



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

[Unsubscribe](#)

May 16, 2025

GFWC: Personal and Leadership Development



2025 GFWC Annual Convention:
Spinning Vision into Reality, June 6-9

[Visit Convention Page](#)

Welcome First-Time Attendees to the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention!

By: Kim Sekulow, GFWC Meetings and Convention Chairman

Congratulations on attending your first General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Annual Convention, taking place this June in vibrant Atlanta! This is an exciting step in your journey with GFWC, and you're about to experience the energy, passion, and purpose that makes our federation so impactful.

As a first-time attendee, you'll find the convention to be both inspiring and informative. Expect a packed agenda filled with dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, and opportunities to connect with fellow club members from across the country and abroad. Be ready to celebrate the incredible work GFWC members do year-round and leave empowered with fresh ideas to share with your own club and state.

To make the most of your experience, come prepared. Pack comfortable shoes, a sweater or jacket for meeting rooms, a notebook, business cards if you have them, and your GFWC enthusiasm! Attend the first-time attendee welcome and

orientation on Friday at 4:30 p.m.—it's a great way to get your bearings. Don't be shy—introduce yourself, ask questions, and get involved in conversations. Fully engage in the experience by stepping out of your comfort zone! Networking is a huge part of what makes this event so rewarding.

Take time to explore the exhibit hall, attend the workshops aligned with your interests, and participate in the various social events. Whether you're learning about advocacy, service projects, membership, or leadership, you'll gain valuable knowledge and inspiration.

By the end of the convention, you'll walk away with new friendships, a deeper understanding of GFWC's mission, and renewed motivation to make a difference in your community. Enjoy every moment—this is just the beginning of an unforgettable GFWC journey!



Pictured: First Time Attendees at the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago.



New at Convention

We Bid You Welcome

GFWC Clubhouses and the Community

This exhibit uses the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center's (WHRC) clubhouse photograph collection to tell stories of resilience, volunteerism, and community pride as expressed through beloved clubhouses past and present. Learn about the ways GFWC clubs have developed to fundraise for a clubhouse, for their own benefit and for their community; the many uses a clubhouse can be put toward; and how communities have given back.

Calling all Juniors & Juniorettes!

GFWC Junior Club Leadership Certification

20
25



WEBINAR SCHEDULE



GFWC Resources & Overview, Legislation

19 May 8 pm ET

16 June 8 pm	Personal Development Part 1 Leadership Development, Part 1
21 July 8 pm	Team Development Effective Meetings
18 Aug 8 pm	Personal Development Part 2 Leadership Development, Part 2

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

This newly reinvigorated program is offered to Junior and Juniorette clubs to provide a pathway to leadership and personal development. Covering eight topics in its first year, the program will cover the foundation of building strong leaders.

Online registration is available on the GFWC Member Portal under "Events."

Register today, the first webinar is Monday, May 19!

Civic Engagement - National Voter Registration Efforts

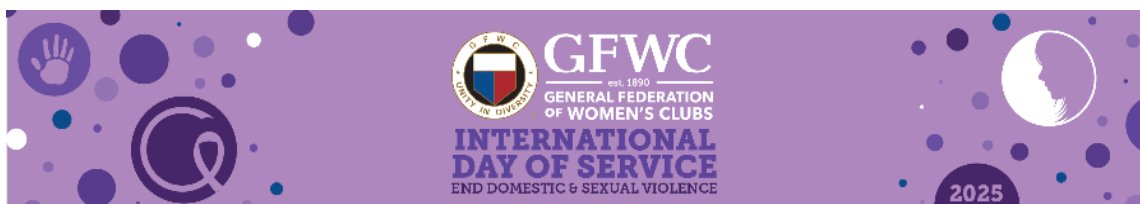
By: Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President

GFWC has a long and proud history of promoting civic responsibility, including support for women's suffrage and the integrity of free and fair elections. Many GFWC clubs continue this legacy by organizing voter registration drives, hosting bipartisan candidate forums, and volunteering at polling places during early voting and on election day. Clubwomen also serve their communities in public office and other forms of public service. Civic engagement remains a foundational pillar of our mission.

As our Nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the GFWC Executive Committee reaffirms its commitment to encouraging broad participation in the democratic process. We support efforts that ensure all eligible U.S. citizens can register and vote without undue obstacles, intimidation, or disenfranchisement.

Voting is a fundamental right in a democratic society. In keeping with GFWC Resolutions, we oppose policies or practices that may impede access to the ballot. For example, burdensome identification or documentation requirements can disproportionately affect certain populations. GFWC is particularly concerned about instances where a woman who has changed her name through marriage may face difficulty registering to vote due to mismatched documents. In such cases, a marriage certificate—already accepted for federal identification purposes such as REAL ID—should be considered sufficient to verify identity.

Ensuring fair and accessible voting opportunities should be a shared goal for all citizens, regardless of political affiliation. GFWC will continue to support initiatives that uphold the right to vote and strengthen civic engagement in every community.



Register for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service (GFWC IDS) on September 27

Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

According to the 2022 National Statistics, on average nearly 24 people per minute are physically abused in the U.S. by an intimate partner. The following are some project ideas for your club to undertake between September 21-27:

1. **Sign up with a local shelter and plan to assist survivors with hotline calls, helping to connect them to resources and a safety plan.**

Partner with a local shelter or crisis center to train volunteers as certified hotline responders. Work closely with the organization to understand their protocols, ensure confidentiality, and provide support to survivors by connecting them to resources, legal aid, or developing personalized safety plans.

2. **Bring gifts and/or a special meal for survivors to local shelters and agencies.**

Organize a "Comfort & Care" event, coordinating with shelter staff to provide thoughtful gifts (e.g., cozy blankets, journals, personal care items) and catered meals that meet dietary needs. Include handwritten cards of encouragement and ensure all donations respect cultural sensitivities and trauma-informed practices.

3. **Assist with and/or conduct a relaxation session at a shelter for survivors.**

Offer trauma-informed wellness sessions, such as gentle yoga, breathing exercises, or guided meditation, led by trained practitioners. Ensure the setting is safe, non-triggering, and optional for all participants, with shelter staff present.

4. **Watch children and bring crafts or games for them as moms get counseling and/or attend group sessions at the shelter or agency.**

Create a structured "Kids Connection" hour in collaboration with shelter staff, where volunteers lead trauma-sensitive activities like arts and crafts, reading circles, or sensory play. This allows mothers time for counseling while children receive consistent, nurturing care.

5. **Work with hospital staff and support survivors of DV and sexual assault that day. Bring journals, flowers, candy, and support for the women and men.**

Coordinate with hospital advocacy teams to provide "Crisis Comfort Kits" for survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Kits may include journals, soothing items (e.g., lip balm, socks, teas), and resource cards. Volunteers should not directly engage patients unless invited through hospital protocols and trained as advocates.

United to End Domestic & Sexual Violence!

** Please note due to the sensitive nature of your volunteer activities, when working directly with survivors, some organizations may require initial training to help prepare you.*

Register Today!

2025 GFWC International Day of Service Registrant List

To date, the total count by GFWC comes to:

GFWC State Federations = 19

GFWC Regions = 0

GFWC National Clubs = 2

GFWC International Affiliates = 1

Grand Total of Registrants = 462

To join the list visit the [GFWC Member Portal](#).

36 New Registrants as of May 15, 2025

INDIVIDUAL CLUBS

ARIZONA

GFWC AZ Las Noches Woman's Club
GFWC Huachuca Juniors
GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Women's Club

CALIFORNIA

GFWC Fallbrook Woman's Club
GFWC Laguna Niguel Woman's Club
GFWC Lakewood Women's Club
GFWC Oak View Women's Club
GFWC San Clemente Woman's Club

COLORADO

GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs

DELAWARE

GFWC Acorn Club of Seaford, Inc.

FLORIDA

GFWC Woman's Club Leesburg

MASSACHUSETTS

GFWC Norwood Junior Woman's Club

NEBRASKA

GFWC NFWC Horizon Woman's Club

NEW JERSEY

GFWC Bridgewater Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's Club of the Denville-Rockaway Area

NEW MEXICO

GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club

NORTH CAROLINA

GFWC Shallotte Juniors

SOUTH CAROLINA

GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society

TEXAS

GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club

GEORGIA

GFWC Athens-Oconee Junior Woman's Club
GFWC Augusta Woman's Club
GFWC Winder Woman's Club

ILLINOIS

GFWC Coal City Junior Woman's Club
Illinois GFWC Palos Heights Woman's Club
Illinois GFWC Polo Women's Club
Illinois GFWC Princeton Junior Woman's Club

IOWA

GFWC/Iowa Granger Women's Club

VIRGINIA

GFWC Western Fairfax County Women's Club
GFWC Woman's Club of Loudoun

WEST VIRGINIA

GFWC Marlinton Women's Club

This list shows registrants from the last week. For a full listing of all 462 participating clubs, please visit www.gfwc.org/ids



Blanket the World

by: Diane Hannah, GFWC Minnesota State President

At the GFWC Minnesota workshop at St. John's University in May 2024, I introduced my state president's theme for 2024-2026, "Our Children Are Our Future." My state project, "Blanket the World," was introduced.

The first blanket was tied and presented to speaker Patty Wetterling after telling her story, "Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope." She spoke about her struggles dealing with her son Jacob's kidnapping and the recovery of his remains 27 years later. The blanket was yellow, Jacob's favorite color, and was inscribed with "Jacob's Hope, Donated by GFWC MN." We aim to reach 1,000 blankets by May 2025.



Two pieces of fleece cut the same size, placed back-to-back, with a square removed from the corners, and one-inch strips cut on all sides. Strips are tied together all around the blanket. No sewing is required. It's a great way for members to have fun while working on a project that warms their hearts. The project ballooned with a grant from Thrivent for \$250 to buy supplies for the

project. Club members purchased yards of fleece and found a source for blanket kits. Clubs held workshops for tying blankets and have completed over 350 blankets. Donations were received from members and communities. Blankets have been donated to the Boys & Girls Club in Minnesota, Advocates for Family Peace, and the police.

This is not the end of the story. There are so many children to keep warm. We will continue to “Blanket the World!”



Keep Connected with your Graduating Seniors

By: Darlene C. Adams, Juniorette Chairman

High School graduations are right around the corner. Do you have Juniorette seniors about to graduate? Which brings up another question – do you have a plan to stay connected with them? Have you considered a way to retain their membership?

If you are not staying connected with your seniors, you are missing the opportunity to keep them in the federation. Here are some ideas you can implement:

- **Keep them in a club** - Juniorette Advisors or the Sponsor Club can hold a recruitment meeting with all graduating seniors. You can even go back to previous graduates and invite them as well. At the meeting, discuss how they can stay in the federation by starting a Cyber Club while in college or attending a technical school. Lay out the steps on how to start one and what is required to send to GFWC. They can hold their monthly meetings via Zoom. When they come back home during the holidays or summer, they can put together a service project for their community.
- **Keep them engaged** - Utilize your seniors as speakers throughout the next administration. Invite them to come and speak to the Juniorette members about college and how belonging to their Juniorette club has prepared them for this next phase of their life. If you hold Summer or Fall workshops, invite them to assist in hosting.
- **Keep them encouraged** - Stay connected with your seniors by sending them cards of cheer and encouragement. The club can send fun care packages to them as well.



Eradicate Polio with Shot@Life

In partnership with Shot@Life, we have an urgent opportunity to ask our Senators to sign on to a “Dear Colleague” letter for fiscal year 2026 that calls on Congress to fully fund polio eradication activities. Sign the petition [here](#).

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Oregon City Woman’s Club (Oregon)



The **GFWC Oregon City Woman’s Club** holds an annual fundraiser that doubles as a way to honor Mother’s Day: a hanging basket sale. Members organize the sale and delivery of these beautiful baskets just in time for those who need a gift for mom; funds raised go towards the club’s many community outreach and improvement efforts.

Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of News & Notes?

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words
describing your club's favorite project to PR@GFWC.org.
Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!



GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036
www.GFWC.org

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)