



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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October 31, 2024

GFWC: Worldwide Reach



New! 2024 Fall GFWC Clubwoman Magazine

READ NOW

The first *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* of the 2024-2026 administration is now available!

Inside you'll find exciting and informative stories like:

- Empowering Change: A Look at the First 100 Days of this Administration
- The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand by Honorary Chairman Leslie Capps
- Say Hello to the New GFWC Corporate Partners & Development Committee
- GFWC Façade Restoration & Beautification Project: Protecting and Preserving the Future of 1734 N Street

Women Should | REGISTER
and
VOTE

... TO MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!



CLUB WOMEN the Responsibility is Ours!

Voting is a GFWC Member's Responsibility.

Your vote matters and counts.

By: Vicky Ann Trimmer, Civic Engagement &
Outreach Chairman

There has been much debate over whether voting is a right or a privilege. In my opinion, it is a responsibility. My father always told me it was my obligation as a citizen to vote. Voting demonstrates that you care.

We must be involved in choosing those who will make the rules that control our lives. At the national level, the choice of President, the members of the House of Representatives, and the Senate will have a huge impact on our future. At your state and local levels, the elected leaders' decisions impact real estate development, water, traffic, sewer, education, and so much more.

You have tremendous power to alter the course of the upcoming election. Your opinion on women's health, social security, access to health care and prescription medications, educational opportunities, gun safety, and the border are just a sample of topics where your voice needs to be heard.

Take the time to learn about the candidates.

Campaign literature is often biased. Look for newspaper articles, voting history, and speeches given by the candidates. Review trusted independent sites that profile candidates without siding with any candidate. Approach your decision with an open mind and become an informed voter.



Women's votes hold enormous power in elections. Heading to the polls is an opportunity to impact the outcome of every election.

Suffragists fought long and hard to get the right to vote for women. Don't let them down!

Cares & Concerns

We share our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of Mary K. Libby, GFWC Maine Past State President (2016-2018). To view her obituary, or if you would like to share a memory with the family, please do so [here](#).



Boots, Big Hearts and Bling

By: Debbie Thomas, 2024-2026 South Central
Region President

We enjoyed a laid-back vibe by embracing GFWC Oklahoma's theme for the South Central Region Conference: *Boots, Big Hearts, and Bling*.

Pre-convention activities included a Trolley excursion as GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, President-elect Wendy Carriker, SCR Officers, and State Presidents were treated to a progressive dinner and tour of Downtown Oklahoma City (OKC). Friday offered us a memorable tour, which included stops at the OKC National Memorial, Museum of Art, and First Americans Museum. During the Oklahoma State Night Banquet, we were entertained by students from the Classen School of Advanced Studies and Performing Arts.

Saturday's business session was packed with fundraising opportunities, GFWC Project presentations, the introduction of Affiliate Representatives, remarks from GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker, State President reports, and program presentations including informative mini-workshops. Everyone enjoyed finding their "sole" sister and sitting with their new friend during Saturday's lunch. GFWC International President Suellen Brazil provided an informative and inspiring talk during Saturday evening's Banquet.



Region Conference attendees, including GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, enjoying the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

My theme is our own GFWC motto, *Living the Volunteer Spirit!* I want to highlight our mission of being an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. I look forward to working with International President Suellen Brazil. I encouraged our club members to share what they learned during the conference and to empower members to support GFWC projects and partners. We left with our Big Hearts full.



Joining us for the 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House?

Book your accommodations at the Courtyard Marriott, DC Dupont Circle by this Saturday, November 2!

Last Day to Book: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Dates available: December 2-6, 2024

Courtyard Washington, DC Dupont Circle for \$174 per night

[Book your group rate for the General Federation of Women's Clubs](#)

We hope you will join us in person at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC for a day of festivity.

Take a moment and RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events if you have not already done so.



Legislative Corner

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.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: On October 29, GFWC International President Suellen Brazil attended a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This event featured innovative survivor-led solutions, expanded hotline services, and critical partnerships that have positively impacted survivor services. Authorized by Congress in 1984, these programs foster the public health approach to gender-based violence. Initiatives focus on preventing sexual violence utilizing evidence-based approaches such as bystander intervention programs and efforts to empower young people to speak up against sexist language and behaviors that promote violence. Funding is provided to the national network of local domestic violence shelters and support services, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Love is Respect Dating Abuse Hotline promoting healthy relationships for teens and young adults, the StrongHearts Native Helpline to support Indigenous women and girls, and interagency collaboration on sexual violence against people with disabilities. Significant efforts are focused on prevention of substance abuse, reduction and prevention of maternal deaths

due to violence, and addressing other at-risk factors. FVPSA funding has expanded community-based coordination of resources for survivors, including safe and affordable housing, multi-generational violence prevention programs, culturally specific services, sexual assault prevention and services, and integrated public health partnerships.

Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Bonnie Atchison GFWC Novella Club of Columbiana (Alabama)	Nancy Burdick GFWC Kitsap Peninsula (Washington)
Dora Cuadra GFWC Santa Clara Woman's Club (California)	Nancy Clark GFWC Pembroke Women's Club (New Hampshire)
Donna Raymond GFWC Kitsap Peninsula (Washington)	Pauline Boisvert GFWC Hudson Women's Club (New Hampshire)
Joyce McCoy GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach, Inc. (Delaware)	

Club Anniversaries

50 GFWC Hoover Juniores (Alabama)
60 GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (Massachusetts)
90 GFWC Woman's Club of Decatur (Texas)



Volunteers in Action: GFWC Woman's Club of New Tampa (FL)

GFWC Woman's Club of New Tampa celebrated Advocates for Children week by taking on multiple projects to support youth in their area.

The club partnered with Joshua House, an organization that helps teens in foster care transition to adulthood. The club donated clothing, Halloween costumes, sports equipment, and electronics to support the teenagers.

During a recent club meeting, members put together 80 Halloween bags for allergy-sensitive children to enjoy trick-or-treating. Members packed the goodie bags with non-food items like stickers and coloring books. The bags were donated to HeartFELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) for distribution to local elementary schools.

Please send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words on your project to PR@GFWC.org



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