



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

T Jablanski, President



GFWC Advancement Plan: Legislation/Public Policy 2022-2024 **Martha Casassa, Chairman | labmom416@gmail.com | C 781.785.6911**

"Together We Advocate for Those in Need"

Welcome to the GFWC Massachusetts Legislation/Public Policy Advancement Plan! The quote above is your best philosophy for all you do in this area. Remember – The programs and projects outlined in the GFWC Club Manual correlate to the GFWC Resolutions, which identify our issues of common concern and the remedies that we have agreed upon, by vote at convention, to work on together. If, however, a member or a club does not agree with a viewpoint adopted at convention by GFWC members, they are not required to support a position that conflicts with their personal beliefs. They can speak against it publicly as a club member, or even as a club, by noting they represent the "GFWC minority view." Each member and club has a voice in this process.

The GFWC Resolutions have just been streamlined, consolidated, and modernized thanks to an incredible job by the 2020-2022 Resolutions Committee. They are a tremendous resource regarding GFWC advocacy – YOUR advocacy! They are not yet available on the Member Portal, but you will be alerted as soon as they are! You can also check by signing in to the portal and going to: **My Digital Library>Resources>R>Resolutions**. Please - let this Chairman know if you need help accessing the Portal.

In the meantime – take action!! Here are the goals for this administration:

- Increase participation in the Legislative Action Center (LAC). EVERY member should be signed up. Do it at your next meeting. Visit: <https://cqrcengage.com/gfwc/home?1>
- Educate members about GFWC's legislative priorities. These are posted on the LAC site: <https://cqrcengage.com/gfwc/home?1>
- Promote Legislative Advocacy as the natural extension of your volunteer work. Check the Resolutions for the area of your project to see how you can "advocate for those in need."
- Build relationships with the local, state, regional, and national decision makers. Inform your political leaders at all levels about what you are doing as a club to help others. AND - how they can help?!
- Establish the GFWC name as a brand that lawmakers and the community recognizes. When your GFWC club speaks, ensure others will listen!
- Mobilize members to raise a united voice to advocate for GFWC and its legislative priorities. Take actions as a group and publicize what you are doing. Refer to GFWC Resolutions. Use the GFWC logo and name.

Much more info is in: **My Digital Library>Resources>Club Manual>2022-2024 FILLABLE Legislation and Public Policy 7.1.22.pdf** Please feel free to Contact this Chairman with any questions.

What Advocacy is NOT??? As GFWC members, it's important that you/your Club DON'T:

- Endorse/oppose a candidate/political party.
- Use club funds, facilities, donations, publications, or activities for a candidate or political party.
- Ask candidates to sign a pledge on any issue.

Looking for a fun activity in this Advancement Area? Check out the *LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY SCAVENGER HUNT PROJECT*: **My Digital Library>Resources>Club Manual>2022-2024 FILLABLE Legislation and Public Policy 7.1.22.pdf pages 10-12** Gather points and be a Legislative Super Star!

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?**

THANKS FOR BEING AN ADVOCATE FOR THOSE IN NEED!