

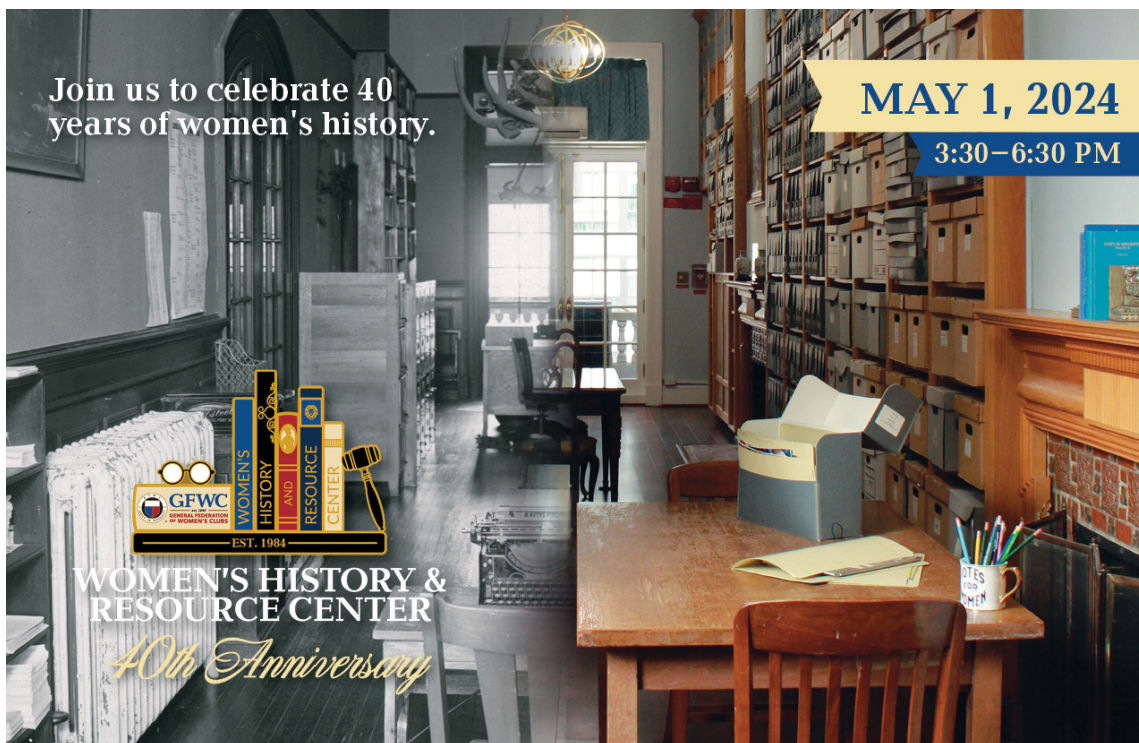


NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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March 28, 2024



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](#)



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

**LAST CHANCE: 2024 GFWC Annual
Convention Program Ads Due Monday**

by a Ph.D. in Community Psychology. She's previously been an executive director, strategy consultant, and professor of psychology and non-profit management as well as a sought-after board member to a wide variety of leading organizations. Currently, she 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.

Down to Business: Bylaws at the GFWC Convention

By: Barbara D. Whitaker, PRP, Bylaws Committee Chairman

The GFWC convention will be full of friends, fun, workshops, the thrill of awards, elections, celebrations, and officer installations. However, perhaps the most critical part of the convention is the business to be conducted, and considering amendments to the GFWC Bylaws is one part of the business that will help guide the organization's future. Your GFWC Bylaws committee has worked hard to review the bylaws and present proposals that will provide more clarity and logic to the document.

This year, the committee seriously examined the document for inclusiveness and committee updates. These are your organization's governing documents and your delegate's opportunity to voice your opinion and vote, whether guided by your club or federation's direction or your conscience.

Article VIII of the GFWC Bylaws explains who may be a delegate to the convention. Section 8.3 of that article explains that to vote on any issue or elect officers; the delegate must register for the entire convention. This is not a new rule, but it has been in place for many years. Encourage your delegate to attend the entire convention. Provide support so that they may cast your vote. Please take the time to review the proposed amendments to the bylaws and express the wishes of the club or federation so those delegates can vote accordingly.

Cares & Concerns

We express deep sympathy to GFWC Nevada State President Cherie Williams-DeWitt over the loss of her husband, Clyde.

Please send sympathy cards to Cherie at:

3301 Calle de el Cortez

Las Vegas, NV 89102

We are saddened to share the passing of Gladys Brooks Boroughs, GFWC North Carolina State President (1986 – 1988). Gladys passed at the young age of 101! She wrote two Devotional Books for GFWC North Carolina that are still in circulation today.

Membersuite Password Reset

Our current member portal, Membersuite, is increasing security measures in its system. You may be asked to change your password or provide additional verification. Please do so if you would like to continue to access the portal and digital library.

As a reminder, GFWC will transition to a new member portal in early April 2024. Stay tuned for additional information about this exciting launch in the next few weeks!



Legislative Corner

By: Juliet Casper, GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman

To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the

White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.

Politically Active vs. Partisanship: GFWC has a proud history of being politically active, educating our membership, and advocating our positions to elected officeholders. Our resolutions define our public policy positions, and these can be found on the GFWC website. We utilize tools such as the weekly *News & Notes*, our Legislation/Public Policy Committee quarterly newsletters, articles in the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and the GFWC Legislative Action Center to educate our membership. Legislative Priorities are established each year by the GFWC Executive Committee and can also be found on the GFWC website. Advocacy is encouraged through our Legislative Action Center action alerts which are approved by the GFWC International President before being distributed to the membership.

GFWC is a nonpartisan, nondenominational organization. Just a reminder that GFWC, state federations, and clubs cannot endorse candidates for elected office nor engage in partisan political activities. It is necessary for GFWC members to separate personal political activities from official club or state federation work.

FY 2024 Federal Appropriations Finally Finished: During March, Congress finally completed action on the twelve FY 2024 appropriation bills, combining them into two packages gaining bipartisan support, avoiding a government shutdown, and rejecting catastrophic cuts that were to take effect if the measures were not enacted by early April.

VAWA: GFWC focuses its advocacy efforts on funding for programs that prevent domestic violence and sexual assault and support survivors and their families. GFWC urged increased FY 2024 funding for the programs authorized in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Congress provided \$713 million, the highest funding level ever, for grants provided by the Office on Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice. While most of the programs received the same amount of funding they received in FY 2023, for the first time, Congress is providing dedicated funding to increase access to Sexual Assault Nurse Exams and to address cybercrimes. The bill also includes \$10 million to incentivize states to adopt laws that protect the rights of sexual assault survivors.

The appropriations bill provides \$51.5 million to support the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, which is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and supports multi-disciplinary community response teams tasked with developing and implementing comprehensive reform regarding sexual assault, including reducing the backlog of rape kits at law enforcement agencies. GFWC urged Congress to pass the Debbie Smith Act, which reauthorizes these programs, and provide full funding.

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program is funded at \$1.4 billion, a \$153 million increase over the President's FY 2024 budget request and earlier versions of the House and Senate appropriations bills. Still, it will constitute a roughly \$630 million cut to FY 2024 VOCA grants for local domestic violence and sexual assault programs. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act programs and the Rape Prevention and Education program at the Department of Health and Human Services, and the injury prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) all received level funding.

Food Insecurity: In the FY 2024 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Congress enacted full funding for nutrition programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Child Nutrition Program which includes the school lunch program, school breakfast program, and the Summer EBT program to ensure schools can continue to serve healthy meals to all eligible children. Utilizing our GFWC Legislative Action Center, GFWC urged Congress to strengthen these programs in the Farm Bill and provide full funding.

Immunizations: GFWC will soon distribute a Legislative Alert supporting the FY 2025 funding requests advocated by Shot@Life to coincide with World Immunization Week, April 24-30. We must help protect progress made with immunizations, strengthen health systems, and ensure people everywhere have access to lifesaving vaccines for diseases like polio, measles, pneumonia, rotavirus, and COVID-19.

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International Affairs: When Congress returns from a two-week congressional district work period in early April, the Speaker of the House of Representatives has promised a separate supplemental spending bill providing funds to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in Gaza. However, the House measure is expected to be very different from the package approved by the Senate on February 13 with bipartisan support. GFWC has clubwomen in both Ukraine and Taiwan and a strong policy in support of NATO (140-190 Global Peacekeeping). If you want to know more, GFWC Resolutions can be found at www.GFWC.org, What We Do, and Legislation/Public Policy.

FY 2025 President's Budget: President Biden presented the State of the Union address to the Joint Session of Congress on March 7, and the President's FY 2025 budget was released on March 11, starting the new FY 2025 appropriations process. Congressional hearings will soon begin to evaluate the programs. GFWC will launch legislative alerts to support program funding. Look for additional information in the coming months as the federal appropriations process moves forward.

Kids Online Safety: On March 6, following the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing held to highlight the online presence of illicit materials and the lack of

safeguards for children on social media platforms, Senate leaders were blocked when they called for unanimous consent to pass STOP CSAM Act (S. 1199), EARN IT Act (S. 1207), and the SHIELD Act (S. 412). GFWC has utilized the Legislative Action Center to support these bills and continue to advocate for passage. At the same time, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on March 6 titled “A Voice for the Voiceless: CSAM Identification” and heard testimony from the Tim Tebow Foundation, among others. On March 21, the House Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly approved the REPORT Act (H.R. 5082), which GFWC supports. House and Senate leaders are continuing to revise language to secure more co-sponsors for the Kids Online Safety Act (S. 1409). Another bill, Protect Safe Childhood (H.R. 2661), is likely to be considered by the House Judiciary Committee soon. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation and other advocacy groups are optimistic that both House and Senate congressional leaders are now working in a bipartisan and bi-cameral way to address these issues and provide more resources to families and law enforcement. GFWC will continue to utilize the Legislative Action Center to urge Congress to protect families from child sexual exploitation.

Scavenger Hunt Deadline May 1st

There is still time to submit your Scavenger Hunt forms via email to GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman Juliet Casper, jcasper9200@gmail.com. Any member, club, or state federation may participate. Here are two clubs completing items on the Scavenger Hunt and getting bonus points for wearing GFWC attire or name tags and posting on social media platforms with #GFWCAdvocacy.



GFWC Gainesville Woman's Club (FL) with
City Commissioners



GFWC South Carolina outside
the State Capitol

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Angie Lombardo
GFWC La Mesa Woman's Club (California)

Barbara Dystrup
GFWC Lockport Woman's Club (Illinois)

Bette Shafter
GFWC Frederick Woman's Civic Club,
Inc. (Maryland)

Bobbi Wilkins
GFWC Contemporary Club of the Garden
District (New Jersey)

Caroline Griddle
GFWC Brigham City Women's Club (Utah)

Catherine Sharpe
GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
(South Carolina)

Connie Campbell
GFWC Buena Vista Woman's Club
(Virginia)

Dolores Lunneborg
GFWC Enderlin Study Club (North Dakota)

Ellen Robinson
GFWC Alabama du Midi Woman's Club
(Alabama)

Flora Carlberg
GFWC La Habra Woman's Club
(California)

Harriet Sullivan
GFWC Fountain Valley Woman's Club
(California)

Heidi Lingane
GFWC Darien Woman's Club (Illinois)

Janet Maley
GFWC Metropolitan Community Club of
Montgomery County, Inc. (Maryland)

Jean Adams
GFWC La Mesa Woman's Club (California)

Jean Harrell
GFWC Riparian Woman's Club (Virginia)

Jeanie Corral
GFWC Elsinore Woman's Club (California)

Judy Woizeschke
GFWC Windom Tourist Club (Minnesota)

Karen Hone
GFWC Brigham City Women's Club (Utah)

Karen Wickie
GFWC Windom Tourist Club (Minnesota)

Kay Cleveland
GFWC Hartwell Service League (Georgia)

Linda Compos
GFWC Elsinore Woman's Club (California)

Linda Sotelo
GFWC La Mesa Woman's Club (California)

Lynn Dvorak
GFWC Darien Woman's Club (Illinois)

Marian Wright
GFWC Woman's Club of Live Oak (Florida)

Marjorie (Margie) Bedingfield
GFWC Metropolitan Community Club of
Montgomery County, Inc. (Maryland)

Marjorie Dyer
GFWC Buena Vista Woman's Club
(Virginia)

Mary Ann Bowden
GFWC Darien Woman's Club (Illinois)

Mary Lou Pratt
GFWC La Habra Woman's Club
(California)

Mary Weems
GFWC Lake Placid Woman's Club, Inc.
(Florida)

Muriel N. Kline
GFWC Dover Century Club (Delaware)

Pat Kennedy
GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (Arizona)

Rose Bloom
GFWC Curwensville Woman's Club
(Pennsylvania)

Roxie Davis
GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club
(Vermont)

Roz Kennedy
GFWC La Mesa Woman's Club (California)

Sammy Burnett
GFWC Buena Vista Woman's Club
(Virginia)

Sandra English
GFWC Hartwell Service League (Georgia)

Sharon Eisenhower
GFWC Curwensville Woman's Club
(Pennsylvania)

Teresa Sanford Shipplett
GFWC Abingdon Junior Woman's Club
(Illinois)

Jubilee Pins

Celebrating 75 years of GFWC Membership

Betty Jean Kolterman

GFWC Seward Woman's Club (Nebraska)

Club Anniversaries

40

GFWC Blackstone Woman's Club (Virginia)
GFWC Haviland Woman's Club (Virginia)

45

GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club (Virginia)

50

GFWC Hartwell Service League (Georgia)
GFWC Woman's Club of Powhatan
County, Inc (Virginia)
GFWC Bel Air Woman's Club (Virginia)

55

GFWC New Dominion Women's Club
(Virginia)

60

GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman's Club
(Wisconsin)
GFWC Goochland Woman's Club (Virginia)

65

GFWC Woman's Club OF McLean
(Virginia)
GFWC Farmville Junior Woman's Club
(Virginia)

70

GFWC Woman's Club of Springfield
(Virginia)
GFWC Orinda Woman's Club (California)
GFWC Annandale Women's Club (Virginia)
GFWC Waynesboro/Augusta Women's
Club (Virginia)
GFWC Mattie R Stephenson Woman's
Club (Virginia)

75

Brookneal Woman's Club,
Member of GFWC (Virginia)
GFWC Grundy Woman's Club (Virginia)
GFWC Yorktown Woman's Club (Virginia)

85

GFWC Woman's Club of Seaford (Virginia)
GFWC Poquoson Woman's Club (Virginia)

90

GFWC Woman's Club of Ingleside (Texas)
GFWC Covington Junior Woman's Club
(Virginia)

95

GFWC Woman's Club Of Hilton Village
(Virginia)

100

GFWC Farmville Junior Woman's Club
(Virginia)
GFWC Woman's Club Of Roanoke
(Virginia)
GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club
(Virginia)

Volunteers in Action:
GFWC Boise Columbian Club (ID)



GFWC Boise Columbian Club members recently helped at the Idaho Food Bank by packing boxes with canned goods for the community pantries. Idaho Food Bank supplies food banks all over the state. Members of the club joined other community volunteers and packed over 9,000 pounds of food in a two-hour shift. Afterward, the club presented the Idaho Food Bank with a check to further their work.

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