



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

T Jablanski, President



GFWC Community Service Program: Civic Engagement and Outreach ~ 2022-2024 **Ann Marie Bielenin, Chairman | abielenin@aol.com | H 508.668.3404 | C 508.942.3978**

The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community - locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Civic Engagement and Outreach has four different areas **Citizenship - Crime Prevention, Safety and Disaster Preparedness - The Needy, Hungry and Homeless - Our Military Personnel and Veterans.** Massachusetts has an amazing website which contains information on all aspects of Civic Engagement and Outreach. Go to <http://www.mass.gov> In this age of the Coronavirus health crisis many of the following are suggestions of what our clubs can do in Massachusetts are online services that can be incorporated into your club meetings whether it is in person or electronic.

Citizenship:

- ✓ Learn about the Citizen Information Service on the Massachusetts Government website.
 - <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciscig/guide.html>
- ✓ It is a mid-term election year in Massachusetts on September 6, 2022 ~ hold a voter registration in your town including your high school students.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/topics/voting>
- ✓ March 8th, 2023 is International Women's Day ~ International Women's Day celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women. It is held on the 8th of March every year to recognise the hard work of females all over the world and signifies a call to action for accelerating gender parity.
<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

Crime Prevention, Safety and Disaster Preparedness

- ✓ Massachusetts residents should always be prepared for disasters here is how:
 - <https://www.mass.gov/topics/emergencies-disasters>
- ✓ Invite the American Red Cross to meetings, deliver blood or volunteer at a center.
 - <https://www.redcross.org/local/massachusetts.html>

The Needy, Hungry and Homeless

- ✓ Hold a food drive and donate items to your local food pantry. Have members volunteer by doing a virtual fundraiser or club members delivering food.
 - The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts - <https://www.foodbankwma.org/>
 - Project Bread - <http://www.projectbread.org/get-help/>

Our Military Personnel and Veterans

- ✓ Have clothing and household items drive or have club members volunteer at the following sites:
 - The Vietnam Veterans of America call 1.800.778.8387 <https://vva.org/>
 - New England Center and Home for Veterans 617.371.1749 or <https://www.nechv.org/volunteer/group-opportunities/>
- ✓ Have your club members sponsor wreaths or lay wreaths on Wreaths Day ~ **December 18, 2022,** and **December 17, 2023.**
 - Wreaths Across America - <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>
 - Contact your VA Medical Centers specifically Women Veterans Programs for volunteer ideas. <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=MA>

For many more ideas check out the 2022-2024 GFWC Club Manual pages on the GFWC Massachusetts website by going to the **ABOUT** tab and click on **What Do We Do?**