

General Federation of Women's Clubs of

Massachusetts



TOPICS

A newsletter for Clubwomen

Fall 2018

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts Headquarters - P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776 www.gfwcma.org
Member GFWC International – www.gfwc.org

*"Your abundance is not measured by what you have,
it is created by what you share."*

Heidi Catherine Culbertson, Wisdom and Recipes



GFWC of Massachusetts Fall Meeting at Courtyard Marriott in Marlborough celebrated the passing of the 19th Amendment with a workshop presented by Helen Barakauskis of Connecticut. Shown are (l-r) Martha Michalewich, Massachusetts Centennial 2020 Committee Chairman, President Stader, Helen and special guest Wendy Carriker, GFWC Secretary.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynne M. Stader



What blessings are you celebrating as we head into this season of Thanksgiving? Most certainly your family is one of them. My family recently celebrated my granddaughter's graduation from Navy boot camp in Chicago, and the opportunity it brought for many of our family members to attend and share time together. For many of us, our federation friends are our other family- important to our everyday life as we share in the mission of our volunteer activities. And we are doing that in so many ways:

- Our members are truly mobilizing in support of **More Than Words**. To date, **28 clubs** have forwarded over 8,000 books and have connected their local libraries to MTW. Wow!
- With the help of the **Centennial 2020 Committee** at Fall Meeting we launched information for donating to the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial**. *What would you give for your right to vote?*
- International Outreach Chairman Mary Baird inspired our members to donate 135 pairs of gently-used shoes for **Soles4Souls** supporting people in need.



Close to my heart, and most inspiring was the presentation of the first GFWC Massachusetts **Domestic Violence Awareness Club Grants** at Fall Meeting in Marlborough. *Did you miss it?* GFWC Signature Program Chairman Donna Canavan read the names of the recipient clubs with a description of their proposals for a project in partnership with their local domestic violence shelter or community program. Attendees were moved listening to the many ways our member clubs are reaching out to be part of the solution!

This president extends her gratitude to the many clubs that extended invitations in the early months of this administration. It has been a busy fall, but visiting our member clubs is one of the perks of serving as your state president. Keep the invitations coming!

Always know that each of you is an important part of the footprint of GFWC, and the reason the collective work of our clubs makes us **STRONGER TOGETHER**.

thankful
&
blessed

Lynne



Junior Membership Connection

Jen Nowak

Director of Junior Clubs



Our fall leaves may not have been the most vivid colors this year, however Junior Membership has been the brightest of the stars this season. Junior Jumpstart and Fall Conference were both extremely successful and well attended. Thank you to those who attended and I know you had lots of information to share with your clubs.

November 11th will be Veteran's Day, please pick a project that will benefit them and if women's vets are the focus of that project make sure to count the project for one of the Grand Initiatives. Reach out to your local Veteran's Office and work with them to see what their immediate needs are. Building a relationship with your town or city's local office can strengthen the bonds between your club and that organization. It will help your club be able to plan ahead the ways you can support your local veteran's on a regular basis.

December 15th will be here before we know it and that is National Wreaths Across America Day. Which is my Director of Junior Clubs focus project. If you have never had the opportunity to lay a wreath on a veteran's grave – please think about going that day. There are 52 locations here in Massachusetts that will be participating in Wreaths Across America. On the www.gfwcmajuniors.org website is a listing all the cemeteries you can go to in this state. (On the front page there is a link or under the *Members* tab click on *Information Please to Public Issues*) Plan to bring with your family, friends or fellow clubwomen to pay honor to our fallen heroes. It will be an experience you won't forget. If you are not available on the 12/15 consider making a donation, the cost \$15 per wreath which can be made directly on the www.wreathscrossamerica.org website.

Hope many of you can make it to Bingo on November 16th. If you are attending the evening session, I will see you then.

Remember, GFWC *Volunteers CAN Make Magic* while being *Stronger Together*.

Jen

WALK FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL



GFWC Girls for a Greater Good, our Melrose Junioresettes participated in the 2018 St. Jude Walk to End Childhood Cancer on September 22nd at the Boston Common. Mary Ann Pierce, her son Andrew, Katie Robey and Diane McCurley also walked for our GFWC Partner.

GFWC Convention – St. Louis, Missouri



GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club Members Martha Michalewicz and Mary Kemp receiving award for their support for Shot@Life with (l-r) Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth, Massachusetts Director Martha Casassa, Massachusetts President Lynne Stader and GFWC International President Sheila Shea.



Speaker Pierson Phillips gets hug from GFWC International President Sheila Shea following his inspirational presentation of his journey living with mental illness. Adding their congratulations are 1st Vice President St.Clair (l) and Parliamentarian Shirley Gomes.



Past Massachusetts President Mary Ann Pierce (l) and friends at Soiree following Junior Banquet. Looking fabulous!



President Mary Baird is installed as New England Region President by GFWC International President Sheila Shea. So proud of both you ladies!

FALL MEETING – Courtyard Marriott, Marlborough

Remembering the fight for suffrage; preparing for Day of Service; fun and friendship with women from across the state who came together to bring into action what our membership in GFWC is all about!



President Stader tours the Wayside Inn with GFWC Secretary Wendy Carriker on Friday evening prior to Fall Meeting,





First V.P. Shibley (l) and President Stader visit the Gristmill at Wayside Inn with Wendy Carriker and Connecticut clubwomen Helen Barakauskis and Jenny Czyrko.



Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman Donna Canavan along with President Lynne Stader award grants to clubs for use by domestic violence organizations in their communities. L-R: Katie Robey, Marlborough; Katherine Dupuis, Lunenburg; Robin Gendron, Taunton & Raynham; Deanna Fredie, Braintree; Donna; Mary Ann Pierce, Bay State Contemporary; Jean Guarino; Ousamequin, President Stader.



Clubwomen were treated to two fabulous workshops by Wendy Carriker, GFWC Secretary (l) who gave us great ideas for a Day of Service and Helen Barakauskis of GFWC CT representing the Turning Point Memorial Committee.



JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP FALL CONFERENCE- K of C, Westborough



Director of Junior Clubs Jen Nowak presides at Junior Fall Conference in Westborough. Shown with Junior Corresponding Secretary Jeanne Dee, President Lynne Stader, Junior Recording Secretary Marisa Jablanski and 2nd V.P. And Counselor to Junior Membership Donna Shibley.



Attendees write holiday cards to veterans participating in one of three service projects completed during the Conference



Centennial 2020 Committee Chairman Martha Michalewich presents a history of suffragist struggle along with her own "Vanna", Diane Murphy.

NEW ENGLAND REGION CONFERENCE, Sunday River, Maine

Massachusetts clubwomen traveled to Maine for the 109th New England Region Conference on September 28-30, 2018. From the overall well-run business sessions presided over by our own Mary Baird, GFWC New England Region President, to the report of the LEADS seminar in St. Louis by Alicia Sheridan to the reports from President **Lynne Stader** and Director of Junior Clubs Jen Nowak to all the fun of zip-lining, square dancing and traveling with a “famous” group of castaways it was certainly a weekend to remember! Next year we'll be traveling to New Hampshire--**join us for another weekend of Federation fun, friendship and memories.**



Yee Haw! Director of Junior Clubs Nowak and President Stader all ready for the big hoedown!



What a group of castaways! Jen Nowak led this group, l-r, Mary Libby, Suzanne Raymond Jen, Donna Shibley, Marian St.Clair, Midge Tucker and JoAnn Calnan on a great Fun Night Adventure! Can you guess the theme?



Past President and Fundraising Chairman, Mary Ann Pierce and 2nd V.P. Donna Shibley show off their millinery representing suffragist era.

Where in the world are all these wonderful GFWC Massachusetts clubwomen? At New England Region Conference, of course! Always a fun time. Next year in Nashua, N.H.
Join us, won't you?



JUMPSTARTING NEW CLUB LEADERS



GFWC of Massachusetts Looks to the future getting leaders ready for new roles. Junior Jumpstart (l) attendees pose with Director Jen Nowak and the GFWC logo. Club Leaders Day (r) was full of Q & A and networking.



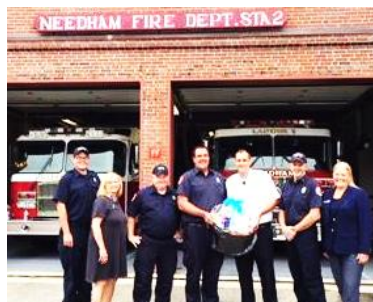
CLUB HAPPENINGS



President Stader joins other clubwomen at the Ousamequin Club's Fall Tea. Nice hats, ladies!



President Stader visits the Bourne Women's Club. Featured was a beautiful teal and purple frosted cake. Yummy!



Mary Ann Pierce and Elaine Oppenheimer of the Needham Women's Club deliver thankfulness basket to their fire station on September 11th.



President Stader visiting GFWC Taunton & Raynham Juniors, is greeted by Club President Edie Edlund.



The Needham Women's Club invited President Stader and other State Leaders to hear about the Suffragist Legacy from Freddie Kay (with sash). Club member Cathy Freedberg (r) helped facilitate the event

MORE CLUB HAPPENINGS



At the Annual Pot Luck dinner of the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club, the theme of the evening was Flamingle! And State and Junior Officers were right there to get with the program! Notice our State President's fancy eyeglasses!

At the same meeting, the importance of the right of women to vote was also brought home by enacting a mock election vote by attendees.



Tuesday, November 6, 2018

VOTE!



GFWC of Massachusetts 2018-2020 President's Project

Lucille Barton, President's Project Chairman /Education Chairman

jebtab@beld.net 781-848-0626

**MORE
THAN WORDS**

The President's Project, MORE THAN WORDS, has met with amazing success as club members have embraced the whole concept of helping our communities' most vulnerable young people, ages 16 to 24. These young people have been in foster care, incarcerated, homeless or out of school.

MTW collects gently used books to stock their in-store and on-line bookselling business which are operated by the youth. They are mentored to meet job expectations in today's workplace and make better choices, helping them to become independent adults empowered to fulfill their potential.

As members of the GFWC, we too can support and encourage the success of this program. **You can help by collecting and donating gently used books and DVD's.** This generates revenue that offsets the cost of training, mentoring and educational services. Members may also purchase books through the MTW website: <http://mtwyouth.webstoreplace.com/>. Share this information with your book groups!

Book donation cards are now available in each participating club. If you have not yet joined us, please encourage your club to do so. You also get that "feel good" feeling knowing that with your no-cost donation, you are creating a positive change in the lives of disenfranchised young people every day.

We now have **28 clubs reporting donations and have contributed more than 8,900 books and DVD's.** Wouldn't 10,000 be a great number to reach by December? We can do it! As the year continues, I will be sending out more ways in which we can support them. If you have a large supply of books or any unanswered questions, please contact me- I am happy to help. 781-848-0626 or jebtab@beld.net



Meet Mehki, a recent More Than Words Graduate

What was your question zero?

"To go to college"

How has MTW supported you?

"They listened to my concerns and needs for my future specifically my health, career and academic goals. They provided me with resources that led to unique opportunities specifically my YouPro scholarship.

So what now?

"At the end of the day I would love to return to More Than Words as a business training manager because I want to work somewhere the mission is bigger than myself. They literally saved my life and I'd love to pay that forward." [#QuestionZeroThursday#ListenToTheYouth](#)

Resolutions Refresher – Diane McCurley Second Vice President

Amended Resolutions for Domestic Violence (IV Home Life, 8.) and Billboards (VI Public Issues, 6.) were approved at Fall Meeting in Marlborough and will be available on the GFWC of MA website shortly. Please share with your club members and keep in mind that Resolutions are the blueprint by which our entire organization is guided.



Who's ready for a fun afternoon or evening with friends?

When: Friday, November 16; Where: GFWC of Mass. Headquarters

Time: 1st session: 1-3 p.m.; 2nd session: 6-8 p.m.

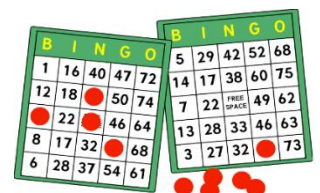
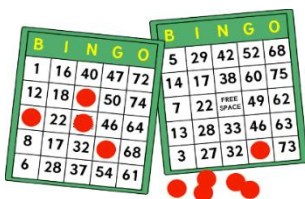
Cost: \$25/person/session

Admission includes: free raffle tickets, 4 bingo cards to play (more are available to purchase), yummy snacks, beverages and prizes galore!

BYOB is allowed.

Call or email Donna to secure your spot:

413-519-1845/dmshibley@gmail.com



Come support GFWC Massachusetts, have FUN, and win some great prizes!

Treasurer's Tidbits- T Jablanski, Treasurer

Dues are DUE – **December 31, 2018 – Please note new deadline.**

Bills will be sent on November 1st for the immediate past fiscal year. The invoice you will receive this year are for dues paid to your club during the club year 2017-2018. 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 \$24 in total - \$15 for GFWC International and \$9 for GFWC MA. Please see – BYLAWS Article IV – Dues, Finances and Fiscal Year Section 1. of current Manual.



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

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T and Katie Robey, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs recently spent a day visiting the Massachusetts Attorney General's and Secretary of State's offices in Boston and learned much new information on our organization's responsibilities. They look forward to sharing this info with everyone soon!

Noteworthy Noeses

GFWC of Massachusetts Contribution forms were included in the President's Packets at Fall Meeting and are available on the GFWCMA.org website. They will also be sent via email to all club presidents soon. Please let Diane McCurley at Headquarters (gfwcma@aol.com) know if you have not received yours. Contributions are due by **December 31, 2018** to Treasurer T Jablanski for inclusion in the 2018 reports.



Speaking of reports....

Reporting Reminder – Diane McCurley - dido67@aol.com, 508-423-5066

Yes, it is that time of year to be thinking of organizing your numbers to prepare to write your 2018 reports.

No, the process is not difficult if you follow the guidelines given to all Club Presidents on Club Leaders Day and posted on the GFWC of MA website under the Member link.

Maybe, you might need help, and Diane McCurley is just a phone call or email away to help answer your questions.

Because, reporting is a way to keep your club history while bragging about your accomplishments to fellow clubwoman.

January 21, 2019 is when reports are due to your District Director and Diane McCurley, as Headquarters Secretary, at GFWCMA@AOL.org or mail to GFWC of MA Headquarters, P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776

Membership Message – Terry Rouvalis, Membership Chairman
Recruitment Campaign for Membership

November 30 is the deadline to send me information about your new members recruited in September, October, and November. Please include, the new member's name, address, phone and email to me at trouvalis@msn.com **no later than November 30, 2018.**



Wreaths Across America



Wreaths Across America Day is coming up on December 15th. Show your honor and gratitude for our fallen heroes by participating in this meaningful event. See further details in Jen Nowak's Message from Junior Membership.

Holiday at Headquarters

Kick up your **Holiday Spirit** on December 6, 2018 at 10 a.m. at GFWC of Massachusetts Headquarters for our Annual **Holiday at Headquarters!** Raise your voice in song during caroling, listen as our State President Lynne Stader reads a holiday message, participate in a service project which will benefit military families. and taste the marvelous products of our members' kitchens as we swap (and eat) cookies.

Raffle Baskets and Opportunity Raffle will be held- some great surprises! So, be prepared to shop at the Federation Holiday Boutique (Federation Station), take chances on some holiday baskets, and split the pot for some extra holiday cash!

Join us as we Celebrate the Season of Sharing!



Dates to Remember

- December 6 Holiday at Headquarters, Sudbury
Club Institute
- THIRD ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP!!**
Holiday Reading from President Stader
- 15 *Wreaths Across America* Day
- 31 Club dues and Contributions due to Treasurer, T Jablanski
- January 21 Club Statistical and Reports due to GFWC of Massachusetts
Electronically or snail mail to P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, 01776
- February 1 LEADS Applications due to GFWC of Massachusetts, PO Box 679,
Sudbury 01776
- March 1 GFWC of Massachusetts Scholarship and Memorial
Education Fund Fellowship Applications are due to
GFWC of MA, PO Box 679, Sudbury 01776
7 Club Institute, HQ, Sudbury
- April 27 Junior Membership Annual Meeting, Stoneforge Tavern, Raynham
- May 4-5 GFWC of Massachusetts Annual Meeting, Courtyard Marriott
Scholarship/Fellowship presentations, Club Awards,
- June TBD MassSTAR Leadership Seminar, Lasell College
Saturday Service Project
- June 29-July 1 GFWC Annual Convention, Austin, Texas

Happy Thanksgiving to You and Your Families!



Hope you enjoyed this edition of **TOPICS**. When your club does something new/fun/important in your community, takes lots of pictures and send them to gfwcma@aol.com for publication in our next issue!

Thanks for reading!
Diane McCurley, Editor