



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

July 6, 2023

## Updated 2022-2024 Administration Calendar

Download the updated 2022-2024 Administration Calendar to stay up to date on all the important upcoming GFWC events.

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

## 2023 GFWC Award Winners Now on the GFWC Website

[View 2023 Winners](#)



## National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

[www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org)

[#GFWC23NDS](#)

## Proclamations for GFWC's National Day of Service

GFWC Delaware Club Members attended the Delaware Senate and House of Representatives to submit The GFWC National Day of Service - GFWC Delaware Resolution to address the issue of food insecurity in the State of Delaware, September 30, 2023. The Senate Concurrent Resolution 84 was read by the Senate and House and adopted into the record of the Delaware Legislature on Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Three GFWC Florida District 12 Woman's Clubs (Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, and Rotonda West) teamed up to request a

proclamation from their County Commissioners regarding September 30th, 2023, as The General Federation of Women's Clubs National Day of Service to Stamp Out Hunger and Food Insecurity.

Contact the governor of your state, your state representatives, county commissioners, local town council members, or your local mayor's office to request a proclamation for GFWC's National Day of Service. [Once you make contact with their offices, their staff will instruct you regarding how the particular office issues proclamations.](#) A sample proclamation has been added to the NDS Toolkit in the Member Portal.

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

The NDS Toolkit is now available in the GFWC Member Portal in the Digital Library. After you log in, click on the profile icon. Click "My Digital Library" in the drop down menu and follow this path:

My Digital Library > Resources > N > NDS Toolkit

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## Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to announce that GFWC Mississippi Valley Region President Pat Stevermer's husband, Earle William Stevermer, passed on June 6, 2023. You may view his obituary [here](#).

Condolences may be sent to:  
Pat Stevermer  
720 3rd Avenue SW  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

## GFWC Staff Announcement

GFWC would like to thank **Darrell Jones, Programs Manager**, for his dedication and service to GFWC for the past 9 years. His last day with us will be Friday, July 14. Please join us in wishing Darrell success in his next position!

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**Oklahoma State  
President's Project**  
From Pandemic to  
Paradise



By: Patty Noel Burkhead, GFWC  
Oklahoma State President

It was April of 2019 when the last in-person Convention was held in Oklahoma. It's now the summer of 2023. "How do we recover from four years of true isolation and separation, with only Zoom and social media to connect us?", that was the question. How to proceed from Pandemic to Paradise, not just a gathering, even togetherness, but to truly turn a Convention into a celebration of happiness, jubilation, a paradise. To cope with loneliness and separation, many of us made new "friends." Our computers and our TV became "companions." How could we continue to volunteer and serve but remain protected? Amazingly, our clubs proceeded to invent new ways to help others. Drive-thru events, distancing functions, and using paper mail to communicate brought back a by-gone era of imaginative creativity.

Some of these new "friends" (TV shows and videos) are part of our lives now. How do we use these new-found skills and abilities to share? We've learned to make games, cook great dishes, and use our talents. Then we learned that going outdoors, seeing people, and going places we loved were possibilities. In Oklahoma, we have beautiful prairies, horses, cattle, buffalo, ranches with wide open spaces, and wonderfully prepared FOOD. The food we've learned to prepare perfectly during our confinement. Many Americans know us from The Pioneer Woman in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

On May 12 and 13, 2023, paradise began again in Oklahoma at the 124th Oklahoma State Convention. We celebrated victories of service with awards so earned and deserved. We toured the kitchen at the Lodge, watched wild mustangs and herds of buffalo, and made jump rope toys for troubled children. So much food filled our serving tables that no one was left unamazed!

Learning to use our time of exploration has expanded our options to serve others. Being unified brought such a feeling of fulfillment. The luxury of the Boarding House and restaurants brought true luxury to the prairies of Oklahoma! Want true joy? Visit Oklahoma's real treasures.

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## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

By: Shelli Fehr, Annual Giving Program Committee

The GFWC Annual Giving Program Committee and GFWC express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all donors who contributed funds to GFWC since July 1, 2022. The total donations are still being tabulated, but we can confidently conclude that our members came through and made the past year one that will truly “Honor the Legacy and Inspire the Future” of GFWC! Thank you all!

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## In the Summer Time

By: Nancy Ames, GFWC Membership Chairman

Summer is finally here – time for some seasonal fun in the sun! Time with family and friends, outdoor activities such as picnics, camping, swimming, and drive-in movies. For those living in the north, summer can’t come fast enough and leaves too soon. Many clubs take the summer months off from meetings, but this doesn’t mean you can’t get together for a few social outings. This can help your members bond deeper, building stronger relationships outside club meetings and fundraisers.

Join GFWC clubs nationwide to promote the GFWC Membership “Sparkle and Shine” Recruitment Campaign for June, July, and August, RETENTION: Pearls – “Strengthening Relationships.” How about planning a picnic in the park, an outing to a play or a movie, or visiting a local festival together – of course, wearing your GFWC

attire to promote your club. Be sure to have a business card or a club brochure on hand; you never know when and where you may find your next club member!

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## Gold Pins

Cindy Ayer  
GFWC Woman's Club of Hampton  
(Virginia)

Alma Ladd  
GFWC Camas-Washougal Woman's Club  
(Washington)

Becky Robbins  
GFWC Sand River Woman's Club (South  
Carolina)

Pat Lindemann  
GFWC Clio Club (North Dakota)

Bonnie Daub  
GFWC Clio Club (North Dakota)

Lollie Adair  
GFWC Clio Club (North Dakota)

Mary Ellen Caruso  
GFWC Southern Saratoga County  
Women's Club (New York)

Joanne Fudger  
GFWC Dallas Woman's Club (Georgia)

Carrie Martin  
GFWC Winterport Woman's Club  
(Maine)

Shirley Boggs  
GFWC Spotsylvania County Woman's  
Club (Virginia)

Lura Elder  
GFWC Spotsylvania County Woman's  
Club (Virginia)

Beverley Quillen  
GFWC Ladies' Reading Circle  
(Tennessee)

Frances Rose  
GFWC Ladies' Reading Circle  
(Tennessee)

Victoria Cataldo  
GFWC The Holly Club, Inc.  
(Massachusetts)

Kathy Bardshied  
GFWC Southern Saratoga County  
Women's Club (New York)

Esther Eyer  
GFWC Southern Saratoga County  
Women's Club (New York)

Mary Doris "Sugie" Rigoni  
GFWC Lockport Woman's Club (Illinois)

Carol Canepa  
GFWC Woman's Club of Lodi  
(California)

Judy Hayes  
GFWC Woman's Club of Lodi  
(California)

Judie Kraemer  
GFWC Woman's Club of Lodi  
(California)

Barbara Williams  
GFWC Woman's Club of Lodi  
(California)

Joan Reede  
GFWC Clayton Valley Woman's Club  
(California)

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## Volunteers in Action: GFWC Gloucester County Women's Club (NJ)





The members of the GFWC Gloucester County Women's Club located in New Jersey have been knitting and crocheting blue hats for #HATNOTHATE project. Members recently completed 63 hats.

In 2018, this program was started by Shira Blumenthal, who decided to create an anti-bullying campaign called #HATNOTHATE. While her passion for preventing bullying was personal, bullying is, unfortunately, also a universal problem. [Around one in four kids in the United States is bullied](#), and recurring bullying can lead to depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior.

The concept of #HATNOTHATE has been to encourage knitters and crocheters to knit, crochet, and loom blue hats and to donate them to the cause. Blue was chosen as it represents solidarity and is the color to wear in support of bullying prevention.

The purpose of #HATNOTHATE is to educate students about anti-bullying and tell them how they themselves can make a change and make a difference just by being kind.

The organization is working with an educational director to create an assembly program to be presented at schools all over the United States during October, National Bullying Prevention Month. The hats would be brought to the event for students to wear throughout the month, empowering them to be strong and stand up to bullying and to feel encouraged by the love and purpose with which these handmade hats are created.

Since the inception of #HATNOTHATE, the organization has collected over 90,000 hats. Find out more about their mission [here](#).

Let us know about the projects your club is working on. Submit your story and photos to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



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