



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

June 1, 2023

Please note that *News & Notes* will not be published June 8 or June 15 due to the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention.



2023 GFWC Annual Convention



Paint the World Purple Gala Featured Speakers: Alzheimer's Association



Sheri Klym

Sheri Klym is the Director of Memberships and Associations for the Alzheimer's Association. In her role, she partners with membership and association organizations to advance the Alzheimer's Association's mission through collaboration to increase awareness, access to care and support, and community mobilization.

Prior to working in the nonprofit industry, Sheri served honorably in the US Navy.

Sheri received a marketing degree from Columbia Southern University and resides in Chesapeake, Virginia, with her husband, son, and two rescue dogs.

Shannon White

Shannon White, a nonprofit executive with more than 20 years of experience in both public and private sector leadership roles, leads The Greater Kentucky and Southern Indiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.



White provides strategic direction and administrative oversight for the chapter, which employs 13 individuals and provides service and education programs for individuals, families, caregivers, and professionals dealing with Alzheimer's disease in 125 counties covering most of Kentucky as well as in southern Indiana as far west as Evansville, Indiana.

Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association, White founded Dress for Success Louisville and was the President of Shine! Consulting, where she worked with a myriad of nonprofit organizations, both large and small across Kentucky. Her grandfather, Papa C passed away from Alzheimer's when she was a senior in high school and she leads the chapter with personal experience and dedication.

Remember to Bring

- Your registration sheet
 - Your itinerary can be printed from the [GFWC Convention Website](#). Sign in to access and print your custom schedule.
 - Registration will also be printed on the outside of your registration packet.
- A light jacket
 - Hotel air conditioning will make some rooms chilly; make sure to pack a light layer.
- Donations to Race to the Finish
 - If you are bringing a donation to the Race to the Finish Fundraiser, don't forget to include it in your packing! Donations can be dropped off in the SHOW room on the first floor.
- Fascinator or hat
 - Make sure to gently pack your festive accessories for State Night and your trip to Churchill Downs!
- Paint the World Purple Outfit
 - We want to Paint the World Purple (or even just the ballroom) for Monday night's gala, sponsored by Alzheimer's Association.

Featured Panel Discussion: Hunger, Nutrition, and Health: Addressing Food Insecurity

During the Saturday, June 10 Business Session, we will host three

panelists to discuss the impact of food insecurity on our communities.

- Keni Winchester, Director of Strategy and Communication Engagement, Humana Foundation
- Dr. Heather Norman-Burgdoff, Extension Faculty for Nutrition, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, University of Kentucky
- Third Speaker to Be Announced



National Day of Service

® SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

| www.GFWC.org

| #GFWC23NDS

National Day of Service Toolkit is Coming Tomorrow!

The GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) Toolkit will be available on Friday in the GFWC Member Portal. You will find project ideas and resources to help you plan your National Day of Service. You will also find tools to help you communicate with your community and consistently promote GFWC's National Day of Service throughout the nation, such as NDS letterhead, graphics, etc.

Sign up, and the NDS Toolkit will be sent directly to your club. You can also find it in the GFWC Member Portal under Resources, in the "N" folder. Keep an eye out for the NDS Press Kit coming out in mid-June.

To participate in the inaugural NDS, please email Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, mgisler@gfwc.org and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to share that GFWC Southeastern Region Secretary Sharon Sheridan's daughter, [Anne Sheridan](#), passed unexpectedly last week.

Condolences may be sent to:

Sharon Sheridan

444 Virginia Court

Pataskala, Ohio 43062



North Carolina State President's Project The Mountains-to-Sea Trail

By: Kim Fulcher, GFWC North Carolina State President

North Carolina is known for having an amazing landscape across the state. From our breathtaking mountains and rolling hills, to the beautiful beaches along our coast. We have amazing members across the state, and finding ways to connect them and keep them engaged was key in the selection of our project, The Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) North Carolina. The MST, much like our clubs and communities, literally stretches 1,175 miles across North Carolina from one end of the state to the other.

While the needs in our communities vary across our state, the incredible work our clubwomen do is connected: our members are connected to each other through club work, our clubs are connected within a district, our districts are connected in our state federation. This project links those connections while continuing to implement the projects and programs in each of our five GFWC Community Service Programs. It offers volunteer opportunities where every member can participate – regardless of age, means, or ability.

GFWC North Carolina fundraising efforts for the MST will be used to purchase and erect Trailhead Kiosks that will be placed primarily along the trail in communities with GFWC North Carolina clubs. Each will display a plaque naming GFWC North Carolina Clubwomen as donors for the kiosk. These Trailhead Kiosks are paramount in supplying day hikers and experienced hikers alike with valuable information about specific areas of the trail by providing a map of the trail, information about that segment, and even sites and animals you may see in the area. Other critical information such as maintenance on the trail, unexpected closings of a portion of the trail, and other hazards that may impact the hiking experience are posted on the Trailhead Kiosks as needed.

GFWC North Carolina clubwomen have embraced the project over the first year. Clubwomen have picked up trash along the trails and beaches – specifically 38,000 plastic grocery bags collected on the coast were donated to create a bench. They have collaborated with other clubs and hiked trails together. Some have become Trail Angels and assisted hikers with lodging, meals, and transportation to their next segment. They have participated in a virtual hike where over 150 members “hiked” the 1,175 miles of the trail 6 1/2 times over a 5-week period; Our clubwomen have exceeded creativity efforts in fundraising, ensuring our goals were surpassed within months.

GFWC North Carolina members have thrived on enjoying the outdoors, collaborating with other members and clubs, and helping to preserve our natural resources through their service and participation with the Mountains-to-Sea Trail North Carolina.

From the mountains to the sea...we are GFWC-NC!!



Legislative Corner

By: Juliet Casper, Legislation/
Public Policy Chairman

To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are 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.

Have you ever read a story in the newspaper that fires you up? You can't stop thinking about the story, so you mention it to your friends during the social time before your club meeting begins. Your friends get fired up too, so when the club president asks, "Is there any new business?" your hand shoots up in the air.

That's how a legislative advocacy campaign started in North Carolina. On April 5, 2023, GFWC North Carolina utilized the Legislative Action Center to send its registered members a Take Action Alert on Kayla's Act: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims. The alert was shared in emails, social media posts, and at their state convention. As a result, GFWC-NC increased the number of members registered for the Legislative Action Center, and 54 messages were sent to elected representatives.

The Power of Us: Club Advocacy, the Legislation/Public Policy workshop to be held at the GFWC Convention on Sunday, June 11 at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., will give every attendee the tools to create a legislative advocacy campaign. Working in small groups with the focus on a bill introduced in the Kentucky Senate this year (the photo with this article provides a hint as to the subject matter), attendees will write a letter to the editor, review the GFWC resolutions and consider possible revisions or amendments, draft a legislative alert, prepare for the legislative session and meeting with a representative, compose a leave behind sheet and proclamation, build a coalition, and spark a social media buzz. Each component of an advocacy campaign could easily be done at a club meeting.

A successful campaign is not simply speaking out or raising awareness by yourself. A campaign begins with care and understanding, then reaches into the community for support. GFWC shines and sparkles when its members work together in their communities to help those in need by volunteering, donating, and advocating.

GFWC Resolutions Can Be Your Voice in

the World

By: Mary C. Powell, Resolutions Chairman

How do you feel about what's going on around you? Do you wish you had a voice in events happening in your area?

You do have a voice, and they are outlined in our many GFWC Resolutions. From the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children, to our community service programs in Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness, you have an opportunity to express your opinions.

The Resolutions Committee received three such expressions from State Federations, and you can read about their concerns in two amendments to Civic Engagement and Outreach and a new Resolution on Dementia in Health and Wellness.

As you prepare for the upcoming GFWC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, be sure that you take time to review the amendments that will be presented. It may inspire you to work on issues that are important to you.

[View Proposed Amendments](#)

Amendments to or new Resolutions do not have to conform to the time frame for review of the Community Service Programs but can be submitted by State Federations annually.

Several questions have been submitted to the Resolutions Committee regarding hot topics in today's news, and many Resolutions cover those issues; however, if your state federation has the desire to voice an opinion, be sure to follow the procedures in the GFWC Bylaws and Standing Rules. In the GFWC Member Portal, under Resources, you can find the Resolutions Booklet under "R."

Each state federation Resolutions Chairman received a copy of "How to Research a Resolution" and "How to Write a Resolution," and that information is available upon request from any member of the GFWC Resolution Committee.



How to Receive a Special Edition Flashy Ring at Convention

By: Tric Heepe, Annual Giving Committee Member

If you are attending the GFWC International Convention in Louisville next week, include an extra \$20 in your shopping/meal stash. Available this convention only, anyone who donates \$20 or more to the Annual Giving Program during the 2023 convention in Louisville, Kentucky, will receive a special edition flashy ring. The Annual Giving Program Committee's goal is for EVERY attendee to donate at least \$20 so the entire convention floor will light up. GFWC International President, Debra Strahanoski, has encouraged members to sparkle and shine for GFWC, so these rings are a great way to add some extra sparkle during the convention.

As always, your donation can be given to any GFWC fund and will be credited toward your personal contributions total. The Annual Giving Program Committee members have been blown away by the stellar way you have participated in the program with your monetary gifts to various funds supporting our beloved organization. Thus, you ensure the continuation of GFWC's programs and our wonderful home's refurbishment, restoration, and maintenance at 1734 N Street NW in Washington, DC.

So, put an extra \$20 in your bag and get your Special Edition Flashy Ring at the convention. We thank you for your continued financial support that "Honors the Legacy and Inspires the Future" of GFWC. See you in Louisville!



Using Doodle for Meetings

By: Becky Bolden, Communication and Public Relations Committee Member

Have you ever wanted to schedule a meeting that is just overwhelming? Whether a club meeting, committee meeting, remote meeting, or fun get-together, all of us have experienced this frustration. There is a great software tool that you can use to help with this problem, [Doodle](#) – a software scheduling tool.

Doodle has many advantages. You can use it to book a meeting, send out a poll with several date choices, or schedule a one-on-one meeting. The software is great for scheduling a meeting with an upcoming speaker or community member. Doodle will send event reminders, and everything is on one page.

One of the significant advantages of Doodle is the group poll. You can send out a poll with several dates and times for an event. Club members can respond to the date and time best for them. You get notified of the responses and can schedule the best event for most people.

Whether or not you work in or outside of the home, we are all busy women. With the booking page, you can connect your calendar (with only open times visible), and members/guests can schedule a time to call you. The ability to schedule a one-on-one meeting is also available with a quick invite to that person. It works both ways.

Adding your GFWC Brand to your invites and booking page is quite easy. Another great advantage is connecting to Zoom, Google Meet, or Webex and automatically including a video link to every booked meeting.

The software is free for unlimited group polls and one booking page. Professional versions also include many additional features with a monthly fee. Consult their website to determine which version works best for your club.

GFWC Membership Tips

By: Judy Gustafson, Membership Committee Member

Are you a new GFWC member or a member who has yet to attend many club meetings? Are you eager to learn more about GFWC?

If your club offers a new member orientation, please attend to learn about the history of GFWC and opportunities in your Club. If not, there are other ways to learn more.

Who introduced and recruited you to GFWC? Is this someone who lives close to you so you could take turns driving to club meetings and learn more about GFWC as you ride to and from meetings? If not, perhaps there are mentors in your club who volunteer to help new members navigate and get introduced to other members.

Mentors can also encourage members to become more engaged with club work.

You can make new, long-lasting friendships by helping with club projects. You might be the new member who promotes enthusiasm and brings new ideas to a club. You can be the one who gets involved and inspires others to join you in a volunteer effort such as a food or toy drive.

Other ways to learn more are through your club or state Facebook or GFWC's Facebook pages and other social media. The GFWC Clubwoman Magazine (quarterly) and your state newsletter have lots of information and ideas. The weekly GFWC News & Notes, webinars, GFWC.org website, and your state website are full of information about various GFWC programs and activities.

Get involved, and soon you will feel a sense of belonging, and you can make an impact on helping many others in your community. Don't forget that you can always invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to a meeting. Your potential to sparkle is unlimited!

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Georgia



GFWC Georgia was proud to present a check to Wellspring Living in the amount of \$20,000 to help survivors of sex trafficking move forward. Wellspring Living is a non-profit serving Georgia and others nationally. Their mission is to transform the lives of those at risk or victimized by sexual exploitation.

At the annual GFWC Georgia convention held in April in Atlanta, the membership was able to present former victim turned Wellspring Living advocate and employee Andrea Hipwell with a check for \$20,000. Members of Georgia supported the project during the past year with various statewide projects, including bringing 3,125 pairs of shoes to convention, which raised \$3105, donating funds to the Women Who Make a Difference campaign, supporting a Gingerbread House event, attending a Braves game, and a Mother's Day Tea party to name a few of the statewide sponsored events. GFWC Georgia has its sights set on reaching a goal of \$50,000 by April 2024.

Submit a story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to PR@gfwc.org.



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036
www.GFWC.org