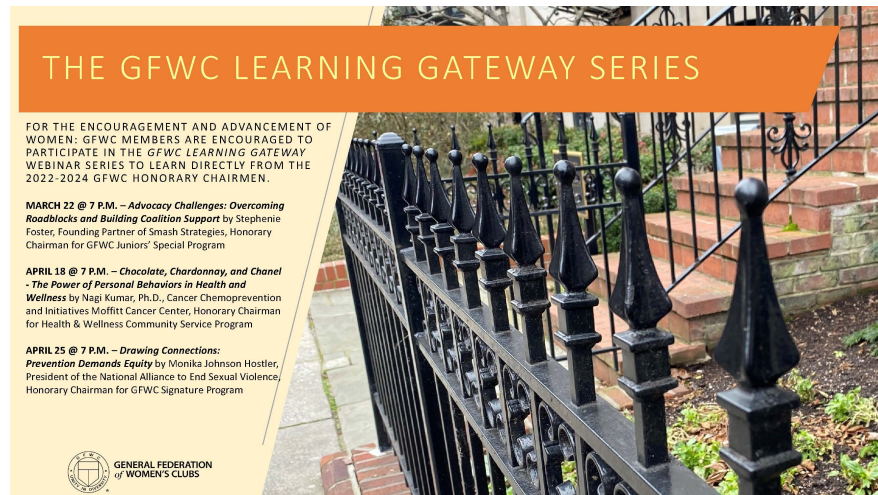
While in Washington for the GFWC Women's History Month Celebration and Executive Committee meeting, your GFWC Executive Committee visited with their own members of Congress, sharing our [GFWC Legislative Successes of 2020-2022](#) and our [GFWC 2023 Legislative Priorities](#). You will notice that GFWC supports a variety of legislative issues relevant to resolutions. GFWC clubwomen also participated in the Advocacy Day sponsored by Shot@Life and visited GFWC Headquarters.

Women's History Month is the perfect time for members of Congress to introduce legislation specific to women. The GFWC Legislative Action Center will soon feature many of these bills that have secured bipartisan cosponsors. March is also the beginning of the federal appropriations process. The FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, signed by President Joe Biden on December 29, 2022, provides federal funding for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

Violence Against Women Act programs saw a historic 20 percent increase in funding with that bill, and now the President's FY 2024 budget doubles the request for federal funding to strengthen

domestic and sexual violence programs and services as well as prevention and education. In addition, the budget provides significant funding to advance gender equity and the economic security of women and girls. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among developed nations. The budget addresses this by expanding the funding for maternal and other health initiatives in rural communities to improve access to high-quality care.

How has your club celebrated Women's History Month? Please tag GFWC in your posts on Facebook and Instagram using #GFWC.



To register for upcoming events, click on the titles below:

April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

[Chocolate, Chardonnay, and Chanel - The Power of Personal Behaviors in Health and Wellness](#)

April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

[Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity](#)

Endorsing Candidates for GFWC Office

by: Carol Habgood, Elections Committee Chairman

This is a reminder of the endorsement process for candidates to a GFWC Office.

There are three steps involved in this process:

- 1) Determining a candidate's eligibility for office. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.2.)
- 2) Endorsing a candidate for office. (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7.1 and 7.2)
- 3) Submitting the required paperwork no later than August 1, 2023. (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7.2.)

The instructions and forms were sent electronically to state presidents on January 24, 2023.

As endorsements are obtained in the odd-numbered year, this means that states will endorse candidates at their state conventions this year. As you plan your convention agenda, please ensure the endorsement is included if you have a candidate for a GFWC office. In the absence of such conventions, endorsements are by two-thirds of all active GFWC clubs in the respective states.

Endorsements shall be verified by signatures of the state president, recording secretary, and the candidate and sent by certified mail, return receipt, to the Elections Committee Chairman, postmarked by August 1, 2023. However, you may certainly mail the endorsement packets earlier and are encouraged to do so.

Important things to note about your paperwork:

- 1) It must be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.
- 2) It is sent to the Elections Committee Chairman. The address is on the Declaration of Candidate for GFWC Office form. Please do not mail to GFWC Headquarters.
- 3) It must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2023.

Please do not attempt to hand deliver your paperwork during the 2023 Convention in Kentucky, as that is not the procedure outlined in the bylaws.



Shot@Life - Advocate to Vaccinate

From March 20 – April 30, Shot@Life supporters around the country will *Advocate to Vaccinate*, speaking to their members of Congress and their communities about the importance of fully funding global childhood immunization programs, including UNICEF, CDC, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

All GFWC members are welcome to join the push to ensure #VaccinesForAll. Whether you have five minutes or an hour, there are ways for you to get involved. [Sign](#) the latest petition to send a message to your congressional offices. See our [advocacy toolkit](#) to find out about other ways to use your voice this spring—such as calling your legislators, writing an article for a newsletter, or meeting with your congressional offices.

Shot@Life is a campaign of the United Nations Foundation that aims to ensure that children around the world have access to lifesaving vaccines. Through public education, grassroots advocacy, and fundraising, we strive to decrease vaccine-preventable childhood deaths and give every child a shot at a healthy life no matter where they live. Find out more about the partnership between GFWC and Shot@Life at shotatlife.org/gfwc.



Starfish Project Celebrates 17 years

It is another year Around the Sun for Starfish Project! We are celebrating 17 years of restoring hope at Starfish Project this year! ✨

[SHOP NOW](#)

Use code **GFWC** to donate

Whether you have just joined our community of freedom fighters or have partnered with us for all 17 years, we want to say, thank you! We can only do the amazing life-transforming work we do because of you!

We are debuting our anniversary exclusive Around the Sun gift set! This impactful set features our storytelling XiXi Tassel Bracelet and Delighted In Earrings paired with the freedom-celebrating Lock & Key Necklace. Celebrate your literal life-transforming impact in 14k plated gold, mother of pearl, and gorgeous natural stone.

This celebratory set was created for storytelling! Share XiXi and Wynne's stories as you wear and gift this gorgeous set, all while knowing your purchase of the Around the Sun Gift Set will create life-transforming opportunities for even more survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

Remember to [shop](#) using this link, but also use **GFWC** in the discount code box. You will not get a discount on your purchase, but 25% of your sale will be donated to [GFWC's Success for Survivors Scholarships](#).



**PRESIDENT'S
GEM**





Spring is a wonderful time to visit your state capitol and meet with your state legislators. Take a photo and check off an item or two on the GFWC Scavenger Hunt, like this photo of members from the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs Fine Arts Club of Bruce. These clubwomen visited the Mississippi State Capitol and spoke with Senator Benjamin Suber and Representative Perry Bailey about their support for literacy and public libraries. We applaud them for advocating for increased library funding on behalf of their communities.

Has your club completed the Legislation & Public Policy Scavenger Hunt? It's a fun way to document the ways your club is practicing legislative advocacy and raises awareness of GFWC. You can find the GFWC Scavenger Hunt on page 150 of the *2022-2024 Club Manual*.



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

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