



## GENERAL FEDERATION *of* WOMEN'S CLUBS

### GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Quarterly Newsletter 2022-2024 Issue No. 4

By Carolyn Forbes, GFWC Middle Atlantic Region Representative

#### The Power of Us: Club Advocacy

Still looking for ways to encourage advocacy on the local, state, and national level, while also raising awareness of GFWC as an organization? We have created a Legislative Advocacy Tool Kit as a result of the committee's successful workshop, "The Power of Us: Club Advocacy", held at the GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This toolkit can be found in the Member Portal's Digital Library under "L" for Legislation. One of the components of the toolkit will help prepare members for their state's legislative session. At a club meeting, your members could work in groups to answer the following questions:

- When is your state Legislature in session?
- Do the legislators hold pre-session meetings or hearings?
- When can bills be introduced? Can legislators pre-file bills?
- Can bills from a previous session be carried over? Is there a crossover date?
- Is there a limit on the number of bills a legislator can introduce?
- How do the bills move through the chamber(s) of your legislature?
- What happens after a bill passes one chamber of the legislature?
- What happens after a bill passes both chambers of the legislature?
- Do all introduced bills get a hearing?
- Is there a crossover date for legislation?
- How are bills assigned to committees?
- Can the public attend committee hearings?
- What are the procedures for providing written or in-person testimony?
- Who are the state and federal legislators in your voting district?
- Who are the legislature's majority/minority leaders?

Knowing when the legislature meets and its procedures for introducing, moving and enacting legislation is important foundational work for an advocacy campaign.

Utilize the GFWC Legislative Action Center to identify and track bills that your members are interested in on the state and federal level.

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home>



One way to promote the GFWC National Day of Service is to request a proclamation or resolution from your elected officials designating Saturday September 30, 2023 as a day GFWC steps up to end hunger in the United States. Members of GFWC Delaware did just that.

On Tuesday June 20, 2023 members of GFWC Delaware were invited to the Senate floor for the reading of the Senate Concurrent Resolution that appears below.



SPONSOR: Sen. Lawson & Rep. Briggs King

DELAWARE STATE  
SENATE 152nd  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AS "GFWC DELAWARE STEP UP TO END HUNGER DAY OF SERVICE" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Delaware is a 126 year old 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer community service organization; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Delaware has over 800 club members in 20 clubs in all three counties, with volunteers serving communities throughout Delaware; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC has over 60,000 club members throughout the United States of America plus international affiliate clubs; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Delaware has long partnered with food insecurity organizations throughout Delaware to provide meals, non-perishable food, and food kits for those with food insecurities, including veterans and their families, the homeless, fire victims, transient citizens, and school students; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Delaware is an active state member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs located at 1734 N. Street NW, Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC international organization has designated Saturday, September 30, 2023, as the GFWC National Day of Service for the state organizations and club members to create awareness of the critical issue of food insecurities, hunger, and food safety within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Delaware is partnering with The Food Bank of Delaware to conduct food events during the month of September 2023 to assist in food collections and distributions; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Delaware will host the State Day of Service Saturday, September 30, 2023, in Dover, Delaware, to unite Delaware partner organizations and non-profits to provide food services to the people of Delaware and share innovations for combatting hunger among the citizens throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the 152<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of Representatives concurring therein, designates Saturday, September 30, 2023, as “GFWC Delaware Step Up to End Hunger Day of Service” in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution designates Saturday, September 30, 2023, as GFWC Delaware Step Up to End Hunger Day of Service” in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Lawson



Pictured first row Ruth Briggs King-Delaware House of Representatives, Bonnie Ficher, Betty Truitt, GFWC Delaware President Trish Rodriquez, and Kevin Hensley-Delaware House of Reprmentatives.

Second row Nancy Hall, Phyllis Milano. Third row Kim Lutton, Jerry Travers, Christy Swiger. Top row Denise Long, Carolyn Forbes.

## **GFWC LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The members of the GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Committee are here for you. Please contact the member in your region with any questions you may have. We would love to speak to your state federation or club, in person or via Zoom.

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**TOGETHER We Advocate For Those In Need**