



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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March 14, 2024

2024 GFWC Annual Convention: [Register Now](#)



Registration for the 2024
GFWC Annual Convention
is [NOW OPEN!](#)

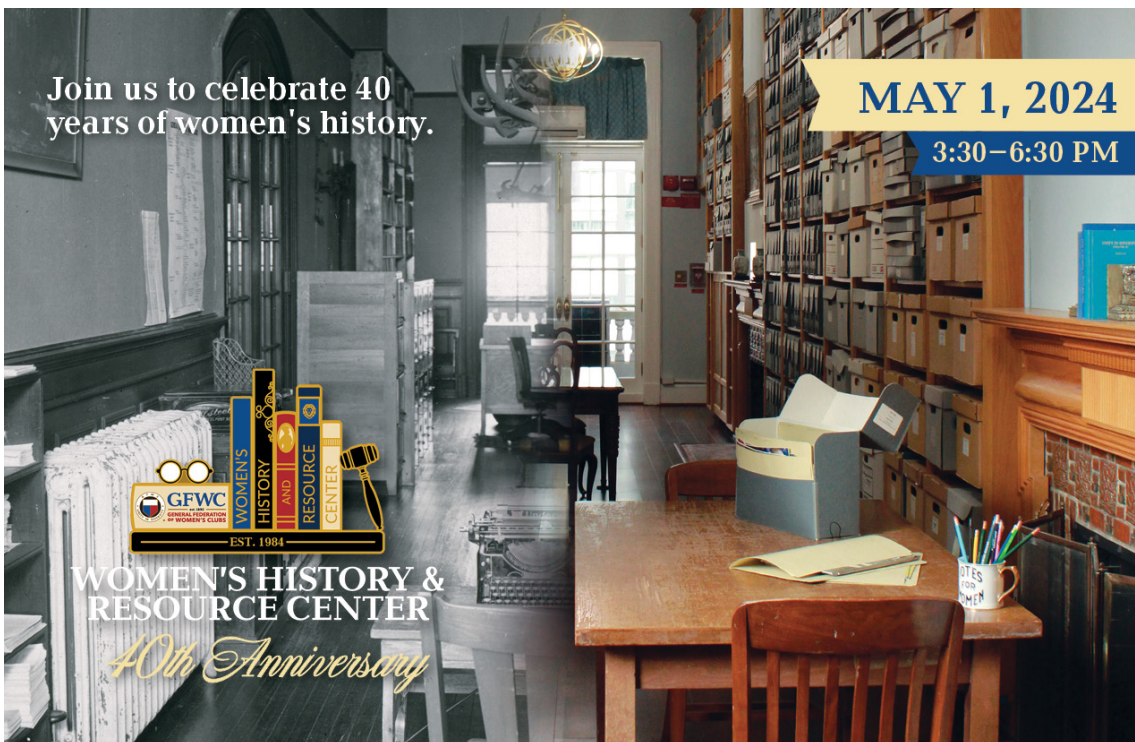
[View the 2024 Call to
Convention](#)

With great pleasure and anticipation, I extend a warm invitation to everyone to join me, Director of Junior Clubs Katie Moydell, and the Executive Committee at the upcoming GFWC Annual Convention in the dazzling city of Chicago, Illinois!

From June 28 to July 1, we will gather under the theme of “Sparkle, Shine, and Succeed” to celebrate our collective accomplishments, share inspiring stories, and chart the course for an even brighter future.

In Federation Friendship,

Debra Strahanoski
GFWC International President



Women's History and Resource Center 40th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 3:30 to 6:30 pm

IN-PERSON EVENT at General Federation of Women's Clubs Headquarters -
1734 N Street, NW – Washington, DC 20036

Please join us at a special reception to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC). Founded on May 1, 1984, the WHRC has spent forty years preserving the history of GFWC clubwomen and ensuring that this legacy of community service is accessible to all. Help us commemorate this important milestone as we look forward to the next forty years!

This event will feature tours of our historic Headquarters (including the WHRC Archives and Library), as well as exhibits highlighting favorites from the WHRC collection.

Light refreshments will be served.

Music by Kristen Jepperson, Harpist.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Special Hotel Room Rate for WHRC Anniversary Celebration, May 1, 2024

Book your room at the Courtyard by Marriott, directly across the street from GFWC Headquarters.

Rates are available Tuesday, April 30 – Friday, May 3. Bookings close Tuesday, April 16.

[Book Group Rate Room](#)

Important Memo from International President Deb Strahanoski

With a heavy heart, I announce that GFWC Treasurer Becky Wright has withdrawn her endorsement for the office of GFWC Secretary for 2024–2026 due to family circumstances. Becky will complete her term as the 2022–2024 GFWC Treasurer.

All 2024–2026 candidates have been notified, and the GFWC Elections Chairman Carol Habgood has compiled the related GFWC Bylaws and Procedures. Please review all the information below.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming elections, please contact Elections Chairman Carol Habgood at 210-223-6528, cell 210-392-4406—or email carolhabgood@sbcglobal.net.

GFWC BYLAWS

Article VI

Section 6.2 Eligibility. Eligibility for the office of International President, President-elect, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall include membership in a club which is in active membership in GFWC and service as President of a State Federation or current or past service as GFWC Director of Junior Clubs. To be eligible for the office of President-elect, the nominee shall have served at least one prior term on the GFWC Executive Committee. Eligibility for the office of Director-elect of Junior Clubs shall include

membership in a Junior Club which is in active membership in GFWC and service as Director of Junior Clubs of a State Federation. The GFWC Director of Junior Clubs shall maintain membership in a Junior Club which is in active membership in GFWC throughout her term.

Article VII

Section 7.2 states that “Nominations may be made from the floor following the report of the Elections Committee. Candidates so nominated shall have consented to be nominees, shall have provided a one page resume of no more than 100 words to the chairman of the Elections Committee at least 14 days prior to the opening ceremony of the GFWC convention.”

There are three steps involved in this process:

1. Determining a candidate's eligibility for office. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.2.)
2. Endorsing a candidate for office. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 7.1 and 7.2)
3. Submitting the required paperwork no later than June 15, 2024 (14 days prior to the opening ceremony). (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 7.2.) The paperwork to be submitted:
 1. Declaration of Candidate for GFWC Office (2024–2026 Administration). Endorsements shall be verified by signatures of the state president, recording secretary, and the candidate and sent by certified mail, return receipt, to the Elections Committee Chairman no later than June 15, 2024. The form is available on the GFWC Member Portal, under Board Documents.
 2. Documentation of the endorsement shall include the page(s) of the minutes of the meeting endorsing the candidate.
 3. Don't forget the one-page resume of no more than 100 words.

Important things to note about your paperwork:

1. It must be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.
2. It is sent to the Elections Committee Chairman, not Headquarters.
3. It should arrive by June 15, 2024.

Yours in Federation,



Debra Strahanoski
GFWC International President

Seeking Questions for the 2024-2026 Candidates for Office

By: Carol Habgood, GFWC Elections Committee Chairman

Do you have a burning question you want to ask a candidate for GFWC office? This is your opportunity. At the GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, GFWC will host a Q&A session with the 2024–2026 candidates in a contested position. As noted in the winter 2024 edition of the GFWC Clubwoman magazine, there are two candidates for the office of GFWC treasurer. We are soliciting thoughtful questions to pose to the candidates **regarding their individual experiences, strategic vision for GFWC, and leadership skills**. The International President, President-elect, and Chairman of the Elections Committee will vet the possible questions. Candidates for a contested position will answer no less than two questions, with a one-minute response to each question. So put on your thinking caps and send us your questions. Please send your questions by email to GFWC Elections Committee Chairman Carol Habgood (carolhabgood@sbcglobal.net) by May 15, 2024.

Succession and Shadowing

By: JoAnn Calnen, GFWC Leadership Committee Member

Is your club ready to move into the next administration with a succession plan? A succession plan could include a leadership “shadowing” opportunity for key appointed or elected positions.

Why develop a shadowing program?

- Members shadowing a position can make informed decisions about the role and its responsibilities.
- Members develop and hone skills while building confidence.
- The interaction that your shadow has with fellow members or committees builds trust and creates teamwork before stepping into a position.

How to begin?

- Identify your members who are potential successors.
- Sit down with those members to discuss and determine areas of focus.
- Implement your shadowing plan. It can be as simple as asking each member to join you at key leadership meetings to view what and how

things are done over a month or two. Or establish a process that includes them in the work for an extended time frame that allows participation in the responsibilities: create agendas, balance accounts, or compose drafts of minutes.

- If you are a leader, make sure your shadow is nearby.

Whatever path is taken, ensure communication stays open. There should be no surprises about time commitments. Make sure that information and support is always available.

With the opportunity to shadow, as your program progresses, you will find members are more comfortable stepping into leadership roles.



GFWC Illinois Executive
Committee

It was a delight to have the GFWC Illinois Executive Committee visit the beautiful GFWC Headquarters from March 7 to 10. During their time in the District of Columbia, they visited historic sites and attended the 2024 GFWC Women's History Month Celebration on March 6. On behalf of the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, the Illinois Executive Committee presented the magnificent chandelier that hangs in the President's office in honor of 2022-2024 GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski.



GFWC Illinois Executive Committee & Special Assistants in the GFWC President's Office

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club (MA)



To participate in Advocates for Children Week in 2023, members of the GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club worked with CASA, Court-Appointed Special

Advocates. AJWC clubwomen came together for one of their biggest and newest projects, allocating \$500 to help this worthy nonprofit. The money was spent on duffle bags and important items for foster children in need, especially when they are in transition.

Clubwomen donated to fill the bags to the brim with items from CASA's wish list: soap, shampoo, blankets, coloring books, crayons, bath and hand towels, hand wipes, books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, and stuffed animals. During their monthly meeting, they filled the duffle bags, and two members delivered them to CASA. The members received a tour of the headquarters and spoke with the director.

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



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