

GFWC

ideas, information, insight, and inspiration

# CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

2022-2024  
Administration Reports

Highlights from the 2024  
GFWC Annual Convention

Our Impact: 2022-2024  
Statistics

*A Sparkling Success*

CELEBRATING THE 2022-2024  
ADMINISTRATION



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

summer 2024 | volume 102 | issue 3





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMER 2024 | VOLUME 102 | ISSUE 3

## SPECIAL FEATURES



**2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
OVER 1,000 TURN OUT IN CHICAGO



**2024-2026 INSTALLATION**  
WELCOMING A NEW GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION

### SUMMER 2024 LETTERS

3

**2022-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**  
A VISUAL GUIDE TO ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS

4

**2022-2024 GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S FINAL REPORT**  
DEBRA A. STRAHANOSKI

6

**HISTORY ON DISPLAY**  
GFWC INTERNATIONAL PAST PRESIDENTS' EXHIBIT

20

**2023-2024 GFWC TOP PROJECTS**  
A SNAPSHOT OF VOLUNTEER WORK ACROSS THE WORLD

22

**2022-2024 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM REGIONS, STATES, AND CHAIRMEN

25

**2024 GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE**  
WILL YOU JOIN US TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER?

48

## FEATURED ON THE COVER

### THE PURPLE GALA

Over 700 GFWC members and guests gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton on June 30, 2024 to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2022-2024 administration. The Purple Gala: A Night of Hope, Dreams, and Inspiration recognized excellence through the presentation of the Jennie Awards, GFWC Signature Program Awards, and gifts to 2022-2024 GFWC International Past President, Deb Strahanoski. The purple theme was continued during the exciting signing of new GFWC Affiliate Organization, Alzheimer's Association.

The featured photo was inspired by historic photos of GFWC in the very same ballroom during GFWC Conventions in 1892, 1914, 1946, 1966, and 2008.

The magazine of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, whose members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

## 2022-2024 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*International President* DEBRA STRAHANOSKI

*President-elect* SUELLEN BRAZIL

*First Vice President* WENDY CARRIKER

*Second Vice President* JOLIE FRANKFURTH

*Secretary* MARY BETH WILLIAMS

*Treasurer* BECKY WRIGHT

*Director of Junior Clubs* KATIE MOYDELL

*Parliamentarian* DIANE ADDANTE

## GFWC STAFF

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

*Chief of Operations* CHERI MEYER

*Events Manager* NISHU RAINA

*Executive & Finance Coordinator* DALETH HOLLEY

### COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Communications Director* STACY MAYUGA

*Design & Publications Manager* CANDICE GILL

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES and PROGRAMS

*Membership Director* MELANIE GISLER

*Office & Membership Coordinator* OLIVIA HIGGINS

*Programs & Public Policy Specialist* KENNEDI TAYLOR-HENRY

### WOMEN'S HISTORY and RESOURCE CENTER

*WHRC Librarian* JOANNA CHURCH

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## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear GFWC Members,

As we close the last chapter of the 2022-2024 administration, this President is filled with pride and gratitude for each of you. Your commitment to GFWC has been nothing short of extraordinary. Your dedication and hard work have truly made a difference, transforming dreams into reality and creating lasting impacts.

You have championed our causes and initiatives with passion and enthusiasm. Your efforts in various projects and programs have brought about significant changes, whether advocating for women's rights, supporting Community Service Programs, or our much-needed attention to our Special Programs. Your contributions have not only enriched our organization but also the lives of countless individuals in your communities, making each of you a valued and integral part of our GFWC family.

As we move forward, let us continue to build on this momentum. Let us celebrate our achievements and remain steadfast in our mission to improve our communities and the world. Your continued dedication and hard work are crucial to our success. Let's keep *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*

Enjoy the Summer Issue of the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. Within this magazine, you will find a recap of the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention, 2024-2026 Installation of Officers, and administration reports. Along with a wealth of gratitude and love for the best volunteer organization in the world, the **General Federation of Women's Clubs**.

With heartfelt appreciation,



**DEBRA A. STRAHANOSKI**  
GFWC International President 2022-2024

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS



In 1990, I saw my first Junior. I was six years old and had no clue what was going on, but there were some nice women helping children who didn't have mommies and daddies. I knew that one day I wanted to be like them.

In 2008 I attended my first Junior Woman's Club of Columbia Summer Social. It was my first look at the club from adult eyes, and I realized those nice women were familiar as they were now my coworkers, neighbors, and friends who were still helping children. I finally understood the impact they were making on strangers big and small.

In 2014 I heard my first State of the Juniors address. I cannot remember the number of hours worked or dollars donated, but I will never forget the sense of pride I felt. In that moment, I understood we all do amazing work in our own clubs and in our own states but are more powerful together.

Now in 2024, there are 3,700 Junior members in 20 states. Fifteen states have a State Director of Junior Clubs, who are the strong liaisons that keep our Junior membership vibrant and active. Together these members reported the following: almost 8,300 projects, over 190,000 hours volunteered, over \$900,000 donated, and in-kind donations of \$400,000 given.

That is not all that GFWC Junior accomplished in 2024. For the past decade I've served on the Junior Executive Committee with a group of women who I have seen grow and develop. My inaugural "class" on the GFWC Board was comprised of 16 women; 11 continue to serve on the BOD, 3 have served as State President, and 2 continued in Junior Leadership to the role of Director of Junior Clubs.

100 years ago, GFWC saw the need to develop younger women. Our levels of membership work as steppingstones to help prepare us for the next. While our membership is no longer defined by age, the statistics above prove the benefit of Junior Membership. I did not join GFWC to become a leader; you ladies suggested, nudged, and even pushed me to consider the next step and thank God you did. Because of the growth I've seen in fellow clubwomen, I created the Junior Leadership Certification Program. I'm excited to share that 26 Junior Clubs completed this program and provided leadership training to over 600 Junior members in 2023.

It's been an honor to serve as the 36th GFWC Director of Junior Clubs. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and for Sharing Your Sparkle. It is our different sizes, shapes, colors, cuts, and natural imperfections that make us unique and give us all the ability to sparkle and shine together.

In Junior Love,



**KATIE MOYDELL**  
Director of Junior Clubs 2022-2024



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# 2022-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**244,739**

**PROJECTS COMPLETED**



**12 MILLION**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**



**\$28 MILLION**

**DOLLARS DONATED**



**\$13 MILLION**

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**



**\$1,359,498 donated  
to GFWC Signature  
Program**



**\$2,244,342 donated to  
GFWC Advocates for  
Children Program**



**2023 GFWC  
NATIONAL DAY  
OF SERVICE**

**145,506**

**pounds of food collected**







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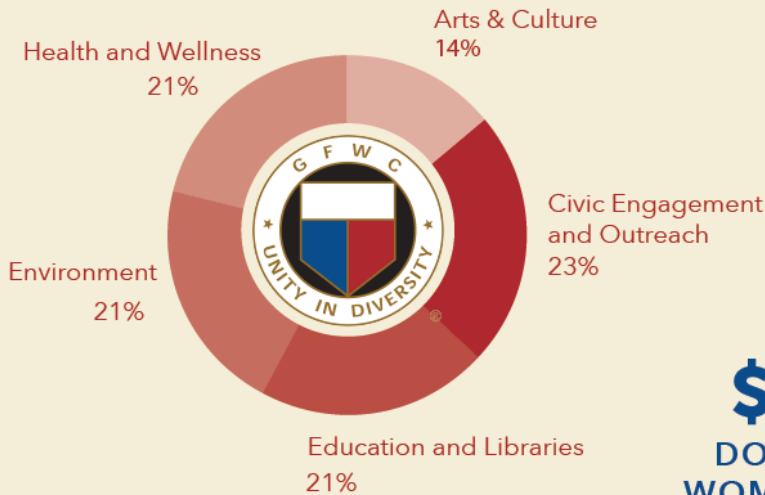
# 2022-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**NEW AFFILIATE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ALZHEIMER'S<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATION**



**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS  
12,040,997**



**\$657,325  
DONATED TO GFWC  
AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

**\$27,279  
DONATED TO THE  
WOMEN'S HISTORY &  
RESOURCE CENTER**



**128,351  
BOOKS READ**



**42**

**TOURS OF GFWC  
HEADQUARTERS  
GIVEN**







## 2022-2024 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

# DEBRA A. STRAHANOSKI

### BECAUSE OF YOU: GFWC IS CELEBRATING ITS TRIUMPHS!

Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to service have made a profound impact and redefined the meaning of service. Because of you, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and our communities have experienced extraordinary transformations! Let's take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements that we have realized together.

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS: OUR TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

Communications/Public Relations - Leadership - Membership  
All three Advancement Areas participated in and developed successful "Teach it Tuesdays" and "Thumbs Up Thursdays" that were a part of the Facebook GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum.

#### • COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ★ New GFWC Brand;
- ★ New Member Portal;
- ★ New Website;
- ★ New look to *News & Notes* and *Clubwoman Magazine*.

#### • MEMBERSHIP

- ★ Updated and created a new GFWC Membership Brochure;
- ★ Creation of Friendsgiving;
- ★ 41 new Clubs Chartered;
- ★ Increase in Membership, 62,464.

#### • LEADERSHIP

- ★ Two successful Leadership, Education, and Development Seminars (LEADS) with 92 graduates;
- ★ Updates made to the leadership toolkit for state LEADS programs;

- ★ Clubs reported 9,960 projects, 892,184 volunteer hours, and spent \$1,235,237 on leadership activities.

#### • NEW PROGRAM

- ★ Creation of the GFWC Annual Giving Program;
- ★ Donations to GFWC Annual Giving for 2022-2024 totaled \$246,648.

#### • NEW INITIATIVES TO GFWC

- ★ National Coast Guard Museum, New London, CT;
- ★ Junior Leadership/Membership: Junior Leadership Certification.

#### • RECEPTIONS AT GFWC HEADQUARTERS

- ★ 2022 Home for the Holidays - GFWC Holiday Open House;
- ★ 2023 Women's History Month, featuring Dr. Mindy Farmer, National Portrait Gallery;
- ★ 2023 Federation Day, April 24, get together of members in the GFWC Headquarters Garden;
- ★ 2023 'Tis the Season to Sparkle & Shine - GFWC Holiday Open House;



GFWC Headquarters Gingerbread House created by Candice Gill, GFWC Design & Publications Manager and WHRC Librarian Joanna Church



# 2022-2024 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- ★ 2024 Women's History Month, featuring GFWC WHRC Librarian Joanna Church and Miss District of Columbia 2023 Jude Maboné;

- ★ 2024 Women's History and Resource Center 40th Anniversary (1984-2024), May 1, featuring Natasha Dupee, Director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives, representing District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser; Anna Laymon, Executive Director of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation; and Juanita Bryant, GFWC International Past President (1982-1984);

- ★ Special receptions from Miss DC to celebrate the Forever (past) Miss Americas from years past to an afternoon with the Cherry Blossom Princesses. GFWC opened its doors to many guests.

- **THE INAUGURAL GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE**

- ★ A significant milestone that has brought our mission to life and inspired countless acts of service and kindness;

- ★ \$138, 415 donated to Fight Food Insecurities;

- ★ 20,196 volunteer hours.

- **GFWC HEADQUARTERS RENOVATIONS**

- ★ A Revitalizing Renovation: In 2023 GFWC headquarters underwent big changes—and all for the better, with much-needed renovation and repair work both inside and out;

- ★ Areas renovated included GFWC's three Iron Marquees, 1734's Solarium, the GFWC Archives, and the Board Room.

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- ★ Thank you, Executive Committee members, for your forward thinking in moving GFWC forward. The highlights below reflect our time together in Washington, DC;

- ★ The International President had the privilege to attend five events at the White House in Washington, DC;

- ★ The Executive Committee visited the Pentagon and their U.S. Senators and Representatives;

- ★ The International President and Director of Junior Clubs placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington Ceremony with Executive Committee, President's Assistants and staff in attendance.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS**

- ★ Outstanding communications with State Chairmen;

- ★ Informative quarterly newsletters to State Federation Leaders and Chairmen;

- ★ Selecting Top Ten Projects for 2022 and 2023.

- **SIGNATURE PROGRAM**

- ★ Awarded 19 Success for Survivor Scholarships for 2022 and 2023;

- ★ The Committee presented the 2023 Workshop "Raise Awareness, STOP the Traffic" at the 2022 Annual Convention, focusing on human trafficking, elder abuse, and campus sexual assault. They also organized the workshop "WHAT IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU?" at the 2023 Convention.

- **2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT**

- ★ As of June 25, 2024 over 1,000 items were donated and over \$300 in monetary donations were given to Freedom House: Domestic & Sexual Violence Services in Princeton, Illinois.



GFWC International Past President Juanita Bryant of North Carolina (1982-1984) receives Key to Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) from GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski of Illinois (2022-2024) and WHRC Librarian Joanna Church for her role in helping to shore up support amongst members and procure funding.

- **JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

- ★ Received their First Honorary Chairman, 8,391 projects completed.

- **COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM**

- ★ International Affiliate winner awarded, GFWC CrêSer-Brazil;

- ★ 18 submissions used the Community Connection Initiative.

- **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

- ★ 26 Winning Photographs.

- **WRITING CONTEST**

- ★ 24 Winners Selected.



# 2022-2024 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

## • THANK YOU TO THE OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS DURING THE ADMINISTRATION

- ★ Rosie Hidalgo, Director of the Office for Violence Against Women, August 2022, Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC;
- ★ Stephanie Foster, Author, August 2022, Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC;
- ★ Ruth Glenn, President of Public Affairs for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, September 2023, Board of Directors Meeting in Westminster, CO;
- ★ Special thanks to GFWC Legislative Consultant Debra Bryant, President of Unified Solutions, for securing appointments for the Executive Committee to visit their U.S. Senators and Representatives, securing speakers for Board of Directors meetings and Conventions, and guidance in the 2022-2024 administration.

## • ADOPTING THE DEI STATEMENT

- ★ The adoption of a GFWC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement, June 2023.

## • LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

- ★ The Legislative Action Center was activated fifteen times for federal legislation. Clubs connected to the initiative of the Scavenger Hunt, and in two years, 6,563 members registered for the GFWC Legislative Action Center;
- ★ The creation of "The Power of You," an interactive webinar seven-part series;
- ★ The Legislative Action Center was used to advocate for state bills;
- ★ Articles in *News & Notes* featuring the Legislation Corner.

## • HONORARY CHAIRMEN

All participated in writing articles for *Clubwoman Magazine*, *News & Notes*, and Webinars. Thank you to the GFWC Honorary Chairmen for 2022-2024 Administration;

- ★ Signature Program: Monika Johnson Hosler;
- ★ Arts and Culture: Jocelyn Russell;

★ Advocates for Children: Stephanie Foster ;

★ Education and Libraries/Juniorettes: Robin Yocum \*A keynote speaker at the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky;

★ Health and Wellness: Nagi Kumar, PhD.

## • AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you to our dedicated Affiliate Organizations, who have been invaluable partners in our mission and success;

★ Webinars featuring the Affiliate Organization throughout the two years;

★ Letter of Agreement with the Alzheimer's Association (signing of agreement, June 30, 2024).

### Platinum Affiliates

- Heifer International
- Hope for Justice
- Shot@Life - United Nations Foundation
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

### Gold Affiliates

- Canine Companions
- March of Dimes
- Operation Smile
- UNICEF USA



GFWC Treasurer Becky Wright of Mississippi and Madame President visit Capitol Hill to present issues of importance to GFWC members.

Because of your unwavering dedication, we have achieved much and laid a strong foundation for future success. Your hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed; together, we have built a legacy of service and leadership that will inspire future generations. Let us continue to Sparkle, Shine, and celebrate our Successes!

*\*\*These are a few highlights of the 2022-2024 Administration.*

*Please accept our apologies for any omissions.*







# 2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION A ROARING SUCCESS

## MORE THAN 1,000 PARTICIPANTS TURNOUT IN CHICAGO

GFWC Illinois, host state, put on a *spectacular 2024 GFWC Annual Convention*, June 29-July 1, in the "windy city" of Chicago. The theme for this year's event, appropriately entitled "*Sparkle. Shine. Succeed.*," fit the program perfectly, which included expert guest speakers, educational workshops, exciting networking events, along with special attention to all the traditional pomp GFWC members are accustomed to. Without a doubt, the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention goes down in history as one for the ages.

GFWC extends its heartfelt appreciation to everyone who participated in this year's event to make it an immense success.

You made all the difference! Also, a special thank you our event sponsors: Heifer International, Shot@Life: a United Nations Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Negotiations Collective, Allegra Romeoville, and LoLoB Designs for their generous support.

Be sure to SAVE THE DATE for the **2025 GFWC Annual Convention**, June 6-9, in Atlanta!

*To Living the Volunteer Spirit!*



**FRIDAY, JUNE 29**



2022-2024 GFWC Board of Directors



#### **LEADERSHIP STARTS EARLY**

2024 LEADS graduate Alana (Lani) Bradley (GFWC New Mexico) and her son Cooper



#### **CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE TOUR**

GFWC members enjoyed a riverboat tour on the Chicago River for an up close view of the city's skyline and the unique architecture that comprises it. Participants got to see the Wrigley and Chicago Tribune buildings, along with an array of others that use the river's water as a means to heat and cool the downtown buildings.



#### **2024 LEADS GRADUATES**

Congratulations to this year's 2024 LEADS graduates!



2022-2024 GFWC State Directors of Junior Clubs & GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Moydell



## ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LA HA

Keynote speaker Illinois State Representative Nicole La Ha delivered an inspirational address about her personal journey as a parent advocate for her daughter, Ashlynn, who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Her dream is for a more inclusive world. She endeavors every day to deliver on her commitment to make their communities better.



## A NIGHT AT THE DIAMOND CLUB

The GFWC Illinois Welcome Banquet, "A Night at the Diamond Club," is an annual event hosted by the GFWC State Federation in which that year's Annual Convention is being held. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski returned to her home state of Illinois to close out her Administration. The Illinois club members turned out in force to showcase their GFWC spirit and what a sight it was to see all these beauties in their 1920s best!



## A ROARING GOOD TIME

Howl2Go provided the evening's high-energy entertainment with 70s and 80s rock 'n roll goodies that had all in attendance on their feet, dancing, and singing! Definitely a good time was had by all and it was a night that will not be soon forgotten as illustrated below.





# SATURDAY, JUNE 29



The official open of the GFWC Business Session commenced with the "Processional of Flags." Becky Weber, Special Assistant to the President, emceed the event. The Shannon Rovers of Chicago presented the Flag of the United States of America and played the bagpipes, followed by the Presentation of the Colors, and the National Anthem.



## CONGRESSIONAL WELCOME: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE LAUREN UNDERWOOD (IL-14)

2022-2024 GFWC Executive Committee pose with U.S. Representative Underwood during the morning Business Session's "Congressional Welcome and Greeting" address.

(L to R): GFWC Juniors Director Katie Moydell, GFWC Secretary Mary Beth Williams, GFWC First Vice President Wendy Carriker, GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski, U.S. Representative Lauren Underwood (IL 14th District), Parliamentarian Diane Addante, GFWC President-elect Suellen Brazil, and GFWC Second Vice President Jolie Frankfurth.



## LEADING WITH INFLUENCE

Scott Tillema of Negotiations Collective delivered the keynote address "Leading with Influence: Effective Communication & Navigating Difficult Conversations." He noted that the two most important elements to leading with influence are communication and connection.



Welcoming the new GFWC International Affiliate Club from Austria, GFWC Goldhaubenfrauen Women's Club. To date, GFWC is represented in 17 countries with 22 clubs.



## LIVE AUCTION

Karyn Charvat and Tammy Garland served as fun-time auctioneers raising \$5,550. Those in attendance were in stitches from laughter invoked by their playful skit and the audience's lively participation. Thank you to winners for your continued support and generosity!



## THE PURPLE PROJECT: TURNING PAIN INTO PURPOSE

Speaker Sherry Anicich gave a heartfelt presentation about how the loss of her daughter has inspired her to help others through service and group healing retreats.



# SUNDAY, JUNE 30



## THE JOY OF LEADERSHIP

Attendees of the Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) Breakfast enjoyed Dr. Jax Black's, "The Big Joy Theory's Joy Maximizer," spirited address. Her exuberant joy filled the room as she explained the importance of self love. It's important for all GFWC volunteers to take the time to reflect and care for themselves so they can carry on with all the great works within our communities. It's important to know who you are and to show up as your authentic self. When you honor what gives you joy that love radiates in all aspect of your life and work.



## DEVELOPING A WORLD CLASS MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION PROGRAM

Presented by Karyn Charvat, Membership Chairman, and committee members showcasing their creativity. Those in attendance learned new strategies and tactics to help retain and grow their current club membership. Topics of discussion included how to manage challenging situations, how to foster a club culture where members feel valued, appreciated, and included how to develop a World Class Membership Program.

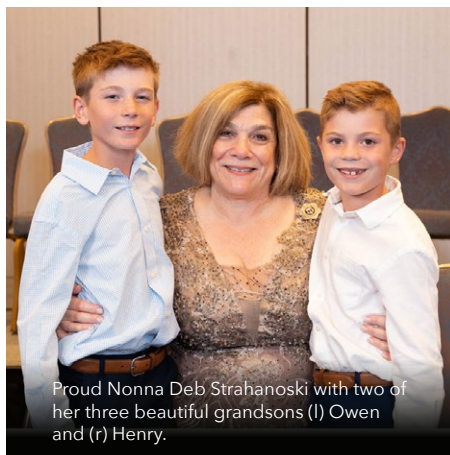


## COLLABORATION MAKES DREAMS SUCCEED

The annual Affiliate Organizations' Luncheon, "Collaboration Makes Dream Succeed," featured a panel discussion facilitated by GFWC Second Vice President Jolie Frankfurth and GFWC Programs and Public Policy Specialist Kynnedi Taylor-Henry. In addition, awards were given by four GFWC Affiliate Organizations: United Nations Foundation, Shot@Life Campaign; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Hope for Justice; and Heifer International.



# *The Purple Gala: A Night of Hopes, Dreams, and Inspiration*



Proud Nonna Deb Strahanoski with two of her three beautiful grandsons (l) Owen and (r) Henry.



## **NEWEST GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

A central highlight of the Purple Gala: A Night of Hope, Dreams, and Inspiration included the "Signing Ceremony" to welcome the Alzheimer's Association as an Affiliate Organization. The relationship between GFWC and Alzheimer's Association began as an event sponsor for the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky. One year later GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski (2022-2024) cosigns a Letter of Agreement between parties including: incoming GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil (2024-2026) and leadership representatives from Alzheimer's Association: Delia Jervier, Region Vice President and Executive Director and Kate Shea, Vice President of Development.



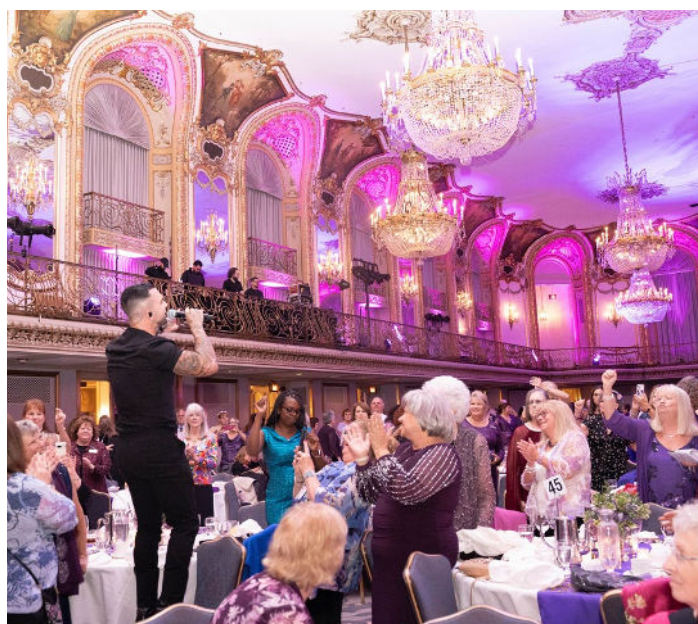
Carol Habgood, Signature Program Fund Award Winner



Deb Strahanoski Drive will be added to the streets of Joliet, IL in honor of 2022-2024 GFWC International President

## **JAY ALLEN: SINGER, SONGWRITER, ACTIVIST**

The Purple Gala: A Night of Hope, Dreams, and Inspiration entertainment provided by Singer/Songwriter Jay Allen, known for his philanthropic work spurred on by his mother's passing from Alzheimer's in 2019. Allen has raised more than \$100 million to help fight the disease.





# 2024 Jennie Award Honorees

GFWC is pleased to introduce the **2024 Jennie Award** recipients, representing eight GFWC Regions:

- Great Lakes Region: Paula Schlice, GFWC Wisconsin
- Middle Atlantic Region: Mindy Goss, GFWC Delaware
- Mississippi Valley Region: Sue Hass, GFWC Iowa
- New England Region: Jennifer Nowak, GFWC Massachusetts
- South Central Region: Lynn Long, GFWC Texas
- Southeastern Region: Vicki Ross Bechet, GFWC Tennessee
- Southern Region: Susie H. Malone, GFWC Alabama
- Western States Region: Diane Bell, GFWC Colorado

The **GFWC Jennie Award** is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Nominees compete at the state, region, and national levels to achieve the most coveted and highest Federation honor.

Named in honor of GFWC Founder Jane Cunningham Croly, also known as Jennie June, a national journalist and advocate for women, children, and the disenfranchised; this award recognizes extraordinary club members who epitomize her independent spirit, courage, and resolve in their volunteer roles

*continued on next page*



**GREAT LAKES REGION**

Paula Schlice of GFWC Wisconsin



**NEW ENGLAND REGION**

Jennifer Nowak of GFWC Massachusetts



**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGION**

Sue Hass of GFWC Iowa



**MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION**

Mindy Goss of GFWC Delaware



# 2024 Jennie Award Honorees

to be a force for positive change in their communities.

The eight women recognized exemplify the best of the best in their commitment to family, GFWC, and community, which are the criteria for consideration. In addition, honorees of the biennial Jennie Award are recognized as top nominees for their respective states and regions to achieve this national recognition.

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients! Thank you for *living the volunteer spirit!*



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Lynn Long of GFWC Texas was unable to attend, she is represented by her State President Billie Williams



## SOUTHERN REGION

Susie H. Malone of GFWC Alabama



## SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Vicki Ross Bechet of GFWC Tennessee



## WESTERN STATES REGION

Diane Bell of GFWC Colorado



# MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

The final day of the GFWC Annual Convention included more awards. Members in attendance were recognized for Advancement Awards: Website Contest and Newsletter Contest. Also, the Fundraising Awards and Photography Contests for "Our World Up Close," "Natural Wonders," "Reflections," and "GFWC *Living the Volunteer Spirit*."

In addition, recipients of the Community Impact Awards and Community Service Program Awards were honored during the "Shining Examples of Success" luncheon, sponsored by the United Nations Foundation, Shot@Life Campaign.



## THE NEW WWW.GFWC.ORG

Chief of Operations Cheri Meyer gave attendees a first look at GFWC's new website, which was launched during the Convention.



## INTERNATIONAL WINNER

2024 Community Impact Award Winner:  
GFWC CreSer from Brazil



## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: NATURAL WONDERS

First Place Winner: "Quiet Drive"  
– Jeanette Moore-Burlock, GFWC Fuquay-  
Varina Woman's Club, North Carolina



## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

First Place Winner: "Planting Pots on the  
Square"  
– Sheila Frye, GFWC Monroe Woman's Club,  
Wisconsin



The GFWC Executive Committee closed out Monday's Business Session with a surprise dance routine, bidding farewell to their current positions. A tradition for the last three administrations.







Members of the GFWC Alabama Installation Committee for 55th Madame President, Suellen B. Brazil.

On July 1, the 55th GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil and 2024-2026 Administration took their place in Chicago. The Installation Ceremony, which occurs every two years, serves as the official transfer of leadership from one Administration to another.

This year's, as in year's past, was a beautiful ceremony. Attendees witnessed the celebration of incoming and outgoing International Presidents with their official pinning. International Past President Deb Strahanoski delivered a moving address thanking club members, Affiliate Organizations, and Board of Directors for their dedication and tireless efforts to make her time in office a success.

International President Suellen Brazil pledged to dutifully serve GFWC and proudly shared her Administration's platform to increase Membership, build strategic partnerships, and launch a brand new GFWC online learning program. To download a copy of the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual, visit [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) to log in to the Member Portal.

Congratulations to incoming and outgoing members of the board for their tireless dedication and support of GFWC! *To living the volunteer spirit!*



#### A SHOW OF SUPPORT

Newly installed GFWC International President Suellen Brazil with her son Blake and his wife Katie





## PASSING OF THE PIN

Deb Strahanoski's pinning to join the ranks of GFWC International Past Presidents.

(l to r): GFWC International Past Presidents Deb Strahanoski of Illinois (2022-2024), Mary Ellen Brock of New Jersey (2018-2020), Sheila A. Shea of Massachusetts (2016-2018), Babs J. Condon of Maryland (2014-2016), Carlene A. Garner of Washington (2010-2012), and Marian St.Clair of South Carolina (2020-2022) serving as Installation Officer.



GFWC Alabama Installation Committee Processional



## A NEW BEGINNING

GFWC International Past President Deb Strahanoski of Illinois (2022-2024) and GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil of Alabama (2024-2026) as they adjourn the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago.



## 2024-2026 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

55th International President Suellen B. Brazil of Alabama the first GFWC International President to represent her state. Congratulations to 2024-2026 GFWC Executive Committee officers and the Administration's Board of Directors.

Middle Row (l to r): GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker of North Carolina, GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams of Colorado; and GFWC First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth of Florida.

Back Row (l to r): GFWC Treasurer Juliet Casper of South Carolina; GFWC Secretary Dr. Susan Gettys of Missouri; and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey of Florida.



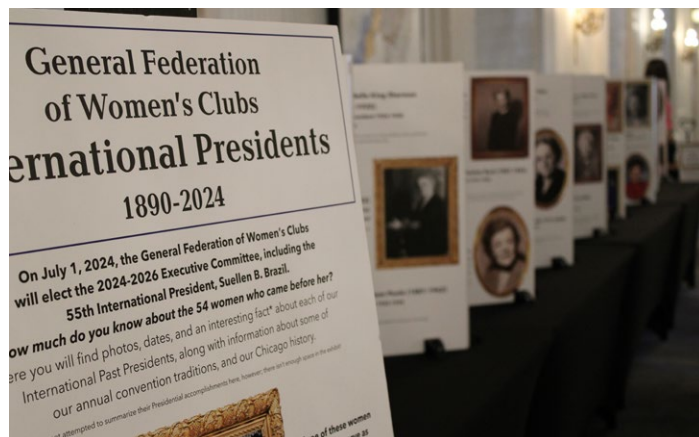


# HISTORY ON DISPLAY

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

Inspired by the historical displays featured at the Hilton Chicago—home to the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention, and to three previous conventions in 1946, 1966, and 2008—the WHRC created an exhibit on our long history of exceptional leaders. All 54 International Past Presidents, from Charlotte Emerson Brown (1890-1894) to Debra Strahanoski (2022-2024), were featured, along with additional panels on our history in the “windy city.”

Since we only had room to give each International Past President a few lines of information, the exhibit focused on “fun facts,” such as: Charlotte Emerson Brown (1890-1894) was fluent in multiple languages; Anna J.H. Pennybacker (1912-1916) wrote and published a textbook on the history of her home state of Texas in 1888; Lucy Jennings Dickinson (1944-1947) took over her father's lumber business as a young woman; Margaret Long Arnold (1962-1964) was our youngest President, elected just before her 50th birthday; and Phyllis Jay Dudenhoffer (1990-1992) started her club career as a Juniorette.



Of course this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the many accomplishments and talents, both GFWC-related and otherwise, of our 54 International Past Presidents! To learn more about our historic leadership, and discover other resources, contact the WHRC at [whrc@gfwc.org](mailto:whrc@gfwc.org).



## CLUBWOMEN PAST AND PRESENT

Members view the GFWC International Past Presidents Exhibit before the 1920s themed GFWC Illinois State Night Banquet.



## PICTURE YOURSELF AS A GFWC LEADER

The 2022-2024 GFWC Executive Committee members participate in the interactive photo opportunity at the exhibit. Attendees were encouraged to take photos and post them on social media to celebrate GFWC's focus on leadership development.



# THE END OF ALZHEIMER'S IS CLOSER THAN EVER. BUT WE NEED YOU.



## JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENT!

Walk to End Alzheimer's® has the top-ranked National Teams program in the country, raising over \$120 million to date to accelerate the mission of the Alzheimer's Association®, while connecting their personal and professional networks to vital resources and support. In their workplaces, communities, and beyond, Walk National Teams are bringing us closer than ever to our vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

**We'd like to thank and congratulate General Federation of Women's Clubs** for joining this elite group of National Teams.

GFWC will continue its impact by forming teams and raising funds for Walks across the country. The funds raised will help fight Alzheimer's disease through vital research, advocacy efforts and essential support programs and services in your communities. Your team donations will play an important role in improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer's, their families and caregivers.



[alz.org/GFWC](https://alz.org/GFWC)

**WALK TO END  
ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®



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



# 2023-2024 TOP TEN PROJECTS

Every year GFWC features exemplary club projects in each of our advancement and community service program areas. This is a small sampling of the incredible work that members do every day to improve their communities. For the full list of GFWC's 2023 Top Projects, visit [www.GFWC.org/2023-gfwc-top-projects/](http://www.GFWC.org/2023-gfwc-top-projects/)

## GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

### TRAFFIC FREE POMONA

**GFWC La Verne-San Dimas Woman's Club (CA)** worked on Traffic Free Pomona. The members spent 16 hours working with Pomona law enforcement agencies for human trafficking victims. The agencies supply backpacks, and the members meet to assemble the backpacks with pajamas, comfortable clothing, a blanket, a toothbrush, toothpaste, shoes, stuffed animals, notes of encouragement, and other sundry items. The club donated \$20 worth of products. The backpacks are taken to the Pomona Police Department, where the officers give them to children and teens rescued from sex traffickers. This project aids child trafficking victims by reducing the high-stress scenario of being removed from the streets. It provided comfort as they waited for their families to be contacted and arrangements made for their safe return home.

## GFWC EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

### LITTLE LIBRARIES FOR NEW HOMES

**GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ)** reached out to the corporate office of Habitat for Humanity and offered to provide little libraries for every home they deliver in Maricopa County, Arizona. The committee developed a survey to get to know the individual families, their ages, and book interests. Once a home is ready to be delivered, the club purchases and assembles a bookcase and then meets to select the family's books. Every bookcase delivery includes at least 25 books, a family-friendly board game or puzzles, and soft furry toys for the little one. They also included a club brochure so the family can learn about the GFWC Glendale Woman's Club and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. All contributing Habitat for Humanity partners are invited to the home dedication ceremony. The club members arrive early to set up the bookcase and stock the contents before the start of the celebration, then stay to meet the new homeowners and join in the day of celebration. In 2023, the GFWC Glendale Woman's Club delivered nine bookcases, fully loaded and ready for the new homeowners to enjoy.

## GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

### SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE (SHP)

**GFWC Flushing (MI)** had a bedding drive and collected 28 bedding sets; **The Women's Club of Somersworth (NH)** donated funds for a bunk bed with its bedding; **GFWC Cookeville Junior Woman's Club (TN)** donated funds to provide beds for ten children; and the **GFWC du Midi Woman's Club (AL)** members volunteered to build beds, donated funds, and their Juniores had a pillow drive, collecting 18 pillows. The **GFWC Centennial Club (MD)** had a speaker from SHP attend a meeting and donated two sheet sets and two pillows. SHP is a national volunteer organization that builds beds for children sleeping on the floor. They provide a mattress and bedding sets. Their motto is "No child sleeps on the floor in our town."

## GFWC MEMBERSHIP

### TEAM BUILDING BUS TRIP

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Redondo Beach (CA)** sponsored a Team Building Bus Trip to La La Land Revisited, based on the Oscar-winning movie that was made in Hollywood. Participants were treated to seeing iconic places featured in the movie, including the section of the freeway where the opening "dance scene" took place. Other stops were made at the Angels Flight staircase, Grand Central Market, Watts Tower, and Griffith Observatory. The purpose of this trip was to engage members and as a thank you from the club to recognize members' participation throughout the club year.

## GFWC FUNDRAISING

### CASSEROLE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**GFWC Columbiana Culture Club (AL)** raised funds using the best way to one's heart, a home cooked meal. One club member offered to cook a variety of chicken dinners. Due to the Cottage Food Law in Alabama, they discovered they could not sell the casserole. A donation only, but for each donation of \$15, a donor would receive a casserole of their choice. One member deboned the chicken, and the other made all the casseroles. Club members were working together for the good of others. Financial burdens were eased for families affected by cancer.



# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT LIST

## DIAMOND: "SHINE BRIGHT"

REPORTING PERIOD: APRIL - JUNE 1, 2024

Clubs recognized added 3 or more members

**GFWC Viera  
Woman's Club - 16**  
Melbourne, FL

**GFWC Madison Valley  
Woman's Club - 13**  
Ennis, MT

**GFWC Rotonda West  
Woman's Club - 9**  
Rotonda West, FL

**GFWC Cocoa Beach  
Woman's Club - 8**  
Cocoa Beach, FL

**GFWC Ruskin  
Woman's Club - 8**  
Ruskin, FL

**GFWC Salem Area  
Women's Club - 8**  
Salem, NH

**GFWC Tempe  
Woman's Club - 8**  
Tempe, AZ

**GFWC Lake Shore  
Woman's Club - 7**  
Jacksonville, FL

**GFWC Marianna  
Woman's Club - 7**  
Marianna, FL

**GFWC Portsmouth  
Women's City Club - 7**  
Portsmouth, NH

**GFWC Silver Lake  
Women's Club - 7**  
Silver Lake, MN

**GFWC Walton Beach  
Woman's Club Inc. - 7**  
Fort Walton Beach, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
St. Matthews - 7**  
Louisville, KY

**GFWC Lake Placid  
Women's Club - 6**  
Lake Placid, FL

**GFWC Progress Club of  
Las Cruces - 6**  
Las Cruces, NM

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
Raleigh - 6**  
Raleigh, NC

**Exeter Area GFWC - 5**  
Exeter, NH

**GFWC Nashaway  
Woman's Club - 5**  
Nashua, NH

**GFWC North Pinellas  
Woman's Club - 5**  
Clearwater, FL

**GFWC Statesville  
Woman's Club - 5**  
Statesville, NC

**GFWC The Women's Club  
of Odessa - 5**  
Odessa, DE

**GFWC Warwick  
Women's Club - 5**  
Warwick, RI

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
Lakeside - 5**  
Lakeside, CA

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
Merchantville - 5**  
Merchantville, NJ

**GFWC Village Improvement  
Association - 4**  
Rehoboth Beach, DE

**GFWC Women's Club of  
Indian River - 4**  
Millsboro, DE

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
Palatka, Inc. - 4**  
Palatka, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club of  
Sarasota, Inc. - 4**  
Sarasota, FL

**GFWC Women's Club of  
Charleston - 4**  
Charleston, SC

**GFWC Garner  
Woman's Club - 3**  
Garner, NC

**GFWC Legacy - 3**  
Huntsville, AL

**GFWC The Heritage  
League of Lincoln - 3**  
Lincoln, NE

**GFWC Westford  
Women's Club - 3**  
Westford, MA

**GFWC Wintersville  
Woman's Club - 3**  
Wintersville, OH

**GFWC Woman's  
Century Club - 3**  
Nampa, ID

**GFWC Woman's Club  
of Inverness - 3**  
Inverness, FL

## 2022-2024 MEMBERSHIP





**GFWC**  
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GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

# Atlanta

2025 GFWC ANNUAL  
CONVENTION

**JUNE 6-9**



**OMNI ATLANTA**  
AT CENTENNIAL PARK

**\$234 PER NIGHT**  
+ TAXES & FEES

**JUNE 6**

LEADS, Board of Directors  
Meeting & State Night

**JUNE 7-9**

GFWC Convention





# **2022-2024 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**





# 2022-2024 REGION REPORTS

## GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION

DANA JONES, PRESIDENT

The theme for GFWC Great Lakes Region was Advocates for Children. Our clubs do this in many ways and at the two Region Conferences held, we collectively advocated for children. 2023 was support provided to Wisconsin Children's Hospital by providing items from their wish list for the children. 2024 was partnering with a Foster Care Agency to provide thank you notes and gift cards for foster families or respite care providers.

We heard useful information from the GFWC Programs and Advancement Committees and had a lot of fun and laughter along the way. Our Quarter Auction was successful in raising funds for the Region. Attendance at Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin State Conventions was accomplished as promised. Ties to states were strengthened between them and the Region.

The future of GFWC Great Lakes Region looks bright as a firm foundation is in place and strong leadership is ready to serve.

## GFWC MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGION

PAT STEVERMER, PRESIDENT

This administration's theme was "Stars for GFWC," and the project was "Coins for a Cause." In 2022, receipts of \$356.00 were given to Heaven's Helper Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store. At the Conference held in 2023, coins were collected (\$360.00) for Elevate Branson, which helps the homeless.

The 2022 MVR Fall Conference was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismark, ND. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski was also in attendance and presented GFWC information, as well as talking at the banquet and filling in for Suellen Brazil, GFWC President-elect, who was unable to attend. The service project was at Heaven's Helpers Soup Kitchen, where GFWC members took orders, filled meal orders, or did food preparation work for vegetables used in soup.

The 2023 MVR Fall Conference was held at the Stone Castle Convention Center in Branson, MO. 103 members attended, and members celebrated the 50th anniversary of the MVR region!

## GFWC MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

MARY PAT MARCELLO, PRESIDENT

During the 2022-2024 administration, GFWC Middle Atlantic Region members at each Annual Conference supported the Special State Project of the host state.

In 2022, 95 members from New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania supported the GFWC NY Special State Project, NAMI-NY (National Alliance on Mental Health) through the creation of more than 100 individually created "thinking of you" greeting cards to share with NAMI clients, together with a \$100 donation.

To continue the goal to engage club members at all levels of membership to participate in Regional Conferences, this President attended the 2023 annual State Conventions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to "bring the Region message" to the membership. To that end, registration for the 2023 MAR Annual Conference increased by 50% over the 2022 Annual Conference, with all member states showing an increase in attendance.

## GFWC NEW ENGLAND REGION

LIBBY WIERS, PRESIDENT

Conferences were held in 2022 in RI and in 2023 in CT, each attended by over one hundred clubwomen from the six New England states. Presenters shared about GFWC programs and projects. Books and various toys were collected and donated to local organizations to support this President's focus on reading and literacy. The State Presidents and Director of Junior Clubs shared their focus areas and all the amazing things their clubs do to improve lives in their communities. The Standing Rules Committee has spent this term reviewing the rules that pertain to our rotation of officers. A proposal has been drafted and will be brought before the members at the Conference in 2024. The Region is well-represented on the GFWC Board of Directors by clubwomen who spread sparkle and shine to our membership. Everyone leaves knowing more about GFWC, feeling proud of Region accomplishments, with friendships made and renewed.





# 2022-2024 REGION REPORTS

## GFWC SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

JUNE FERGUSON, PRESIDENT

How quickly two years goes by. As suddenly as it begins, it's over. This officer's target was to create a strong connection among the women of the South Central Region. An unbreakable sense of belonging that ties them together as friends and GFWC family.

With a project of sending each other words of encouragement and realizing that every woman, no matter how diverse we may be, has a place in GFWC. This officer also strove to emphasize the need for awareness and action on behalf of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Standing Rules were updated and new officers for the 2024-2026 administration were elected and as with everything worthwhile, we all wished for a little more time in the end. For the work is never completely finished and the job no matter the office is still to be done.

## GFWC SOUTHEASTERN REGION

BEVERLY LASSITER, PRESIDENT

*"The Need is Great and The Need is Now"* has been this Region President's Special Project. Realizing that Covid 19 was an ongoing struggle for women, children, and families, and education fell behind, as well as a significant issue with food insecurity, domestic and partner violence, states were challenged to make an impact and help bridge the gap for vulnerable community neighbors.

Written entries were judged, and one President and one Junior Director each received a check for \$500 and the President's Coveted Jewel each year to support their entry.

New focus areas included: the *'Southeastern Scoop'* monthly newsletter, and heavy social media presence. SER held fantastic conferences, chock full of timely information and lively reports and fellowship.

This President is proud to be a member of *"SER's Jewels of the Federation"* improving lives and inspiring hope.

## GFWC SOUTHERN REGION

JOYCE JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT

Our lighthouse beacons continued to shine during the second year of our administration, as the states and international affiliates worked on their state projects along with supporting GFWC projects and our Region project of Youth Leadership. During the Presidents' Brag Time the states reported working with the Juniores, Girl Scouts, school clubs, and other youth groups. At the beginning of last year the states were challenged to federate at least one Juniores club during the next two years. I am happy to report that so far Florida has three new clubs, Mississippi has one new club, and Belize has a new Juniores club. The other states are working towards starting new clubs. Each new club will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card on behalf of Southern Region.

Our 2023 Annual Region Meeting was held October 26-29, 2023, with Mississippi being the host state. Their theme was "The Magic of Mississippi." Mississippi's state project was literacy and working with libraries, so many of our activities centered around this theme. Attendees were asked to bring new or gently used children's books to help restock local libraries that were damaged by several recent tornados. Altogether 844 books were collected.

## GFWC WESTERN STATES REGION

SANDI CONRADY, PRESIDENT

Our region covers all state of the western seaboard, some landlocked states and some islands too. This provides a multitude of different cultures, weather and terrain. This creates a wealth of wonderful clubwomen with varied concerns and needs.

Conferences were held in Anchorage, Alaska in 2022 and Eagle Crest Resort, Oregon in 2023. All were well attended and successful.

As something not included for many years or even at all, it was with anticipation that I added another chairmanship. I added ESO. This GFWC program provides a focus on the individual. The reader expands into different genres, Hopefully the individual grows into a better understanding of our world of yesterday, today and tomorrow. The Chairman was given time in our meeting to do a presentation and outdid herself. It was very well received and she received many kudos.





# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC ALABAMA

JAN GREER, PRESIDENT

I chose for my theme “*Living the Volunteer Spirit - Celebrating Our Everyday Heroes*”. My state special project was to celebrate our first responders such as our firemen, policemen, EMTs and medical personnel. We had just come out of the pandemic, and I wanted to let these men and women know just how much we appreciated all the work that they had done for our communities and sometimes for us personally. Our ladies had become too comfortable hunkering down in their homes. We needed to get back into our communities and let these individuals know just how important they were. I truly believe that we achieved that goal. Our clubwomen were forced out ‘into the world’ again. They made goodie bags and wrote notes to these individuals and had personal face to face conversations with these men and women.

## GFWC ALASKA

KEIKO TORGENSEN, PRESIDENT

GFWC AK members participated in 46 projects, volunteered 1,393.12 hours, spent \$32,000, donated \$4,577 and gave \$6,414.99 of in-kind donations.

We celebrated GFWC AK state conventions and hosting the 2022 WSR Convention. All clubs supported a myriad of community causes that aligned with GFWC International.

Membership and limited finances are a major concern. We are down 10 members statewide and we have limited state funds. Despite that, the state exceeded the membership goal by gaining 5 new members.

This President attended Orientation and all required GFWC Board of Director meetings. In addition, she submitted all required reports on time to GFWC International. This President was appointed to the Social Committee for the 2022-2024 President’s group and nominated for President of 2024-2026 term of Deb’s Dream Team.

It has been my joy and honor to represent GFWC AK!

## GFWC ARIZONA

GRACE KOBOJEK, PRESIDENT

“WE CAN DO IT! - Two parts - “WE CAN DO IT! Actions” and the “GFWC Easy Dos”. The eight actions centered around the GFWC Community Service Programs. Included projects for veterans, literacy, the Affiliate Organizations, environment (recycling), giving small flags to children and talking about the importance of the flag as a symbol of the United States. The ‘GFWC Easy Dos’ are easy for members to do, for example, signing up for the GFWC Member Portal, Legislative Action Center, WHRC, and subscribing to *GFWC News & Notes* and the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

Administration’s Goals Reached:

- To create an Arizona LEADS Program. A full day event and five ZOOM Platform sessions on leadership topics.
- To create a Club Leadership Award

## GFWC ARKANSAS

JANE JACKSON, PRESIDENT

EPIC is something that is awesome, great or unforgettable, extraordinary!

State President’s Special Project: Education with emphasis on establishing scholarships for students pursuing certifications in trade and vocational educations

Goals: To increase membership

Serve our communities well through “*Living the Volunteer Spirit*”

To work together in fulfilling the Mission of GFWC

Reported Statistical Information 2022-2024:

Projects	432
Volunteer Hours	22,655
Dollars Donated	\$244,213.50
In-Kind	\$41,328.12
Number of GFWC Clubs	13
Number of Members	234

This GFWC State President has attended all International, Region and State Board of Directors meetings and conventions, as well as many Zoom and Webinar informational training.

So now, how will you write your GFWC story? Will it be EPIC?



# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC CALIFORNIA

BARBARA BRILEY BEARD, PRESIDENT

California's theme is: CFWC is Blessed, Bright and Bold.

The President's project is: Advocates for Children, specializing on all ways to help those who can't speak for themselves.

Over 9,000 "Just One" decals were placed in public schools and restaurant restrooms with the national hotline number on them for help for violence against children and families.

The CFWC membership goal was to get 10,000 members. As of 12-31-2023 we had 10,188 members, mission accomplished.

The CFWC executive committee members traveled thousands of miles and spoken at dozens of the 220 clubs and in the 19 districts.

We chartered a new Foothill District, and three new clubs, Brentwood, Lemon Grove and So Cal Volunteers.

I have installed over 20 Club and District Presidents over the past two years.

It has been a very successful administration with the help of many members contributions. Thank you for your Leadership!

## GFWC COLORADO

LORI DUFUR, PRESIDENT

The theme for the 2022-2024 GFWC Colorado administration was "Volunteering Makes Your Heart Sing!" and this President's Special Project was Musicians On Call, a non-profit organization that provides live and pre-recorded music to hospital patients and others. GFWC Colorado is comprised of three Districts (Peaks, Plains and Valleys), although it is anticipated this will change to two Districts (Peaks and Plains) at the 2024 State Convention. There are currently ten clubs and 216 members. Nine clubs reported both years.

National Events Attended:

- GFWC Board of Directors Meeting (Colorado)
- Western States Region Conference (Oregon)
- International Conventions (Kentucky and Illinois)

State Events Attended:

- Summer Institute and Board of Directors Meetings (x 2) - emphasis on workshops and learning
- State Convention and Board of Directors Meetings (x 2)
- Officer visits from Jolie Frankfurth and Becky Wright

## GFWC CONNECTICUT

KATHY DEBURRA, PRESIDENT

I am honored to serve as the 56th GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024. I received outstanding support from the Connecticut Members joining roles of State Officers, District Officers and Club Presidents. Meetings were themed around CSP's. There was increased attendance hosting in a variety of locations with interesting programs. NERC was themed "The Greatest Show in CT!"- "carnival/big top" was well attended and enjoyed. As a Member in the Madison Club along the shoreline for 34 years, I selected a symbol of the "beach" and theme of the administration; "Individually we are one wave, together we are an ocean!" The impact we have when working together is tremendous. The State Project of Women's Health & Wellness has inspired many great projects. I am thankful for this opportunity and honor from the Connecticut Federation! I thank them for what they do in the lives of others, and placing confidence in me!

## GFWC DELAWARE

TRISH RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT

The Theme was "Embracing Lives, Star by Star" with a Starfish.

The President's Project was Human Trafficking bringing state recognition.

Goals met:

GFWC Delaware became the organizations name with a DBA.

A Strategic Plan was created with consultant fees donated and a bylaw was amended.

(4) Leadership, (2) Kidney, (1) Alzheimer, (5) Human Trafficking, (7) Domestic Violence, Workshops, (1) Ukrainian Tea, (2) Conventions, (8) Board Meetings, (2) 30X30s, (2) Federation Days were held statewide.

Membership was increased with "Plus Clubs" being recognized.

The Website and Newsletter were improved and a Face Book page was created.

Trophies were added to the Awards presentations.

(6) TV interviews were aired and (59) news articles were published.

An embroidered Ukrainian Tapestry with 100,000+ stitches was created by a member and 20 clubs embroidered flowers; a rose, sunflower or a peach blossom.

The Day of Service raised \$10,000 and 14,000 lbs. of food collected.



# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC FLORIDA

LINDA O'TOOLE, PRESIDENT

President's Special Project: Camp Boggy Creek is a medically safe camp for children with serious illnesses. Members are raising awareness; raising funds; making afghans and cuddly bears which are take home gifts for each camper. The campers attend free of charge for several days of camp life activities with children who are surviving anyone of 11 illness. These days at camp bring happiness, laughter and new friends to each one. The kids just get to be kids.

### GFWC Florida Statistical Information:

Clubs: 190 Women's Club Members: 7,205

Junior Women's Club Members: 472 Juniorette Members: 263

Number of Programs/Projects: 9,666

Volunteer Hours: 542,939 Dollars Donated: \$1,445,450

In-Kind Donations: \$1,393,471 Dollars Raised: \$2,247,407

Dollars Spent: \$688,0062

## GFWC FLORIDA

CHRISTA NUCKOLS, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

GFWC Florida Juniors supported Breathe by raising Cystic Fibrosis Awareness and Funds for a Cure. We created a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by Cystic Fibrosis through grass roots projects and made a monetary donation of over \$19,000 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

We donated the following to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital CF Care Center: 1,300 arts/craft items, 100 little people sets to fill their treasure box, 230 doctor play sets to help CF kids become familiar with common equipment used during exams, and 40 manual physiotherapy onesies to train parents.

Clubs formed teams, fundraised, and walked in Great Strides, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundations largest fundraising event. The impact of our efforts was recognized when GFWC Florida was named Corporate Team of 2023 by the Cystic Fibrosis West Florida Chapter.

## GFWC GEORGIA

KIM SEKULOW, PRESIDENT

GFWC Georgia exemplified the theme of "Passion + Purpose = Power" the past two years. We modeled our passions uniquely while achieving our purpose of service and empowerment. Georgia members supported the President's project focused on human trafficking raising the goal of \$50,000 (monetary and in-kind donations) benefiting Wellspring Living, a Georgia 501c3. Members also supported the Directors focus of our military. We will close the administration by chartering a new Juniorette club at Convention. Georgia members successfully focused on membership showing an increase in membership for 2023. Other administration focuses were communication, creative fundraising and more efficient use of technology. President Sekulow and Junior Director Braun were supported by passionate officers, chairmen and members creating an impactful difference throughout our state.

## GFWC GEORGIA

NICOLE BRAUN, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

This administration has gone by quickly and I can say with certainty that it has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had. From meeting new clubwomen, that I know have become lifelong friends, to the wealth of information that I have gained from being in so many international meetings is priceless. This journey has given me more self-awareness and understanding for where I can grow within this organization as well as in my personal and professional roles.

In Georgia our clubwomen have worked hard in so many different areas. I was blown away by the support that I received for my special project for the military and as always, our members have advocates for children at heart. In our CSP and advancement areas, Georgia Juniors completed 849 projects totaling 27,000 hours of work in and for our communities. There was over \$200,000 donated and \$67,000 in kind given.



# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC IDAHO

CINDY BIESEMEYER, PRESIDENT

My theme is *Change, Renewal, Hope*. In two years, GFWC Idaho has changed our By-Laws to reflect how difficult it is to find leaders when membership is dwindling. Change happened when a club in the state de-federated and one disbanded. Change sometimes can bring renewal. Our state has renewed its commitment to having a scholarship program after dropping it for many years. Some clubs are growing with younger members which was one of my goals. The goal of rewriting our entire By-laws wasn't reached, but the hope of changing them remains. We remain a State Federation by rewriting By-laws to accommodate our volunteers.

My President's Project, *Living the Volunteer Spirit by Fighting Hunger in Idaho*, was very successful with participation by all clubs. Clubs are helping with food banks, some for the first time, and at our 2023 convention we collected many pounds of canned food and donated it locally.

## GFWC ILLINOIS

LEEANN CONLON, PRESIDENT

GFWC Illinois' 2022-2024 theme "There No Place Like GFWC Illinois" with a special focus on easing food insecurity and advocating for children united our clubs as we moved into a post-pandemic era. Illinois chartered three new clubs and increased our state membership for the first time since 1996. The dues remittance process was streamlined to improve cash flow, our President's electronic newsletter was formalized and renamed GFWC Illinois Connections, we overhauled and simplified the award entry process, and approved the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. In 2023, Illinois replaced the original disintegrated trail marker that we donated in 1963 to Shawnee National Forest - one of Illinois' long-time partners. A dues increase is proposed to improve fiscal stability. Clubs enthusiastically and creatively embraced easing food insecurity locally and globally. In addition, GFWC Illinois is proudly hosting the June 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago and raised approximately \$52,000 to support that effort.

## GFWC ILLINOIS

PATTI KUCHAR, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

GFWC Illinois' 2022-2024 theme "There No Place Like GFWC Illinois" was also the Illinois Junior Organization's. Our Special Emphasis has been CRF (Children's Research Foundation) for many decades. We also participated strongly with Advocates for Children.

Illinois Junior clubs were very creative on GFWC National Day of Service. Many clubs have worked on the GFWC Junior Leadership Certification Program. We held zoom meetings on Award Entry procedures, Resolutions, Bylaw revisions, Strategic Planning and Dues processes, and more. This director attended the dedication of the new marble trail marker in Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, replacing a 1963 sign. We are supporting partners since the 1920's. GFWC Illinois juniors are proudly helping to host the June 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago.

## GFWC INDIANA

MARIANNA MCCOMBS, PRESIDENT

In the past 2 years this officer held Zoom meetings to avoid travel and save money. This officer attended the BOD meetings in Denver, DC, NOLA, KY. This officer attended all of the International Conventions and the Region Conferences one of which was hosted by Indiana. This officer has kept in communications with her members via a Communications Director. She has also attended the different District Conventions and visited many Club activities. She has updated the Social media programs and shared the posts from GFWC. She shared the new Branding from GFWC with all members of the State. This Officer has held State Conventions and written skits for Membership and Conflict resolution. She has sent out the Call's, agenda and programs. She ensured the Club Woman magazine was completed and sent out accordingly. This Officer participated in the Leadership program offered by Wisconsin. This officer thanks GFWC for this opportunity.

## GFWC IOWA

NANCY TABOR, PRESIDENT

My 2022-2024 GFWC/Iowa theme was Hearts United Raising Awareness. My focus areas were Human Trafficking and Mental Health. Iowa clubs were challenged to have programs that raised community awareness and to find ways to support their community members challenged by these issues. Clubs rose to this challenge with enthusiasm. They held community events with speakers, movies and other activities. Iowa communities now know who GFWC/Iowa is and what we do for the communities across Iowa. We lost some clubs due to illness and age, but gained members in existing clubs. These last two years saw some changes in meetings, styles, procedures. Members were polled for ideas about future planning and some ideas were implemented. Some worked, some did not. But what never failed, was the willingness to re-examine old habits, cultures and ideas and the willingness to keep some and talk about changing others.



# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC KANSAS

**JANINE EILERT, PRESIDENT**

The GFWC Kansas theme for this administration was "GFWC: Make the Whirl Go 'Round." The president's symbol was a pinwheel which is a powerful spinning symbol of hope. State projects were food insecurity and supporting youth with diabetes. To date over 7000 food items have been donated to local food pantries with the ultimate goal of 9999 items within reach. Clubs and the state also participated in the National Day of Service. Two youth diabetes summer camps were supported with contributions of camp essentials and close to a \$900 monetary donation. Increasing membership was the hope of this administration. Membership did increase in 2022-2023 and a new club was added. Student scholarships continue to be awarded for State Music, Art, and Citizenship Essay Contests. GFWC Kansas continues to hope to "Make the Whirl Go 'Round" in their communities.

## GFWC KENTUCKY

**SUSETTE REDWINE, PRESIDENT**

Hospitality and membership to "Moving Kentucky Forward" was our goal. We accomplished both. We welcomed SER to Lexington in October of 2022 where we had horse racing and hats. In June of 2023, we welcomed you to Louisville where we were to have horse racing but we had hats! The administration started with a Flamingo Flock, learning about the 2022-2024 administration with hands on activities. We had changes in administration as we welcomed Sherri Hammons as the Director of Junior Clubs. Communication was a key as 13 Clubwoman Publications were produced along with Monday Communications to presidents continued. Districts changed from numbering to names and the highlight of the 2024 State Convention was the Lip Sync Contest for Kentucky MADD. We welcomed back a new Club who left federation over 75 years ago. The state scholarship was awarded to a medical school student. Members donated books, drink packets, pillowcases, and more. Kentucky sparkled and shined.

## GFWC LOUISIANA

**JOLENE CONSTANCE GIBBS, PRESIDENT**

Installed at International Convention held in New Orleans, LA June 22-29, 2022. Project chosen was the support of Fisher House of South Louisiana. Theme chosen was "GFWC-LA Sparkling with Passion and Purpose!"

2022 - The first Summer Retreat was August 13, in Crowley, LA. Attended the Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC, August 18-20. Attended South Central Region Convention in Little Rock, AR, October 13-15. Submitted a porcelain Christmas Village to GFWC Headquarters. Fall BOD meeting was November 12, at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA.

2023 - GFWC-LA had 385 projects and 1,011 books were read. State Convention was March 31-April 1, in Jennings, Louisiana with Jolie Frankfurth as our GFWC Guest.

## GFWC LOUISIANA

**SANDRA DUNBAR, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS**

For the 2022-2024 administration, GFWC of Louisiana Director of Junior Clubs, Sandra Dunbar promoted, "Sparkle! Get Your Shine On!" with emphasis helping children through Operation Smile surgeries (\$2156 in donations) and advocating for women and children in shelters.

There are four Junior Clubs (Bayou Junior Woman's Club in Thibodaux, DeRidder Junior Woman's Club, GFWC Houma Junior Women's Club, and GFWC LA Past Junior Directors Club) and one DeRidder High Juniorette Club totaling 106 members (36 being Juniores). Two junior clubs reported 218 projects, volunteered 4,075.25 hours, donated \$3,802, and contributed \$5,259.71 in-kind donations.

In Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children, five General and one Junior club reported 61 projects, 578.75 volunteer hours, \$5334 in donations, and \$4,031.71 in-kind donations. Governor John Bel Edwards issued a proclamation for Advocates for Children Week 2022.

Houma Junior Women's Club participated in the inaugural GFWC National Day of Service and GFWC Junior Leadership Certification.

## GFWC MAINE

**MAUREEN PROVENCAL, PRESIDENT**

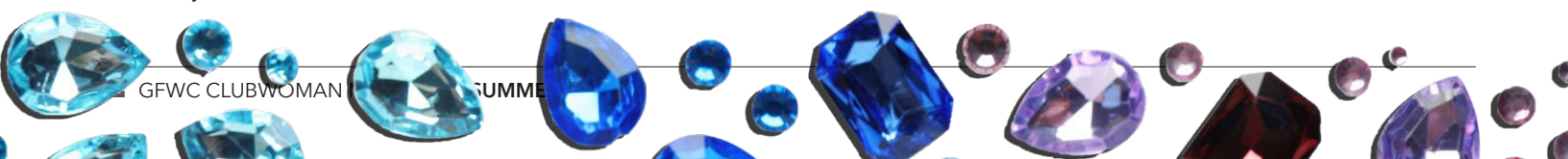
GFWC Maine has been 'Soaring to New Heights'! Kites, the signature imagery compared likeness to clubs, are of various kinds of people who bring diverse skills, talents, and abilities to an organization.

The Presidents project for the 2022-2024 administration centered around 'Raising Awareness of Mental Health' and incorporating issues through all the GFWC programs.

The signature project supported the Yellow Tulip Project and received enthusiastically as all Clubs participated planting 'Hope Gardens' in communities. 700-plus yellow tulip bulbs planted, sent the message hope is available and people care. Talking about Mental Health brings anxiety for many, and the message was, we will feel 'uncomfortable' to navigate.

Puzzle pieces were created from each Club depicting its history to demonstrate 'You are a Piece of the Puzzle' of GFWC Maine.

And, 'Know your Why' had been encouraged to engage members to stand proud and share the worthy causes promoted by GFWC.





# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC MARYLAND

CYNTHIA DYKES, PRESIDENT

The theme for this administration is: "Membership Matters! Let us be like Rabbits and Multiply." During my two years as state president, we have added one junior club and membership has increased by around 50 members. I would have liked more, but I am pleased with any increase.

My state special project is alleviating food and housing insecurity. Anything that makes this better is wonderful. I was pleased that GFWC selected food insecurity for its National Day of Service for both 2023 and 2024. I was pleased with all the efforts made in our state and GFWC with this problem.

My only goal for my administration was and continues to be, to make things better for more. Our state was able to bring back State Youth Art contest. The district issue was resolved with a compromise. It is all good!

## GFWC MASSACHUSETTS

T JABLANSKI, PRESIDENT

Imagine. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I teamed up with NAMI to help members with mental health support and education. We added mental health segments to all our meetings and made an online resource book. Plus, we gave out club grants for mental health projects.

At the beginning of my administration, I proactively tackled a pressing concern confronting our organization: the potential loss of non-profit status for our clubs amidst the transition of our federation.

Additionally, I facilitated the reconciliation process with a defederating club, whose funds had been lost to the state. Through diligent efforts, I successfully recovered funds that will benefit our state organization's financial and physical stability.

I uphold the ideals in the timeless lyrics, "Imagine all the people living life in peace." I remain committed to fostering unity and progress with our federation and beyond. Know Your Worth.

## GFWC MASSACHUSETTS

MARISA JABLANSKI, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

The theme for GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership this administration was "Stand Tall and Proud with GFWC" and Massachusetts Juniors did just that! In addition to the efforts Junior clubs have made to improve their communities, this Director is proud to report that three clubs are pursuing Club Leadership Certification offered by GFWC.

A highlight of the administration was changing the way past leaders were honored at a state meeting. At the Convention in 2023, each Past President and Director sat at a table with a centerpiece matching the theme of their administration. They had the pleasure of sharing highlights of their time in the spotlight with clubwomen.

This administration has carried on the progress made by the previous administration to work on combining state meetings with GFWC Massachusetts. Junior Membership has successfully had their leadership and voices heard at the state level and continues to Stand Tall and Proud with GFWC!

## GFWC MICHIGAN

KATHY LEWIS, PRESIDENT

GFWC Michigan has evolved throughout the 2022-2024 Administration. With the president's theme being "Dream - Explore - Discover," Michigan prepared goals, researched possibilities, and created changes to keep up with our ever-changing world.

First, a new website was needed. We wanted user-friendly, "registering on-line," and merchandise purchasing. We scrapped the old and started fresh. Our new website is running! Members have especially enjoyed "fillable forms" for reporting, plus registering and paying for our state convention online.

Next was the extreme need for new leadership. The state president, 1st VP, and 2nd VP, created a joint-presidents' project - "Michigan LEADS." These officers are committed to keeping the program going for 6 years as it gets off the ground. In 2022, they launched their new program, assisted by GFWC LEADS graduates. It was a success! In 2023, the "2nd Annual Michigan LEADS" was held. This event resulted in multiple applications for GFWC International LEADS.

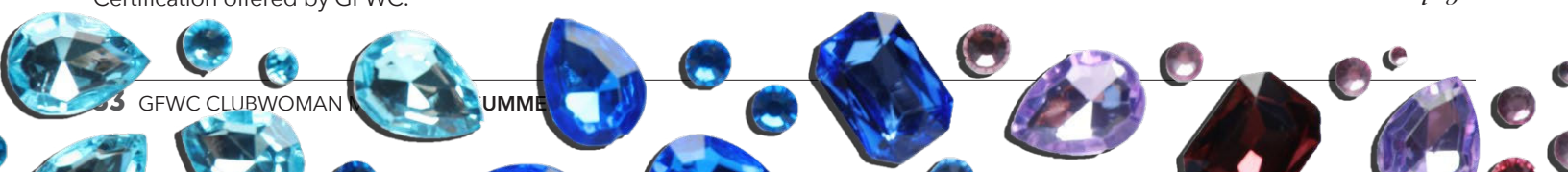
GFWC Michigan is proud to be open to change and committed to evolving even more in the upcoming administrations.

## GFWC MINNESOTA

LINDA BLUE, PRESIDENT

GFWC of Minnesota 2022-2024 highlights. Presidents theme was "Heroes Everywhere". Members asked to show appreciation to heroes that helped us navigate the years of Covid and the new 'normal' we had to adjust to. Hosted two workshops, where we passed on the information that was provided at National Convention. Hosted two State Conventions and introduced a new LEADS program for the state membership. Had community

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# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

service project for Hope for Justice. Sent candidate to LEADS for both years. Reviewed and revised State by-laws, and asked all clubs and districts to do the same. Celebrated the National Day of Service. Had speakers from Hope for Justice and Alzheimer's Association. Attended 2 National conventions, 2 MVR Conventions, visited every district, several clubs and several club fundraisers. Sent state newsletters out to keep members informed.

## GFWC MISSISSIPPI

THERESA BUNTYN, PRESIDENT

GFWC Mississippi has had a successful two years. The President's Special Project, "Getting Back to Your Roots, by Promoting Public Libraries, Education, and Literacy", has been adopted by MS clubs working together to support their local communities. My admiration of libraries, education and literacy has been shared by clubs across MS showing support of their local libraries by providing educational scholarships and opportunities for literacy awareness. Adult education classes have expanded in public libraries including sewing, painting, author presentations and summer reading programs for children. Mississippi Club women have Gotten Back to Their Roots and made a significant impact on Libraries and Education in the Northern, Central and Southern Districts.

## GFWC MISSOURI

AMY BOONE, PRESIDENT

GFWC Missouri had a busy and productive 2023 fiscal year. This state has 56 clubs with 1,002 members. Clubs across our state completed 383 projects with 29,910 volunteer hours. Monetary donations were \$140,630 and in-kind donations totaled \$28,959. Affiliate projects totaled 21 with 196 volunteer hours. Monetary donations were \$3,888 and in-kind donations of \$3,317.

This president selected *GFWC-Building Dreams that Sparkle with Hope*. My colors were purple and gold. My service project was Wagons of Hope for St. Jude. Missouri has raised over \$10,800 in the 2022-2024 administration. This president attended eight club meetings and 16 district meetings traveling over 5,000 miles during my administration.

Our state hosted the Mississippi Valley Region Conference in September 2023 in Branson. GFWC members enjoyed local tours and a Branson show. Many new ideas were taken away from the meeting to be used in state and local clubs.

## GFWC MONTANA

LYNN FOREMAN, PRESIDENT

Membership: Membership increase; successful recruitment of younger members.

Montana Leadership Program implemented. Launched virtual session. Included in Biennial Convention - 32 attendees.

Attendance State meetings by not raising registration fee. Fundraising opportunity for Clubs - silent auctions items receipts split 50-50 with State.

Form additional clubs: Discussions underway with 3 new potential clubs, and a Juniorette club, goal - complete 6/30/2024.

CARE President Project: Has provided the clubs with opportunity to focus projects on their communities - by taking care of those that take care of us. State Fundraising receipts distributed to participating clubs.

2025 Calendar - features clubwomen photos, selected by three districts. Proceeds to offset increase in conference expenses.

Promote GFWC membership & values. We are respected by our Communities & Hotel Staff, and speakers. "Forget not to be Kind"

## GFWC NEBRASKA

KAREN CRANDALL, PRESIDENT

I am proud of the Nebraska Federation, we are not a large state as far as membership goes, but we are one of the mightiest. These GFWC Members are amazing women. They love passionately and will fight fiercely for what they believe in. These club women know that women have a great role in their community and state. I am sure that there is not one woman in the Nebraska Federation that is the same woman she was before she joined GFWC.

Last but not least I want to thank GFWC Nebraska for giving me these great opportunities:

- Having lifelong friendships with women in my community, state, region and Internationally
- Having the opportunity for personal advancement such as leadership skills and self confidence
- Making an impact on my community through volunteer services
- Meeting women around the world who are passionate about the same issues I am

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# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

I live each day by following the petitions in the GFWC Collect, such as: Don't find fault with others; Don't be hasty in judgment; Take time for all things especially others; Remember little things make a difference; and most of all never forget not to be kind. Looking forward to serving GFWC in the years ahead.

## GFWC NEVADA

CHERIE WILLIAMS-DEWITT, PRESIDENT

GFWC is truly an inspiration and sisterhood that is helping me deal with the death of my husband. He is the catalyst for my President's project of Organ Donation Education. I will continue to create a project that reaches out to communities that need education to make educated decisions about organ donation. These decisions will help us to reduce the hundreds of thousands of people waiting for transplants. I will share my program with other state presidents in order that this will be able to support Health and Wellness across the country. I am learning to work through the grief to get the work done. Thank you for your support and Federation friendship. I would not survive without the hundreds of cards and comments of support.

## GFWC NEW HAMPSHIRE

BETH ROTH, PRESIDENT

It is difficult to imagine what the world was like in the spring of 2022. All GFWC State Federations were attempting to jump start our meetings and programs after one of the most impactful global pandemics caused by COVID. It is difficult to remember that the previous administration, like many states, took such safety precautions to have meetings on ZOOM, interfering with our usual comradery, wearing masks, when together, not hugging to bring comfort! Our immediate Past State President was not able to hold any state meeting face to face and we all became fast experts of ZOOM protocol. The distancing was difficult and negative.

It is hard to imagine yesterday because this administration's members proved our resiliency. Our federation, rose up, shook the cobwebs out and focused on plans to have fantastic state meetings, projects to inspire, partnerships for building relationships, fund raising for maintaining club houses, gaining members just by asking one friend at a time to join, plans for feeding the hungry throughout our State, and reminding each other how to have fun as we celebrate, Sparkle and Shine! Today GFWC-NH members are out in our Communities once again: making a significant difference, and so proud to say, "We Are GFWC"!

## GFWC NEW JERSEY

SHIRLEY HOLLY, PRESIDENT

Theme - Love, Loyalty, Friendship - The Bonds of Volunteerism

Special State Project - Emmanuel Cancer Foundation

Administration Goals - 2024 is our 130th anniversary, 2 years ago I challenged clubs to do "130 Anniversary Celebration" projects. They could be projects from all areas of federation work. There was an emphasis on PR- encouraging all clubs to send 130 press releases and membership - as a state if every club retained their membership and brought in only one new member, we will have met the goal of increasing our membership by 130.

Some of the 130 Anniversary Projects completed were books to libraries, canned goods to food banks, bras to shelters, cookies to Veterans, time spent w/seniors and press releases.

Our membership increased from the first to second year by 256, also chartering one new juniorette club and one new woman's club not included in the count.

## GFWC NEW MEXICO

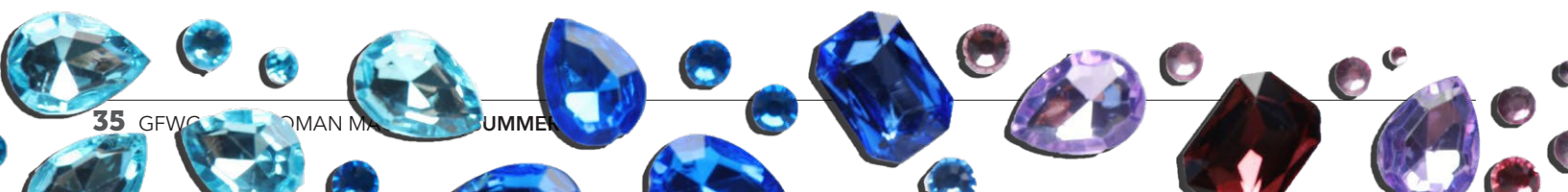
VALERIE REDINGTON, PRESIDENT

"One of the most important leadership lessons is realizing you're not the most important or the most intelligent person in the room at all times"...Mario Batali

Leadership as GFWC New Mexico President has brought two amazing years of learning. Leading volunteers is rewarding and sometimes challenging. I have learned who has my back and is cheering me on. I have learned who the pillars of stability and growth are within my State. I have learned new ways of seeing things, new ways of doing things, obstacles as opportunities, the importance of personal growth and so much more!

It has been rewarding and important work in defining Advocates for Children as the focus of my administration. We were recognized by the Governor of New Mexico with a proclamation and increased our projects for children from 20 to 32 over the two years, along with dollars and in-kind donations. Members grew awareness and showed their generosity of Camp Enchantment, a free camp for children in New Mexico who are experiencing cancer.

My message to our members is to never stop challenging themselves. Personal growth is a rewarding endeavor!





# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC NEW YORK

KATHY MEYERS, PRESIDENT

At my installation in 2022, I announced that my President's Special Project was Mental Health Awareness. Our son is bi-polar. Currently he lives in a subsidized apartment and receives the help he needs. Clubs have helped raise money and provided excellent programs. At a WNYFWC meeting, Mental Health Awareness was the theme. Currently, a total of 18 projects have been completed, 327 volunteer hours participated in and \$5,000 raised for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The group in Buffalo, NY has speakers available, and works with families with loved ones who suffer from Mental Health issues.

I enjoyed my second year as GFWCNY President. Our Directory has information about GFWC officers and GFWC Department chairs. We had a total of 845 projects, 62,144 volunteer hours, and \$319,707 donated. Thanks for all you do.

## GFWC NORTH CAROLINA

KIM FULCHER, PRESIDENT

GFWC of North Carolina's 2022-2024 theme, "From the Mountains to the Sea...We ARE GFWC-NC," and Junior theme, "N.C.C.A.R.E.S." combined our desire for connecting our members across the state while advocating for preservation in North Carolina. We supported the Innovation Barn and funded trail-head kiosks for the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a natural resource. Our focus on Membership connected members and clubs across NC and encouraged collaboration on projects making a larger impact. We fostered new leaders and reinforced skills strengthening leadership across the state. President Kim Fulcher and Director of Junior Clubs Hope Hockaday served closely together with support from invaluable officers, leaders, and members across the state ensuring the future of our federation.

## GFWC NORTH CAROLINA

HOPE HOCKADAY, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

This officer launched the GFWC-NC Juniors Instagram page.

This officer attended Arts Festival, GFWC-NC Convention, GFWC-NC Juniorette Jamboree, and GFWC Convention.

This officer promoted her special project, NC CARES, with two Junior Fun Days with the NC Conservation Network and Innovation Barn.

This officer attended Executive Committee and other committee meetings, including Membership, Junioresettes, Fundraising, Bylaws, and Community Service Program meetings.

This officer provided articles to North Carolina *Clubwoman Magazine* about special project and Advocates for Children and wrote article for Southeastern Region newsletter and *GFWC News & Notes*.

This officer began promoting GFWC Junior/Juniorette Leadership Certification through Zoom meetings and newsletter articles.

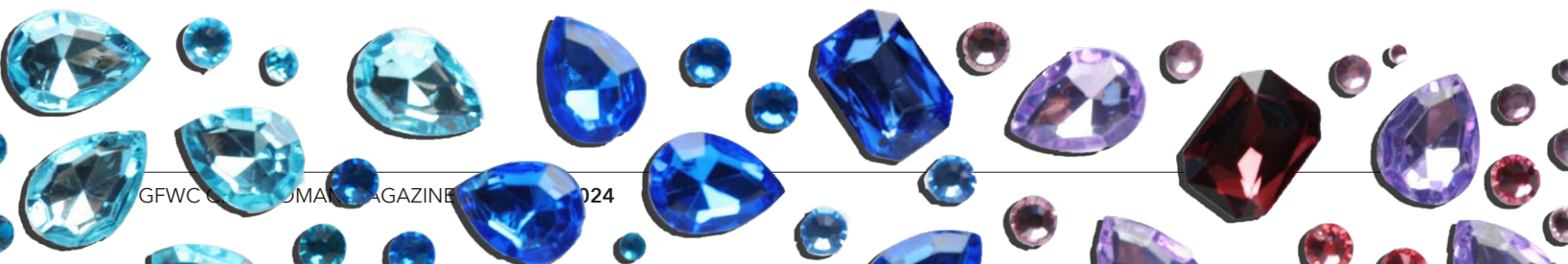
This officer attended GFWC Board meeting, GFWC-NC Fall Conference, and Southeastern Region meeting culminating by winning President Bev Lassiter's project award.

This officer continued to attend meetings of Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte, her home club.

## GFWC NORTH DAKOTA

KAREN RETZLAFF, PRESIDENT

The past two years have been challenging for the state: club membership is decreasing, aging members, and an economic down turn. Despite these roadblocks, clubs continue to do community service and present programming for their communities. In the 2022 club year, 128 club members (in 11 clubs) participated in 110 projects with 5123 volunteer hours and monetary donations of \$14,685. The Mississippi Valley Region Conference was hosted in Bismarck, ND, with 83 attendees and GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski as our guest. In the 2023 club year, club membership in the 11 clubs remained much the same with 71 projects, 5,003 volunteer hours and \$14,647 donated. The 2023 state convention focused on Canine Drug Interdiction programming as Civic Engagement and Outreach.





# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC OHIO

YVONNE FORD, PRESIDENT

"Bee the One - Bee the Change"! Has been the Theme for GFWC Ohio. The main focus of this special project is to increase membership with a focus on the environment. Clubs stepped out of their comfort zones and tried new projects and programs. Clubs worked on increasing and maintaining membership which was achieved. Clubwomen were creative and new ideas were implemented to attract potential new members and also show appreciation to current members. Money was donated for Bee Hives, Recycling pop tabs, pill bottles, and egg cartons, gardens were planted and maintained for pollinators. Members worked hard while moving forward learning technology and new ways to communicate, utilizing social media, Zoom, Facebook videos, and workshops kept our clubs informed and involved. Making a difference and being open to change is what GFWC Ohio achieved.

Clubs completed 68 Projects, donated 3030 hours of volunteer time, \$14,2779 dollars and an additional \$8,150 of in-kind donations

## GFWC OHIO

KAREN MARGALA, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

Serving as the GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs for the past two years has given me the opportunity to meet amazing ladies, not only from the State of Ohio, but from our entire country and to travel places that I probably would not have had the opportunity to do so. I am pleased to have accomplished the following:

My theme for my administration is "Our Roots Run Deep", concentrating on membership, with the Celtic Tree of Life as the symbol for my pin. My focus was to encourage members to learn about the history of GFWC and also learn the history of their own club as well.

In honor of our GFWC President, Deb Strahanoski's, theme "Sparkle & Shine" a state wide campaign was started by putting a jewel on all of our members cell phones to remind those we love not to pick up their phone and text and drive.

## GFWC OKLAHOMA

PATTY BURKHEAD, PRESIDENT

The GFWC Oklahoma 2022-2024 Post-Pandemic Report could easily be titled "FROM PANDEMIC TO PARADISE WITH THE PIONEER WOMAN" and "KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON". The challenge after the Covid 19 Pandemic was to bring Joy and Fellowship to all GFWC-OK members who had experienced isolation and aloneness. What better joy than gathering in Paradise, the home and ranch of the Pioneer Woman (TV Food Channel star). The Celebration Convention was a monumental success of sharing new methods of service in difficult times.

The Oklahoma State Project was support and awareness of the "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" chapters, founded in the Indian Capital of the nation, Anadarko, Oklahoma. This gained International attention and awareness when the movie "Killers of the Flower Moon" was released. These tragedies originating in our nation's history are now brought to life for all to see. GFWC-OK will always remain financially and emotionally caring for our Indigenous Natives.

## GFWC OREGON

WENDY WHEELER-JACOBS, PRESIDENT

Notable accomplishments:

- All board positions filled. Second Vice president was replaced within 60 days of quitting.
- Hosted the Western Region Conference. This is a big undertaking for states with few resources (people/funds). We did not go into debt, and I am proud of our fundraising efforts.
- Increased both membership numbers and attendance at our Annual Convention and Annual Leadership Seminars.
- Adopted modern technology to facilitate online fundraising (GiveBox) and collaboration (Google Workspaces). We continued to improve our communications, (Website, Facebook, Newsletter) including updating the GFWC emblem.
- My administration special project "Keep Oregon Green," presented speakers on awareness of wildfire safety and prevention. We even adopted a new resolution on wildfire safety.
- We hosted 2 Annual Conventions, 2 Fall Board Meetings and 2 Leadership Workshops, all of which brought in outside speakers to provide continuous education to members.

# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC PENNSYLVANIA

HEIDE CEBRICK, PRESIDENT

The theme for this administration was "Light the Way". This officer believes that as we interact in our daily lives, we should project and radiate the values of GFWC in all that we do. That we Light the Way with our Generosity, Friendship, Wisdom, and Compassion.

The President's Project, Operation "We've Got Their Six," focused on Veterans and the Military. This phrase means "We've got your back". The Clubwomen really stepped up in having events to socialize with the Women Veterans and Veterans in nursing homes. Becoming comfortable and accepted by civilians is an important part of healing for those with PTSD. Interacting with our Veterans and showing them they are remembered and appreciated is very rewarding.

## GFWC RHODE ISLAND

PAULA ANDREWS, PRESIDENT

First and foremost, my focus was children and helping prevent child sexual abuse. I partnered with three agencies that provide treatment, intervention, education, and support to Rhode Islanders of all ages. During my administration, all RI members joined me to support abused children. Monetary donations and wish list items were collected at state meetings for these agencies. With the support of 200 RI members, I fulfilled my goal of making a difference.

Additionally, The GFWC National Day of Service in September 2023 was a testament of our generous members as we delivered 200 pounds of food to the RI Community Food Bank. I received a proclamation from our governor attesting to our hard work and dedication for this worthy cause as we joined all our GFWC sisters across the country.

## GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA

NORMA ENGLAND, PRESIDENT

I am proud to have served GFWC and GFWC-South Carolina the past 2 years as president.

One highlight of my administration has been chartering four new clubs in South Carolina.

Another highlight was our 125th Convention Anniversary Celebration in April 2023.

Another accomplishment was working make the GFWC-SC *Clubwoman Magazine* an online publication.

South Carolina Clubs embraced the GFWC National Day of Service.

I am very proud of how club around the state have embraced my Special Projects—Elder Abuse Awareness/Prevention and Project Lifesaver. Clubs have done so many varied project to promote Elder Abuse Awareness. Four Clubs have actually worked and donated over \$7,000 to get Project Lifesaver started in their counties. Other clubs have given donations to local Project Lifesaver groups. GFWC-SC raised about \$700 through the sale of note cards at State events also.

I am proud of what GFWC-South Carolina has accomplished the past two years!

## GFWC SOUTH DAKOTA

PAMELA HALLMAN, PRESIDENT

Although South Dakota has only four clubs and a total membership of 106, GFWC of South Dakota made a significant impact within their communities and the state. The clubs reported 187 projects and 6008 volunteer hours. Donations to various causes totaled \$11,725, and the in-kind donation total was \$13,624. At our 2023 state summer board meeting, volunteers offered to serve as chairpersons for each of the affiliate organizations, with the intent of providing increased education to club members about their missions.

"Bee a Donor" was the president's theme during the 2022-2024 administration. My president's project was Recycled Jeans for Recycled Organs. Clubs were encouraged to create items from denim jeans with sale proceeds going to the state kidney foundation. One club also collected money as an organ donation project at their business meetings.

I am proud of all the accomplishments my clubs achieved during my term as president in 2022-2024.



# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

## GFWC TEXAS

BILLIE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

Theme: "Protecting the Pollinators"

Goals: Updating State Website and Facebook Page

There were lots of references to "Bees" during this administration, from the District President's group name, "Billie's Bees" to all manner of motivational quotes, "Bee Sweet as Honey & Volunteer" ...to having each club across the state purchase and donate a Bee Hive through Heifer International. It is exciting to announce that goal has been surpassed over 3 times. The final count has been over 331 beehives purchased from clubs, districts and individuals.

The new webpage is still a work in progress and the updated Facebook page is receiving more 'hits' from across the state and nation as it becomes more well known.

We almost lost one club but are set to gain 1 new club next term. We are treading water but managing to keep our head above water.

## GFWC VERMONT

BEVERLEY PALLMERINE, PRESIDENT

The GFWC of Vermont 2022-2024 Administration has kept its membership at 151 members within four clubs. Each is very successful, some getting new members and some holding on. Their communities are what is most important to them. However, all participated in the State President's Project, Dress a Girl Around the World. It coordinates well with the GFWC Signature Program.

Leadership continues to be our biggest hurdle. GFWC Vermont's 2024-2026 administration will go forward with new officers.

Vermont's Barbara Jean Barker Memorial Scholarship for a Vermont woman wishing to advance in, or enter the workforce, has given \$10,000 to seven women this administration. It gives us great hope for the future as we see what these women are accomplishing.

## GFWC VIRGINIA

BONNIE ROSEMOND, PRESIDENT

GFWC Virginia 2022-2024 Administration Theme- Enlighten Our Cornerstone using blocks as a symbol representing a strong need to getting back to our foundation, of what GFWC represents and to enlighten to carry out values to guide, teach, and inspire.

GFWC Virginia State Project- "Education of Virginia's Natural Resources" namely our flora and fauna, waters, soil and woods.

Appointed Chairman and Committee Members.

Additional goals:

- Appoint State ESO Coordinator, which proved to be advantageous in ESO Pledges and ZOOM ESO meetings
- Hold Memorial Service at each Annual Convention for members who have passed.
- Develop Health and Wellness Program—success story of the "It's All About Me in 2023" "Step In Time"
- One-page newsletter "Cornerstone Connection" submitted by president - Constant Contact / 8 issues
- Increase Service Projects at all State meetings - This act of kindness has been very fulfilling!
- Having each year a GFWC Officer represented at a state meeting.

## GFWC VIRGINIA

DENISE PRICE, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

The theme for this administration is "GFWC Virginia Juniors Leading the Way", to support our children across the commonwealth. For this reason, Advocates for Children was chosen, as the GFWC Virginia Junior state project.

Using the compass as my symbol, each district was assigned a direction over the course of this administration. We headed "North" to collect pajamas and toiletries for children. We then moved "East" to collect over 2,000 items for a prize closet at a local children's hospital. We then headed "South" to collect personal hygiene products to be distributed to local schools. We finally moved "West" to collect diapers and wipes for babies in need.

GFWC Virginia clubwomen came together to lead and support these children's initiatives. Because of their efforts, so many children across Virginia benefited from their generous contributions.

## GFWC WASHINGTON

SUSAN TYLER, PRESIDENT

One of the more significant projects was the Arts and Culture CSP. GFWC Battle Ground spent the better part of two years working on a history of Battle Ground Lake as a resort, before it became a state park. Hours of research at the local library and newspaper gave rise to interviews; local news releases brought even more people forward to share their stories and photos of the resort; the state archivist in Olympia found the original documents from the 1870's that shared light on the original owners. The result of all this hard work—a 60 page booklet which was sold at local

*continued on next page*

# 2022-2024 STATE REPORTS

events, and donated to libraries in the area. Since the booklet was marked with the GFWC and GFWC-WS logo, it also increased awareness of the GFWC in the community. "Bottoms Up" was the intriguing name for a project to design and sew seat cushions for an 1896 church that was renovated and repurposed as a performing arts center. Not just cushions, these were works of art each individually designed and sewn. This is just a small sample of all that's been done by Clubwomen in Washington state. It has been a privilege to represent the members and all their hard work at GFWC conventions and Board of Directors meetings.

## GFWC WEST VIRGINIA

CATHY JO BRYANT, PRESIDENT

During the 2022-2024 administration GFWC West Virginia honored and served our veterans through the state special project. The project logo, H.E.R.O.E.S, spelled out our commitment to our Veterans. We Honored those that have served and are serving; Educated our generation and future generations about service, volunteerism, and sacrifice; Respected our veterans and promoted respect within our communities; provided Opportunities to our clubs to help veterans and opportunities to our veterans; Empowered our veterans and our communities to develop veteran's programs; and Served our Heroes. Members were the boots on the ground serving our HEROES.

Another goal of this administration was to reignite our passion for federation. GFWC West Virginia clubwomen did just that. Meeting attendance increased, and excitement flowed throughout the state. From local club meetings to districts to state events, members enjoyed all the benefits of belonging.

## GFWC WISCONSIN

NANCY DICKMAN, PRESIDENT

GFWC Wisconsin reports 1,457 members in 43 service clubs and four state clubs over six districts. This President's slogan is "Be the Light" which emphasized the value of incorporating arts in raising the quality of life in our communities. The Special Project, titled "Arts LIVE!" committed \$100 grants to each club that accumulated \$500 of contribution to non-professional performing arts initiatives such as school music or drama efforts, community plays, team competitions with a performance component - all to encourage the city and town groups and schools to continue performance arts initiatives and education that resulted in \$23,300 pushed back into communities.

Highlights include expanded funding for a full year poet-in-residence program through Wisconsin's Own Library, the collection owned by GFWC-WI; successful implementation of

learning programs at each state meeting; updating all governing documents of the state organization; strong representation on the Region and International boards.

The State Federation remains fiscally sound.

## GFWC WISCONSIN

SUZANNE HOOSER, DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

The Wisconsin Juniors have been supportive of "Turning Stones to empower youth". Junior clubs reported projects with their community youth in mind. Always supporting and volunteering to make the lives of children a little better. Clubs have donated winter clothing, socks, underwear, and hygiene products. They have participated with other like-minded organizations in the community, Boys and Girls Club, Stryv365, Feeding America, Girl Scouts, and Big Brother/Big Sisters to provide youth leadership programs. Clubwomen have fundraised, donated, and gave scholarships. Wisconsin clubs participated in the Day of service and participate on a regular basis to help with food insecurities. Participation from clubs with "Sending a Girl to School" Through Heifer international was supported and funds were collected so we could send \$275 to help one girl through this program. We will be sending another \$275 at the end of my administration to help yet another girl. Juniors embrace the challenge to help youth succeed in life by providing the necessary tools. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such Sparkling club women, they are the true gems for my administration. 2022-2024 is brighter due to all the hard work my fellow clubwomen put into supporting and empowering our youth!

## GFWC WYOMING

TRISH PEOPLES, PRESIDENT

Preserve our Past - Protect our Future

During my administration, Wyoming completely rewrote our governing documents, to include bylaws, standing rules and annual meeting rules. We created new procedures for our state Scholarships and our Endowment, and we developed a Strategic Plan. GFWC Wyoming added two new clubs, for a total of 11. We completed 457 projects, volunteered 24,590 hours, donated \$133,446 and spent \$59,078 in-kind. We held LEADS workshops, sent LEADS candidates to convention, participated in all GFWC programs, and entered photography, CIP, newsletter, website, and Jennie award contests. I represented Wyoming at all GFWC and Western States Region events and visited all state clubs. GFWC Wyoming preserved our past by writing our history and placing historical documents on our website. We protected our future by planting more than 1,000 trees.





# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### **SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

TRISHA SCHAFFER, CHAIRMAN

During the GFWC 2022-24 administration, significant strides were made in raising awareness and combating violence and abuse. The GFWC Signature Program Committee initiated the workshop "Raise Awareness, STOP the Traffic" at the 2022 Annual Convention, focusing on human trafficking, elder abuse, and campus sexual assault. The "Community Connection Initiative" distributed materials to employees and partners, raising awareness of trafficking.

Throughout the term, the committee conducted Zoom presentations, published newsletters, and organized the SP workshop "WHAT IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU?" at the 2023 Convention, receiving positive feedback. Advocating for victims' rights and education, activities like "Brainstorming Barriers" facilitated insightful discussions.

Support extended to clubs, districts, and states, with contributions to awareness months. Reflecting on achievements, including the 2024 Convention's service project for Freedom House, Illinois, this Chairman is honored to have served by "Advocating for Victims ~ Education for All" to combat victim blaming, debunk myths, and aid victims in finding the services they need.

### **JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

KATIE ROBEY, CHAIRMAN

It has been an honor to serve under the administration of GFWC International President Strahanoski as Advocates for Children chairman. This chairman used social media to educate all clubwomen on the importance of being an Advocate for Children, creating projects that make a difference in the life of a child, and most importantly, reporting those projects. GFWC clubwomen met the challenge by doing 8,391 projects, volunteering 302,880 hours, donating \$5,260,638.65 and \$2,380,328.73.

This GFWC Special Program had its first Honorary Chairman Stephenie Foster, who presented the first program of the series- Advocacy Challenge: Overcoming Roadblocks and Building Coalition Support. Ms. Foster also hosted a Zoom program, International Day of the Girl Child-Take Action for Girls.

This chairman attended GFWC Board of Director Meetings, New England Region Conferences and at GFWC Conventions presented workshops. After reading all the entries, Club Creativity Award winners and State Winners for each GFWC Category were announced.



# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

### ARTS AND CULTURE

PAM AMENT, CHAIRMAN

This document is a GFWC Arts and Culture Chairman administration report for 2022-2023. It highlights the contributions made by GFWC Clubs, Districts, and States to support Arts and Culture. The report shows a significant combined total for the two years of 122,705 projects internationally, 752,227.95 volunteer hours, 1,723,859.95 dollars donated, and \$68,604,948.10 in-kind donations. The report also showcases some of the top projects submitted by the states, including the Community Gems program, which has been a vital project for the General Federation of Women's Clubs over the past two years. The document also includes notable Arts and Culture reports submitted by various clubs, depicting how they have come to aid their city and celebrate cultural activities and awareness. Overall, the report showcases GFWC Clubs, Districts, and States' impact on supporting Arts and Culture and promoting community engagement.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

SHARON OLIPHANT, CHAIRMAN

In 2023, our General Federation of Women's Club members continued to recognize our Essential Workers and dedicated many hours to honoring them. Since the pandemic, we have seen an increase in sensitivity to the jobs that are done in our communities. The outline of different projects that could be used, our members were very creative in all of the ways we celebrated those who do the jobs that keep our communities strong and safe. Our members also worked with our Veterans. Not only those that are serving currently, but those that have served, gave their lives, are in local Veterans Hospitals, Honor Flights, by cleaning headstones, and saluting our United States of America with patriotic celebrations and recognitions. We also celebrated with enthusiasm the first on-going project of GFWC, Food Insecurity and Hunger. No matter the size of a club, we all saw the direct impact of food insecurity when the project information was presented to the clubs.

I have seen the true hearts of our members when a challenge of food insecurity, homelessness, recognition of essential workers, working with shelters, honoring veterans, and just the words of "can you help."

### EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

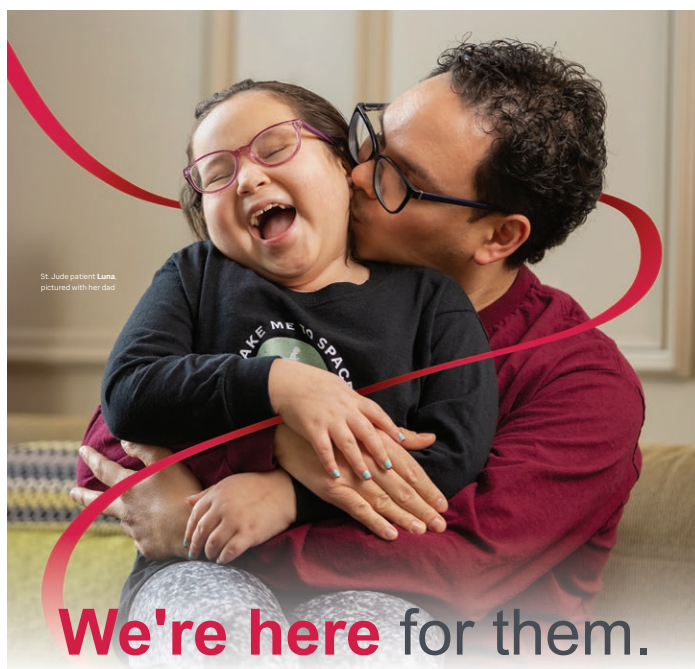
SANDY HAUENSTEIN, CHAIRMAN

The GFWC Education and Libraries Community Service Program chose Bring the Sparkle to Public Libraries as the Community Connection Initiative and the clubs continued to implement many projects in their communities from volunteering, obtaining grants and donations of book and dollars.

The GFWC ESO Book Club Facebook page featured notifications and followers now include approximately 1,600 readers.

A monthly newsletter (July 2023 - present) was created and sent to the state presidents, state chairmen, and GFWC Officers. Each issue contained highlights for the month, an article from a local club, information for projects, an affiliate highlight, a monthly literary calendar, monthly new book releases, and ESO information. Several member authors were featured in a newsletter.

A presentation highlighting the five community service programs was created to be presented at the 2023 Regional Conferences. Articles were written for the Clubwoman: July 2023 - Bookmobiles; and in News & Notes: April 2024 - Library Week April 7-13, 2024.



Since 2015, the General Federation of Women's Clubs has proudly partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® and raised more than 2.5 million to ensure St. Jude is here for every patient family.

At St. Jude, we take care of the entire family because we believe that every child deserves a chance to live their best life. Your donation and support ensures that St. Jude is here for families like Luna's.

Together, we're here for them.







# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

### ENVIRONMENT

TINA NEESE, CHAIRMAN

During the 2022-2024 GFWC administration, the Environment CSP made impact in various ways across communities in the United States. The GFWC State Federations promoted various environmental projects and several had environmentally related president projects. The chairman fulfilled her role and submitted all reports and award entries in a timely manner. She wrote monthly newsletter which were approved prior to those newsletters being sent to each state chairperson. This community service program did not have an honorary chairman, although several were suggested. The signature project for this program involved community gardens and several clubs throughout the nation supported by providing community gardens in schools, assisted living facilities, or in the community.

During this administration, clubs completed 5,467 projects, volunteered 270,119.55 hours, and donated \$457,650.88 and \$698,387.03 of in kind donations. In totality for this administration, clubs completed 10,852 projects, volunteered 1,162,642.60 hours, donated \$1,125,059.33 dollars and \$1,315,374.78 of in kind donations.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

DALE FISHER, CHAIRMAN

Clubs recognize that *our first wealth is health.*

Community Connection Initiative - *Physical Fitness For All Ages*, found clubs and State Federations implementing fitness programs, purchasing fitness equipment for their communities, and providing healthy activities for at-risk individuals.

Awareness, early detection, and immunizations are critical for disease prevention. Clubs focused efforts supporting patients, healthcare providers, and GFWC Affiliates and organizations through fundraising walks and hands-on projects. A new Health and Wellness Resolution - Dementia was adopted.

To address nutrition's impact on our well-being, clubs partnered with schools, senior centers, local businesses, and churches to sponsor health fairs and activities that educated members, families, and neighbors.

Community forums, programs, and support of mental health care facilities addressed the growing concern for our emotional well-being, and its relation to physical health.

GFWC clubs collectively embarked on the "Get Fit Within Our Communities" initiative, a testament to our shared commitment to health and wellness.






**shot@life**

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

Scan the code or visit [www.shotatlife.org/gfwc-measles](http://www.shotatlife.org/gfwc-measles) to learn more and start fundraising.



Shot@Life is a United Nations Foundation campaign that works to ensure everyone in the world has access to lifesaving vaccines and all children have a shot at life. Shot@Life mobilizes public and private resources for the global immunization work of UNICEF, World Health Organization, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. To do this, Shot@Life:

-  **Educates**, raising awareness about global vaccine equity;
-  **Advocates**, ensuring U.S. government investment in global immunization programs;
-  **Partners**, supporting the global immunization work of the UN.



# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC ADVANCEMENT PLANS

### COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

JENNIFER NOWAK CHAIRMAN

The shining accomplishment was the introduction of the new General Federation of Women's Club emblem, including updated emblems for all states and regions. The GFWC Emblem Use & Corporate Colors brochure was introduced, and the GFWC Style Guide was updated. A CPR Toolkit was created. This Chairman worked with the GFWC Leadership and Membership Chairmen to create the GFWC National Project - GFWC Friendsgiving, which membership embraced. This trio of Chairmen worked diligently on the Facebook Programs and Advancement Area Forum with daily posts and bi-monthly video presentations. Teach it Tuesday featured videos focusing on Leadership, Membership and CPR areas. Presentations on Thumbs Up Thursday were topics pertinent to GFWC Clubwomen from GFWC Chairmen or GFWC Staff. This committee planned workshops for the GFWC Conventions, Region conferences, and submitted monthly articles for News and Notes weekly publication. My deepest gratitude is extended for dedicated work by the CPR committee members.

### LEADERSHIP

SUSAN GETTYS, CHAIRMAN

The GFWC Leadership Committee was proud to provide leadership resources during this administration. A new section in the Leadership Toolkit provided ready-made PowerPoint presentations and scripts for use in state LEADS programs. Bi-monthly newsletters were distributed, encouraging members to read leadership books and promote leadership activities. Convention workshops were held promoting the Leadership Toolkit in 2022 and encouraging strategic planning in 2023. LEADS training was provided in 2023 and 2024 with break-out sessions tailored to individual's leadership skills. Working closely with Membership and Communication/Public Relations Committee Chairmen, the GFWC National Event - Friendsgiving was launched in the fall of 2022. Clubs were encouraged to hold events to build the GFWC brand throughout their communities. These three chairmen organized monthly Teach It Tuesday and Thumbs Up Thursday seminars through the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum private Facebook group. Clubs reported 9,960 projects, 892,184 volunteer hours, and spent \$1,235,237 on leadership activities.

### LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

JULIET CASPER, CHAIRMAN

Together We Advocate for Those in Need. Recognizing that advocacy for most people is not a comfortable activity, this committee spearheaded a seven-part, interactive webinar series, The Power of You. Speakers included members of the legislation/public policy committee, head-quarters staff, legislative consultant Debby Bryant, representatives from six affiliates, and club members. Each session lasted less than an hour and was recorded.

Building upon the popular webinar series, the Legislative/Public Policy workshop at the annual convention was entitled "The Power of Us: Club Advocacy". "And the Survey Says...Advocacy!" was the theme for the workshop presented by each committee member at their respective region conference. The club connection initiative was a Scavenger Hunt.

The Legislative Action Center was activated 15 times for federal legislation. For the first time, LAC was used to advocate for state bills, a goal for this committee. There were 6,563 members registered for the Legislative Action Center.

### MEMBERSHIP

NANCY AMES, CHAIRMAN

The GFWC "Sparkle and Shine" Recruitment Campaign was well received, as clubs reported a total of 9,804 projects, 354,195 volunteer hours, and \$785,027.93 dollars promoting membership this past year. The GFWC Membership Committee's focus was not only increasing club membership, but more so, the retention of members, which included the critical elements of successful teamwork - trust, communication, effective leadership, and inclusiveness. Quarterly newsletters were distributed, workshops at both GFWC Conventions and Region Conferences, and monthly *News & Notes* articles were provided from the committee members. In collaboration with Leadership and Communications and Public Relations chairmen, the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook provided monthly Teach it Tuesdays and Thumbs up Thursdays and daily posts of encouragement for all members who joined the private site, along with creation of GFWC National Event - Friendsgiving, and the GFWC National Day of Service - focusing on food insecurities.





# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC ADVANCEMENT PLANS

### WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

CELENE POST, CHAIRMAN

GFWC clubs participated in diverse projects supporting the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center during the 2022-2024 administration. With dedication, enthusiasm and their own "Sparkle and Shine," clubwomen developed programs to **Preserve** club histories, **Promote** current activities and **Inspire** clubwomen for the future. The WHRC Committee, on two occasions, met at headquarters to work with Joanna Church, WHRC Librarian. The committee compiled up to date lists of previous CIP and Jennie Award winners. They examined the rare book collection, making notes on the condition of the pages and bindings, then wrapping the books in special paper for preservation. The members looked at the collection of the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazines*, to see if any issues were missing. Looking ahead to 2024, the committee discussed ways to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the WHRC beginning in May of 2024. A new WHRC tote bag was introduced at the 2023 GFWC International Convention and was an immediate sellout! Serving on the committee were Carla Pyle, Delaware and Mary Kaye Ernest, Wisconsin.

## GFWC STANDING COMMITTEES

### ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

SHELLI FEHR, CHAIRMAN

"Honor the Legacy, Inspire the Future" is the tagline developed for the GFWC Annual Giving Program. This was established in July 2022 to encourage monthly/yearly donations to support the scope of work of GFWC and as a means of consolidating donor contributions to all GFWC funds in an easily tracked method.

A single donation form was designed to incorporate all GFWC restricted and unrestricted funds, including GFWC Annual Fund (unrestricted), Jane Cunningham Croly Gravesite, Headquarters Marquee/Iron Work (July 2022–December 2023), Headquarters Façade Restoration and Beautification Project (January 2024–June 2024), Library Disaster Relief, Signature Program: Success for Survivors Scholarship, Friends of WHRC, 1734 Society, Programs, and Endowment. Donors used this form to make contributions to any of these funds thereby simplifying the donation process. All donor contributions are cumulatively documented and tracked so that when milestone donation amounts are reached, donors will be recognized in an appreciative manner.

### BYLAWS

BARBARA WHITAKER, CHAIRMAN

The 2022-2024 GFWC Bylaws Committee consisted of Trina Behbahani, Arlene Creeden, Tammie McCoy, Deen Meloro, PRP, and Barbara Whitaker, PRP, Chairman, with Diane Addante, RP, GFWC Parliamentarian, as Advisor.

The committee reviewed and presented for adoption amendments to the GFWC Bylaws and Standing Rules that provided for equality, inclusion, and clarity. This included updates to the election process, resolution review timeline (as recommended by the Resolutions Committee), officer duties, inclusion of the DC Federation, and special meeting rules. With the assistance of WHRC Librarian Joanna Church, GFWC Past President Juanita Bryant, and Deb Bryant, GFWC Legislative Consultant, the Charter document was updated.

The committee submitted articles for News and Notes, newsletters to state chairmen, and articles for *The Clubwoman Magazine*. They also worked with states and clubs on issues related to bylaws and issues.



# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## GFWC STANDING COMMITTEES

### ELECTIONS

CAROL HABGOOD, CHAIRMAN

The Elections Committee members are Carol Habgood, chairman, and members Jane Carver, Dr. Dana Clark, Anne Engelhardt, and Shelby Holland. The Declaration of Candidate for Office forms were received from each candidate with proper documentation from their states as required. All candidates, with their state presidents and directors of junior clubs as appropriate were invited to attend the candidates' meeting prior to the GFWC Board of Directors Meeting in Denver on September 8, 2023. Also attending were the GFWC International President, Director of Junior Clubs, Parliamentarian, and members of the Elections Committee. Rules for candidates were reviewed with copies provided to all attendees. The President-elect's installation plans were reviewed by the Alabama state president. After the meeting, the candidates were presented to the Board of Directors. Articles were prepared for *News & Notes* reviewing the process for endorsing candidates for office and requesting questions for candidates for a contested office.

### INTERNATIONAL LIAISONS

KATHRYN SOWERS, CHAIRMAN

Thanks to a very innovative committee and COVID last administration, this Committee continues the wonderful opportunity to get to know the International Club members personally through Zoom. We meet with them every other month, based on their time zone, holding one meeting at 8am Eastern US time and the other at 8pm Eastern US time. They have had the opportunity to tour the renovated GFWC headquarters led by our GFWC President, Deb Strahanoski. Other members of the Executive Committee joining us on our zoom calls this year were Suellen Brazil, President-elect; Wendy Carriker, 1st Vice President; Jolie Frankfurth, 2nd Vice President; Katie Moydell, Director of Junior Clubs; and Becky Wright, Treasurer. The GFWC Executive Committee has agreed to allow our International Clubs access to the Member Portal and we continue working with the members to learn its login process. Melanie Gisler, GFWC Membership Director, attends our Zoom meetings and assists with questions regarding the Member Portal and other GFWC related items.



**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).





# 2022-2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

## AWARDS AND CONTESTS

### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BETH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

This chairman attended all required conventions and board meetings. She presented at two Board of Directors meetings using entertaining and memorable themes – Bob the Builder and Golf.

The Community Impact Program (CIP) award entry included the Community Special Programs' Community Connection Initiative (CCI) with over half of the entries utilizing the CCI for their CIP project. Clubs submitted the following CCI related projects – Arts & Culture (1), Civic Engagement (6), Education & Libraries (1), Environment (5), Junior Special Program (3), Signature Program – Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention (2).

This chairman read all thirty-six (36) award entries and was so impressed with the winning projects that she created a two-page (front back) summary to share with club members.

This chairman submitted articles for *Clubwoman Magazine* and *News & Notes* in addition to a Facebook Live for Thumbs Up Thursday.

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

KAREN KALER BRUCE, CHAIRMAN

This Chairman rewrote the descriptions for some contest categories to make them easier to understand. This Chairman worked with GFWC Headquarters to ensure that the Creative Arts Waiver form was easier to find in the Club Manual by attaching it to the Photography Contest pages.

At the 2022 GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, this Chairman worked with the Writing Contest Chairman, Donna Shibley, to create a fun, interactive presentation on the Photography and Writing Contest entry, rules, categories, and prizes. She also presented the Photography Contest and in-depth information at the 2023 GFWC Board of Directors Meeting.

This Chairman worked with the GFWC Convention Photographer to answer any questions regarding technical Photography Contest questions. She also worked on a format for judging the Photography Contest entries. This Chairman traveled to GFWC Headquarters to assist with the Photography Contest judging in May of 2023 and 2024.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2022-2024 GFWC Photography Contest Chairman.

### JENNIE AWARD

THERESA RUDDER, CHAIRMAN

It has been an honor to serve as the Jennie Award Chairman for this administration. Since receiving this appointment, this chairman updated the Jennie Award Section of the 2022-2024 Club Manual, wrote articles for the *News & Notes*, made a presentation on Thumbs Up Thursday, gave a updated Jennie Award presentation at the Board of Directors Meeting Westminster, Colorado, kept in contact through emails with Region Presidents, Region Jennie Award Chairman and State Presidents with clarification of rules and submission dates. This chairman assisted in the judging process held in Washington, D.C. and worked closely with staff to assure the process went smoothly. The judges chose eight women to receive the highest honor bestowed upon individuals in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. These extraordinary women will be honored at the International Convention in Chicago. Jane Cunningham Croly has left a great legacy that is still being honored today.

### WRITING CONTEST

DONNA M. SHIBLEY, CHAIRMAN

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the GFWC Writing Contest Chairman in the 2022-2024 Administration. This Chairman presented GFWC Writing Contest information (with a big pencil prop) at all GFWC Board of Directors Meetings and an abridged version at New England Region Conferences.

This Chairman wrote fifteen articles featured on GFWC Facebook, GFWC *News & Notes*, GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine*, and GFWC Advancement and Programs Facebook and presented a Thumbs Up Thursday.

The Creativity Arts Waiver was updated with assistance from Photography Chairman, Karen Kaler and approval of Executive Committee.

This Chairman received 274 total entries from an average of 28 states, with 87 member entries and 187 Youth entries. Certificates were awarded at the Annual Conventions, along with an honorary mention certificate to Clubwoman Poetry and Short Story winners. Writing Contest winners were published after each Annual Convention.

This Chairman hoped she encouraged clubwomen and youth budding writers to get their poetry and short stories on paper.

*Reports published as submitted by April 15, 2024*



# GFWC

est. 1890

GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

## 2024 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

FOOD INSECURITY & HUNGER



GFWC Grundy Woman's Club  
Virginia

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



GFWC Aruba Woman's Club

WILL YOU JOIN  
US TO END FOOD  
INSECURITY &  
HUNGER?



GFWC Wood River Woman's Club  
Illinois

Register today at  
[memberportal.gfwc.org/event](https://memberportal.gfwc.org/event)



GFWC New Era Study Club  
Missouri