



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

December 21, 2023

2023 GFWC Holiday Video



Season's Greetings to all! Enjoy the GFWC video showcasing this year's Holiday Open House festivities and a special tour of the newly completed renovations to GFWC Headquarters.

GFWC Holiday Office Hours



GFWC Headquarters will be closed from December 23 – January 1 to allow staff to celebrate the holiday season with their loved ones. Please note that the next issue of News & Notes will be published on January 11, 2024.

On behalf of the staff, we wish you a joyful holiday and happiness in the coming year.

Hotel Bookings for the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention are Now Open



[Book Here](#)

For room booking questions, please contact the Hilton Chicago at (312) 922-4400

GFWC North Carolina Director of Junior Clubs Project: NC CARES

By: Hope Hockaday, GFWC North Carolina Director of Junior Clubs



The theme for North Carolina Juniors this administration is NC CARES – Climate Advocacy, Resiliency, Education, and Sustainability. I chose this project because I wanted to share my passion for doing what I can, as an individual and as part of a collective voice, to help slow climate change and bring a voice to disadvantaged communities most impacted by climate change.

GFWC-NC Juniors partners with two organizations: Envision Charlotte and North Carolina Conservation Network.

Envision Charlotte (envisioncharlotte.com) champions circular economy and sustainability efforts in North Carolina through their Innovation Barn. The Innovation Barn includes areas that recycle items that are difficult to recycle through most city programs, an aquaponics and aeroponics garden, a mushroom garden, a repair lab, and a soldier fly composting facility. GFWC-NC Juniors are specifically thrilled to be raising money for their teaching kitchen,

which instructs kids on how to source their own vegetables, cook a healthy meal, and compost the remaining food.

North Carolina Conservation Network (ncconservationnetwork.org) is a network of over 60 conservation, environmental justice, and community groups improving North Carolina's capacity for effective advocacy. This organization joins GFWC-NC with many other organizations across the state, advocating for the protection of our state's natural resources, fostering environmental justice, and ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.

Find out more about these organizations and how to support our efforts by following the GFWC-NC Junior Instagram page [@gfwcncjuniors](https://www.instagram.com/gfwcncjuniors).



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 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.

GFWC Legislative Alerts: This year, the GFWC Legislative Action Center has been activated on several important bipartisan measures. The funding for Shot@Life vaccines and the Violence Against Women programs has been extended until January 2024 through a Continuing Resolution, allowing for further negotiations on FY 2024 final bills. Programs to address food insecurity are authorized by the Older Americans Act and the Farm Bill; negotiations on these critical programs will continue in 2024. The membership in the Legislative Action has increased by 500 people in just six months!

Domestic Violence: Ruth M. Glenn, President of Public Affairs for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, spoke to the GFWC Board of Directors at its meeting in September about her life as a survivor and her advocacy work. She alerted the members to United States vs. Rahimi, a case argued before the Supreme Court on November 7, 2023. The question before the Court was whether the federal law

which prohibits the possession of firearms by a person subject to a domestic violence restraining order violates the Second Amendment of the Constitution. You can listen to the arguments and read the briefs by going to www.supremecourt.gov/. Glenn was interviewed by several news alerts before and after the oral argument. She said, "I think sometimes we forget and we look at the firearm as this tool of lethality, which it is absolutely. But it's also even more powerful as a tool of control." The Supreme Court opinion will not be released for several months.

Rape Kit Backlog: The Debbie Smith Act must be reauthorized to provide funding to law enforcement to analyze untested rape kits. DNA analysis is one of the most important methods to investigate crimes and improve the capacity of state and local prosecutors to bring these cases to court. The GFWC Legislative Action Center was activated in early 2023 in support of this legislation. Both the House and Senate have passed bills, and it is hoped Congress will finalize the five-year reauthorization measure as quickly as possible.

Kids Online Safety: A GFWC supported measure, the REPORT Act passed the Senate on December 14. The bill sponsored by Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) will ensure tech companies are held accountable to report and remove child sex abuse material and to strengthen protections for kids online. The bill makes reporting by electronic communication service providers mandatory rather than permissive. Internet service providers will be required to report child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), child sex trafficking, enticement of children for sexual acts, and unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline. NCMEC then makes all reports made available to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. The bill also allows people depicted in CSAM as minors and their representatives to report to NCMEC and the bill increases the time that evidence is preserved for prosecution. A companion House bill has been introduced and GFWC will continue to advocate for enactment of this bill and others focused on protecting children online.

Photography is Priceless

By: Becky Bolden, GFWC Communications & Public Relations Committee Member

It's true; a picture is worth a thousand words. Pictures capture a moment in time and remind us of the valuable work that our clubwomen accomplish. They also entice people to read an article. With our cell phones' convenience, capturing that particular moment is easy. Here are a few tips when taking pictures of GFWC projects and events.

- Plan your photo so something is happening. Tell your story with the photo.
- Limit photographs to no more than five people.
- Observe the background and remove any clutter from the photo.

- If you photograph a person, bring the subject forward from the background so the emphasis is on him or her.
- Smartphone photography has become the popular choice for taking pictures. Other tips for Smartphone Photography are:
 - Hold your smartphone sideways to take pictures.
 - Keep your smartphone still to get a clear shot.
 - Clean the camera lens – your smartphone can get dirty “living” in pockets, purses, and bags.
 - Avoid using digital zoom as it decreases the quality.
 - Use a selfie stick to include everyone.
- Be mindful of photographing children. Ask permission before including them in your photos.



The Photo Circle app is a way to share pictures from many people at an event. Once the app is downloaded, create the circle and start adding pictures. You can invite friends by texting them the link or having them scan the QR code. Encourage all attendees at an event to add their pictures to the circle. The result is a collection of memories from many perspectives that capture the event's full story. As a State President, State Director of Junior Clubs, or Committee Chairman, consider setting up a circle to capture the memories of your administration. Remember to have fun and take the photo!

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

85
GFWC Illinois Polo Women's Club (Illinois)

GOLD PINS

Celebrating 50 years of membership

Diana Palmer
GFWC Martinez Women's Club (CA)

Jenny Nall
GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA)

Doris Bonham
GFWC Martinez Women's Club (CA)

Sally Baker
GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA)

Anke Marks
GFWC Lagniappe Woman's Club (LA)

Linda Pierce
GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA)

Doris Mann
GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA)

Volunteers in Action:

GFWC Millville Woman's Club (NJ)



The Millville Woman's Club (MWC) recognized the Holly City Family Success Center for its services to children and their families in their community. Clubwoman Diane Alcantara learned that the Center's need was most significant for children from ages 3 months to 3 years. Generous club members donated 42 gift bags to the Family Success Center, ready to be given to children during the holiday season.

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



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