



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

January 12, 2024



## Beware of Phishing Emails

There is an uptick in phishing emails and members have contacted headquarters to alert us to suspicious emails received from what looks to be a GFWC officer or staff member.

Here are some things to look out for:

- Check the email address: It may use a name you recognize, but when you hover over the sender's email address it doesn't match the person's real email address.
- Are they asking you for a favor or personal information?

If you receive one of these messages, follow the steps below:

1. Do not open it.
2. Delete it immediately to prevent yourself from accidentally opening the message in the future.
3. Do not download any attachments accompanying the message.
4. Never click links that appear in the message.
5. Do not reply to the sender.
6. Report it to your email provider by marking it as phishing or spam.

If your email is posted on your club's website for customer service reasons, you should closely monitor for email spoofs. While GFWC cannot prevent your email account from receiving these emails, rest assured that your privacy is a priority. GFWC does not sell or distribute member emails to outside sources.



## The Power of You: State Federations and the LAC

The final webinar of The Power of You: An Advocacy Webinar Series, a seven-part series on advocating, will be offered on January 29, 2024, at 7 p.m. This webinar will focus on utilizing the GFWC Legislative Action Center to bring about change at the state level. You will hear how one club member reading an article in a local paper led to a state federation's support of two pending bills on domestic violence reform. We hope you are inspired to utilize the LAC for your own state's legislation, not only on issues of domestic violence and awareness but also on other issues related to GFWC Resolutions. GFWC has a long history of advocacy on the federal level and recognizes the need for similar action on the state level.

To register for this webinar, follow this link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XTHrHPgpRISLEgxYLMK\\_PA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XTHrHPgpRISLEgxYLMK_PA#/registration)

---

## GF WC Illinois 2024 Convention Fundraiser

GF WC Illinois is excited to welcome you to Chicago for the GF WC Annual Convention. To help offset the costs of hosting the convention, GF WC Illinois is selling Chic Baubles, beautiful multi-hued, jewel-toned pins that reflect the diversity of GF WC. Limited numbers of small pins (\$50) and large pins (\$100) are available. To reserve your pin and receive an order form, please contact Ruth Sloat at [slootruthgfwc@gmail.com](mailto:slootruthgfwc@gmail.com).



\$100 Large Pins (2.5in diameter)



\$50 Small Pins (1.5in diameter)



In addition, Chicago 2024 aprons are available for purchase at \$30 each. These aprons are not only practical but also serve as a wonderful memento of your time in Chicago.

GFWC Illinois is thrilled to welcome our GFWC sisters to our beautiful state and the vibrant city of Chicago. Your support through purchasing Chic Baubles and aprons is greatly appreciated and will contribute to the success of the convention.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago!

---

## 2024-2026 GFWC Board Orientation



Last week, we welcomed more than 180 leaders to Washington, DC, for the 2024-2026 Administration Orientation. President-elect Suellen Brazil welcomed attendees Thursday night with a speech from Lisa Gable, five-time award-winning Wall Street Journal and USA Today Bestselling Author and Presidential Appointee. During Friday's presentations, members were encouraged to think about *Leadership Reimagined!* Committees, Chairmen, State Presidents, Region Presidents, and Junior Directors gained valuable knowledge and training for their upcoming positions. We were honored to listen to Lynn Rosenthal, Director of Sexual and Gender-based Violence at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. On Saturday, the incoming Board was able to tour GFWC Headquarters to enjoy the Holiday decorations and newly renovated spaces.

Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the success of the 2024-2026 Administration's Board Orientation.



**On January 5, Lynn Rosenthal, Director of Sexual and Gender-based Violence at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services addressed the incoming 2024-2026 leadership of GFWC.**

“Lynn Rosenthal embodies LEADERSHIP and has been in the forefront of every major step forward of national efforts to curb domestic violence and sexual assault. She has worked so hard to secure resources to educate and prevent gender-based violence,” said GFWC President-elect Suellen Brazil.

Lynn currently leads the Department’s work to implement the National Plan to End Gender-based Violence and related initiatives, which is a product of the White House Gender Policy Council working with all the federal departments to strengthen collaboration, action, and results.

Several pieces of federal legislation- the Violence Against Women Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and the Victims of Crime Act - have strengthened protections and provided core funding through grant programs that advance best practices at the state and local community levels. Over the years, GFWC has strongly advocated for Congress to pass these bills through our Legislative Action Center and the work of our GFWC Signature Program Committee on Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Lynn complimented GFWC’s passion, energy, and local grassroots support of families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault and urged us to continue to focus on services, education, and prevention. She also urged GFWC to continue working to protect children online. Lynn challenged GFWC to work together to cause cultural change by addressing barriers to safety, housing, healing, economic security, online safety, law enforcement accountability, emergency preparedness, and improved research and data on best practices.

In 2021, Lynn was appointed by Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to chair the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault in the U.S. Military. Congress embraced the recommendations of the Commission and these efforts moved sexual assault out of the chain-of-command. Now, victims of sexual assault in the military have specially trained counsel and resources. The Commander does not protect the perpetrator.

From 2009 to 2015, during the Obama-Biden Administration, Lynn was the first-ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women and a senior advisor to then-Vice President Biden. She co-chaired the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault on behalf of Vice President Biden and represented the Vice President on the White House Council on Women and Girls.

“Lynn Rosenthal is a treasured resource for GFWC and we look forward to working with her to enhance our activities at the local club, state, regional, and national levels as we strengthen our efforts to combat domestic and sexual violence,” said GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski.

---

## Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to report the passing of two former GFWC State Presidents.

[Myrtle Council](#) served as GFWC Pennsylvania State President from 1984-1986.

[Rita Sanders](#) served as GFWC Oklahoma State President from 2014-2016.

---

## GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs Project: Bundles of Love

By: Karen Margala, GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs



My Junior Director state project for the 2022-2024 administration is “Bundles of Love.” This program was originally designed by the USO

to provide a special package of essential items for a military family that has recently welcomed a new baby into their lives. Items consist of diapers, pacifiers, outfits, books, blankets, baby wipes, bottle brushes, and toiletries that a newborn would need. When I started this project, I had recently been blessed with a grandson, and I had forgotten all the everyday items that are required for a new baby and how quickly the costs of these items add up. Having been made aware that this was a need for our military, and living in close proximity to an air base, I thought that this was the perfect project to help support our veterans and their families who give so unselfishly of themselves.

I am very proud to say that Ohio clubs have been extremely supportive. Not only have our Junior Clubs embraced this project but our Women's Clubs, Junioresettes, and Federated Clubs have joined in too. Our clubwomen have had a wonderful time holding baby showers and parties, complete with food, decorations, and games. They have been doing monthly or themed collections and have raised money for gift cards for the families. Hundreds of items worth thousands of dollars have been brought to our veterans. I am truly thankful and amazed by the continued generosity of all Ohio clubwomen, and we are all grateful for the opportunity to help give back to the men and women who so proudly serve our country.



2023 LEADS Graduates in Louisville, KY

## **State Representation at GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar**

By: Susan Gettys, GFWC Leadership Committee Chairman

GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) is a full day of leadership training held each year at the GFWC Annual Convention. This year's seminar will be held on June 28, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Topics will include: Developing Your Why, GFWC Resolutions, Listening Skills, Conflict Resolution, Parliamentary Procedures, Public Speaking, Time Management, and Building Influence. The day will be full of learning, processing, and role-playing. LEADS candidates will leave with a packet of handouts and resources, new friends, and mentors available to answer questions and provide support as needed throughout their leadership journey.

If you are interested in applying to be the LEADS candidate from your state, check with your club president or state leadership team to determine the deadline for your state applications. Many states have a defined process for selecting their candidate and have strict state

deadlines. State Leadership/LEADS Chairmen must then submit the candidate's application and photo from their state to GFWC Second Vice President Jolie Frankfurth ([jfrankfurth@gfwc.org](mailto:jfrankfurth@gfwc.org)) and GFWC Leadership Chairman Susan Gettys ([susan.getts@att.net](mailto:susan.getts@att.net)) by March 15, 2024.

Each LEADS candidate will receive a \$325 stipend at the end of the day's training to help with transportation and lodging expenses. Lunch will be provided, and the seminar has no registration fee.

One attendee from each International Affiliate is also welcome to apply at a cost of \$60. The GFWC stipend for transportation and lodging does not apply.

The LEADS application can be found in the Member Portal on the GFWC.org website under L. The GFWC Leadership Committee looks forward to meeting and working with all the LEADS candidates in Chicago, Illinois, on June 28, 2024.

---

## **New Resource Added to the Leadership Toolkit**

Did you know there are ready-made presentations in the Leadership Toolkit in the Member Portal ready for you to use for leadership training in your club and state?

A new presentation focusing on Parliamentary Procedures has just been added to the Leadership Toolkit (L). The PowerPoint and script for the presentation can be found in Section 5, Resources for Developing Your State LEADS Program. In addition, a Sample Meeting Script and Sample Motion Form have been added. We hope you find these presentations helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to your regional representative on the GFWC Leadership Committee.

---

## **Fostering Friendships With Members Outside Your Club**

By: Joann Wheeler, GFWC Membership Committee Member

As GFWC members, we need to reach out to our communities and seek to build relationships within them. Partnerships with other civic organizations allow us to share information and services and provide other types of support that can be critical for success! Networking together helps volunteers develop a clear vision for achieving goals. This saves time and costs and creates improved performance through shared responsibilities. By sharing resources, leadership, talents, and budgets, these partnerships can add to achievements for the community.

As GFWC volunteers, we should always be aware of the individuals in our community who participate in activities that benefit the community. Look to businesses, service or special interest organizations, government agencies, churches, school groups, and more. This does not mean that these groups and members need to think alike—rather, this can bring together members with different strengths and ideas. Here is another avenue for building friendships

outside of your club by learning more about these diverse groups and how each can benefit by working together.

Funding benefits can also be gained from these collaborative partnerships. More community individuals at the table can increase your potential funding connections. Even though funding is a high priority, the true gain may be from developing friendships and collaborating with positive individuals who have a good heart and care about their community.

---

## **Volunteers in Action: GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC)**



The GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh (TWCR) made a connection with a local high school and discovered a need for snacks for some students. Snacks donated by members were delivered in November. While making the delivery, volunteers were told that hoodies were also a need as the weather had gotten colder. At the club's December general meeting, money, snacks, and hoodies were donated. TWCR delivered 50 hoodies and a trunk full of snacks to the high school for their food pantry and after school program.

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



GFWC Headquarters  
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036  
[www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org)