

**GFWC**

ideas, information, insight, and inspiration

# CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

2024 GFWC Jennie  
Award Finalists

Women's History Month  
Celebration Recap

Advocating for Child Safety:  
Child Abuse Prevention Month

## FEDERATION FASHION

DRESSING THE PART:  
GFWC INTERNATIONAL PAST PRESIDENTS



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

spring 2024 | volume 102 | issue 2





GFWC

CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

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### 2022-2024 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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*WHRC Librarian* JOANNA CHURCH

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TRISHA SCHAFER, *Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman*

&

STEPHANIE FOSTER, *GFWC Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children honorary chairman, Speaker, Author, Advocate, and Founding Partner of Smash Strategies*

## FEATURED ON THE COVER

### GFWC INTERNATIONAL PAST PRESIDENTS' INSTALLATION & EVENT GOWNS

A look at the special exhibit on display at the General Federation of Women's Clubs' Headquarters. The exhibit highlights eight of our past leaders, from the late 1970s to just a few years ago. Read more in *Federation Fashion*, pg 11.

From Left to Right, In Alphabetical Order: *Mary Ellen Brock (2018-2020) On loan from Mary Ellen Brock; Juanita M. Bryant (1982-1984) On loan from Juanita M. Bryant; Carlene Garner (2010-2012) On loan from Carlene Garner; Mary Ellen Laister (2012-2014) On loan from Mary Ellen Laister; Judy Lutz (2002-2004) On loan from the Lutz Family; Sheila E. Shea (2016-2018) On loan from Sheila E. Shea; Marian St.Clair (2020-2022) On loan from Marian St.Clair; Jerri Wagner (1976-1978) On loan from GFWC The Monday Club, Inc., of Prescott, Arizona;*

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## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear Federation Friends,

As we welcome the vibrant colors and refreshing breezes of spring, it's a beautiful time to reflect on the spirit of renewal and growth this season brings. With nature blooming around us, I am reminded of our organization's beauty and incredible impact on our communities.

Spring is a time of rejuvenation in nature and a perfect opportunity for us to engage in meaningful volunteer work. Whether it's planting trees, organizing community clean-ups, or supporting local charities, our collective efforts can make a significant difference in the lives of those around us. I encourage each of you to take part in volunteer activities this season and contribute your time and skills to create positive change.

GFWC is getting ready to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC). Please join us for the grand celebration on Wednesday, May 1, from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Also, don't forget how the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) began; consider planning an activity for GFWC Federation Day on April 24.

I'm excited to announce the upcoming 2024 GFWC Annual Convention, which will be held from June 28-July 1, in Chicago. This year's theme, "Sparkle. Shine. Succeed," encapsulates our GFWC spirit and highlights our members' achievements and dedication. The convention promises to be a memorable event filled with inspiring speakers, informative workshops, and opportunities to connect with fellow members worldwide.

Attending the Annual Convention is a chance for you to learn and grow personally and professionally, celebrate our successes, and strengthen our bonds as a Federation. I urge all members to mark your calendars and plan to join us in Chicago (My Kind of Town!) for what promises to be a rewarding and unforgettable experience.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to GFWC. Together, we can make this spring season and the upcoming Annual Convention truly spectacular.

Happy Federation Day!

**DEBRA A. STRAHANOSKI**  
GFWC International President

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS



"I still don't know what she saw in little ole me from Alabama..." I heard from the front seat of our Lyft as we drove back to GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC. I giggled to myself as I had a full circle moment, listening to our GFWC President-elect reflect on her appointment to Junior Education Chairman by International Past President Juanita Bryant (1982-1984). This comment made me chuckle because I still feel in awe that it was suggested to me that I consider running for Director of Junior Clubs. It's hard to believe that a conversation over tacos, while on a Junior Volunteer trip, would find me here six years later. Thank you for believing in me, Suellen Brazil.

My story, while unique to me, is not very different from many of the clubwomen across this organization. If you speak with anyone in GFWC leadership, they can trace their path back and identify at least one person who saw potential in them when they didn't see it in themselves. I encourage you to ask your clubwomen to share who has helped them grow and recognize these members. Our relationships are the heart and soul of GFWC and one of the many reasons we all come back.

We're quickly approaching our annual opportunity to celebrate these friends, mentors, and great accomplishments at the GFWC Annual Convention, June 28-July 1, in Chicago. From the Architectural Tour to the Installation Banquet, with all the speakers and workshops in between, we're sure to have something for everyone! I invite you all to join me and Deb at the Unity Luncheon on Saturday, June 29, while we celebrate the accomplishments of both Junior and Woman's Clubs members alike. I'm also excited to announce and recognize all our Junior Clubs that have completed their Junior Leadership Certification Program at the Junior Business Session.

It has been so inspiring to read about the great work our Juniors have accomplished over the past few months. From supporting our military families to advocating for the environment, and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), you ladies stepped up and made a difference in your community. Thank you for all that you and your members have done! I look forward to celebrating with you all in June - it will be a roaring good time!

In Junior Love,

**KATIE MOYDELL**  
Director of Junior Clubs



# A SPARKLING LEGACY

## GFWC ILLINOIS GIFTS CHANDELIER IN HONOR OF GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT DEB STRAHANOSKI

In remembrance of the shining successes of 2022-2024 GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski, GFWC Illinois has purchased a crystal chandelier that hangs over the desk of the GFWC President. This gift, purchased with the donations of GFWC Illinois clubwomen, will serve as a reminder to future GFWC International President's to shine their light through leadership.




### LEFT

The GFWC Illinois Executive Committee visited Headquarters in March to dedicate the new crystal chandelier.



### RIGHT

GFWC Illinois members and 2022-2024 Special Assistants celebrate the installation of the new chandelier.

 **GFWC**  
est. 1890  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
**2024 NATIONAL  
DAY OF SERVICE**  
FOOD INSECURITY & HUNGER

**START PLANNING YOUR 2024 PROJECT**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024**

Online registration for the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service will open in Early Summer through the new GFWC Member Portal.

*Additional information will be posted in News & Notes.*







# 2024 JENNIE AWARD FINALISTS

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

**JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY**

*General Federation of Women's Clubs, Founder*

## GREAT LAKES REGION



"[Paula] inspires me and many others with her professionalism, generosity, kindness and endless enthusiasm."

**Victoria Schultz**  
*Founding Director, Playhouse Theatre Group*

**PAULA SCHLICE**  
**GFWC WISCONSIN**



"Without her active involvement, the GFWC Fayette County Indiana Club would not be as vibrant as it is [today]. Her participation is a great benefit as The Seven Mountains Group spearheads a vitally important program to Fayette County."

**Linda S. Fitzgerald**  
*Core Team Member The Seven Mountains Group*

**TRIC HEEPE**  
**GFWC INDIANA**

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION



"[Mindy] epitomizes a spirit of independence, courage and persistence within her family, community and as a volunteer."

**Cathy Nowack**  
*Co-president, GFWC Women's Club of Indian River*

**MINDY GOSS**  
**GFWC DELAWARE**



"Jane is a role model to young women, be it teaching, club work, parish member, she gives back to make our world a better place."

**Carol Jean Doyle**  
*Council President, Councilwoman Third Ward*

**JANE MACKESY**  
**GFWC NEW JERSEY**

## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGION

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**SUE HASS**  
GFWC IOWA

"[Sue] truly has a rare compassion and commitment to the community."

**Pastor Michael K. Hyde**  
*The Maple Grove Church of God*



**VIONA I. RANNEY**  
GFWC SOUTH DAKOTA

[Vi] sets a goal and does not falter as she works toward it - motivating me to work as hard as she does (an impossible feat!) to attain that goal."

**Kristy Wyland**  
*Executive Secretary, Yankton Area Concert Association*

## NEW ENGLAND REGION

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**VIOLET FERLAND**  
GFWC MAINE

"For both long-term and newly-recruited members, [Violet's] leadership, active engagement, kindness and friendliness provide inspiration."

**Mary Lynn Cayford**  
*Member, GFWC Skohegan Woman's Club*



**JENNIFER NOWAK**  
GFWC MASSACHUSETTS

"For any project, I would want [Jen] on my team with her tireless enthusiasm and dedication."

**Julie Phelps**  
*Seventh Grade Language Arts, Wilbraham Middle School*

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

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**LYNN LONG**  
GFWC TEXAS

"Lynn leads with the highest example of professionalism, she serves with warmth and love, and is strong in her integrity. Lynn Long is a phenomenal inspiration for all women."

**Janice Thompson**  
*Executive Director, Wise Hope Shelter and Crisis Center*



**RENA LABAT**  
GFWC LOUISIANA

"She is a true leader who not only serves, but empowers others to do so, as well, by being kind and encouraging to other club members."

**Sandra Dunbar**  
*GFWC of Louisiana Director of Juniors*



## SOUTHEASTEN REGION

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**MOHRA GAVANKAR**

**GFWC DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA**

"Mohra is...an inspiring servant-leader and a very caring community advocate, as demonstrated in dozens of remarkable organizations for which she has been a highly effective volunteer."

**Br. James Gaffney**  
*FSC President Emeritus of  
Lewis University, Romeoville,  
IL*



**VICKI ROSS BECHET**

**GFWC TENNESSEE**

"Vicki epitomizes the mission of the GFWC by her tireless volunteer efforts to organizations such as AWHONN (Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses). Through her volunteer efforts, she has impacted the lives of many in her community."

**Vincent Tenisci**  
*SVP-GBA (ret.)*

## SOUTHERN REGION

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**PEGGY WILSON**

**GFWC GEORGIA**

"Peggy is always willing to work for her community and does so cheerfully."

**Jim and Lynda Smith**  
*Past President & Past  
Secretary of the Harbour  
Shores Homeowners  
Association*



**SUSIE H. MALONE**

**GFWC ALABAMA**

"Not once, have I heard her complain or refrain from giving herself 100% in every situation. If I ever needed help with anything, who did I call- Susie. You could depend on her for help."

**Brenda Oliver**  
*President, GFWC Book Lovers  
Study Club*

## WESTERN STATES REGION

---



**DIANE BELL**

**GFWC COLORADO**

"...Diane continuously forges forward with what often seems impossible. No is not an answer and no ask is too big."

**Liz Denson**  
*President and CEO,  
Early Connections*



**POLLY WADE**

**GFWC WYOMING**

"In her quiet, humble, always-hands-on ways, Polly has been a leader in so many areas of our Laramie community throughout her lifetime."

**Mary Mountain**  
*Executive Director Emerita  
of Laramie Plains Museum  
Association, Executive  
Director of Louisa Swain  
Foundation/Wyoming  
Women's History House*





## 2024 GFWC Women's History Month Celebration



Joanna Church, WHRC Librarian, presenting *GFWC History in Fifteen Objects*. This presentation featured photos, video, and objects from the Women's History and Resource Center's collection that show the journey of GFWC Clubwomen through time.



This photo shows objects from the collection on display in the Portrait Gallery. From left to right: Independence Hall Restoration Fund Commemorative Egg (1954), South Korean Public Welfare Medal and Model House; South Korea's highest citizen award given to GFWC President Margaret Hasebroock (1964-1966) who promoted a project of raising funds to build houses in the Shin Ai Widows' Village in South Korea.



**Jude Maboné**  
Miss District of Columbia 2023



Miss District of Columbia 2023, Jude Maboné greeted the audience with a performance of "I am Woman" by Helen Reddy before sharing her personal experience with heart disease. Jude's unexpected diagnosis of heart disease as a teenager led her to become a champion of heart health equity, fundraising over \$42,000 for the American Heart Association, leading CPR and AED trainings, and lobbying in the House of Representatives for increased medical research funding for the National Institutes of Health's National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.





Left to Right, Back Row: Jolie Frankfurth GFWC Second Vice President, Jude Maboné Miss District of Columbia 2023, Katie Moydell GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Mary Beth Williams GFWC Secretary, Diane Addante GFWC Parliamentarian

Left to Right, Front Row: Cheri Meyer Chief of Operations, Suellen Brazil GFWC President-elect, Juanita Bryant GFWC International Past President (1982-1984), Deb Strahanoski GFWC International President, Wendy Carriker GFWC First Vice President, Joanna Church WHRC Librarian

## FEDERATION FASHION

Attendees were the first to view the special exhibit featuring gowns worn by GFWC International Past Presidents.

From Left to Right: Mary Ellen Brock (2018-2020) On loan from Mary Ellen Brock; Jerri Wagner (1976-1978) On loan from GFWC The Monday Club, Inc., of Prescott, Arizona; Judy Lutz (2002-2004) On loan from the Lutz Family; Juanita M. Bryant (1982-1984) On loan from Juanita M. Bryant; Carlene Garner (2010-2012) On loan from Carlene Garner; Mary Ellen Laister (2012-2014) On loan from Mary Ellen Laister; Sheila E. Shea (2016-2018) On loan from Sheila E. Shea; Marian St.Clair (2020-2022) On loan from Marian St.Clair







## JOIN GFWC CLUBWOMEN IN ADVOCATING TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS A SHOT AT A HEALTHY LIFE.

Sign Shot@Life's petition to let your members of Congress know you support access to lifesaving vaccines for children around the world.

Sign [shotatlife.org/petition](https://shotatlife.org/petition)

Learn how you can take part in advocacy from home this spring during our *Advocate to Vaccinate* push on March 20 - April 30, 2024.

Learn [shotatlife.org/toolkit](https://shotatlife.org/toolkit)



HOPE FOR JUSTICE

# WE WILL BE THE GENERATION TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Hope for Justice is a non-profit organization working in the U.S. and globally to rescue victims of human trafficking and provide survivors with aftercare.

**Be part of the movement for change!**



Scan the QR code to sign up to our emailing list or go to [hopeforjustice.org/signup](https://hopeforjustice.org/signup)

Hope for Justice is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All gifts received are tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes (EIN 75-3179471).





# FASHION

# FEDERATION

by **JOANNA CHURCH**, WOMEN'S HISTORY AND  
RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARIAN

**T**hough fashion may seem like a frivolous concern compared to the important work performed by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the two ideas are by no means incompatible. From 1890 to the current day, from the newest member to the International President, GFWC clubwomen know that making a good impression helps us to be taken seriously. Our attire is a key part of that good impression.

Nevertheless, we can't always control that impression, no matter how hard we try - especially when viewed through the lens of decades. Outfits that may have been perfectly acceptable, or even admirably high-fashion, at the time might be considered surprising at best, humorous at worst by present-day clubwoman. (Just think about how you feel about photos of your parents and grandparents... and how your children feel about photos of your own youth.) If our International Past Presidents Charlotte Emerson Brown (1890-1894) and Mary Katherine Miller (1974-1976), both leaders during particularly bold fashion eras, were to swap places, they might be amazed... though I like to think that both would enjoy each other's style.



**CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN**, our first President (1890-1894), shown at the end of her administration.



**MARY KATHERINE MILLER** (1974-1976), shown at the 1975 Convention.

*Continued on the next page*



Much could be written about GFWC women and their relationships to fashion and attire. 20th century handbooks for clubwomen provided guidance on how to dress for public speaking (often acknowledging that women labor under a double standard in this regard), advising readers to look appropriate, feel comfortable, avoid distracting your audience with oversized hats or scarves that need constant adjustment. One of our earliest members, Ellen Demorest of Sorosis, made fashion her (hugely successful) business; activist clubwomen like Jane Addams and Frances Willard considered, with varying degrees of dismay, the taste and style of the young women they mentored; a 1918 issue of our magazine was dedicated to "Clothes and The Woman," and part of our robust program of World War II service was ensuring that British brides still had access to wedding gowns. Fashion



shows have long been a reliable fundraiser for local clubs, and we love nothing more than a GFWC anniversary logo that incorporates changes in attire over the years. Suffice it to say that fashion has long been on our collective mind.

Within this delightfully broad topic, we chose to narrow our fashionable focus to GFWC's International Past Presidents for a **special spring exhibition at GFWC Headquarters: Federation Fashion**. After all, the installation of a new administration is one of the most celebratory moments we enjoy, and our International Presidents are at the front of that literal and figurative stage. The exhibit highlights eight of our past leaders, from the late 1970s to just a few years ago; each gown expresses the personality and personal style of the woman who chose it.

Though most of these were gowns worn at the owner's installation as International President, a few represent other moments in their



### GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION 1969

GFWC President Carolyn Pearce (1966-1968), second from left, with Honorary Presidents Margaret Hasebroock (1964-1966), Mildred Ahlgren (1952-1954), and Margaret Arnold (1962-1964), 1968.



### ELLEN M. HENROTIN

Our second President (1894-1898), shown in 1893 as Vice President of the National Board of Lady Managers for the World's Fair (also known as the World's Columbian Exposition).



Mrs. Whitehurst joins in singing the national anthem following her induction into office as President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. University of Maryland [her home state] students acting as honor guard."





GFWC career, such as posing for an official portrait - an occasion needs to project a different, and even more lasting, image. (Much could be written about that topic, too.) Many of these gowns were worn multiple times, but others remain special occasion dresses, saved for the memories they hold rather than with an expectation of wearing them again. We are very fortunate that these gowns were made available for our display, and I'd like to thank the lenders once again for making the exhibit possible.

**Judy Lutz (2002-2004)**  
On loan from the Lutz Family



**Juanita M. Bryant (1982-1984)**  
On loan from Juanita M. Bryant



**Carlene Garner (2010-2012)**  
On loan from Carlene Garner



**Jerri Wagner (1976-1978)**  
On loan from GFWC The Monday Club, Inc., of Prescott, Arizona



**Mary Ellen Brock (2018-2020)**  
On loan from Mary Ellen Brock



**Mary Ellen Laister (2012-2014)**  
On loan from Mary Ellen Laister

**Sheila E. Shea (2016-2018)**  
On loan from Sheila E. Shea



**Marian St.Clair (2020-2022)**  
On loan from Marian St.Clair



Join us to celebrate 40  
years of women's history.

**MAY 1, 2024**

**3:30–6:30 PM**



**WOMEN'S HISTORY &  
RESOURCE CENTER**  
*40th Anniversary*

# FOR EVERY CHILD

Your support of the Every Child Fund allows UNICEF to continue progressing toward a world where all children can reach their full potential. Your gift of flexible funding makes it possible.

To learn more, contact Marisa Ferguson at [mferguson@unicefusa.org](mailto:mferguson@unicefusa.org) or visit [unicefusa.org/GFWC](http://unicefusa.org/GFWC).



for every child



**DONATE NOW**





- JUNE 28** - LEADS, Board of Directors Meeting, Host State Night
- JUNE 29** - Opening Ceremony
- JUNE 30** - Gala Night
- JULY 1** - Installation

## 2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT

# FREEDOM HOUSE

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services

Freedom House Illinois is grateful to acknowledge the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) for their generous support. GFWC's decision to designate Freedom House Illinois as the beneficiary of their Service Project at their upcoming Convention reflects a shared commitment to addressing and combatting domestic and sexual violence within communities. It underscores the significance of collaborative efforts in raising awareness, supporting, and advocating for policies that protect and empower survivors.

[Amazon wish list for GFWC](#)

For further information on Freedom House, go to their [website](#).

To all who Dream Big, Sparkle More, and indeed Shine Bright, the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention is upon us! Please join GFWC as we "Sparkle, Shine & Succeed" at the Hilton in Downtown Chicago, June 28 - July 1, 2024!

[REGISTER FOR CONVENTION](#)

[BOOK YOUR ROOM AT THE HILTON CHICAGO](#)



[2024 CALL TO CONVENTION](#)

# FEATURED SPEAKERS

## 2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION



### SCOTT TILLEMA

Scott is an internationally recognized crisis negotiator, advisor, trainer and keynote speaker. He is known and respected for his experience negotiating in highly charged situations, with high stakes and when the situation requires sensitivity to the human element. Clients, audiences

and students a like, find Scott's teachings, insightful, inspiring and pragmatic.

Scott has over 20 years of law enforcement experience in the United States and retired from a Chicago area police department in 2023 at the rank of Lieutenant. In 2007, he was trained by the FBI in hostage and crisis negotiation and has been involved in the field since that time. Scott worked as a negotiator with one of the largest regional SWAT teams in the U.S. for many years before

moving into the role of a negotiations speaker and trainer.

He has studied negotiation at the Harvard University Program on Negotiation, at IMD Business School, and he continues to receive training from the world's top negotiators.

Scott is a prolific trainer within the negotiation field and travels the country and around the world speaking to a wide variety of audiences. He has taught negotiations at Harvard University, for the FBI, and has keynoted for companies such as Microsoft and Bosch. In 2016, he was invited to give a TEDx talk titled "The Secrets of Hostage Negotiators", which has received over 1 million views. His visibility as a speaker and educator through TEDx and other venues has reached global status.

Scott currently resides in the Chicago area and is a Partner and co-founder with the Negotiations Collective.



### DR. JAX BLACK

Dr. Jax ML Black, MA, MHA, PHD is the nation's leading speaker on how joy can be leveraged for transcendent leadership. Her talks speak to the souls of leaders to convey that their journey into joy is about naming, centering, and honoring the ways in which their heart has led oh so well in this world already. This is not

about fighting against the system, or even tearing it down. This is about building pathways of systematic joy, from one heart to the next.

Following an All-American high jump career, Jax went on to earn a Ph.D. in Community Psychology which she used as an executive director, strategy consultant, and professor of psychology and non-profit management. She currently resides in Charlotte, NC with her spouse and business partner with whom she's also co-authored three books, the most recent of which, The Joy Manifesto, was released in September of 2022.



**It all starts with a puppy...and you.™**

GFWC members: volunteer to raise a future service dog and change the life of a person with a disability.

[canine.org/raise](https://canine.org/raise)







# The Hilton Chicago & GFWC

BANQUET CLOSING ANNUAL CONVENTION  
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
STEVENS HOTEL - CHICAGO - JUNE 1946

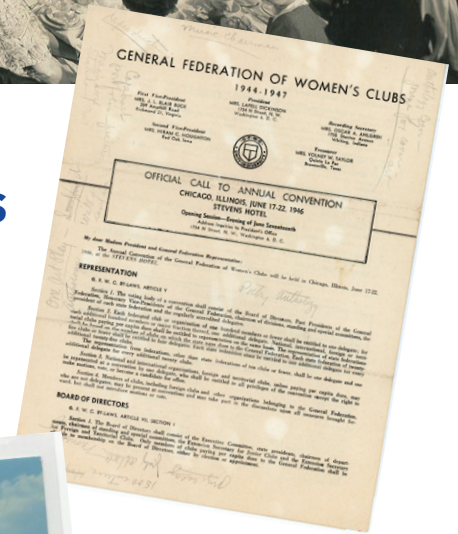
Pictured: Closing Banquet of the 1946 GFWC Annual Convention at the Stevens Hotel  
Photo donated by the Opelousas Museum and Interpretive Center, Opelousas, LA

## GFWC CONVENTIONS HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

<b>1892</b>	<b>1st Convention</b>	<b>Central Music Hall</b>
<b>1914</b>	<b>12th Convention</b>	<b>The Auditorium</b>
<b>1946</b>	<b>55th Convention</b>	<b>Stevens Hotel (now the Hilton Chicago)</b>
<b>1966</b>	<b>75th Convention</b>	<b>Conrad Hilton</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>117th Convention</b>	<b>Hilton Chicago</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>133rd Convention</b>	<b>Hilton Chicago</b>

In the 1890's when the General Federation of Women's Clubs first organized, travel was so challenging that conventions were scheduled every other year. It all started in 1892 with Chicago hosting the very first GFWC Annual Meeting/Convention. In May, the 297 delegates representing 29 states met at the Central Music Hall.

Chicago will host the GFWC Annual Convention for the sixth time this June. Clubwomen will gather in the same ballroom as the photo above to celebrate the successes of this administration and welcome in the next. We hope you will join us at the 133rd GFWC Annual Convention at the Chicago Hilton!



**ABOVE**  
The Call to Convention for the 1946 GFWC Annual Convention, which took place at what is now called the Hilton Chicago.

**LEFT**  
A 1966 postcard of the Conrad Hilton(now the Hilton Chicago) from the GFWC Collection.

Historical research provided by Ruth Sloat, Chicago 2024 Illinois Chairman





# ADVOCATING FOR CHILD SAFETY: GFWC'S ROLE IN CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

by **TRISHA SCHAFFER**, SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CHAIRMAN

**A**s April unfolds, it marks a crucial time for reflection and action—Child Abuse Prevention Month. This observance serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing battle against the scourge of child abuse, a prevalent issue that transcends borders and demographics. Within the vast spectrum of abuse, domestic and sexual violence against children is particularly menacing, leaving deep scars that may last a lifetime. For members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), this month presents an opportunity to rally together in support of the most vulnerable among us.

Children subjected to domestic or sexual violence, or who witness such abuse, face immense challenges in their formative years. The impacts can be devastating, affecting their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Sadly, these traumas often go unnoticed or unaddressed, perpetuating cycles of abuse and trauma across generations. However, as advocates for social change and champions of community welfare, GFWC members possess the power to make a tangible difference in the lives of these children.

Education lies at the heart of prevention. GFWC members can leverage their platforms to raise awareness about the signs of child abuse and the resources available for those in need. By partnering with local schools, community centers, and healthcare providers, clubs can facilitate workshops and training sessions aimed at empowering individuals to recognize and report instances of abuse. Additionally, distributing informational materials and hosting awareness campaigns can help dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding child abuse, fostering a culture of vigilance and support.

Beyond awareness, GFWC members can actively support organizations and initiatives dedicated to combating child abuse. Whether through fundraising events, volunteerism, or advocacy efforts, clubs can mobilize their members to contribute meaningfully to the cause. By forging partnerships with shelters,

counseling centers, and legal aid services, GFWC can amplify their impact and provide vital resources to children and families in crisis. Moreover, by advocating for policy reforms and legislative measures aimed at strengthening child protection laws, GFWC members can effect systemic change that safeguards the rights and well-being of all children.

GFWC clubs can play a pivotal role in fostering resilience and healing among children affected by abuse. Through mentorship programs, support groups, and recreational activities, clubs can create safe and nurturing spaces where children can express themselves freely and build positive relationships with caring adults. By fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment, GFWC members can help restore hope and agency to those who have endured trauma, empowering them to envision a future free from violence and fear.

Importantly, GFWC members should prioritize self-care and support within their own ranks. Addressing issues as complex and emotionally taxing as child abuse requires empathy, resilience, and solidarity. By fostering a culture of compassion and mutual support, clubs can ensure that their members have the resources and resilience to sustain their advocacy efforts over the long term.

**As Child Abuse Prevention Month unfolds, let us heed the call to action and stand in solidarity with the countless children whose lives have been affected by abuse. Through education, advocacy, and compassionate action, GFWC members can be powerful agents of change in the fight against child abuse. Together, let us work towards a future where every child grows up in a world free from violence, where their innocence is cherished, and their rights are protected.**



# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT LIST

## DIAMOND: "SHINE BRIGHT"

REPORTING PERIOD: DECEMBER 2023-MARCH 2024

Clubs recognized added 3 or more members

### **GFWC Dallas Woman's Club - 25**

Dallas, GA

### **GFWC Satellite Beach Woman's Club - 7**

Satellite Beach, FL

### **GFWC Garner Woman's Club - 5**

Garner, NC

### **GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club - 3**

Atlanta, GA

### **GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club - 17**

Coral Gables, FL

### **GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club - 7**

Thompson Falls, MT

### **GFWC Glendale Woman's Club - 5**

Glendale, AZ

### **GFWC Cocoa Women's Club - 3**

Cocoa, FL

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase - 17**

Chevy Chase, MD

### **GFWC Florence Woman's Club - 6**

Florence, AZ

### **GFWC Gulf Shores Woman's Club - 5**

Gulf Shores, AL

### **GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club - 3**

Bay Minette, AL

### **GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club, Inc. - 13**

Fort Benton, MT

### **GFWC Lexington Woman's Club - 6**

Lexington, SC

### **GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club - 5**

Clearwater, FL

### **GFWC Lake Wales Junior Woman's Club - 3**

Lake Wales, FL

### **GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club - 13**

St. Petersburg, FL

### **GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club - 6**

Mount Dora, FL

### **GFWC Palm Beach Garden's Woman's Club, Inc.- 5**

Palm Beach Gardens, FL

### **GFWC Okolona Woman's Club - 3**

Louisville, KY

### **GFWC Cocoa Beach Woman's Club - 12**

Cocoa Beach, FL

### **GFWC Paradise Valley Woman's Club - 6**

Phoenix, AZ

### **GFWC Rotunda West Woman's Club - 5**

Rotunda West, FL

### **GFWC Semper Fidelis Club - 3**

Skowhegan, ME

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs - 12**

Tarpon Springs, FL

### **GFWC Sparta Woman's Club - 6**

Sparta, NJ

### **GFWC San Buenaventura Women's Club - 5**

Ventura, CA

### **GFWC Sylvania Junior Women's Club - 3**

Sylvania, GA

### **GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club - 9**

Jacksonville, FL

### **GFWC Viera Woman's Club - 6**

Melbourne, FL

### **GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club - 4**

Hamilton, MT

### **GFWC Warwick Women's Club - 3**

Warwick, RI

### **GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club - 7**

Ennis, MT

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress - 6**

Cypress, CA

### **GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club - 4**

Lutz-Land O'Lakes, FL

### **GFWC Wesley Chapel Woman's Club - 3**

Wesley Chapel, FL

### **GFWC Millen Woman's Club - 7**

Millen, GA

### **GFWC Benson Woman's Club - 5**

Benson, AZ

### **GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club - 4**

Rhinelander, WI

### **GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club - 3**

Westbrook, ME

### **GFWC Peoria-West Valley Woman's Club - 7**

Peoria, AZ

### **GFWC Brunswick Woman's Club - 5**

Brunswick, GA

### **GFWC SanTan Valley Woman's Club - 4**

SanTan Valley, AZ

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness- 3**

Inverness, FL

### **GFWC Roanoke Island Woman's Club - 7**

Manteo, NC

### **GFWC Cosmopolitan Club - 5**

Petal, MS

### **GFWC Tempe Woman's Club - 4**

Tempe, AZ

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Saraland - 3**

Saraland, AL

### **GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club - 7**

Ruskin, FL

### **GFWC Dunwoody Woman's Club - 5**

Dunwoody, GA

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Lakeside - 4**

Lakeside, CA

# CHAMPIONING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE:

## SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

by **STEPHANIE FOSTER**, GFWC JUNIOR'S SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN HONORARY CHAIRMAN, SPEAKER, AUTHOR, ADVOCATE, AND FOUNDING PARTNER OF SMASH STRATEGIES

“By advocating and highlighting women’s achievements, voices and ideas, we not only promote gender equality but we also unlock the full potential of individuals and organizations.”

**I**n the ongoing quest for gender equality and equity, I am often asked “what can I do to be a strong advocate for women and girls?” The answer might surprise you. It doesn’t take herculean actions or exhaustive energy. All of us, as we move through our daily lives, have the opportunity to elevate women and girls through small but significant actions. Often, it’s the consistent, repetitive gestures that yield the largest impact. Just like when you remind a colleague not to interrupt a female coworker or invite a younger colleague to join you in a meeting.

If you also want to be a champion of women at work but are not sure what to do, here are a few simple steps you can take every day:

### 1.

#### ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SPEAK UP:

Encourage and facilitate an environment where all voices are heard – even the quieter ones. Not everyone feels comfortable speaking in front of a group or raising their hand to ask a question. Champion inclusivity by actively seeking feedback, ideas or thoughts – particularly from those who have not had the chance to contribute. Make a list of everyone in the meeting and make sure that each and every person gets a chance to express their views. Ensuring every voice is heard often requires deliberate effort. Speak up and step in when another woman or girl is interrupted. No one deserves to be disrespected or sidelined in a conversation. Make it your role to step in and open space for equitable participation.

### 2.

#### ELEVATE YOUR COLLEAGUES:

- a. **Advocate:** Recommend team members for speaking opportunities or positions on boards. Recognize and amplify their talents helping them to gain visibility within your organization and community.
- b. **Provide Exposure:** Bring younger women colleagues to meetings where they might gain exposure to new concepts, ideas, or organizations. Exposing them to different facets of an organization or business will broaden their perspective and foster professional growth. It will also give others in your organization a chance to see them in action.
- c. **Skill Development:** Include someone on your team who would benefit from the chance to work and learn new skills and expand their capabilities. Providing growth opportunities can support women in advancing their careers.
- d. **Networking:** Invite a team member to your next networking event or even create a gathering with the purpose of supporting women in their careers.
- e. **Connect:** Introduce colleagues, especially women, to people in your networks where they share interests, skillsets or could be helpful in enlarging their networks or careers. Most jobs are secured through our personal networks, assisting someone in increasing their network could open doors for new opportunities.

*Continued on the next page*



### 3.

#### BUY FROM WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES:

Support women in business as much as you can. They are paving the way for more jobs, inclusivity, role modeling, and giving back to the community.

In our daily lives, we all have the power to champion women by taking simple yet impactful actions. Whether fostering inclusivity in meetings, advocating for the advancement of women colleagues, facilitating networking opportunities, every effort makes a difference. These steps create a more equitable and inclusive society. By advocating and highlighting women's achievements, voices and ideas, we not only promote gender equality and equity but we also unlock the full potential of individuals and organizations.

**EVERY DAY, ASK YOURSELF: HOW CAN I COMMIT TO ADVOCATING FOR SOMEONE IN MY WORKPLACE, COMMUNITY, OR FAMILY AND SUPPORT THEM TO THRIVE?**

“  
**It doesn't take herculean actions or exhaustive energy.**  
”



**SPARKLE. SHINE. SUCCEED.**  
**We can't wait to see you in Chicago!**

At Heifer International, we believe in the power of women— to flourish, to thrive and to overcome hunger and poverty. For more than 10 years, GFWC has enthusiastically supported Heifer projects, providing women with the resources, education and opportunity they need to lift themselves out of poverty and discover their power.

**Come visit our table at the GFWC convention to hear some of the incredible stories you made possible and what's in store for this next year!**



**2024 GFWC  
CONVENTION  
SPONSOR**

**SCAN. ENTER. WIN!**  
Enter early for our conference giveaway



# 2024 GFWC FEDERATION DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024



On April 24, 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Constitution was ratified with 63 clubs. Today, the Federation boasts 2,200 clubs with approximately 60,000 members nationwide, including the District of Columbia, and 12 countries around the world. GFWC's volunteer efforts raise public awareness and help those in need one community at a time.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 24, to commemorate GFWC Federation Day by spotlighting your club's community activities. Be sure to tag GFWC on Facebook by including #GFWC. Together we can make a powerful impact!



St. Jude patient **Lucas**,  
pictured with his mom

## Your gift to St. Jude could **last a lifetime** for kids like Lucas.

Lucas was 3 years old when he first complained that his head hurt. When he began walking off-kilter and didn't feel like playing, an MRI revealed the cause: brain cancer. After surgery at a local hospital, Lucas was referred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® for treatment. For Lucas and his family, St. Jude became a second home. "We had the royal treatment," his dad said. Families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing or food—so they can focus on helping their child live.

Following 10 months at St. Jude, Lucas returned home and resumed riding his battery-operated truck and fishing with his dad. **And a second chance at life.**



Please donate  
today at  
**stjude.org**



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# GFWC VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION WEEK

## APRIL 21-27



GFWC Naperville Woman's Club (IL)



GFWC Beaverton Woman's Club (OR)



GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC)



GFWC Park City Athenaeum Club (UT)

The last week of every April serves at **GFWC Volunteers In Action Week** nationwide. GFWC not only commemorates **GFWC Federation Day** on April 24, but the week is used to celebrate the projects performed by clubs with the GFWC Special Programs, Community Service Programs, and Advancement Plans. Projects fall in the areas of:

- Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention
- Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children
- Arts and Culture Community Service Program
- Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program
- Education and Libraries Community Service Program
- Environment Community Service Program
- Health and Wellness Community Service Program
- Communications and Public Relations Advancement Plan
- Fundraising and Development Advancement Plan
- Leadership Advancement Plan
- Legislation/Public Policy Advancement Plan
- Membership Advancement Plan
- Women's History and Resource Center
- Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

Please be sure to spotlight your club's activities, by tagging GFWC on social media @GFWC and by adding #GFWCVIA. As always, thank you for *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*



GFWC Community Club of Collegeville (PA)



GFWC Sedley Woman's Club (VA)



GFWC Millville Woman's Club (NJ)



GFWC Southwest Region Woman's Club (CO)



GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas (NV)