

**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS  
RESOLUTIONS 2016-2017**

updated February 10, 2017

**I THE ARTS**

**1. Fine Arts**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts believes the opportunity to be educated, to participate and to create in the various fields of Fine Arts is a basic need of life; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts considers an appreciation of the Fine Arts an essential part in the development of our youth as well as for all ages; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts believes that an individual's life is enriched mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and spirituality through the Arts;

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts initiate, support and encourage programs to promote within the local school systems and within communities interest in, and an appreciation of art, crafts, the dance, drama, literature, music and photography.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

**2. Heritage Arts and Crafts**

Whereas, Heritage arts and crafts reflect the culture, history and aesthetic values of society; and

Whereas, Continued and active practice is the only way these skills can be preserved for future generations; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to preserve heritage arts and crafts by;

1. Researching the history and techniques;
2. Encouraging artisans to study and practice these skills;
3. Supporting programs that teach these skills both on the professional and amateur levels.
4. Supporting programs that introduce these skills during early childhood development.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

**II CONSERVATION**

**1. Conservation of Recreation Areas**

Whereas, The natural beauties of the Commonwealth should be available for the enjoyment of all its citizens; and

Whereas, Existing open areas of aesthetic and recreational value within many communities are now subject to legislative land taking for other uses; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work with local and state authorities for the protection of existing community parklands, wetlands, salt marshes, forests and recreation areas; and the replanting of forests and development and beautification of the roadside with special attention being given to the safety, facilities and maintenance of the travelers' roadside rest areas as well as closed facilities.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

## **2. Ecological Effect of the MWRA Plan**

Whereas, Cape Cod Bay and Massachusetts Bay are vital ecological resources for the entire State of Massachusetts, impacting on shellfish, fisheries, recreation, marine mammals, and boating; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has a sewage outfall pipe that discharges sewage into Massachusetts Bay and has constructed related components of the Deer Island facilities which will provide secondary treatment, and

Whereas, The MWRA has implemented the GFWC recommendations for an extensive Outfall Monitoring Plan since 1992, and an Outfall Monitoring Task Force chaired by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs has been guiding the collection of extensive data about Massachusetts, mainly the Cape Cod Bays, including information about the effects of nutrients, as a baseline for comparison with data to be collected when the outfall is in use, and the MWRA has developed a contingency plan to provide a process for responding to any changes of concern that arise, including indications that nutrients may be a problem; therefore

*Resolved*, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to continue to act as a catalyst in their communities to urge the public to remain vigilant to potential environmental dangers, as well as to monitor the data collected by the Outfall Monitoring Plan and Task Force in their baseline study specifically with regard to any adverse impact on Stellwagen Bank, a significant area of marine life, and further

*Resolved*, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts convey to the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority support for:

1. Timely release of comparative data on impacts of the Outfall and use of this data in studies of marine life in the Bay;
2. Adequate funding support reserved to implement the Contingency Plan without delay should the need arise to respond to any concern, including indications that nutrients are a problem
3. Development of an independent cost-benefit analysis of the need for tertiary treatment to allow the public to assess the desirability of further environmental safeguards.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **3. Endangered Species**

Whereas, Various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untended by adequate concern and conservation; and

Whereas, Other species of fish, wildlife, and plants have been so depleted in number due to habitat losses, draining and filling of wetlands, and increased use of pesticides that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction; and

Whereas, These species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, and scientific value to the Nation and its people; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States has pledged to conserve, to the extent practicable, the various species of fish, wildlife, and plants facing extinction thru the adoption of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended, and encourages states to develop and maintain conservation programs which meet national and international standards to better safeguard the Nation's heritage in fish, wildlife, and plants; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to familiarize themselves with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and abide by its various regulations which protects rare species and their habitats by prohibiting the "take" of any plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages setting aside more land for refuges, game lands, and sanctuaries, therefore safeguarding and conserving the natural diversity of the Commonwealth for residents and visitors to appreciate and enjoy; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to appropriate funding to state agencies and public/private organizations committed to preserving the state's natural resources and people's right to conservation of those resources.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

#### **4. Energy Usage**

Whereas, A conservation program of significant proportions must be the central focus of our Nation's short-range energy management program; and

Whereas, Studies have shown that practices such as ride sharing, adherence to mandatory speed limits, use of mass transit, use of more efficient vehicles and use of alternate fuel sources can reduce petroleum consumption, air pollution and traffic congestion; and

Whereas, Any federal, state or local program of energy conservation depends on the whole-hearted support of all citizens;

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges more vigorous enforcement of the posted speed limit, more Federal aid for public transportation, and accelerated and stronger standards for automobiles including gasoline usage requirements and other disincentives on inefficient vehicles and further; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to develop personal programs of energy conservation through voluntary self-rationing of gasoline, electricity and other sources of energy; participation in car pools and shared transportation; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourage the car manufacturers to explore, develop, and produce hybrid fuel vehicles with strict safety requirements with careful attention to all new developments to accomplish local, state and national conservation objectives.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

#### **5. Global Warming**

Whereas, Many scientific studies indicate that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and nitrogen oxides and other gases may be adding to global warming; and

Whereas, This greenhouse effect could result in substantially altered rainfall patterns, increases in sea levels, loss of soil moisture, and changes in the movement of storms, adversely affecting agriculture, forests, wetlands, water resources and coastal areas; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to educate their communities on how to become "Green Communities" and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges action by government and industry worldwide to:

1. Reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases;
2. Research and develop economically feasible alternative energy sources;
3. Implement sound agricultural and forest policies to prevent deforestation and irreversible damage to tropical rain forests;
4. Promote international cooperation to address this issue;
5. Promote efficient use of energy; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the dangers of global warming and to share their concerns with legislators.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **6. Hazardous Waste**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that hazardous waste disposal is injurious to our health and that of future generations; and

Whereas, The improper management of hazardous waste is contaminating our soil and water supply, a necessity of life; and

Whereas, Sound management and safe treatment of hazardous waste must be of local, state and national concern; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges local, state and national governments to update and strengthen initiatives for safe hazardous waste disposal; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to support reductions in the amount of household hazardous waste entering the waste stream by:

1. Promoting public awareness that safe storage, storage, reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal are all important tools to safely manage household hazardous waste.

2. Encouraging state agencies to provide hazardous waste sites and promote public participation in household hazardous waste "drop-off" programs.

3. Substituting non-hazardous products for hazardous household cleaning, yard care and car maintenance products;

4. Promoting public awareness about proper disposal to prevent pollution.

5. Promoting the distribution and use of educational materials, such as home hazardous product surveys, though classroom education, publications and the media;

6. Encouraging retailers and manufacturers to provide information on proper recycling, and/or safe disposal of all household hazardous waste.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

## **7. Keep America Beautiful**

Whereas, Preserving the beauty and environmental quality of communities is of enduring importance; and

Whereas, It is the responsibility of all citizens to motivate and educate others in their communities toward positive citizen action for community improvement, conservation, and local beautification; and

Whereas, Vandalism and abuse threaten the physical environment, natural resources, and heritage of our nation's public lands; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the concept of keeping America beautiful; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges all club women to take responsibility to promote programs in schools, to educate and motivate action by their local citizenry on issues of community improvement, conservation and local beautification; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote and participate in Public Lands Day celebrations and Clean Water celebrations to work for improved volunteer public land stewardship programs all year long.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

## **8. Litter and Packaging Reduction**

Whereas, The preservation of the natural beauty of our Commonwealth has always been of prime interest and concern to our membership; and

Whereas, Litter of all kinds including newspapers, bottles, aluminum cans, plastics, plastic bags, polystyrene packaging and products, waste oil, white goods (appliances), motor vehicle batteries and tires destroys the natural beauty of our environment and can be dangerous to the environment, wildlife, and marine life; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to activate programs that will encourage public interest in eliminating litter within their communities, promote the placing of trash receptacles in public areas, and encourage recycling of newspapers, bottles, aluminum tins and cans, plastics, plastic bags, polystyrene packaging and products, waste oil, white goods (appliances), motor vehicle batteries and tires; and

*Resolved*, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts request all state officials to work for the development of recycling facilities and with the placement of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in all regions of our Commonwealth; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts request all state and local law enforcement officials to aggressively enforce laws and regulations concerning the disposal of litter and recyclables along our highways and beaches, in parks, forest, waterways, and other public places.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

## **9. Ozone Depletion**

Whereas, The ozone layer is what shields the earth and its living organisms from the harmful ultraviolet B radiations of the sun; and

Whereas, The main cause for the depletion of the ozone is excessive release of chlorine and bromine from the man-made compounds such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) used in cleaning agents, aerosol spray cans, packing materials and other products; and

Whereas, A significant reduction of ozone in the upper atmosphere could cause long-term world-wide environmental effects such as crop and forest damage and human health effects (e.g., increases in the incidence of skin cancer and cataracts); therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges continued action by government and industry worldwide to:

1. Reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances;
2. Promote international cooperation to address this issue; and further
3. Urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the dangers of ozone depletion, ways they can reduce ozone depletion, and to share their concerns with legislators.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

## **10. Regional and Metropolitan Planning**

Whereas, Such environmental factors as highways, preservation of recreational facilities, transportation of people and the products of industry, rivers and water resources are of increasing concern to the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work with their community and its regional planning agency as zoning changes and economic development may impact the physical and natural beauty of the environment; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members clubs to be involved as comprehensive regional and metropolitan planning is undertaken in their communities.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

### **11. Support of Coastal Wetland Restoration**

Whereas, The coastal wetlands are irreplaceable and natural resources necessary to the conservation of wildlife and support almost 75% of the nation's commercial fish and shellfish industries,

Whereas, The inland and coastal wetlands are essential to public and private water supplies and for proper flood control; and

Whereas, Coastal wetlands provide storm protection with an acre of wetlands able to store 1 to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater; and

Whereas, These vital resources are being threatened with extinction or damaging encroachment by unreasonable and unnecessary exploitation; therefore

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its private industry and government agencies to work together to encourage research in finding ways to stop erosion and support the proper protection, development and rehabilitation of the national resources; and further

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges local conservation, state and federal regulatory agencies to strictly enforce the laws and regulations and seek further legislative measures necessary to protect the health of our citizens and preserve our rich environmental heritage; and further

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts strongly support funding for coastal restoration projects; and further

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourage its members to stand ever vigilant and report to the proper authorities potential danger to the environment and sponsor environmental forums.

**Midwinter Meeting 2013**

### **12. Water Resources**

Whereas, The water resources of our nation are being depleted rapidly because of the escalating population, industrial use which includes large amounts of water to maintain clean air requirements, and the expected standards of living in today's society; and

Whereas, Quantities of chemical materials, household toxic materials, pharmaceutical compounds, and sewage are still being discharged into the water resources; and

Whereas, The continued spilling of oil into waterways pollutes current and potential water resources, endangers wildlife and prohibits recreation; therefore

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to continue to support legislative programs for conservation, judicious industrial use, restricted disposal of toxic wastes far removed from water supplies and resources; and further

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its member clubs to acquaint members, local citizens, and legislators of these dangers and the need to protect our water resources; and further

*Resolved,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to be aware of the dangers in the use and disposal of such substances and to join their efforts with that of the government, business, non-profit organizations, the volunteer sector, and individuals in a program of education and service which will ensure and expedite clean water supplies to all.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

### III EDUCATION

#### 1. Basic Education

Whereas, United States students are not all academically prepared to compete in a global community; and

Whereas, Solutions to our educational problems must be addressed, including gender equity and lack of basic educational skills; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to:

1. Impress upon parents that the child's basic needs must be provided for in the home;
2. Encourage rededication of parents working in partnership with schools and teachers;
3. Establish strong early childhood educational programs;
4. Set up mentor programs linking business representatives, professionals, and seniors with individual students;
5. Develop an atmosphere of respect and cooperation among the student, parent, and teacher;
6. Inculcate within teachers an appreciation of the opportunity each has to develop our youth.

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to become mentors, readers, and volunteers in their local schools.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

#### 2. Bullying

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts supports legislation to prevent bullying that would address harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber bullying in any public educational institution; and

Whereas, Bullying is defined as unwelcome written, electronic, verbal or physical acts or gestures where a student feels coerced, intimidated, harassed or threatened; and

Whereas, Bullying has been identified as a cause of youth suicides; and

Whereas, Such legislation requires school boards to adopt anti-harassment and anti-bullying policies and to ensure that students can feel safe in a learning environment; and

Whereas, It also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a model policy and training materials, to monitor school districts for compliance, and to submit annual reports to the state legislature/Department of Education; and

Whereas, Such legislation to prevent bullying in schools would not infringe upon an individual's right to free speech and would not create grounds for a lawsuit;,, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs:

1. To support such legislation and encourage their legislators to vote in favor of such legislation.
2. To present speakers and initiate forums on this subject for their members and the public.
3. To encourage school systems to adhere to strict anti-bullying policies.
4. To work with schools to ensure that school age children are safeguarded from mental and physical anguish caused by bullying.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

#### 3. Education for Adults

Whereas, An educated and informed public is vital for an American democracy of a government by the people; and

Whereas, Many adult Americans cannot read, write, calculate and reason well enough to solve problems, to make sensible decisions or to make reasonable judgments; and

Whereas, Education in today's world is a continuing process; and  
Whereas, Many adults are seeking educational opportunities not only for advanced credit, for personal growth and self-enrichment, but to learn the basic skills of reading and writing; therefore  
*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to

1. Support local, state and national programs for adult education;
2. Initiate and present informational programs and forums for women;
3. Encourage the use of educational television;
4. Publicize and promote literacy tutoring programs;
5. Encourage school systems to institute Adult Basic Education programs;
6. Fund scholarships to aid adult women returning to school;
7. Establish and participate in tutoring and mentoring programs.

**Annual Meeting 2016**

#### **4. Education of Youth**

Whereas, The future of our country depends upon education and training that will enable young people of all abilities and challenges to develop and operate at their highest capabilities today, tomorrow, and in the years to come; and

Whereas, Statistics reveal that there is a need to return to basic studies in-the education of reading, writing and mathematics to prepare our youth properly for its role in the world of today and the global economy of the future,-and

Whereas, in addition to four year college children can benefit from developing vocational and technical skills, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to initiate, evaluate, promote and support local and state programs designed to:

1. Support efforts to ensure adequate financial support for public schools taking into consideration the true cost of educating a child today.
2. Encourage school systems to develop new options in addition to Vocational/Technical programs to train students for trade, semi-professional and technical career opportunities.
3. Train students as skilled workers in the global marketplace, encouraging all opportunities that promote financial literacy, leadership roles, cultural exchange, and global awareness at all levels.
4. Offer languages needed in an increasingly global economy.
5. Promote an approach to paying teachers with the priority placed on quality of work and student success as measures to determine salary.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

#### **5. English as a Primary Language in Massachusetts Schools**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts acknowledges the reality that we are part of the global community; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes the fact that a thorough knowledge of the English language is necessary in today's society, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts goes on record as being strongly in support of English as the primary language in all Massachusetts schools, and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work with local officials and legislators to ensure that English remains the primary language in all Massachusetts schools.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

## **6. Financial Security and Literacy for Women**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that statistically women live longer than men; and

Whereas, Many women are responsible for family financial planning and investing; and

Whereas, Knowledge of estate planning, investments, taxes, and insurance is necessary to achieve financial security; and

Whereas, Women face tremendous challenges as they move through life's transitions from young adulthood to retirement years; and

Whereas, Women are concerned about the financial well-being of their families as well as themselves, making sure that those they love are secure within their own financial success; and therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to:

1. Develop programs that will help their members to acquire understanding and self-reliance in all financial matters.
2. Acquaint their members with opportunities and workshops which promote and explain financial security.
3. Support programs that empower women to succeed and prosper by encouraging schools, business and other service organizations to sponsor programs to promote financial literacy among women of all ages.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

## **7. Income Tax Deduction for Tuition**

Whereas, The financing of higher education of children will continue to be an increasing burden on parents and guardians; and

Whereas, Students who must earn their way through school should be aided and encouraged to pursue higher education; and

Whereas, An income tax credit or deduction will encourage persons to help in financing the higher education of students; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports existing laws and legislation which provide that tuition fees to higher educational institutions, accredited by State and regional associations be deductible from income before income taxes or qualify for credit against income tax liability.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **8. Library Services**

Whereas, An Informed and involved citizenry is necessary to the true function of a democracy and

Whereas, The rapid advance in science and technology as well as ever changing International relationships, has provided an ever increasing volume of literature; and

Whereas, The school and public libraries are valuable sources of material and an inspiration to the inquiring mind, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to encourage systems at school resource centers and public libraries to be upgraded to include the latest in technology, especially in areas of our State where such library service is now lacking, and

*Resolved*, That a concerted effort be made to see that adequate funds are allocated on the local, regional and State levels in order that appropriate library service may continue to meet the needs of our growing communities, and further

*Resolved*, That the people of our community be encouraged to make full use of the many varied facilities offered by the library.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

### **9. Suicide Awareness**

Whereas, Suicide in adolescence has tripled in the last thirty years and now along with automobile accidents is a leading cause of death among young people; and

Whereas, The prevalence of suicide in our state has become a major concern to family and friends; and

Whereas, Suicide is generally characterized by a definite set of behavior patterns that can be recognized; therefore

*Resolved*, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to

1. Learn and recognize the signs of suicide;
2. Promote and support suicide awareness education in their local schools and communities;
3. Help identify and support organizations and centers where help can be found for a troubled teenager, the family and interested friends; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports legislation that will encourage Suicide Awareness Education in the schools.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

### **10. Two-year/Community Colleges Vocational and Technical Education Institutions**

Whereas, Two-year/Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions offer an opportunity for students and adults for continuing education or to prepare for employment; and

Whereas, The Two-year/Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions offer a solid preparation for further academic achievement and may offer a wide variety of job training programs for those desiring semi-professional or technical careers; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support accredited Two-Year/Community Colleges and Vocational and Technical Education Institutions: and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to offer scholarships to students attending such institutions to financially support our commitment of such Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutes.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

### **11. Volunteerism**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts have supported volunteerism in the schools and libraries in many diverse ways for many years; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts continues to promote programs and projects which enhance the value of our schools and libraries; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to continue to actively volunteer in their respective communities and to support projects and programs of the GFWC to broaden the opportunities and experiences of all citizens and exemplify responsible and valuable civic engagement activity.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

#### **IV. HOME LIFE**

##### **1. Alcoholism**

Whereas, The excessive consumption of alcoholic beverage by adults, youth, and children is threatening the social, economic, and moral structure of this nation; and

Whereas, Alcoholism among women continues to be documented as an alarming problem and;

Whereas, Statistics show that children ages 9-10 are drinking alcohol and that an increasing number begin drinking alcohol before the age 13 and an alarming number of youth 14 and above drink excessively on a regular basis; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its membership to use every legitimate means to lessen this growing peril by;

1. Demanding the enforcement of liquor laws in their communities;
2. Urging that the devastating long-term effects of alcohol be taught at all levels in our public schools;
3. Educating the public to the disease concept of alcoholism;
4. Protesting to those responsible for the frequent and unnecessary drinking scenes which are presented daily through radio, television, motion pictures, theater, and magazines, and the glamorization of social drinking through liquor advertisements;
5. Supporting meaningful assistance programs directed towards women and children;
6. Sponsoring support groups for families in which there is an alcohol problem.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

##### **2. Alzheimer's Disease**

Whereas, 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's today, unless a cure or prevention is found that will increase to between 11 and 16 million by 2050; and

Whereas, Alzheimer's affects up to 13% of people age 65 and over and increasing to 50% at age 85 and older; and

Whereas, Direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementia's amount to more than \$183 billion annually; and

Whereas, A new person develops Alzheimer's every 68 seconds – this is projected to increase to every 33 seconds by 2050; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support legislation to further any existing studies to find a cure.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

##### **3. Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Whereas, Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior; and

Whereas, Autistic disorder, sometimes called autism or classical ASD, is the most severe form of ASD, while other conditions along the spectrum include a milder form known as Asperger syndrome, and childhood disintegrative disorder and pervasive developmental disorder; and

Whereas, Experts estimate that 1 out of 88 children age 8 will have an ASD; and

Whereas, Males are four times more likely to have an ASD than females; and

Whereas, Children with characteristics of an ASD may have co-occurring conditions, including fragile X syndrome (which causes mental retardation), tuberous sclerosis, epileptic seizures, Tourette syndrome, learning disabilities, and attention deficit disorder; and

Whereas, A comprehensive evaluation requires a multidisciplinary team, including a psychologist, neurologist, psychiatrist, speech therapist, and other professionals who diagnose children with ASD; and

Whereas, Twin and family studies strongly suggest that some people have a genetic disposition to autism, evidence also suggest that emotional disorders, such as bipolar disorder, occur more frequently than average in the families of people with ASD; and

Whereas, There is no cure for ASD; and

Whereas, Many health plans do not cover any intervention; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports legislation, to enhance the quality, pace and coordination of efforts at the National Institute of Health to find a cure for autism; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the involvement of the seven institutes and centers; the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and the National Center on Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

**Fall Meeting 2013**

#### **4. Breast Cancer**

Whereas, The Center for Disease Control reports that one in eight women and one in 1,000 men will develop breast cancer in his/her lifetime; and

Whereas, A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases as she ages; and

Whereas, the stages at which breast cancer is diagnosed is a major predictor of survival, with early detection significantly lowering the mortality rate; and

Whereas, Self-examination by palpation, regular physical examination by a physician, especially when there is a family history of cancer, and mammography (x-ray) and other imaging technologies are screening methods that assist in early cancer detection; and

Whereas, Private and government insurance does not, in all cases, cover annual screening for women and men; and

Whereas, Mastectomies and lymph node dissections are common treatments of breast cancer; and

Whereas, Many are forced to go home from the hospital hours after breast cancer surgery due to hospital stay restrictions imposed by their insurance companies; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts support legislation mandating private and government sponsored coverage for breast cancer screening, annually and/or upon recommendation of a physician; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts continue to raise awareness and encourage participation in breast cancer screening and early treatment; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts support legislation requiring insurance companies to cover hospital stays for recovering breast cancer surgery patients including a 48-hour minimum hospital stay for mastectomy patients and a 24-hour minimum hospital stay for those undergoing lymph node dissection.

**Midwinter Meeting 2013**

#### **5. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Training**

Whereas sudden cardiac arrests kill as many as 400,000 people a year in the United States according to the American Heart Association, and

Whereas the American Heart Association continues to recommend courses that train persons in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) including training in Hands-Only CPR and

Whereas technological advances also offer a portable lifesaving device called an "automated external defibrillator" or "AED" as an important medical tool, and

Whereas the American Heart Association notes that at least 20,000 lives could be saved annually by prompt use of AEDs, and

Whereas the devices are now commonly found in malls, restaurants, airports, health clubs, schools and churches in addition to medical settings, and

Whereas Massachusetts law states that any person trained in AED performing basic cardiac life support or CPR is immune from civil liability, and

Whereas, it is a benefit to our clubwomen to educate themselves and others in the performance of CPR and the use of defibrillators (AEDs) in order to save lives; therefore:

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts goes on record in support of programs to train and recertify individuals in their communities in CPR and the use of-AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) and

*Resolved*, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to take advantage of training opportunities to become able operators of AEDs and willing performers of CPR in the event that they are present in an emergency whereby their quick response and action can save someone's life.

**Annual Meeting 2016**

## **6. Child and Adult Abuse**

Whereas, The physical and mental well-being of all our people is a matter of grave concern; and

Whereas, It is essential that every person has the right to a sound mind and body unscarred by willful abuse; and

Whereas, Bullying is defined as unwelcome written, electronic, verbal or physical acts or gestures where a child or adult feels coerced, intimidate, harassed or threatened; and

Whereas, Some people may be helpless to protect themselves; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges support of responsible action to protect these people by requesting doctors, health care personnel, teachers, police, and neighbors to report unexplainable injuries to the proper authorities; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support programs which would place all our people in safe circumstances until their cases are settled by the court.

**Fall Meeting 2012**

## **7. Consumer Safety**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that the safety of home and family is aided by current consumer knowledge and action; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to continue:

1. Urging testing and certification by a government agency of materials and additives used as ingredients in foods, medications, cosmetics, household products;
2. Supporting a standard of truthfulness and clarity in labeling, warranties, guarantees, decipherable dating, and packaging in all forms of marketing for public consumption; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges the testing and certification by government agencies of material used in household furniture and building materials to prevent use of substances that compromise health and safety; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote programs of education, action, and cooperation with law enforcement officials to insure consumer safety.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

## **8. Disabled Persons**

Whereas, There are millions of people with disabilities who cannot reach their fullest potential without the active and creative cooperation of volunteers; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urge its members to continue programs to assist people with disabilities to become contributing members of our society.

**Annual Meeting 2012**

## **9. Domestic Violence**

Whereas, Domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational, and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury, and death to adults and children; and

Whereas, Many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations because they are deliberately placed into financial dependency by their abuser; and

Whereas, Domestic violence also includes dating violence, which is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship; and

Whereas, Lack of dating experience subjects teens to situations where they are less likely to recognize signs and/or symptoms of abuse; and

Whereas, Young people who witness violence, or are directly victimized, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and

Whereas, Many state laws and legal remedies only deal with certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support legislation and actively promote programs that:

1. Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal, partner, and elder abuse;
2. Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;
3. Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings;
4. Provide treatment, support, legal aid, and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse;
5. Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its legislature to fund legislation that supports victims of domestic violence; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, lawyers, law enforcement, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.

**Fall Meeting 2013**

#### **10. Foster Care**

Whereas, Many factors are affecting the security of America's youth, including but not limited to divorce, child abuse, alcoholism, drug abuse, and neglect, -and

Whereas, Sometimes in the best interest of the child, he or she must be removed from unsafe living conditions; and

Whereas, Thousands of teens need extended support and resources such as housing and other services as they age out of state custody, and

Whereas, Youth who age out of foster care are less likely to graduate from high school or complete higher levels of education, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work for better laws for recruiting, screening, training and adequately reimburse qualified foster parents through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and to support programs and non-profits providing optimal resources for the foster care system as well as for young adults over the age of 18 who have aged out of state foster care services.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

#### **11. Identify Theft**

Whereas, The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that identity theft is the stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes; and

Whereas, Identity theft is an invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history; and

Whereas, Identity theft is perpetrated by stealing personal information through credit cards, driver's licenses, ATM cards, social security numbers and computer hacking; and

Whereas, Government and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers, and technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information; and

Whereas, Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, including child identity theft; its serious ramifications, and the importance of and methods for; protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of person information, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in their accounts and credit reports and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges government agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish a simplified victim fraud alert process; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts strongly urges public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records available on the internet, and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support increased resources for stringent enforcement of The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws.

## 12. Latch Key Children

Whereas, There are millions of children under twelve years of age who are considered latch-key children because they let themselves into their homes after school and are left alone until their parents or guardians return home; and

Whereas, These children regularly contend with situations such as fear, boredom, loneliness, household mishaps or injuries, caring for younger siblings, exposure to drugs and alcohol, abuse by siblings, poor nutrition, emotional deprivation; therefore

*Resolved*, That General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to:

1. Educate clubwomen and the members of their communities regarding the need for all children to learn self-care skills;
2. Support cost-effective before and after-school programs in our schools which include the teaching of basic safety and emergency procedure;
3. Educate those involved in providing services in the areas of information and referral, telephone and computer usage, intruders, support systems and child abuse.
4. Support daycare centers that strive to keep the high cost of childcare at a level the average family can afford.

Midwinter Meeting 2016

## 13. Mental Health

Whereas, A sound, effective mental health program cannot be achieved without an organized and cooperative effort in which national, state, and local government, organizations, and individuals assume their share of responsibilities; and

Whereas, Success of such a program depends largely upon education and research, adequate facilities and trained professional personnel; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support programs that will focus attention on:

1. Early recognition of symptoms including mental disturbance in youth
2. Promotion of programs designed to interest young people in choosing this important field as their vocation;
3. Establishment of local halfway houses and mental health residences throughout the state;
4. Projects that will develop community understanding of the needs of the mentally ill;
5. Establishment of programs of one-to-one relationships in which mature, competent volunteers take as their own the interest of another person who is in some way developmentally impaired;
6. Keeping state institutions open for the mentally challenged.
7. To support the state initiative to keep the developmentally disabled individual in a home environment whenever possible.
8. The need for individuals confined to State and private hospitals and residential facilities to be allowed to breathe fresh outside air on a regular basis when approved by their treatment plan.

Annual Meeting 2012

## 14. Mentally Challenged

Whereas, Mentally challenged is a social, medical, educational, and economic problem of great magnitude knowing no boundaries of socio-economic status; and

Whereas, the mentally challenged should receive better vocational training, recreational activity, social acceptance, and job opportunities; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports programs and legislation to provide safe housing and institutions as necessary for the severely handicapped, to continue to improve living conditions and quality care for all mentally challenged and promote education of the public to assure acceptance and support of the mentally challenged, to help secure better educational and vocational programs for adults, as well as children, and aid the retarded in securing suitable, worthwhile employment.

**Annual Meeting 2012**

### **15. Missing Children**

Whereas, Countless of children are missing and/or abducted each year, and

Whereas, Neither parents nor local law enforcement agencies have the resources to mount large search efforts, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support legislation to increase federal support for local efforts to find missing children; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work within their communities

1. To support campaigns for fingerprinting, mouth swabbing, dental impressions, and video-taping children
2. To support the use of the Amber Alert System
3. To work with public and private agencies to educate parents and children about safety measures to safeguard against abduction
4. To support the CHIP (Child Identification Program)
5. To encourage parents and/or guardians to monitor their children's internet activities with particular attention to chat rooms.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **16. National Women's Health Week**

Whereas, National Women's Health Week was initiated in 2000 by an alliance of private organizations dedicated to raising awareness of women's health issues; and

Whereas, The formal introduction of National Women's Health Week occurred in the spring of 2000 and began an annual national celebration beginning on Sunday, Mother's Day, and through the following week; and

Whereas, National Women's Health Week is a celebration of women taking responsibility for their own health through greater knowledge and understanding; and

Whereas, National Women's Health Week celebrated the efforts of local organizations working with partners and volunteers to improve awareness of key women's health issues; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

1. Urges its member clubs to contact their local officials to promote Sunday, Mother's Day, and the following week as National Women's Health Week.
2. Work with other organizations to promote Health Awareness Seminars, Health Fairs, and other educational programs.

**Annual Meeting 2012**

## **17. Nutrition**

Whereas, Nutrition is a critical factor in the promotion of health and prevention of disease and in recovery and rehabilitation from illness or injury; and

Whereas, Evidence mounts that Americans who fail to attain a diet optimum for health can be found at every socio-economic level, in all ages and various degrees of physical well-being; and

Whereas, Any proposed system of health care should address itself to early identification of nutritional deficiencies, especially in children, which would prevent them from attaining their full mental and physical potentiality; and

Whereas, Governmental and non-governmental agencies which deal with health of the people should stress the responsibility of the people for their own nutritional needs; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the inclusion of nutrition into the planning, organization, and implementation of health care systems as a basic component of health and medical care at local, state and national levels; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to study nutrition programs for their families and support such community programs as merit their time and attention; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts support the promotion of updated nutrition curriculum in schools which will reinforce positive nutrition and to encourage school administrators to replace snack and soda machines with fruit juice, water and healthy snacks machines which promote healthy food choices.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

## **18. Organ and Tissue Transplant**

Whereas, The transplantation of vital organs, such as kidneys, pancreas, liver, heart or lung, and also tissues such as skin, bone, heart valves, ligaments, and corneas, has become an accepted medical option; and

Whereas, Transplantation of organs and tissues has become a business that is attracting the involvement of organizations, clinics, hospitals and business groups; and

Whereas, Thousands of life saving and life enhancing transplant operations depend entirely on donors; and

Whereas, Anyone wanting to become an organ and/or tissue donor should complete an advanced health care directive, designate a health care power of attorney, fill out a donor card and inform the health care power of attorney and doctors of these directives; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support:

1. Medical standards defining brain death
2. Programs that enlist voluntary registered organ and tissue donors.
3. Legislation establishing priorities, eligibilities and financial support to cover transplant costs for people who are without means to pay for a transplant.
4. Programs to educate members and communities about transplants and the dire need for donors.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **19. Rape**

Whereas, Rape is a violent and horrendous crime with lasting effects that are emotional as well as physical; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts advocates programs to promote and support action to combat rape through:

1. Education to protect children, youth, and adults against the crime of rape;
2. Establishment of readily available rape crisis centers;
3. Increased visibility to a rape crisis telephone number; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation that will strengthen penalties for convicted rapists, and further;

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its member clubs to promote recognition of the emotional welfare of the rape victim through programs that protect the rights and dignity of the victim;

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

## **20. Senior Citizens**

Whereas, Modern living and early age of retirement have increased the problems of senior citizens, the most rapidly growing group in the United States; and

Whereas, The senior citizens' greatest problems appear in the fields of economic opportunity, housing, health, and recreational activities; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges the development and support of those public and private programs designed to provide:

1. Employment for persons over retirement age;
2. Public and private moderate-cost housing facilities suitable for their needs;
3. Adequate health services to include long-term care, home health aides, homemaker services, assisted living institutions and adult day care services;
4. Opportunity for recreational and social activities as part of the local community life;
5. The encouragement of participation in all phases of government;
6. Better utilization of the many talents of our senior citizens;
7. The protection of our elderly citizens from elder abuse, terrorization and the fear of crime.
8. Information and awareness of property tax assistance.

**Annual Meeting 2016**

## **21. Smoking at Federation Meetings and Functions**

Whereas, Tobacco smoke also causes problems for people with asthma, heart disease, emphysema, allergies, sinus problems, eye problems, and various other illnesses; and

Whereas, Tobacco smoke also causes discomfort to healthy people; and

Whereas, The Surgeon General of the United States has issued numerous reports which reveal scientific proof that secondary smoke can cause lung cancer; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts prohibits smoking, except in designated areas, at all Federation meetings and functions.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **22. Values in Tele-communication**

Whereas, It is evident that our young people are being exposed to programming and advertising that is lacking in moral values and undermining family living and spiritual values; and

Whereas, The Code of Decency claimed to be subscribed to by the major television stations is not being upheld; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts:

1. Notify all Massachusetts Tele-communication Affiliates that close scrutiny be given to immoral and sexual action televised at a time when children of all ages are returning home from school and all programs shown in the early evening hours;
2. Take a stand against exploitation of women's feminine appeal in improper and questionable advertising, indecent literature and movies, and unwholesome programming on television and radio, and against the overall negative portrayal of women;
3. Protest the exploitation of children and teenagers in general programming and commercial advertising by causing them to portray, in attire and actions, adult sexual mannerism;
4. Urge stations to make an honest analysis of the wanton slurs and character defamation pertaining to specific groups in the reporting of events taking place in our daily interaction with the world's people and government.
5. Urge its members to contact the advertiser or sponsor expressing disapproval of all forms of sexual exploitations.

**Annual Meeting 2012**

## **V INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH**

### **1. Child Survival**

Whereas, The hope for the future of our world lies with the children; and

Whereas, The United Nations reports that over 11 million children under the age of five die annually of preventable childhood diseases in the developing world; and

Whereas, The lives of these children could be saved by immunization and programs to educate the general populace in prenatal care, nutrition, basic health care and in methods to avoid contamination of food and water, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its United States Senators to support the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **2. Concern for American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action recommended to update**

Whereas, There are many citizens of the United States of America still classified as missing and not accounted for in Southeast Asia and other theaters of war; and

Whereas, There are over one hundred signatories to the Geneva Convention which demands an accounting for prisoners and missing in action; therefore

*Resolved*, That peace with honor demands that all missing in action be accounted for, and all prisoners who still may be detained by the enemy be freed immediately and that honorable burial for our dead be provided, consistent with the wishes of their families; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges the government of the United States of America to call upon the nations of the world, and particularly to the signatories of the Geneva Convention, to assist in providing a full accounting for the dead and missing in action in Southeast Asia and other theaters of war.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

### **3. Drug Trafficking**

Whereas, The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention reports that the illicit drug industry is an enormous criminal business generating approximately 400 billion dollars in profits per year, and Whereas, The cultivation, production, distribution, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs increasingly threaten society and foreign relations, and

Whereas, Terrorism, crime, corruption and violence thrive on international drug trafficking, and  
Whereas, The trafficking and use of illegal drugs threaten the global security and well-being of  
peoples, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member  
clubs to support:

1. Government cooperation on the enforcement of mutually beneficial drug laws.
2. Government efforts to strengthen interdiction against domestic and international drug money  
laundering.
3. Continued use of law enforcement, military and economic sanctions to dismantle drug  
trafficking organizations.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

#### **4. Enforcement of Immigration Laws**

Whereas, Effective enforcement of immigration laws is needed to control national security,  
economic, health and social problems created by illegible immigrations, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts makes its member  
clubs aware of the problems that exist in the United States regarding the Immigration and Naturalization  
Service, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its elected  
officials and member clubs to support strict enforcement of existing immigration laws, and maximum  
appropriations for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to carry out its mission, and  
further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts supports  
recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) pertaining to the testing of immigrants for  
health-related conditions deemed inadmissible.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

#### **5. International Exchange Program**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts believes that  
understanding the cultural background, history, political aspects, economy, and the everyday living of  
the people of the world is necessary to the maintenance of peace; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts believes it is equally  
important for other peoples to understand the principles of American democracy and its freedoms;  
therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts expresses its  
endorsement and support of international exchange and urges its member clubs to provide  
opportunities whereby the experience of international exchange can be used constructively in the  
education, understanding and appreciation of all people; and further

*Resolved*, that the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member  
clubs to work closely with exchange programs to actively promote and publicize the experience and  
benefits of international exchange.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

#### **6. International Special Olympics**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts has contributed to the  
welfare of children throughout the world; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts endorses the  
“International Special Olympics” program and urges support of the Special Olympics enabling the

developmentally disabled child to compete under the sponsorship of the “Special Olympics” in the United States of America.

**Midwinter Meeting 2017**

### **7. Man-Made and Nuclear Disasters**

Whereas, Man-made and nuclear disaster, which cause a loss of life, health hazards and contamination, may occur in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts is concerned about the fate of the people affected by such tragic disasters; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges the United States Government to call upon the nations of the world, particularly the Secretary General of the United Nations, to demand that such disasters be reported immediately so that all nations may assist in aiding the victims and their families; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts strongly urges the United States and the nations of the world to find a more effective means to standardize the safety regulation in nuclear plants.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

### **9. Support of UNESCO Day of Tolerance**

Whereas, Acts of violence and hate crimes against and by children have increased awareness of intolerance and violence; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Woman’s Clubs and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts have a history of supporting tolerance and non-violence among the children and peoples of the world; and

Whereas, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes peace, non-violence and understanding, and as an established Day of Tolerance, which is observed annually on November 16; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support November 16 as the Day of Tolerance and teach tolerance and promote non-violence daily through their projects and programs.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **10. Terrorism Against Americans**

Whereas, The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were an act of war on the United States of America; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts considers these acts as an attack on the values of American democracy and way of life; and

Whereas, Any act of terrorism strives to weaken the foundation of families and our economy; and

Whereas, Patriotism is at the forefront of current activities; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to:

1. Support emotionally the survivors and families of the victims of said attacks;
2. Support members of our Armed Forces involved in the elimination of terrorist groups worldwide;
3. Support emotionally the police and fire departments and all other rescue/recovery organizations that participated in New York City, Washington, DC and Sellersburg, Pennsylvania;

4. Increase understanding of the Islamic and faiths of all other peoples to promote understanding and acceptance;
5. Protect fellow Americans of Middle Eastern descent from discrimination and stereotyping;
6. Exhibit tangible and non-tangible evidence of patriotism; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts go on record as being outraged at said attacks; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities concerning the danger of terrorism and to remain vigilant.

**Annual Meeting 2012**

### **11. Trafficking in Persons**

Whereas, Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically coerced into sexual and/or labor exploitation; and

Whereas, A 2013 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates 20.9 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to

1. Education members and the public about the serious problem of human trafficking;
2. Advocate for the support and protection of victims;
3. Advocate for the prosecution of exploiters, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support the enforcement of human trafficking laws; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federal of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges it member clubs to support current State statutes and serve as advocates for continued strengthening of anti-trafficking laws.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **12. United Nations**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that the United Nations is potentially a hope for world peace and provides machinery for airing of disputes and has given dignity and importance to the smaller nations; and

Whereas, National integrity is safeguarded by the Charter of the United Nations in the stipulation therein that agreements under the United Nations shall be subject to ratification by the signatory nations in accordance with their respective constitutional processes; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts endorses the participation by the United States in the United Nations; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to inform and educate their members regarding the various United Nations agencies, their activities and objectives; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its member clubs to observe United Nations Day **October 24** in an appropriate manner.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **13. United Nations Convention of the Elimination on all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

Whereas, Discrimination against women continues to exist and violates human rights; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports and endorses the resolution of the General Federation of Women's Clubs relating to this issue; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has passed legislation urging the ratification of CEDAW; therefore

*Resolved*, The General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts supports the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to contact their United States legislators to encourage them to continue their support toward the implementation of this treaty.

**Fall Meeting 2014**

## **VI PUBLIC ISSUES**

### **1. Crime**

Whereas, The crime rate continues to be a serious problem in all parts of the country; and

Whereas, To lower the crime rate depends upon the coordination of effort between the public in general, the police and all law enforcement agencies, the legislators, the courts and the correctional agencies; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to do their duty as private citizens by reporting crimes promptly, by testifying in court when asked, by serving on jury duty when called, by taking steps to safeguard their property, and by refusing to patronize illegal activities; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to support all laws and efforts which would lead to:

1. A higher degree of cooperation between the police and the public;
2. Clear definitions of the responsibilities and the roles of police, courts, and correction agencies;
3. Training for police officers to increase their competence in their areas of responsibility;
4. Criminal laws which are adequate for today's needs;
5. The best qualified personnel in police, court, correction, and legislative positions; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to teach, by their own example, the meaning of family and community responsibility to its youth so that they will develop into responsible and law abiding citizens.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

### **2. Electronic Billboards**

Whereas, Electronic Billboards are illegal in Massachusetts according to an existing 1971 agreement between Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration, when Massachusetts Agreed not to permit digital signs on highways, the Office of Outdoor Advertising is ignoring this agreement and

Whereas, Nothing destroys the distinctive character of our communities and the natural beauty of our countryside more rapidly than uncontrolled signs and billboards; and

Whereas, Billboards lower property values and hamper economic growth; and

Whereas, Billboards are a safety hazard and are designed to distract the motorist's attention from the road and can have negative mental and physical effects on the motorist; and

Whereas, Thousands of trees are destroyed each year to improve motorists view of billboards and degrading our scenic roadsides; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to work with local and state authorities to enforce the existing agreement and prohibit new billboard construction.

**Fall Meeting 2013**

### **3. Fire Prevention**

Whereas, A continuing program of education and activity for the protection of life and property from fire hazards in homes, hotels, and places of public accommodations is vital, and

Whereas, The use of smoke, carbon monoxide and heat detectors and flame resistant fabrics provide protection against injury from fire; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts requests its members to assume personal responsibility in assisting to maintain precautions against fire in their homes and public places; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges all states and local government to adopt and enforce adequate fire inspection laws; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote fire safety education in our schools and in the workplace.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

### **4. Gun Control**

Whereas, One of the most alarming crisis the nation faces today is the number of violent crimes involving firearms, and

Whereas, A waiting period and background check on purchases of handguns has reduced crime and violence by providing impetuous gun buyers a cooling off period, therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports effective gun control legislation regulating the indiscriminate sale and possession of weapons including:

1. Mandatory waiting periods
2. Improved licensing requirements for gun dealers
3. Requirements that purchasers produce identification and bear the cost of a background check
4. Requirements for background checks or a firearm owner's identification card to purchase a gun at gun shows and internet sales
5. Increased penalties for the sale of firearms to minors, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts support legislation banning the importation, manufacture and sale of assault-style weapons, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports mandatory penalties for anyone convicted of using firearms during the commission of a crime, further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the enforcement of existing gun laws and urges its members and clubs to work with their legislators and firearm authorities on all levels to implement improved methods of safe gun control, and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports legislation allowing law enforcements officials free access to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms gun trace information.

**Annual Meeting 2013**

## **5. Historic Preservation**

Whereas, Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of historic events and places shape a nation's identity; and

Whereas, Historic landmarks contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of cities, towns and rural areas; and therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its clubs and members to support preservation of historic landmarks, districts and artifacts and to hold in memory those men and women who with such patriotic vision shaped our American legacy.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

## **6. Home and Recreation Safety**

Whereas, Accidental deaths and disabling injuries are increasing in the home annually; and

Whereas, Fire-related deaths are a major concern in the United States; and

Whereas, Each year home hazards are increasing with the addition of electronic devices, wood and coal burning stoves and illegal kerosene heaters, new household equipment, power tools, glass doors, and private swimming pools; and

Whereas, The recreational uses of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and watercraft is increasing; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to promote club and community home and recreation safety campaigns that will acquaint local citizens with the magnitude of the problem and bring up-to-date family safety education and information into every home, and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts calls upon its members to actively support legislation pertaining to home and recreation safety.

**Fall Meeting 2013**

## **7. Honor Our American Flag**

Whereas, The United States Flag is the symbol of the Constitution and the statutes, the courts, and the legislature; and

Whereas, The United States Flag represents the promise of a nation that its citizens will have the right to work and to own, the right to play and the right to pray; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to become acquainted with the correct Flag Etiquette and encourage members to display the American flag at all Club meetings; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote correct flag etiquette within the school system by placing of the hand over the heart and the removal of all hats during the playing or singing of the National Anthem at parades, school sport events and public places; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts expresses its strongest objections to any form of disrespect and any manner of desecration of the American Flag, the symbol of the United States of America.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

## **8. Juvenile Justice**

Whereas, In many juvenile court jurisdictions in this nation adequate detention and probation services do not exist; and

Whereas, Some courts have no place to detain a child awaiting a hearing except the adult county jail; and

Whereas, Each year children are held in these jails in contradiction of the law and to their physical, mental and moral detriment; and

Whereas, Indications based on recidivism rates are that sufficient rehabilitation is not occurring in juvenile training schools or institutions where juveniles are committed; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts continues to:

1. Work for adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane facilities while providing alternative living situations such as group and foster homes with appropriate treatment;
2. Work for elimination of the practice of holding juveniles in adult jails through the establishment of regional detention facilities for those children requiring secure detention;
3. Support schools dropout prevention programs by the establishment of expanded youth service systems and local Youth Service Bureaus which advocate and offer community-based programs of counseling, tutoring, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, employment services, recreational programs, youth advocacy, and involvement of youth as volunteer resources in community based crime prevention programs.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **9. Limitation of Size and Weight of Trucks and Buses**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts is ever mindful of increasing hazards on the highways; and

Whereas, Considerable pressure was exerted to liberalize not only the length and width of trucks, but also the permissible gross loads of trucks using our interstate highway systems; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts believes that increased truck lengths, width and heavier loads create an even greater threat to safety on our highways and streets; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to call upon their legislators to study legislation which limits heavier, longer and wider trucks and buses on the roads and streets of this Commonwealth; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts work for the enforcement of more stringent regulations for truck and bus safety standards.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **10. Our American Heritage**

Whereas, Many of our forefathers made the supreme sacrifice to establish this nation, to solidify its unity and to defend its principles; and

Whereas, The preservation of these principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all depend in the future upon an alert, informed, and patriotic electorate; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to emphasize the teaching of American history in our schools, increase support for the preservation of significant historical sites, enthusiastically participate in observances of national holidays and special patriotic events, encourage the prominent display of our American flag and encourage English as our national language.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

### **11. Public Use of the State House**

Whereas, Our elected representatives and senators have passed Chapter 55, Acts of 2003 which allows the State to collect a fee for non-government use of our State House; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs holds Legislation Day at the State House every two years for the education of its clubwomen and the fee is far above the amount a non-profit organization can afford; therefore

*Resolved*, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to contact their State Representatives and Senators asking them to work toward rescinding that portion of Chapter 55, Acts of 2003 that allows the state to charge these fees to a non-profit organization holding 501c(3) exemptions.

**Fall Meeting 2015**

## **12. Runaway and Homeless Youth**

Whereas, The problem of runaway and homeless youth is national in scope; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its members to:

1. Become involved in intervention and prevention services;
2. Work with established programs;
3. Develop awareness of the National Runaway Safeline (800-RUNAWAY, or Text 66008)
4. Support legislation for the well-being and safety of our youth;
5. Work with parents and family members to help monitor children's internet activities.
6. Encourage the use of Greyhound Bus Line's free ride home program for runaway youth.

**Midwinter Meeting 2016**

## **13. Voter Registration**

Whereas, Voting is the right and responsibility of every American citizen; and

Whereas, the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts realizes that Americans should participate in the voting process; and

Whereas, We as responsible club women can aid voter registrations by participating in community activities that promote voting; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to participate in voter registration drives and hold set-up registration centers; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges high schools and colleges to teach the importance of voting and the electoral process.

**Fall Meeting 2016**

## **14. War Veterans and Military Personnel**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts is deeply concerned with all problems pertaining to our active duty military and war veterans; and

Whereas, Following every military conflict or time spent in service of our military, millions of military personnel and veterans are confronted with the problems of recovery as well as the problems accompanying transition from military to civilian life; and

Whereas, The need for volunteers in veterans hospitals to aid and assist patients is vital; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to actively support legislation that would aid in the rehabilitation of all military personnel and veterans regardless of gender, and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to support and participate in programs assisting and honoring military families and veterans such as Veterans Administration Medical Centers, Fisher House-Boston, the USO and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Soldiers' Homes.

**Fall Meeting 2014**