

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS of MASSACHUSETTS

Federation TOPICS

Lynne M. Stader, President

2019 Domestic Violence Club Grant Recipients



Awards presented at GFWC MA Fall Meeting

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Pictured, accepting GFWC Massachusetts 2019 Domestic Violence Club Grants are Ann Marie Bielenin, for Junior Woman's Club of Walpole, Edith Edlund for GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors, Les Dorr for Ousamequin Club, Emily Duserick for GFWC Bourne Women's Club, Kathryn Rucker accepting for GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club, Bernadette Bennett for Woman's Club of Newton Highlands, Donna Canavan, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman, Reene Hatherley, for Westborough Women's Club, Stella Snyder for Westford Women's Club, Donna Shibley for GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, and Lynne Stader, GFWC MA President.

Club grants for projects in support of **Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month** were awarded for the second year at GFWC Massachusetts Fall Meeting held October 19 at Great Pond Hall in Braintree. The GFWC Massachusetts Club Grants were initiated in the current administration to encourage grass roots clubs to build relationships with domestic violence support facilities in their area, in response to the needs of victims of abuse. Funding for the grants was raised from sale of the President's Pins and other items as well as the proceeds from the Teal and Purple Creativity Contest held at Annual Meeting earlier this year.

Cont'd on page 4



Message from President Lynne Stader

Isn't it interesting when things we are experiencing come in waves, making an even stronger impact on us? I recently attended "We Did It for You!" at Needham Town Hall, a play dedicated to raising our awareness of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, and the contributions of women in general on all aspects of our lives- learning, science, law, medicine, religion and beyond. Highly recommend it if it schedules near you! It sharpened my awareness not just that women were finally ALLOWED to vote in 1920, but of the extensive agenda for social justice achieved- once women HAD the vote. Passing child labor laws, limiting hours in a work day, and more.

don't we? We know what our club-women have accomplished over our 100+ year history, and we know the value of women's groups in our churches, schools, families, and in our communities.

You are each a blessing as volunteers who lift up those around you each and every day. You collect, you fill, you buy, sell, bake, and drive as you lift up others in need. I have felt you lift up your federation- and me- every time you support a program or initiative. These are the things you need to brag about when courting potential members! You lift up your members, while lifting your community.

My sincere thanks to Darlene Coutu, who lifts us up this month with her time and talent in creating this issue of TOPICS. *Thank you, Darlene!* And thank you to our chairmen and clubwomen who have contributed to this issue.

Lynne president@gfwcma.org



"In the hearts and minds of empowered women, every wall is a door."

Melinda Gates
The Moment of Lift

Headquarters Secretary

GFWC Massachusetts is in need of someone interested in working part time doing light office work at Headquarters, Dutton Road in Sudbury. Hours are flexible, average 8- 12 hours a week. Tasks include picking up mail at the post office, sorting and directing mail and emails as appropriate, maintaining the Headquarters Calendar, and preparing printed programs, citations and other materials as needed for activities and events. The Headquarters Secretary will field phone calls from clubs and the public and direct follow-up as needed.

Candidate should have excellent grammar *skills*, be self-directed and accurate in their work. Strong computer and organizational skills are needed along with knowledge of word processing and print design. Candidate to understand the need for flexibility and availability to complete materials for state meetings, club Manuals, or other time-sensitive tasks. Please suggest this opportunity to someone you know who may be interested, and direct them to call President Lynne Stader H—978-692-2069, C —978-877-9978



From Director of Junior Clubs, Jen Nowak



"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

Margaret Thatcher

Fall has been a whirlwind of activity for GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership. **Junior Jumpstart** had a full room of club leaders meeting at Headquarters who shared pertinent information for attendees to take back to their clubs. There were two helpful presentations, first the *Magic of Change*, how members need to embrace change to keep a healthy club environment; second *Time to Share Club Info*, a tutorial on how Google Docs works.

New England Region in Nashua, NH Junior Membership hosted Fun Night with a Sesame Street Race. Big Bird, Elmo, Bert, Ernie, Cookie Monster and the Grouch were all there for the fun. Three spirited races were held, and the winners received cookies directly from the Cookie Monster's kitchen. Over \$500 was raised for Wreaths Across America that weekend. **GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership Fall Conference** was held in Dedham on October 26th with the theme was *We Can Do Magic!* The service project was to assemble red, white and blue floral arrangements to be given to the Veteran's at the German Center for Veteran's Day, 70 arrangements were completed. There weren't many dry eyes in the house when Kelly Hinkle from Wreaths Across America

presented the history of how this organization began through current times. The highlight of the day was when \$2000 in donations were given to him. Our second speaker gave an enlightening presentation, Amy Schram from the Better Business Bureau on the topic of Identity Theft and Phone Scams. I would like to thank all the members who attended and made this conference a great success.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 14th for Wreaths Across America Day**, if you are able find a local cemetery that is participating in WAA to join them that day. My family and I will be at Island Pond Cemetery in Ludlow honoring my Dad and the other 750 Veteran's laid to rest there. This will be the third year this cemetery has participated, and a new family tradition has begun.

Thank you all for everything you do, I look forward to getting blown away with the reports in January. Reading the reports is what gives me the goose bumps and realizing how much of a difference GFWC Clubs make. **GFWC Volunteers Make Magic** and Massachusetts clubs do it with gusto!

I hope you can enjoy healthy and the happiest of holidays with your families and friends. My Email: jwnowak@charter.net

Summary of Bylaws approved at GFWC Massachusetts Fall Meeting 2019

GFWC Massachusetts
Governing Documents
BYLAWS
Katie Robey, Chairman
kdrobey@robeybaur.org

- Massachusetts Officers elected at 2020 Annual Meeting will have meals and hotel expenses for shared room maximum 2 nights paid for at future Annual Meetings;
- Annual Meeting to be called Annual Convention, new name to be used in 2020;
- Memorial Forest membership changed from seven to five;
- Language and process approved for removing an officer for cause;
- Clarifies language that Directors must file an annual report with the Dean of Directors.
- Updates Executive Board's duties re Bylaw and Standing Rules amendments brought to them by the Bylaws Committee.
- Updates language for Junior Membership's budget so that Council would not approve it but would receive a copy of the budget approved by its Executive Board.
- Due to timing, 3 amendments were held and will be presented at Mid-winter Meeting with those presented at the October 12, 2019 Executive Board meeting.

Meet GFWC MA President-elect



Ten things that might surprise you about Donna Shibley:

10. Jobs as a teen included working on a local farm, counting S&H Green Stamps, and as a go-to-gal at an insurance office
9. Sound of Music was the first film she saw at a movie theater and she continues to love every minute of it
8. Dressed up as the Safety Bug for her club's First Time Bus Rider's Program
7. Attended various Broadway shows 29 times
6. Wishes: she could sing, get a hole-in-one, have all her children close by (daughter lives in Oakland, CA and son and his wife live in Dublin, Ireland)
5. Sews quilts for March of Dimes and Shriners Hospital, and quilt squares for Quilts of Valor
4. Volunteered in Haiti four times on mission trips including working construction, assisting at medical clinics, VBS (Vacation Bible School), and as a teacher
3. Twenty nine years as an educator - taught approximately 2700 students
2. Is "Auntie Donna" to 32 nieces/nephews, and 6 grand nieces/grand nephews
1. Proudly served as a GFWC clubwoman for 31 years

Feel free to join Donna in 2020-2022 as she leads Massachusetts clubwomen with Hearts & Hands for GFWC - please consider filling out an Appointment Survey (gfwcma.org, members, forms)

In Federation Friendship,
Donna

"A woman is like a tea bag — you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Domestic Violence Grants cont'd. from page 1



Nine clubs were recipients of club grants this year. Grants of \$300 were awarded to **GFWC Taunton/Raynham Juniors** in support of a replacement window at Penelope's Place, **Junior Woman's Club of Walpole** in support of New Hope and **Ousamequin Club** - to be used for health and wellness services at Penelope's Place. Awards of \$400 were given to **GFWC Bourne Women's Club** to provide new bedding for Safe Harbor in Hyannis, to **GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club** to purchase items for a children's comfort room at a DOVE facility, and **Woman's Club of Newton Highlands** received \$400 in support of Second Step, Inc. Three grants of \$500 each were awarded to the **Westborough Women's Club** for promotional materials in support of

Westborough Youth and Family Services, **GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club** purchasing clothing for victims at the Western Massachusetts YMCA, and to the **Westford Women's Club** to partner with the Live for Liv Foundation and their support of Alternative House in Lowell. Chairman Donna Canavan and State President Lynne Stader thank all of the members who supported the fundraising, and all of the clubs that applied, extending sincere appreciation for the strong support of Massachusetts clubwomen for the GFWC Signature Program Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Meet Mary Ann Pierce: GFWC Massachusetts Jennie Award



Volunteers – people who reach out each day and take a hand. Mary Ann Pierce IS that volunteer. Mary Ann’s passions - leadership development, helping the homeless and assisting women and children in domestic violence situations – drive her to take action. Working with young people of the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation, she added a service project to the seminar curriculum to help students understand that leadership involves giving back. Retirement finds Mary Ann tutoring at Second Step, an organization supporting abuse survivors. Shot@Life, Birthday Wishes, and St. Jude are a few other

groups benefiting from Mary Ann’s boundless energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. And GFWC? Mary Ann is a lifetime clubwoman positively impacting her club, the Needham Women’s Club, her state federation, and GFWC international. In addition, Mary Ann is a loving wife, a caring mother of three adult sons, and one of the best grandmoms around! Mary Ann’s dedication to family and clubwork, and her passion as a community volunteer make her a most worthy Massachusetts nominee to our New England Region for the Jennie Award – GFWC’s highest honor for an individual clubwoman.

Congratulations, Mary Ann!

“My goal is to live my life in such a way that when I die, someone can say, ‘she cared’.”
Mary Kay Ash



Treasurer’s Tidbits — T Jablanski, Treasurer

REMEMBER

**Club Dues
are due
December 31,
2019**

Bills are in the mail for the immediate past fiscal year. The invoice you will receive this year is for dues paid to your club during the club year 2018-2019. The information your club submitted on the Manual Questionnaire is used to determine the number of dues paying members in your club. Be sure to look in a current manual for the number of members in your club. This is the number I will use to determine how many

members your club has. GFWC MA will collect \$25 in total — \$15 for GFWC International and \$10 for GFWC MA. Please see BYLAWS Article IV Dues, Finances and Fiscal Year, Section 1 of the current manual.

Email: treasurer@gfwcma.org

Your membership is greatly appreciated. Thanks for Living the Volunteer Spirit!

MORE THAN WORDS

Lucille Barton, Chairman

President Stader is approaching the end of her chosen project for her term. What a SUCCESS this has become. Thirty-eight GFWC MA clubs have embraced MORE THAN WORDS and up to this point have donated more than 22,400 books and DVD's. The number of donations is awesome, but a more powerful statement could be made as to the number of youth who have benefitted from these contributions. The outreach to local communities is also impressive. Club appeals have given another purpose to books stored in attics, basements and overflowing shelves. Now they have a useful place in our society. Perhaps at another time, a book's fate might have been the town dump! Books show many emotions, if they could smile, it would be a happy smile.

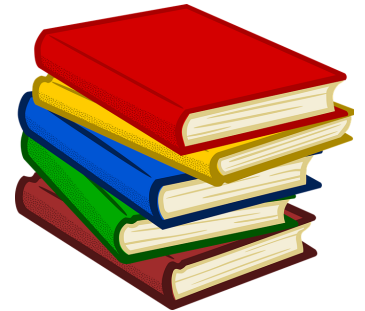
There have been several ways clubs made their donations. Some members bring books to their club meetings, some have brought them to the book bin at our club house. Others have had yard sales or creat-

ed a collection area at their meeting place. For example, the Westborough Women's club has a designated place for community contributions. Just this month an MTW truck picked up 1,000 books. It's been there before! Braintree Women's Club secured a book bin at their town's recycling center. The truck comes every week to empty the container.

If you are looking for another way to participate, schedule a Day of Service at either the Waltham site or their new building in Boston. You can shop in their gift shop, purchase a book in their book store or have a bite to eat in their cafe. There is something for everyone.

We're looking for a Stupendous Donation Number at the Annual Meeting next year. Need help? Please contact me at jeblab@beld.net.

Join us – the feeling is GREAT!!



Got Books?

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."
Walt Disney



Graduate Spotlight by Robyn, MTW Graduate

Before MTW, I had really bad depression and anxiety. When my mentor recommended More Than Words I was drawn in by the fact that it's a bookstore, because I love books. The job training program with a social atmosphere was a huge added benefit for me. The team was so supportive and accepting, I had a really positive experience here! The most helpful part of More Than Words for me was that it gave me a sense of purpose. Youth Development shifts gave me the space and opportunity to think meaningfully about what I

want to do with my life.

I graduated from MTW in December 2019. One of the biggest takeaways from this position was a stronger sense of self-confidence on the job. I am much more comfortable in professional environments and thrive when the pressure is on. MTW provided me with support far beyond what I had ever imagined possible. From the first day I arrived here as a youth employee to today, a graduate, More Than Words has been by my side every step of the way.

Scholarships — Darlene Coutu, Chairman

GFWC MA offers scholarships for undergraduate and graduate degrees for high school seniors, college graduates, and women returning to school. Awards are available starting at \$500 in the following areas of study: Music, Public Health, Communication Disorders/Speech Therapy, Teaching, International Study Abroad, Art, Political Science, and the new Business Scholarship, as well as Fellowships. There's even a scholarship for those of Italian heritage! Could this be you, your children, your grandchildren, or some-

one you know? With the ever-increasing cost of college tuition and books, everyone could use our help. Thanks to our webmaster, Nancy Clark, applications for 2020 awards are currently available for downloading at www.gfwcma.org/scholarships or by contacting the chairman. Be sure to announce scholarships at the high school in your town, advertise in your local newspaper, newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, or by word of mouth. Questions? Please email Darlene Coutu at darlenepwc@charter.net.



Membership — Terry Rouvalis, Chairman

Summer is over and with the advent of the cooler weather our enthusiasm to reach the goals we set for our club year are apparent for all to see. Are you using your local papers, your website, Facebook pages, as well as other available social media outlets to publicize your meetings and events? Are you wearing your GFWC/or Club apparel that you might have? If you don't have any you might consider purchasing an item or two at your next GFWC function, or visit the Market Place at the GFWC Website. These are subtle but effective ways to attract new members.

The GFWC motto **Unity in Diversity** was created at the first federation convention and continues to be relevant today. Through the bonds we form with our sister members and the success of our community projects we exemplify that motto by demonstrating that one club at a time we are working to affect changes that benefit our community and the world beyond our borders.

I hope these few ideas give you inspiration for your efforts to increase your membership. The current Campaign is the Recruitment Drive and the deadline is December 1st for entry to GFWC Headquarters. Send your completed forms either by mail or email before this date either directly to Headquarters or to me or Katie Robey. Should you need a form please let me know and I will send you one. The GFWC will list all clubs recruiting three or more members in the next edition of Club Women Magazine.

In the meantime, start considering your nominations for Club Woman of the Year and your membership project entries for GFWC Grants.

I wish you all a successful year in all your endeavors.

United by Our Diversity
Terry Rouvalis trouvalis@msn.com
GFWC MA Membership Chairman

*“What is the essence
of life?
To serve others and
to do good.”
Aristotle*



Leadership — Martha Casassa, Chairman

Are you a LEADer??? Do you know a LEADer???



Some of you may have attended the mini-LEADS workshop at Club Leaders' Day. That was only a taste of what GFWC can offer annually at its full-day LEADS seminar. The intent is to develop clubwomen who desire to improve their leadership skills and use that knowledge within Federation at club or state levels or maybe beyond...at GFWC.

Each State Federation may nominate only one woman to attend. GFWC recommends that the nominee meet these criteria:

- Demonstrates leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman
- Exhibits a commitment to the Federation
- Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service
- Demonstrates leadership skills, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility
- Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC
- Agrees to share information obtained through LEADS training within the state federation
- Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level
- Has not attended a previous GFWC LEADS program.

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.”
Sheryl Sandberg

GFWC covers a portion of the attendee's' expenses including: a stipend of \$250 for travel; lodging allowance of half of a double room rate for two nights at the Convention hotel; and, meals during the LEADS program. GFWC Massachusetts offers a small stipend as well. LEADS attendees are held responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment.

If you are interested or know someone who should apply, go to https://www.gfwcma.org/uploads/1/2/9/6/12968947/leads_application.doc for the application form (www.GFWCMA.org, then Members tab and Forms – look for LEADS application form). Feel free to share this link with other club members who should apply. Encourage and support them.



Please remember that two (2) letters of support from active GFWC club members are required in addition to the application form. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2020 whether postmarked, faxed or e-mailed:
LEADS Selection Committee
GFWC Massachusetts
P.O. Box 679
Sudbury, MA 01776
FAX: 978.443.1617
E-mail: HQsecretary@gfwcma.org

Fundraising — Mary Ann Pierce Chairman



The Designer Purse Bingo Bash was held on Wednesday, November 7th at the Great Pond Hall in Braintree. Great food, fun, purses, wine and more were available. All who attended enjoyed themselves.

Special thank you to members of the GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club who went above and beyond supporting this event. Also thank you to Marta Googins of Fasano Catering and a member of the GFWC Braintree Women's Club for her yummy food, lovely hall location and support.

Also, thanks to Robin O'Connor (wine pull expertise), Jen Nowak, Marisa Jablanski, Katie Robey, Mary Baird, Joyce Clark, Darlene Coutu, Bernadette Bennett (amazing centerpieces), Shirley Gomes, Lucille Barton and June Alfano and forgive us if we forgot anyone else. Thanks for time, purses, monetary donation and help! All is appreciated and yes, there will be another Bingo Bash in the future. For all who enjoy the games, we are hoping to schedule a games afternoon in early spring! Stay tuned for more details.



Savers FunDrive

Massachusetts participated in a Savers Collection in the Fall. The collection delivery date was held on Saturday, November 2 at GFWC MA Headquarters. Thank you to Donna and Ed Shibley, T Jablanski, Darlene and Don Coutu, Ted, Andrew and Mary Ann Pierce and our ever supportive caretaker Canon Gloyd who all loaded and unloaded the truck. We collected more than 2,000 lbs of soft goods. It was a success and we hope to have another collection in the spring. Thank you to all the GFWC MA Clubs who generously cleaned out closets and made the donations collection. Start filling those collection bags after the Holidays!



New England Region Conference GFWC New Hampshire Hosts



New England's
LEADS Candidates



New England's Jennie Award Candidates



President Lynne Stader
Director of Jr Clubs, Jen Nowak



GFWC MA Cheerleaders!



President Lynne Stader with
Angela Christiana, Chapter
Leader, Moms Demand Action

GFWC Massachusetts Fall Meeting



Heifer International



President Stader



Alberta Durfee, President Stader, Mary Ann
Pierce, Marth Casassa



Women's Suffrage
Celebration Coalition of MA



Fall Meeting, October 19, 2019

GFWC Massachusetts Member Clubs



Needham Women's Club



Junior Membership Officers



Les Dorr, Ousamequin Club
Presenting Domestic Violence
Grant to Katie Tyler, Domestic
Violence Intervention and
Prevention



GFWC Blackstone Valley
Women's Club



Woman's Club of Newton
Highlands



Junior Fall Conference



GFWC Blackstone Valley
Women's Club



Jen Nowak presenting \$2000
donation to Kelly Hinkle,
Wreaths Across America



GFWC Pepperell Woman's Club

**General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts
Invites you to attend**



CLUB INSTITUTE
Holiday at Headquarters

**Thursday, December 5, 2019
10am ~ Noon**

Featuring



Miss 2018 Pink Warrior, Helene Palmer

The Miss Pink Pageant supports breast cancer survivors with emotional and financial assistance. Helene will share her story. Centerpieces may be purchased as a donation to the Miss Pink Pageant. ~ *Home Life*



The Season of Giving Service Project

Making "Thinking of You" and "Thanking You" cards to members who are unable to come to meetings. Bring names and addresses. The cards will be mailed in January 2020. ~ *Membership*

Other Seasonal Favorites ~

4th Annual Cookie Swap for Clubwomen

Bring 1-2 dozen cookies to share and go home with new flavors for your celebrations!



Annual Holiday Reading ~ Lynne Stader, President
Raffle Baskets for GFWC Massachusetts

***Come to your Federation Home
for the Holidays.***



***Enjoy food, fun, and friendship
with clubwomen from around the state.***

We are ~ *STRONGER TOGETHER*

REMINDERS!

December 5	(Thurs)	“Holiday at Headquarters” / Club Institute 10:00- 12:00
December 31		Club Dues and End of Year Club Contributions due (postmarked) to GFWC MA
<u>2020</u>		
January 25	(Sat.)	GFWC Massachusetts Combined Midwinter Meeting, Stoneforge, Raynham
January 31		Statistical Forms, Project Reports and Club Participation Entry due
February 1		LEADS Applications due
March 1		Scholarship and Fellowship Applications are due
March 5	(Thurs.)	March Club Institute 10:00 AM; Executive Board 12:30, HQ
April 1		Clubwoman, Julia Ward Howe Presidents Award entries due
April 25	(Sat.)	GFWC MA Junior Membership Annual Conference, Holiday Inn- Marlborough
May 2-3	(Sat. Sun.)	GFWC MA Annual Meeting, Tower Square Hotel, Springfield
May 15		Honorariums for Day at the Forest reading due
June 4	(Thurs.)	Federation Day at the Forest, Headquarters Sudbury 1:00
June 27-30		GFWC Convention, Atlanta, GA



“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”
Helen Keller

