



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

June 22, 2023



Thank You!

A message from Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President

I want to thank everyone who attended this year's Convention, in-person and in spirit; the Board of Directors; Sponsors; Exhibitors; and guest speakers for your help in making it memorable and a huge success!

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is lucky to have all of you as members. Thank you for all that you do for your communities, states, and the world! I'm looking forward to seeing you at Region Conferences this fall, State Conventions in the spring of 2024, and I will see you all in Sweet Home Chicago next year!

Debra A. Strahanoski

[View all Official GFWC Annual Convention Photos](#)



Here you'll find photos such as:

- GFWC Board of Directors
- State Photos
- Award Photos
- Chairman and Committees
- Event Photos

Thank you to Laura Bergman, Official Convention Photographer, for all her work capturing these special moments.

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)



National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

[#GFWC23NDS](https://twitter.com/GFWC23NDS)

Over 500 Registered for the 2023 GFWC National Day of Service

The GFWC National Day of Service was highlighted at the GFWC Annual Convention as a national service project that GFWC clubs, districts, regions, and state federations have pledged to participate in on September 30, 2023.

Many attendees were happy to have, not only a national project to support, but a vehicle for attracting new members to GFWC clubs.

To date, **506** clubs, districts, and federations have registered for the NDS, just shy of GFWC's 520 registrant goal. **106** of those have registered just since the start of convention on June 10. Thank you to all who have already registered!

It's not too late to register. Please join us in the fight against food insecurity in our communities.

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

Cares & Concerns

With great sadness we report GFWC North Carolina member Molly Johnson passed away on June 14 after a long illness with Alzheimer's disease. Molly served GFWC as North Carolina State President (1976-1978), Arts Department Chairman (1978-1980), Southeastern Region President (1990-1992), and was GFWC Executive Hostess to International Past President Juanita Bryant (1982-1984).

You can view her obituary [here](#).

Condolences may be sent to:

Mary Jane Johnson
203 Lake Drive East
Thomasville, NC 27630

It is with deep sadness that GFWC announces the passing of Doris Falconer, past GFWC Western States Region President (1994-1996), GFWC Alaska State President (1982-1984), and GFWC Anchorage Woman's Club President (1998-1990).

Her family has asked for your memories of Doris so they can compile a memory book. Please visit her Tribute Wall. Photos are also appreciated.

<https://www.janssenfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Doris-Ruth-Falconer?obId=28172780#/celebrationWall>



North Dakota State President's Project Safe Communities

By: Karen Retzlaff, GFWC North Dakota State President

With the drastic increase of drug overdoses in their state, the main program of GFWC North Dakota's convention focused on K-9 support for Drug Interdiction (preventing illicit drugs from reaching their destination) in central North Dakota. The main speaker, Deputy Travis Carlson, is part of the Benson County Sheriff's Department and is one of two K-9 handlers in the area. He also brought Raptor, his K-9 "co-worker", to the convention. Raptor is a Belgian Malinois, who is particularly suited to drug detection and criminal

apprehension. While the need for intervention was foremost in the program, the information about the Belgian Malinois training also captured the attention of those attending.

One-third of Benson County lies on the Spirit Lake Nation, which has been targeted for drug trafficking by various cartels. This has resulted in the formation of the Lake Region Task Force to apprehend those involved in the drug trade. Deputy Carson educated us on the sale of fentanyl, opioids, and methamphetamines to North Dakota and Spirit Lake citizens.

As clubwomen learned more about the need for more trained K-9 handlers and dogs, they voted to donate funds to the Benson County K-9 program and to encourage other organizations to do the same.

North Dakota GFWC is relatively small in size but mighty in purpose, as we continue to make an impact statewide.



Food Insecurity

By: Sharon Oliphant, Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

Does hunger precede homelessness? A person does not have to be homeless to be hungry. More than 37.2 million Americans face food insecurity.¹ Many people today are forced to choose food over rent, electric, mortgage, water, and home upkeep. 1 in 8 Americans are food insecure and food insecurity occurs in EVERY state. Food banks are at a peak during these times, with the need being so much higher than it was 5 years ago.

These organizations must decide if they have the resources to serve prepared hot meals on a daily basis and/or send bags of food home with the ones that line up for hours to get enough to prepare a meal for their family.

Another staggering statistic is the lack of affordable housing. There is not one state or county in the United States where a full-time worker receiving minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment. Thus, many experiencing long term homelessness. A full-time worker needs to earn an average of \$28.58 an hour to afford a modest two-bedroom rental, more in 21 states.² Hard choices are having to be made by many families.

We know how to make a difference. Advocate, support, and volunteer in the area of food insecurity and homelessness. Our voices are our champions. The GFWC National Day of Service will enable us to continue to get the word out. Donate a CAN of food because we CAN help. And don't forget the can opener, wear your GFWC emblematic clothing to start the conversation.

1: Hunger Free America. Hunger in America

<https://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/en-us/the-issues>

2: National Low Income Housing Coalition. About Out of Reach

<https://nlihc.org/oor/about>

Traveling this Summer? Save on Your Next Car Rental



As a GFWC member, you can enjoy special savings on car rentals through Avis and Budget. Now through July 31, save \$15 on base rates with Avis or \$10 on base rates with Budget when you spend \$175 or more on a minimum consecutive three-day rental.

This offer is valid on all car groups, excluding specialty vehicles, at participating Avis and Budget airport locations in the contiguous United States. Terms apply.

[Reserve with Avis](#)

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Enroll in Avis Preferred[®] or Budget Fastbreak[®] to accelerate your savings, earn rewards and bypass the counter for an expedited rental experience.

**Volunteers in Action:
Millville Woman's Club (NJ)**



Period Poverty refers to lack of access to menstrual products, sanitation facilities and inadequate education regarding menstrual health and hygiene. Unfortunately, menstruation is still stigmatized, and people are embarrassed to talk about it, but it impacts women's health and welfare throughout the world. Per [Harvard Health Publishing](#), "There are nearly 22 million women living in poverty in the United States who cannot afford menstrual products."

[The Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#) provides much more than food, offering educational programs on hunger, poverty and ways to make positive changes in the community. Fighting Period Poverty is one of their programs. On 6/8/2023, the Millville Woman's Club (MWC) donated \$300 worth of feminine hygiene products to CFBNJ in support of this fight.

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



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