



GFWC MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION TOPICS

A Newsletter for Clubwomen



GFWC MA is a proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

2023 Summer Issue

2023 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION



Darlene Coutu, Editor
topics@gfwcma.org

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The **2023 GFWC Convention** had eleven Massachusetts delegates attending, including President T Jablanski and Director of Junior Clubs Marisa Jablanski.

Friday during the day the Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) new leader training was held. Massachusetts representative Terry Rouvalis, Braintree Women's Club member, is now a LEADS graduate. The GFWC Board of Directors committees met during the day and enjoyed lunch together. Day festivities included tour 2 to the "Call to Post" Kentucky State Night Banquet and the First Time attendees welcome and orientation. The evening began for Massachusetts attendees with a reception by State President T Jablanski, then the Mint Julep Social Gathering and finally with GFWC Kentucky "Call to the Post" State Night Banquet. Fascinators and derby hats were prominent.

Story continued on page 28

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT, T JABLANSKI



It has been a very active spring for the federation and this president. I have so enjoyed my visits to several clubs. I find myself thinking while seated at your meetings, how blessed the communities are to have such selfless, thoughtful, and dedicated individuals, caring and supporting their townspeople. Your club can rest well knowing that because you do the work of federation that you're making your town/city a better, kinder place to live. You **know your worth** and it shows.

Mother Nature showed her worth on our first **Open House/Spring Reveal on Earth Day**. It was a beautiful day. We had neighbors, guests and members touring, sharing, and learning about our beautiful headquarters, history, and property. Many thanks to our caretaker **Canon Gloyd** and Memorial Forest / Headquarters Chairman **Diane Erickson** for the preparation and planning of this program. We

are excited to share in next year's Earth Day Celebration. Mark your calendar and join us!

The "Legacy of Leadership" **Annual Convention** was full of laughter (the jokes just kept coming), accolades, awards and only a few groans that made for a wonderfully successful convention at the Natick Marriott. We shook things up a bit with the seating and it proved to be a welcome change. Great idea from the Director of Junior Clubs, **Marisa Jablanski**. Change is good! Thank you to the officers, board members and members for your awesome support. Congratulations to all the clubs and members who received awards. Your dedication, leadership and commitment are to be commended. Your community and members are so fortunate to have you and I value your support and generosity. Thanks for being YOU!

If you weren't there, you missed a good one! **Federation Day at the Forest** with **Ken Warchol**, Worcester County Bee Inspector, was jammed packed with everything you ever wanted to know about bees. His passion and expertise just filled the room. Did you know that you shouldn't cook with **honey**? Cooking **honey** lowers its quality, and it loses essential enzymes and nutrients. That includes putting in our hot drinks. Did you know that the Worcester County Beekeepers Association is the oldest county beekeeping in the United States? Well, you do now. Ken's research with Harvard and the USDA is working diligently to protect our bees and so should we. It was a terrific federation day program.

Here's another terrific program. "**An Auction Worthy of You**". I am so excited about our upcoming Fall Meeting in Sturbridge and cannot wait to see all the talent and creativity for this auction/raffle from our clubs and members. More details about how to donate can be found on our website www.gfwcma.org. The monies raised will be awarded in mental health grants to clubs at our January Mid-Winter meeting.

The work continues with our CPA, and the IRS on your club's tax-exempt statuses. I thank you for your support and patience during this process.

And lastly, please be sure to read about the **GFWC National Day of Service** page found in this issue of TOPICS.

I wish you all a safe, relaxing, restful, and rewarding summer. See you Sturbridge!

Peace,



KNOW YOUR WORTH

FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP, MARISA JABLANSKI



What an amazing weekend we had at Annual Convention in Natick! Thank you to all who showed up and were present as we Stood Tall and Proud to celebrate our club accomplishments! I would like to thank all club women who helped contribute to making the weekend a success, no matter how small that contribution was. Congratulations to all clubs and clubwomen who won awards, but the biggest winner of all are our communities, thanks to the many efforts you all put in to improve them day after day.



I know many of you in attendance at Annual Convention were inspired by our guest, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Moydell. I thought I would share a bit more about her ideas for her administration, from her welcome letter, to encourage each of you:

“The guiding concept for the Junior Administration will be to “Share your Sparkle”. We know all the great things our members do- we need to share them with the world!”

Service- Give back to Others!

Passion- Find what you love!

Advocacy- Speak up for those who can't!

Representation- Vote & Join the Legislative Center!

Kudos- Brag on your members, club, state, and GFWC!

Leadership- Develop members at the club level!

Excitement- Tell your friends, family, and community what all GFWC is about!

When you “Share Your Sparkle,” your passion, drive, and dedication shine to all. Let’s use the best tool we have of all to promote GFWC — “OUR MEMBERS!”

I know as we head into the summer months, typically a time where our GFWC work slows down, our clubs sometimes take a needed break. During that break, as you start planning for fall, keep an eye out for information regarding Junior Jumpstart, to be held again this September.

Also this fall, will be GFWC’s first National Day of Service, on September 30th. This day is a day for all GFWC clubs, worldwide, to come together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. For its first year, GFWC would like clubs to focus on addressing food insecurity in the United States. Once your club has decided to participate (which I hope you will!), you’ll need to register with GFWC. More information can be found here: <https://www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/gfwc-nds/faqs/> I look forward to hearing what your clubs have planned.

As always, I want to visit your clubs! Please consider inviting me to a club meeting, event, or fundraiser that you have coming up. And just saying...the *In It to Win It* games from Junior Fun Night travel well, I’d be happy to bring them along with me!



FROM THE DESK OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, JEN NOWAK

Planning for 2024-2026 ~ How can YOU Help!

GFWC Massachusetts needs YOU! Now is the time to think about how you can move up into state leadership. Many opportunities are available for you to choose from. The time commitment has been streamlined, realizing the busy lives our clubwomen lead. Our goal is for you to be an active member at the grassroots level, making a difference in your communities while continuing to grow with a state leadership role. You'll get to meet likeminded women beyond your immediate community, follow the impact of our state's volunteer efforts, and work with organizations that realize GFWC volunteers DO make a difference.

What do you need to do to become a GFWC Massachusetts Board of Directors Member or GFWC Massachusetts State Officer? To be a Board of Director Chairman or committee member, all you need to do is fill out the Interest Survey form that is included below and return it no later than 12/1/2023.

Should you decide, you would like to become a GFWC Massachusetts state officer, there are a few additional steps that are simple and easy. The Bylaws [GFWCMA.org website under the Women's Club tab – Governing documents] Article XI—Nominations and Elections Section 2A lists the steps needed to be a prospective nominee. The State Officer Qualifications-Resume Form is included on page 27. **The deadline for the nomination is October 1, 2023.**

Junior Membership is yet another opportunity to demonstrate your leadership skills. GFWC MA Junior Membership State Officers and Junior Executive Board are looking for enthusiastic and creative women to join the group. Beth McKeon, GFWC MA Assistant Director, will be looking to fill the Junior Executive Board and Katie Robey, GFWC MA Director 2020-2022 and Junior Membership Nominating Chairman, will be filling Junior Officer Positions. Per the Bylaws, the State Officer application process is the same for Junior Membership, with the same deadline of October 1, 2023. Reach out to one of these clubwomen to have your Junior Membership questions answered and they can help you apply.

Martha Casassa can answer your questions about becoming a GFWC Massachusetts State Officer. Jen Nowak can help you with questions about being a Board of Directors member. Thank you for considering sharing your time to serve with GFWC Massachusetts/GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership for the 2024-2026 administration.

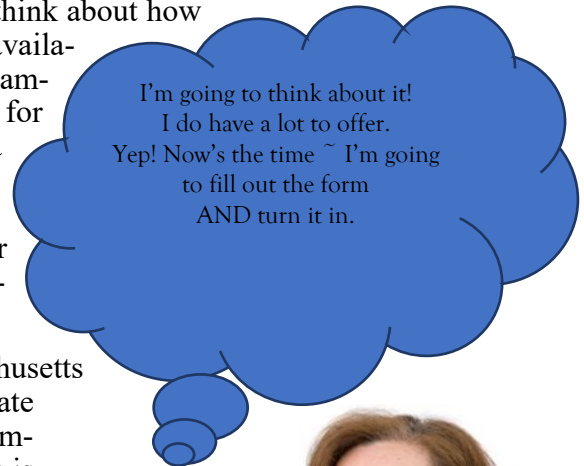
Forms are available on pages 24—27 and at www.gfwcma.org

Martha Casassa, GFWC MA Nominating Chairman – labmom416@gmail.com

Jen Nowak, GFWC MA 1st Vice President – jwnowak@charter.net

Katie Robey, GFWC MA Junior Membership Nominating Chairman – kdrobey@robeybaur.org

Beth McKeon, GFWC MA Junior Membership Assistant Director – elizabeth.mccurley@gmail.com



You can make a Difference . . .

GFWC MA Annual Convention



Katie Moydell
GFWC Director of Junior Clubs



GFWC MA Annual Convention Legacy of Leadership



Sheila Shea
GFWC President 2016-2018
GFWCMA President 2002-2004
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
1994-1996



Lorraine Gorham
GFWCMA President 2006-2008



Lynne Stader
GFWCMA President 2017-2020
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2004-2006

T Jablanski
GFWCMA President 2022-2024
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2010-2012



Martha Michalewicz
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
1986-1988



Katie Robey
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2020-2022



Martha Casassa
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2018-2020

GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention Legacy of Leadership



Shirley Gomes
GFWCMA President 1998-2000
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
1978-1980



Donna Shibley
GFWCMA President 2020-2022
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2008-2010



Mary Ann Pierce
GFWCMA President 2012-2014
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2006-2008



Marilyn Perry
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
1976-1978



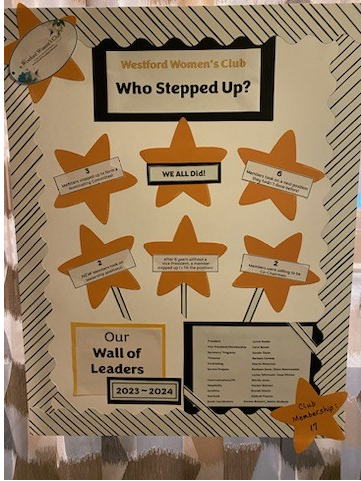
Jen Nowak
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2018-2020



Diane Murphy
GFWCMA Director of Junior Clubs
2012-2014



GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention Wall of Leaders Contest



Westford Women's Club



GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club



The Holly Club of Wrentham



GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club



GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club



Marlborough Junior Woman's Club



Woman's Club of Newton Highlands



GFWC Massachusetts Awards
Presented at the GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention
May 6, 2023



SPECIAL PROGRAM, COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM AND ADVANCEMENT PLAN AWARDS:

Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children

Marisa Jablanski, Chairman for Junior Membership

- Special Recognition: GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club ~ James Joyce Ramble
- Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ Foster Care Party
- Creativity Award: Junior Woman's Club of Walpole ~ Diaper Drive

Katie Robey, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Dennis-Yarmouth Woman's Club ~ Donation to a Baby Center, a non-profit organization in Hyannis, MA that provides supplemental critical basic need to ensure good health and safety to babies in need on Cape Cod and the Islands.
- Lunenburg Woman's Club ~ Held a baby shower in collaboration with CareNet, an organization that assists young parents in the community.

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

Shannon Butler, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ Domestic Violence Community Resources
- Special Recognition: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club ~ Taunton Diversity Network
- Creativity Award: GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club – Hot Chocolate Run Donations for Safe Passage

Mary Ann Pierce, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Dennis-Yarmouth Woman's Club ~ Collaborated with Safe Harbor to provide assistance to a Domestic Violence shelter by fulfilling victims' family wish list with gifts and monetary donations for the holidays.
- Braintree Women's Club ~ Collaborated with the Braintree Alliance for Safe and Healthy Youth, part of a Braintree Public Schools group by gifts to provide donations of basic needs to victims of Domestic Violence in their community.

Arts and Culture

Nikki Smith, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club ~ Snowman Contest
- Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Dip and Sip Craft Night Creativity Award: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club ~ Creating Towel Elephants

Bernadette Bennett, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Ousamequin Club ~ the club was awarded three grants by the Massachusetts Cultural Council whereby they held several programs celebrating various arts and cultural art forms.

Awards continued

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Beth McKeon, Dean of Chairman for Junior Membership

- Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club ~ Warm Hands, Warm Hearts
- Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club – Hospital Community Closet
- Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ Valentines for Vets

Ann Marie Bielenin, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Hopkinton Women's Club ~ Sponsored candidates Night before local town elections
- Millbury Woman's Club, Inc. ~ For their various efforts in supporting veterans in their community
- The Holly Club of Wrentham ~ Sponsored a dinner for First Responders in their town, whereby 21 policemen, firefighters and veterans attended

Education and Libraries

Beth McKeon, Dean of Chairman for Junior Membership

- Special Recognition: Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors ~ Spring Tea for Library Volunteers Special Recognition: GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club ~ ESL Book Donations
- Creativity Award: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club ~ Meet the Authors' Tea

Terry Rouvalis, GFWC Massachusetts Dean of Chairmen

- Woman's Club of Newton Highlands ~ Reviewed over 60 scholarship applications for \$4000 which was awarded to female students in the two Community High Schools.

Environment

Beth McKeon, Dean of Chairman for Junior Membership

- Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Princess Boutique: Textile Recycled Good Event
- Special Recognition: GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club ~ Club Town-wide Collections
- Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ Curbside Composting Grants

Mary Barnes, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Bourne Women's Club ~ decorated a tabletop Christmas tree with a Cape Cod Marine Life theme and auctioned it off with the proceeds donated to the National Marine life Center
- Westborough Women's Club ~ Members assisted in the packing of produce grown by the Brigham Hill Community Harvest Project for shipment to the Worcester County Food Bank

Health and Wellness

Beth McKeon, Dean of Chairman for Junior Membership

- Special Recognition: Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors ~ Supporting Bethesda House
- Special Recognition: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club ~ Filled Gym Bags for Emergency Room Needy
- Creativity Award: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club ~ Pups and Cups

Awards continued

Penny Olson, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Ousamequin Club ~ Started a Walking Club and joined Bridgewater State University in their Get Out in Nature Challenge. They are now walking 3-4 miles per week improving their physical and mental health
- Bourne Women's Club ~ Renovated and refurnished a doll house and auctioned it off, donating the proceeds to Habitat for Humanity.

Communications and Public Relations

Brenda Geary, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club ~ Spring Festival Publicity
- Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Who's Who Wednesdays
- Creativity Award: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club ~ Publication of the Club Yearbook

Donna Shibley, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Ousamequin Club - The club used various methods of the media and participation in events in town organizations to publicize the club.

Fundraising

Mary Ann Pierce, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club – Back to Business Spring Festival
- Special Recognition: Junior Woman's Club of Walpole ~ Festival of Trees
- Creativity Award: Needham Women's Club ~ Holiday House Tour

Mary Ann Pierce, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Hopkinton Women's Club ~ Produced and provided a community phone directory for all residents in Hopkinton and raised over \$7,000
- Braintree Women's Club ~ Designed a Community Christmas Ornament which they then sold at various Christmas craft shows during the holiday season profiting \$2500

Leadership

Beth McKeon, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ Mentors and Supportive Transitions
- Special Recognition: Junior Women's Club of Walpole ~ End of the Year Recognition Dinner
- Creativity Award: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Non-Profit Neighbor Night

Alicia Sheridan, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club ~ Conducted a Build a Snowman project at last year's Midwinter Meeting that fostered leadership skills while having fun building a snowman.

Awards continued

Legislation/Public Policy

Beth McKeon ~ Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club ~ Put a Stop to Bullying
- Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club ~ GFWC Legislative Action Center
- Creativity Award: GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors ~ Promoting Awareness of GFWC's Legislative Priorities

no women's club entries

Membership

Theresa Frias, Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club ~ Club Swag
- Special recognition: Westford Women's Club ~ Fall Membership Initiatives with Return to In-Person Meetings
- Creativity Award: GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club ~ New and Improve Membership Brochure

Elaine Brickman, GFWC Massachusetts Chairman

- Bourne Women's Club ~ To bolster their membership after the pandemic, the club held a picnic on the grounds of the Aptucxet Museum Complex in Bourne and gained 6 new members.

Women's History and Resource Center

Beth McKeon ~ Junior Membership Chairman

- Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Women's History Month Book Donation to Libraries
- Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club ~ Black Women in History Creativity Award: GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors ~ Monthly Talks on Important Women

Terry Rouvalis, Dean of Chairmen Massachusetts

- Ousamequin Club ~ Sponsored Sheryl Faye from Women in History who performed as Sally Ride, depicting her journey from girl hood to becoming the first female astronaut.

CONTESTS

Photography

Our World Up Close ~ Kamila O'Neill, GFWC Agawam Junior Woman's Club (Sunflower Tenant)

Natural Wonders ~ Shannon Butler, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club (Icy Waterfall)

Reflections ~ Shannon Butler, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club (Underwater Trees)

Living the Volunteer Spirit ~ Kamila O'Neill ~ GFWC Agawam Junior Woman's Club (Happy Distribution of Food)

Awards continued

Writing Contest

Poetry ~ Lynne Stader, GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club ~ “Oh Brother!”

Short Story ~ Nancy Paslaski, Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club ~ “Antenna for Reception”

STATE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

Marilyn Perry Leadership Award

Beth McKeon, Junior Membership Leadership Chairman

The winner is: Mary Kemp, GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club

Martha Michalewicz Clubwoman of the Year Award

Theresa Frias Junior Membership Membership Chairman

The winner is: Sue Savage, GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club

GFWC Massachusetts Clubwoman of the Year

Elaine Brickman, GFWC Massachusetts Membership Chairman

This award is based on a Nomination essay submitted by a club.

The winner is: Terry Savage, Woman’s Club of Newton Highlands

Sheila E. Shea Junior Club President Award

Marisa Jablanski, Director of Junior Clubs

The winner is: Sandy Krafsig, GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club

STATE OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Presented by Beth McKeon, Assistant Director

Barbara S. Baker Tray ~ GFWC Dedham Junior Women’s Club

Division II (6-30 members) ~ Small Bowl ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman’s Club

Division I (31+ members) ~ Small Bowl ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club

P & A ~ Large Bowl ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman’s Club

Presented by Jen Nowak, 1st Vice President

2022 Club Performance Award Bowls

- GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club ~ Mary Ann Pierce, President
- Millbury Woman’s Club ~ Diane Erickson, President
- Woman’s Club of Newton Highlands ~ Bernadette Bennett, President

Awards continued

Congratulations to ALL the Winners!

Awards are based on club reports that are sent to *GFWC* Massachusetts and to Junior Membership. We **NEED** to hear about the wonderful projects and programs that your club does for your community and beyond in order to put that information into the State statistics and Award entry forms that get sent to *GFWC* National. If we don't know what you did, we cannot brag about our state work.

Each year, **GFWC Massachusetts** calculates the total amount of projects, volunteer hours, and both in-kind and dollars donated for the work of its Massachusetts clubs. The **GFWC Annual Program Statistics Report** is based on the two special programs, five community service programs, and the advancement plans that were active in the 2022 calendar year.

Number of Projects: 1094

Volunteer Hours: 43,476

Dollars Donated: \$379,266.00

In-Kind Donations: \$108,192.00

Money Raised: \$161,109.00

Just imagine if EVERY Massachusetts club reported what our numbers would be ♥



Board of Directors Meeting May 20, 2023



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Donna Shibley, Chairman

As the GFWC MA **Communications and Public Relations** Chairman, I am inviting you to make sure you are staying connecting with GFWC and GFWC Massachusetts. There are many ways in which you can do this.

Join GFWC in the Member Portal

So much information at your fingertips

<https://gfwc.users.membersuite.com/home>

Like and Save as a Favorite the GFWC MA Facebook page

You will find daily postings of interest to Massachusetts clubwoman

<https://www.facebook.com/GFWCMA>

Join the GFWC Advancements and Programs Facebook Forum

Loads of pertinent information

you will be asked to answer a few simple questions about your GFWC Affiliation (name of club, state) before you are accepted to join

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/892214227854217>

Visit the GFWC MA website

Everything you need and more about GFWC, GFWC MA and how to run a successful club

www.gfwcma.org

WEBSITE:

Please send any club happenings to dmsibley@gmail.com for addition to the state website. We are always looking to help YOU publicize your club event, programs, and projects. We can even feature your event on our GFWC MA Facebook page. Send a flier to me and I can do the rest.

HELP needed?

Do you need help in learning how to navigate the state website? Please feel free to reach out to me and I will set up time to help you. There is **so** much information there that you can access with just a click. Social media is the way to communicate in 2023. Do you need help in getting your club's name out on Facebook? Do you need help setting up your club event on Facebook? Please reach out and I will be happy to assist you.

Be sure to download the updated GFWC MA Bylaws and Resolutions at www.gfwcma.org

Happy Anniversary

90 Years! GFWC Randolph Junior Woman's Club

100 Years! Lunenburg Woman's Club

110 Years! GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club



Attention:

GFWC Massachusetts Club Leaders:

Mark your calendar for Wednesday 8/23

Plan your picnic dinner and participate
with clubwomen from across the state.

CALLING ALL CLUB LEADERS, save the date August 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm, for *Dinner with the GFWC Massachusetts Leadership Team*. Preparations are in progress for a dynamic workshop that will benefit **all** club leaders. No driving to Sudbury this time, it will be a Zoom event to participate in, from the comfort of your own home, while enjoying food and drink of your choice!

A survey asking for topic choices was sent to club Presidents, and this is what you asked for:

- ✓ Report Writing tips using the recently updated report forms and suggestions for writing award winning entries.
- ✓ Get the most out of the communications tools available to you: websites, the Topics publication, and Facebook posts.
- ✓ Why State Meetings and New England Region Conference are valuable to you and your club members?
- ✓ Considering the recent IRS changes, what your club needs to know about filing your club taxes.
- ✓ GFWC and Massachusetts Contests overview ~ entries due in Spring of 2024.

Engaging presentations are being planned with the opportunity for attendees to share information or ask questions throughout the two-hour workshop. Our goal of this workshop is to empower YOU, as a club leader, with the material you need for a successful club year.



The *Leaders Day Workshop* Zoom link is posted on the GFWCMA.ORG website under the Events Tab, go to the calendar and click on 8/23/2023 Club Leaders Day and the link is posted. An email reminder will be sent with the link, also.

Consider hosting a watch party for your club leaders to attend as a group. GFWC Massachusetts Officers and Chairmen are looking forward to having dinner with YOU, our valued Leaders.

Terry Rouvalis
Dean of Chairmen
GFWC MA 2nd Vice President
Living the Volunteer Spirit

GFWC WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

Shirley Gomes, Chairman

Women's History and Resource Center

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. The WHRC documents the social and political contributions of GFWC clubwomen from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections, and publications. We also maintain a reference library collection focused on women's history, the woman's club movement, and the history of volunteerism.

WHRC Online Catalogs

The WHRC online catalogs provides access to much of our archival, artifact, photograph, and library collections, and are great places to begin your research.

For our **reference library**, including our state federation and local club history collection: use our [TinyCat Library catalog!](#)

As a non-circulating reference library we are not currently lending books off-site, but staff will be happy to help provide access to selected works to the fullest extent possible. Please note: This is an early version of the catalog, and we know that there's room for improvement! If you have questions or comments about a particular work, please click "Ask About This Item" to let us know, or reach out to us at whrc@gfwc.org.

For **photographs, objects, and archival material**: use our [PastPerfect Web Edition Public Access site!](#)

Tips for searching are available on the catalog home screen. Click a thumbnail image for a link to request an image; permission fees may apply.

To learn more about what we have, view the [Collections page](#). Visit the [Donating Items to WHRC](#) page if you have material you are interested in donating.

While our collections are broad, we are unable to maintain official records for State Federations or local clubs. Please contact the appropriate [State Federation](#) for assistance, or contact the WHRC for help in locating the material you need at WHRC@GFWC.org.

Please direct any questions to Shirley Gomes at 508-432-1431 or at Rickygomes@comcast.net

Everything's Coming Up Daisies

Tea Party

Join us for a Tea-rific Time!

August 6, 3023

1:00pm—3:00pm

Donation \$30

GFWC MA Headquarters

245 Dutton Rd

Sudbury, MA

Limited seating — please reserve early

For additional information, contact

Mary Ann Pierce at mapgfwc@msn.com

781-424-0286

Mail check payable to “GFWC MA” to

Katie Robey, Treasurer

97 Hudson St

Marlborough, MA 01752



General Federation of Women's Club Massachusetts T Jablanski, President



**President's Focus Area
Mental Health and Wellness**

An Auction/Raffle Worthy of You!

What can you make with  *pearls and petals*  or a combination of both?



Can you knit/crochet?
Embroider?
Make a flower arrangement?
Paint?



Create jewelry?
Create stationery?
Not crafty?
Store bought items are welcome, too!



Members are encouraged to start now to create & donate your entry to the **Auction/Raffle Worthy of YOU.**

Items will be collected at HQ in Sudbury and donated by **October 13**. These special items will be raffled and auctioned at the **Fall Meeting** October **29, 2023** @ the Publick House.

The proceeds will be used to fund GFWC Massachusetts **Mental Health and Wellness Grants**. We hope every club will have at least one item donated. All entries will be recognized. Time to get creating/shopping. We need your creativity and support.

Contact: Nancy nacoughlin@outlook.net or Mary kemphome1@gmail.com – President's Special Project Chairmen



Please fill out the form below and return with your item to HQ.

Name of donor _____

Phone/email _____

Club _____



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

T Jablanski, President



SAVERS FUNDrive™

Is your closet overcrowded? Are your drawers bulging? Is fall cleaning calling you? Are ready to channel your M. Kondo spirit?

GFWC Massachusetts is holding an All Soft Goods FUNDrive. This will benefit our nonprofit because SAVERS pays the most per lb which is the fastest and easiest way to reach our goal!

WHEN: anytime before Friday, October 20, 2023

DROP OFF: GFWC MA Headquarters, Sudbury

TIME: any Thursday. Please call our Headquarters @ 978-443-4569 prior to drop off



ACCEPTING: Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Towels
Accessories: Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Ties, Socks,
Purses, Wallets, Backpacks, Bags, Belts, and Jewelry



Support GFWC Massachusetts and feel great about donating items you no longer need or do not bring you joy!



**General Federation of Women's Clubs
New England Region**

Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts – New Hampshire – Rhode Island – Vermont

Libby Wiers, NER President

GFWC/CT, the Constitution State



Invites you to "The Greatest Show" in Connecticut



Let's Dream Big, Sparkle More and Shine Bright



at the

**114th GFWC New England Region Conference
September 21-24, 2023**



**Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT**


Hotel Rate: \$149

GFWC SPECIAL GUESTS – ENTERTAINMENT – SPEAKERS – RAFFLES – SHOPPING – FRIENDSHIP

The deadline for booking your hotel room is August 23, 2023

For reservations, call 1-888-236-2427 or <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1685543185857&key=GRP&app=resvlink>





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE INAUGURAL

 **National Day of Service**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit | www.GFWC.org | [#GFWC23NDS](https://twitter.com/GFWC23NDS)

Help Us to End Hunger in the United States By
Volunteering, Donating, or Organizing a Community Service Project

What is GFWC National Day of Service?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The **National Day of Service (NDS)** is a day in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs will participate by organizing Community Service Programs (CSP) in their communities as part of NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of GFWC.

How can you help solve food insecurity in the United States?

To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries – wherever people go for food – to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action.

Who should you invite to participate?

Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend(s) to join GFWC. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Ideas for NDS Activities:

- **Volunteer at a Local Food Bank**
- **Food Drives:** Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.
- **Raise Awareness About Hunger:** Reach out to your local media to introduce NDS and the cause being promoted. Ask the reporter to mention NDS and how people can participate and donate. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.
- **Advocate to End Food Insecurity:** Use GFWC's Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to the issue.

Continued from page 22

NDS Information & Updates:

Every week until September 30, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss food insecurity. Be sure to check out the weekly electronic newsletter, *GFWC News & Notes*; Facebook and Instagram; and website, www.GFWC.org. Stay tuned for additional resources, including a tool kit and a media kit.

Resources to Locate Your Local Food Bank & Food Service Programs:

Second Harvest – [food near me – Second Harvest \(2-harvest.org\)](http://foodnearme.org)

Feeding America – [Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America](http://FindYourLocalFoodBank.org)

Type “food banks (your state)” into your search engine

Find churches with food banks in your state – https://save.lovetoknow.com/Churches_with_Food_Pantries

For More Information About Food Insecurity:

US Department of Agriculture – <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion – <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>

National Public Radio, *Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers* – <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>

GFWC Massachusetts

Partners with

hundredx[®]



Yippee! GFWC Massachusetts was approved to participate in the HundredX Campaign this November. Last year was the first time GFWC MA Club members tried this type of fundraiser, and it was hugely profitable raising over \$11,000 for this organization. We are anticipating a greater success now that we are pros at taking the surveys. More details will follow, however, mark your calendars again for November and spread the word that we need friends and family members to participate.



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

APPOINTMENTS 2024-2026 - INTEREST SURVEY



Jen Nowak, Chairman of Appointments

Consider sharing your time and talents to become a 2024-2026 GFWC Massachusetts Board of Directors Member. With confident and enthusiastic leaders GFWC Massachusetts shall put forth a collective effort to strengthen our communities, while enhancing the lives of others by our volunteer service. Please fill out the form below and devote your leadership skills to GFWC Massachusetts next administration.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Club _____

Areas of Interest: *Please* check any that apply or if you have a preference mark in order (1st, 2nd, etc.) *Thank you.*

GFWC Massachusetts Committees	Chairman	Committee	GFWC Program & Advancement Areas	Chairman
Bylaws			Advocates for Children	
Credentials & Registration			Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention	
Contests—Writing, Photography, CIP			Arts and Culture	
Finance			Civic Engagement and Outreach	
Fundraising			Education and Libraries / ESO	
Headquarters & Memorial Forest			Environment	
Meetings			Health and Wellness	
Memorial Education Scholarship				
Nominations & Elections			Communications and Public Relations	
President's Project			Leadership	
Protocol			Legislation/Public Policy	
Resolutions			Membership	
Scholarship			WHRC (Women's History & Resource Center)	
Topics (<i>online newsletter</i>)				
Webmaster				

There will be four (4) Board of Director meetings per year. It is optional for Committee Members to attend.

Describe more about your interests, club positions held, area of expertise.

Kindly return form by December 1, 2023

Mail: Jen Nowak, 51 Glenn Drive, Wilbraham, MA 01095 | Email: jwnowak@charter.net | Phone: 413.535.9083



**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**



INTEREST SURVEY
Junior Membership Executive Board

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____
Email: _____ **Phone:** _____
Club: _____

Positions of Interest: Please indicate your order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.)

Officer:	GFWC Community Service Program Areas: *
Assistant Director	Arts and Culture Chairman
Secretary	Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman
Treasurer	Education and Libraries/ ESO Chairman
	Environment Chairman
Nominating Committee	Health and Wellness Chairman
Special Appointments:	GFWC Advancement Areas:
Meetings Chairman	Communications & Public Relations Chairman
Website Chairman	Fundraising and Development Chairman
	Legislation/Public Policy Chairman
GFWC Special Programs:	
Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children	WHRC Chairman (Women's History and Resource Center)
GFWC Signature Project: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention	

Please tell us about yourself:

CLUB EXPERIENCE: Years as a Member _____

Committee Work: _____

Offices Held (including chairmanships): _____

State Officer Resume and Qualifications Form

- Select one: **GFWC MASSACHUSETTS**
 GFWC MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Endorsing Club:

Officer position of interest:

Please fill out the three questions below, using space as needed:

- 1) List **club offices** and/or chairmanships held:
- 2) List **club programs/projects** in which you have been involved:
- 3) List **state chairmanships** and/or **committee positions** held:

Per GFWC Massachusetts Bylaws , submit this form, along with a copy of your local club meeting minutes highlighting their vote of endorsement for you and the position for which you are being endorsed.

EMAIL SUBMISSION BY: **October 1, 2023**

Submit **this form** filled out by nominee, and copy of **club minutes** to the appropriate Nominating Committee Chairman:

- GFWC Massachusetts State Officer – Martha Casassa: labmom416@gmail.com
- GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership State Officer – Katie Robey: kdrobey@robeybaur.org

Continued from front page – GFWC 2023 Annual Convention

Saturday was the official opening of the 2023 Celebrate, Collaborate, Communicate Louisville Convention. The flag processional had leaders from all states and international affiliates in attendance processing and Massachusetts was proud to have Director of Junior Clubs Marisa Jablanski holding the Massachusetts flag and President T Jablanski following. Opening ceremonies are always outstanding.



The morning featured speakers were KY State Representative, District 31 Susan Tyler Witte and Mariama Whyte, creative entrepreneur. Business included Bylaws and Resolutions and Awards followed.

The afternoon had attendees gathering at Region Luncheons and then back to the ballroom for more Business. A panel discussion focused on: Hunger, Nutrition, and Health: Addressing Food Insecurities, we

had lovely introductions of International Past Presidents, more Bylaws and Resolutions as needed and more Awards.

The evening “Celebrate Our Sparkle” Banquet honored Junior Membership leaders and more awards were given. “Disco and Diamonds” Lip Sync Fun Night (T, Terry, and Donna performed “Car Wash” as the Bay State Car Wash Crew) closed out the jam-packed day.



Sunday started with an early morning ESO Breakfast featuring author/speaker Robin Yokum who is the GFWC Honorary Education and Libraries Chairman. Workshops by GFWC Chairmen and Committee members were next and they offered members an opportunity to get in depth with GFWC Community Service Special Programs and Advancement Plans ~ Communications and Public Relations, Juniors’ Special Program: Advocates for Children, Fundraising Legislation/Public Policy, Membership, Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and Leadership. “Collaboration Can Change the World” Lunch and Learn had Recognitions and Awards with our Affiliate Organizations. The Junior Business session was held and we tied fleece blankets for the Service Project with Canine Companions which rounded off the afternoon. Dinner was on our own with attendees heading out on the town with friends, new and long-time. On Sunday evening, the pedestrian Big Four Bridge was lit up in GFWC colors. Way to go, Louisville!

Monday started with the Incoming Leaders Training Seminar (ILTS) for those State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs who will be serving in the 2024-2026 administration. Back to the Business session with Officer reports, finishing up Resolutions, a lovely Memoriam for GFWC



GFWC President, Deb Strahanoski; GFWC MA President, T Jablanski; GFWC MA Director of Junior Clubs, Marisa Jablanski; and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Moydell.

Continued from page 28 – GFWC Annual Convention



Past President Ernestine “Ernie” Shriner (2004-2006), more Awards, an Invitation to 2024 Annual Convention in Chicago, several Gifts to Headquarters, and announcing of Fundraiser winners.

The afternoon included the “GFWC Shining Stars Celebrating Our Sponsors” Luncheon, announcing the Jane Cunningham Croly Journalism Award winner: Anna Claire Vollers, and more Awards with the Massachusetts attendees smiling in their state photo. The evening culminated this wonderful convention with “Paint the World Purple Gala: The Gift of Communicating” dinner celebrating the Alzheimer’s Foundation and final Awards were given.



Thank you to the entire EC (especially President [Debbie Egizio Strahanoski](#)) and Director of Junior Clubs [Katie Jones Moydell](#)), GFWC KY clubwomen, all presenters, GFWC staff, and everyone involved for making this Convention a sparkling event.

Written by Donna Shibley, GFWC MA Past President



GENERAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS
FEDERATION DAY AT THE FOREST



Guest Speaker, Ken Wharchol,
MA Bee State Inspector

Memorials & Tributes

GFWC BOURNE WOMEN'S CLUB

Marion Warburton

Carol Whitney

Dorothy Wilde

DENNIS YARMOUTH CLUB

Dottie Stewart

GFWC HOLLY CLUB OF WRENTHAM, INC.

Aida Catlow

Catherine Donnelly

MILLBURY WOMEN'S CLUB

Charlotte Bedord

Mary Szutak

NORTHBORO JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

Lucia Connelly

Claire Pelletier

Louis Polanski

Maria Brown

OUSAMAQUIN CLUB

Marion Minassian

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

T Jablanski in memory of Barrie Coleman

Mary Anne Pierce in memory of Barrie Coleman

Lynne Stader in memory of Tina Macrina



Beekeeper in training,
Nancy Coughlin





Millbury Women's Club

The Millbury Women's Club held their Ladies Night Out Fundraiser at the VFW in Millbury with guest speaker Investigative Reporter for WHDH and an award-winning author of thriller novels Hank Phillippi Ryan, her latest novel is "The House Guest"; a wonderful evening with a wonderful speaker and great raffle prizes offered at the end of the evening; Proceeds to benefit community projects.



The MWC at their annual meeting in May raised funds from the raffle sale to benefit The CASA Project Worcester and the Millbury High School Jazz Band.

Pictured at right is a photo of the Gloriann Switzer, LSWC Program Associate, CASA Project Worcester and Diane Erickson, President MWC;

Submitted by Diane Erickson, MWC President



United States House of Representatives, Congressman Jim McGovern; MWC President, Diane Erickson; and GFWC MA President, T Jablanski.

GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club

Members of BPL enjoyed a picnic and ice cream social at Headquarters to wrap up the club year.

The BPL will be welcoming new members in October. If you have an interest in Roberts Rules of Order and conducting meetings, this is the club for you! It's not just for club presidents — it's for everyone who attends meetings! We'd love for you to join us. For information, please email

darlenepwc@charter.net

Submitted by Darlene Coutu, BPL President



Holly Club of Wrentham



The Holly Club of Wrentham held a tea party at their April meeting honoring ALL their members - those who started the club in 1898 and all who have worked for their community throughout the years. Certificates of Appreciation were given to all their current members. Pictured is their 50 year member Catherine Owen with President, Penelope Olson.



The Holly Club honored the First Responders, (the police, firemen, and veterans) of Wrentham with a dinner. Amanda from Lutz Buddy Up prepared chicken and steak tips on the grill. The members of the Holly Club provided all the side dishes and desserts. We were able to say "Thank You" for all they do to protect and support our community. *Submitted by Penelope Olson, HCW President*



GFWC RI Annual Convention visit. Pictured are GFWC MA First Vice President, Jen Nowak; GFWC RI President, Paula Andrews; GFWC Treasurer, Becky Wright from Banner, Mississippi; and GFWC MA President, T Jablanski.

Submitted by T Jablanski, GFWC MA President

Woman's Club of Newton Highlands



Terry Savage, GFWC MA Clubwoman of the Year



Woman's Club of Newton Highlands received the Club Participation Silver Bowl Award for 2022.



Woman's Club of Newton Highlands Scholarship Award recipients — two from Newton North and two from Newton South High Schools for a total \$4,000.00.



Bernadette, Terry, and Deb celebrate the winning of several baskets at GFWC MA Annual Convention fundraising table. Love the GFWC beach towel!

Woman's Club of Newton Highlands is having their **Quilt Raffle**. Tickets are \$5.00 for one or \$10.00 for three tickets. Drawing is December 20, 2023. Email Bernadette for tickets: bbennett@bu.edu. They will deliver the quilt to the winner who lives in Massachusetts.

Woman's Club of Newton Highlands will be having their **Annual Craft Fair** on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. located at the Hyde Center, 90 Lincoln St, Newton Highlands.

Woman's Club of Newton Highlands will be having **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9 A.M. to noon at our Clubhouse, 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands.. This yearly event started in 1984.

Submitted by Bernadette Bennett, WCNH President

Ms. Senior America Club of MA



Congratulations to Diane Erickson, winner of the 2023 Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant.

Past GFWC MA President, Lorraine Gorham (2006-2008), has been the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America State Pageant director for the past 14 years and compares Ms. Massachusetts Senior America to the Miss America pageant, “except we don’t do bathing suit, we do philosophy of life.”

And though the annual event does have its share of glitz and glamour, the true focus is on “The Age of Elegance,” giving the women a chance to “share [their] experience, knowledge and enthusiasm of life” and “be part of a national movement to dispel the myths of aging,” according to the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America brochure.



GFWC Norwood Junior Woman’s Club



The GFWC Norwood Junior Woman’s Club had a wonderful time caroling at Victoria Haven Nursing home where members provided cozy lap blankets for the residents, and they were most grateful for the visit and enjoyed singing along.

Submitted by Michelle Folan, NJWC Co-President

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 15	Manual Sheets – Due to HQ Secretary Diane Erickson
Aug 6	“Everything’s Coming Up Daisies” Tea Party – 1:00pm–3:00pm
Aug 19	Board of Directors Mtg and GFWC MA Manuals distributed
Aug 23	Leaders’ Day Workshop (Zoom) Dinner with the GFWCMA Leadership Team 6:00pm Zoom call
Sept 22–24	New England Region Conference – Rocky Hill, Connecticut
Sept 30	National Day of Service
Oct 1–19	Savers FunDrive drop offs at Headquarters (please call ahead)
Oct 20	Savers FunDrive delivery day
Oct 29	Fall Meeting – Public House, Sturbridge
Nov 18	Board of Directors Mtg and Holiday Party



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