



# The BEAT of the Federation

**PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER**

**Editor: DONNA M. SHIBLEY, GFWC MASSACHUSETTS PRESIDENT 2020-2022**

**DEC 20, 2020**

**VOLUME 6**

**Executive Committee:**

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**Treasurer**

**Darlene Coutu**  
**Treasurer@gfwcma.org**

**Director of Junior Clubs**

**Katie Robey**  
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**Help Wanted:**

We have some  
Chairmen openings:

**Environment**  
**Communications and**  
**Public Relations**  
**Legislation/Public**  
**Policy**

**Fundraising Committee**

Email President Shibley  
if you are interested.

We'd love to have  
you join the Board of  
Directors.

**President's message:**

This year has certainly been one for the books and we are ready to close that chapter out. With lives lost, people's health compromised, and families struggling financially and emotionally, our work as volunteers needed even more. Clubs are doing what they can to give back to their communities while also helping others globally. Remember the starfish story? One act of kindness **will** make a difference. Continue doing what you can, every act is a step forward. My holiday wish to you is for you to safely enjoy your **Holidays** with your small circle of family and friends. To inspire you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB6yjGVuzVo>

We will continue to give our **Hearts & Hands for GFWC** even with current restrictions in place.

I am available (just a phone call or an email away) to help each Club President with ideas and suggestions to keep your members involved, working on club business until we are able to meet in person.



Our next **Board of Directors Meeting** is Saturday, February 27, 2021. We are on schedule with the 4 times per year BoD meetings.

**Publicity:** Do you have club news to share with GFWC? If there a club success story to tell? Email **PR@GFWC.org** to be considered for GFWC's Blog. Show others how Massachusetts gives back ♥ and get your club name recognized by other GFWC clubmembers across the country.

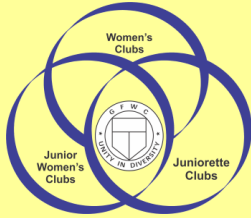
This issue we are featuring information on: Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk, Dues bills, Club reports, End of the Year donation form, MassSTAR update, Club Participation Award, Jennie June Award, GFWC Affiliate updates, December Fundraiser, Items for sale, 1898 Society, Legislation and Public Policy update, the fifth website scavenger hunt as well as other pertinent info. Please share this newsletter with your club members.

**Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk:**

There will be an email invite coming soon for you as Club President to join this State President on Wednesday night, **January 6 @ 6:00** for a Heart to Heart talk. The goal is to check in on you and the pulse of your club. Our **special guest**, Alicia Sheridan GFWC MA Leadership Chairman, will provide Leadership tips that you won't want to miss.

**GFWC Massachusetts Dues Bills:**

Dues bills were sent out by Treasurer Darlene Coutu from (Treasurer@gfwcma.org) to each Club President. These are due by December 31, 2020. We appreciate your attention.



**For Sale:**

Support the Massachusetts President's focus area: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention



Purchase a heart diversity pin for \$5.00 each or a heart/hand bracelet for \$20.00 All proceeds will go towards club grants and DV/SA A&P. Contact Bernadette Bennett for your purchases: [bbennett@bu.edu](mailto:bbennett@bu.edu)

**REMINDER**

Did you watch the Tools of the Trade~ Club Leaders Day video? Please do!

**Show your support of GFWC Massachusetts by joining The 1898 Society.**

Members are dedicated to the financial well-being of our state organization, funds contribute to the welfare of this Federation. We encourage all members to join each year at \$18.98 per year.

**GFWC Massachusetts Club Reports:**

Your state report writing guru Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President is just an email or phone call away. Please reach out for any question big or small.

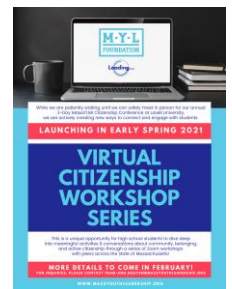
Don't forget to report on any activities your club did because of COVID-19. These include making masks (in-kind donation is \$2.00 per mask), supporting front line workers in some way, etc. There will be a **special award** given at our GFWC MA Annual Convention for the club that went above and beyond in this area.

**GFWC Massachusetts End of the Year Donation Form:**

Even in these trying times, GFWC MA welcomes and appreciates any donations that your club can make. Our categories for suggested donations include: GFWC Massachusetts State Focus Areas, GFWC Massachusetts Scholarships, and GFWC Affiliates ~ National Emphasis Areas. Don't forget a donation to MasSTAR. Thank you in advance for all the ways you support your Federation.

**MasSTAR update:**

GFWC Massachusetts is a leading sponsor of MasSTAR, an experience that changes lives by empowering citizenship in student leaders. Check out the GFWC MA website for updated information about their upcoming Virtual Citizenship Workshop series.



**GFWC Massachusetts Club Participation Award:**

There are many ways your club can support its membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. GFWC MA wants to recognize clubs that have been active in state federation activities with support as well as spreading awareness to their clubmembers, in addition to their local club projects. Our **state trophy awards** are based on this information. Please submit this form which is due January 31, 2021.

**GFWC Jennie June Award:**

The GFWC Jennie Award, the only national honor bestowed by GFWC, recognizes individual members for personal excellence. The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor. Your nominee's paperwork is due June 1, 2021.

**December's Fundraiser:**

DECEMBER's SPECIAL ITEM is a Vera Bradley package ♥ total retail value \$200 ~ **get your tickets!!** includes: Vera Bradley Merry Mischief Grand Tote Set (bag is 15" H x 23" W, small pouch is 5 1/2" H x 7 1/2" W), Vera Bradley Travel mug, Macy's Holiday Land reindeer watch, Marshall's \$25.00 gift card, Inc. red ball earrings, Christmas Tree headband. Prize entries are \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00. Drawing will be held at the end of the month. Pay by check (GFWC MA and mail to Treasurer Darlene Coutu, P.O.Box 236, Pepperell, MA 01463) or pay through Venmo. Visit our website for specific details on how to win ♥ <https://www.gfwcma.org/fundraising.html>



**GFWC MA Website  
GFWCMA.org  
Scavenger Hunt #5**

Can you find and answer these questions:

**1. About GFWC-GFWC MA History and Accomplishments:**

In what administration was the Unity Walkway Project established? Do you have your name on a brick on the walkway?

**2. Events-Club Events:**  
Which club is sponsoring an Outdoor Holiday House Tour?

**3. Members-Fundraising:**  
What fun item can you buy for your favorite pooch?

**4. Calendar:** What Awareness Day in on January 11th?

**5. Members-Report Writing:**  
What is the NEW way can you report Affiliate Organizations donations?

**Remember your State President as well as the Officers are available for you. Let us know what topic(s) you are looking for ♥ We want you to feel supported at this unprecedented time.**

**GFWC Legislation and Public Policy:  
Protect Funding for Victims of Crime**

GFWC recently activated their Legislative Action Center (LAC) to urge Congress to fix the funding formula for the Department of Justice's Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program grants in order to boost funding levels for FY 2021. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants provide federal funding that enables local organizations serving survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, trafficking, and other crimes to provide counseling, case management, crisis hotlines, emergency shelters, and other community-based programs. Congress is finalizing its FY2021 Appropriations Bills and substantial funding cuts to VOCA are being considered, as is language to fix the formula. The VOCA formula must be fixed to avoid further financial crisis and the elimination of services. Learn more about this program in the LAC, which provides funding to local rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, along with other victims of crime.

**GFWC AFFILIATES:**

Did you watch the YouTube video made specifically as a preview of GFWC Affiliates? This 21 minute video will give you look at each Affiliate. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty57K3f2Hik>

**PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA  
<https://preventchildabuse.org/>**

"When families get what they need, good things happen." Prevent Child Abuse America is the nation's oldest and largest organization committed to preventing child abuse and neglect before it happens. They promote programs and resources informed by science that enable kids, families, and entire communities to thrive—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



**HOBY ~ Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership  
<https://www.hoby.org/>**

Even though Massachusetts clubmembers support MassSTAR, this GFWC affiliate is available to support. Believing in the potential of today's youth, the HOBY mission is to inspire and prepare future young leaders for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. HOBY empowers young people to dream big, make an impact, and change the world.



**GFWC MA website ~ <https://www.gfwcma.org/>:**

Keep within easy access. There are many forms and documents within reach. Don't forget to send Donna Shibley any upcoming **Club Events** to be included on the website: Events - Club Events.

**GFWC MA FaceBook page:**

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

Join us here for postings that are relevant to GFWC Massachusetts.

