

GFWC Special Programs

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Carrie Zimmerman, Chairman

1. GFWC Statesville Woman's Club (NC) – Empowering Through Education: Shining a Light on Domestic Violence

The club launched a podcast series featuring a Victim Advocate from My Sister's House, a local shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and/or sexual violence or human trafficking. The episodes explore signs of domestic violence, myths about protective behaviors, and the shelter's approach and operations to offering survivor-focused services with the goal of survivorship for their clients. The podcast brings awareness to the community of the importance of advocacy and support of the GFWC Signature Program.

2. GFWC Solon Women's Club (IA) – Evening at the Something Beautiful Studio

This woman-owned studio supports the effort to end human trafficking through scholarship opportunities and immersive creative experiences within its walls. The club listened to a victim's story of abuse and then created curved vases which were lined with Hosta leaves and filled with forsythia and salvia branches, and finished with a rose. The project, offered as a Mother's Day Workshop, was taken home by members. By participating, proceeds from the workshop provided a donation to the studio's mission.

3. GFWC Mahnommen Library Club (MN) – Hug Bags for the White Earth Reservation

The club supported a project for Native and Non-Native women on the White Earth Reservation, providing "Hug Bags" to those in need. The club worked with staff at two crisis and battered women's shelters to create a list of essential items. Members donated funds, purchased supplies, and gathered to fill 30 bags with items for emergency situations. Both the recipients and club members experienced joy and gratitude in sharing this thoughtful and impactful project.

4. GFWC Oklahoma – Court Canine Therapy for Children

GFWC Oklahoma had a speaker at their state meeting, a Licensed Court Reporter and Court Therapy Dog Handler. This special guest discussed the importance and impact of using court therapy dogs in court proceedings for child victims. The dogs were present too, Jerzy Girl and Joey. The District President and members distributed "Books of HOPE" in local courthouses for both children and adults to read while awaiting court proceedings as another level of advocacy.

5. GFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club (MS)- Marian's Garden

The club held a dedication ceremony for the city's main downtown flower bed, in honor of the GFWC Signature Project. The garden was named in memory of Decatur native Marian Chaney, who was killed by domestic abuse in 2020. A sign with the name was displayed, purple pinwheels adorned the area, and peace rocks were created with Newton County Elementary School. Domestic Violence bracelets with purple ribbons were distributed to all attendees, raising awareness and honoring Marian's memory.

6. GFWC Woman’s Club of Macclenny (FL) – Human Trafficking Education

Members read *The Girl Who Swam to Life*, a novel addressing human trafficking, redemption, and resilience. The club hosted author Martha Giddens, who shared insights on human trafficking nationally and locally. Open to clubs in GFWC Florida’s District 4, five other clubs attended. Inspired by the GFWC Community Connection Initiative, “Be the Voice for Those Who Have No Voice,” and the GFWC International President’s initiative, it aimed to educate, engage, and empower members and the community.

7. GFWC Williamson Woman’s Club (WV) – Girl’s Night Out

The club hosted a Girl’s Night Out with 250 attendees and the theme, “Let’s Go Girls!”, encouraging country-style dress. Guests enjoyed pulled pork with all the fixings, line dancing, and a “boot o’ bucks” raffle—a cowboy boot filled with \$800 in gift cards. A western-themed photo op and a mechanical bull added to the fun. Proceeds benefited the Tug Valley Recovery Shelter, and leftover food was donated to a local soup kitchen, supporting multiple community needs.

8. GFWC Women’s Club of South County (RI) – Dating Violence Program for College Students

The club partnered with the Domestic Resource Center of South County to expand on an educational and informational program for sororities and fraternities on the campus of the University of Rhode Island. Funds from a grant from the 2022-2024 State President allowed this club to provide needed additional programs within the campus environment. The members held three different sessions with students to discuss healthy interpersonal relationships and how to avoid dating violence.

9. GFWC Suburban Woman’s Club (KY) – Spring Shower

The club hosted a spring shower for the local domestic violence shelter. Members brought a variety of much-needed items such as towels, washcloths, personal care products, and other essentials. In addition, the ladies donated “Bed n Bags.” These “Bed n Bags” are provided to each client upon arrival at the shelter, offering comfort during their stay, and when clients are ready to move out, they are encouraged to take the bags with them to their new home.

10. GFWC Portland Woman’s Club (OR) – Sylvia’s Closet

The club partnered with Providence Health Services of Portland to start a project with Sylvia’s Closet, providing new clothes for domestic abuse victims, both female and male, when their clothing is taken by law enforcement for DNA testing in emergencies. Providence Hospital is creating a logo for the project and honoring the GFWC Portland Woman’s Club. This effort will be part of a new special clinic for domestic abuse victims. It also resulted in a new club member.

GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children

Suzanne Hooser, Chairman

1. GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club (MT) – Cooking with Kids

Club members partnered with a local school for monthly cooking lessons. Members showed how school subjects are important when following the recipe: Reading a recipe helps with literacy, measuring ingredients incorporates math skills, science helps you understand changes in state, as well as history, art, and other topics. The children rotated through different stations. Then they were given a snack and took their creation home.

2. GFWC Muskego Woman's Club (WI) – Comfort Room

Club members joined forces with their local police department to create a safe and comfortable space for those in crisis. Members planned, created a budget, painted, built, and handcrafted items to remodel a room at the police station for families facing difficult times. Club members purchased child-friendly furniture, toys, books, and sensory wall hangings along with soundproofing panels. This club has also made a long-term commitment to maintain this space.

3. GFWC Les Amies Juniores of Purvis (MS) – Clothes Closet

The club secured locations in the high school and middle school to stock an area for students to browse clothing and shop for free. Children then feel a better sense of belonging and confidence, ensuring they can focus better on their education and not worry about how they look. These Juniores donated trendy and age-appropriate clothing from their own closets to ensure a well-stocked and appealing shopping experience.

4. GFWC Frederick Woman's Civic Club (MD) – Capes for Children

Members created thirty capes and delivered them to a local child advocacy center. This advocacy center's focus is to address reports of maltreatment of children and families in the community. The capes help symbolize strength and bravery during stressful times and promote well-being. Club members purchased fabric that would appeal to children, and held several work sessions to cut and sew the capes. Six hundred hours of volunteer service were reported.

5. GFWC Bettie Carter Morgan Woman's Club (KY)- Busy Bags

Club members created sixty Busy Bags, filled them with items for older children, and donated them to the local sheriff's office. The items included coloring books, games, puzzle books, comic books, and playing cards. The purpose of the bags is to help children stay distracted during tough times. Officers will have these bags ready for any situation that they encounter where children are involved. Other Kentucky clubs have followed this lead, with over 300 bags created across the state..

6. GFWC Pikeville Woman's Club (KY) – Safe Haven Box

This club partnered with the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and the city of Barbourville to purchase and install a safe haven baby box at a new local Fire Department. Safe Haven boxes, designed for installation on an outer wall of a fire station, police station, or hospital, have safety features and automatic locks that provide mothers with a secure, safe, and compassionate option to surrender their baby anonymously.

7. GFWC Woman's Club of Enfield (CT) – Scholastic Book Sale

Club members donated funds to three elementary schools for children in grades 3rd through 5th grade. The money donated was to be earmarked for students who were unable to purchase books on their own during the Scholastic book fair at their school. Children were able to choose and enjoy their book without the worry

of having the funds for it. Having books at home contributes to having successful readers.

8. GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club (VA) – Book Nook

The club supported the creation of a book nook at the Hanover County Health Department, which will provide children with an educational and comforting space to wait before appointments. They collaborated with staff to design a welcoming space, featuring bean bag chairs, foam flooring tiles, and shelves for books in English and Spanish for children ages 3 to 12. Young people can now wait in comfort with the enjoyment of a book.

9. GFWC Nature Coast Woman’s Club (FL) – Handmade Pillowcases

Serving as champions for children, this club partnered with Ryan’s Case for Smiles, an organization dedicated to brightening the lives of children during hospital stays by delivering cheerful handmade pillowcases. Members cut, pinned, stitched, and pressed fabric to create several dozen vibrant pillowcases that radiated joy and brought comfort, smiles, and color to the hospital rooms of many children.

10. GFWC Woman’s Club of Cotulla (TX) – Fingerprint Children

These clubwomen worked with local law enforcement to fingerprint kindergarten students in their district, ensuring that in the case of a missing child, law enforcement has quick access to the fingerprints. Parents must give their permission to have their child fingerprinted. Afterwards, fingerprint cards are sent home to parents to keep on file in the event of a crisis. These Texas women have found a unique way to add to the community’s child safety.

Community Service Programs

Arts & Culture

Billie Williams, Chairman

1. GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club (GA) – Sidewalk Chalk Art

Driven by a desire to provide an interactive and accessible outdoor arts experience, this club initiated a community-wide sidewalk chalk art display. Wanting to expand on the traditional wall mural, and in collaboration with the City of Sylvania and the Screven County Chamber, the club transformed the downtown park into an interactive canvas. Members created engaging chalk designs, and passersby were invited to contribute their chalk creations while interacting with the existing designs.

2. GFWC Paradise Valley Woman's Club (AZ) – High School Craft Program

A mentoring craft program at a local school supported students' personal growth while nurturing creativity. Club members provided all necessary supplies for projects such as macramé beaded bracelets, stuffed fabric pumpkins, glass ornaments, and origami. With patience and encouragement, they guided students through the creation of their art pieces, offering skills, inspiration, and confidence. The program fostered not only artistic expression but also meaningful personal development, leaving a lasting impact on the young participants.

3. GFWC Chapin Woman's Club (SC) – Passport to Arts and Culture

The club's Arts & Culture Chairman created a "Passport to Arts & Culture," complete with a photo, to inspire members to explore the arts. She organized group outings to cultural events, encouraging members to attend as many as possible, whether club-sponsored or on their own. Passports were stamped at club meetings, and at year's end, the member with the most stamps received a \$250 gift certificate generously donated by a local art gallery.

4. GFWC Dover Century Club (DE) – Emergence — A Journey from Brokenness to Transformation.

Members were given a tangible experience of how art serves as both a source of healing and a catalyst for awareness in a project called "Emergence – A Journey from Brokenness to Transformation." A 3' X 3' shattered heart-shaped mirror represented the fractured lives affected by domestic violence. Rather than discarding the broken pieces, the cracks were filled using small pieces of mosaic glass. This act of reconstruction symbolized healing, resilience, and the beauty that can emerge from brokenness.

5. GFWC Menominee Woman's Club (MI) – Stars for Veterans

Club members collected frayed American flags and carefully cut out individual stars to distribute on Veterans Day. Each star was embroidered onto a fabric patch and is accompanied by the sentiment: "I am part of our American Flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly; the sun and winds caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that YOU will always be remembered."

6. GFWC Adel Women's Club (IA) – Interactive Mural

The club helped fund a first-of-its-kind, 40-foot-long interactive mural that uses augmented reality to connect viewers with art. By scanning the mural with their smartphones, viewers can bring its vibrant scenes to life. The artwork reflects the history and culture of the community while highlighting its innovative spirit. This unique project showcases the community's dedication to integrating technology with public art, creating an engaging experience that celebrates both creativity and local heritage.

7. GFWC The Porch Club of Riverton (NJ) – Flower Hammering Workshop

This club hosted a unique demonstration and workshop on Flower Hammering, an art form that transfers natural pigments from flowers onto paper. Participants learned how to arrange blossoms, cover them, and gently hammer to release the vibrant “ink” within petals and leaves. This rare artistic technique produces one-of-a-kind botanical prints, showcasing nature’s colors in creative, lasting ways. The event inspired attendees to explore this blend of art and nature in their creative projects.

8. GFWC Oregon City Woman’s Club (OR) – Wing It Program

This club collaborated with a local theater group to support the “Wing It” program for children. In this interactive show, the young audience helps crew members, dressed as whimsical, winged creatures, get out of a jam while learning lessons about kindness and good behavior. After the performance, children are invited onstage to share a joke, poem, dance, or even just a smile and giggle, fostering creativity, confidence, and joyful participation in a supportive and encouraging environment.

9. GFWC West Suburban Women’s Club (MN) – Talent Showcase

Recognizing the value of showcasing members’ artistic talents inspired the club’s “One by One” initiative. At each meeting, one member is given a minute to present her skill, whether knitting, crocheting, painting, or another craft. The featured creation is then donated to the club’s annual craft sale. This tradition not only highlights creativity but also fosters camaraderie, encourages participation, and supports fundraising efforts, turning individual artistry into a shared contribution that benefits the club’s community projects.

10. GFWC Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester (VA) – Cotillion Sponsorship

This club sponsors a Cotillion for seventh and eighth-grade students in the area. This is a 2-year commitment, and the applicants must reply with a written note of acceptance. A professional etiquette instructor teaches the class, focused on dinner etiquette for the eighth grade and dessert etiquette for the seventh grade. The second year concludes with a formal event for students and their parents. This year marks 30 years of participation in the Chester Club.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

Vicky Ann Trimmer, Chairman

1. GFWC Circleville Junior Women's Club (OH) – Backpacks with Basic Supplies

The GFWC Circleville Junior Woman's Club came together to assemble backpacks filled with care for those experiencing homelessness. Partnering with the Pickaway County Community Agency, they packed each backpack with essential items requested by the community—tarps, gloves, hats, socks, duct tape, rope, batteries, lip balm, lotion, and hand sanitizer. With the agency's help, these thoughtfully prepared backpacks were delivered directly to those in need, offering comfort, hope, and a reminder that the community cares.

2. GFWC Lamoille Women's Club (NV) – Balloon Valentines

The club decorated valentines to be attached to heart-shaped helium balloons for the residents and staff at the local nursing home's assisted living, nursing, and memory care wings, as well as the individual living apartments. They partnered with Family Dollar to obtain the uninflated balloons. The club provided the helium to fill over 300 balloons and, once inflated, attached the valentines to the balloons. They were then individually delivered to the home's residents.

3. GFWC Valamont (TN) – Bus Stop Benches

When the club noticed that local CARTA bus stops had no seating, they began making and painting benches for bus stops. They partnered with ACE Hardware, Home Depot, and Gideon Paint Co. for supplies and donations. Several students from the local school system also assisted with making benches. In addition to making benches, the students made seating boxes from the lumber scraps. Facebook requests for bench sponsors resulted in 70 benches being sponsored.

4. GFWC Okalona Woman's Club (KY) – Dolls and Barbies

The GFWC Okalona Woman's Club brought joy to life by collecting dolls and Barbies for a special project. Each doll received a loving makeover, cleaned, scrubbed, and refreshed, and then dressed in brand-new clothing. Once transformed, these beautiful dolls were donated to Sitio Ministries in Louisville, KY, just in time for their holiday giveaway program. Thanks to the club's care and creativity, countless children received a cherished gift that sparked smiles and brightened the holiday season.

5. GFWC Mary Stewart Woman's Club (NC) – Polling Place Election Support

On Election Day, the club showed its appreciation for local poll workers with a thoughtful, non-partisan gesture. Members donated items, and during the October club meeting, assembled bags filled with water, protein bars, mints, hand sanitizer, ChapStick, and chocolate. These care-filled bags were delivered to polling places as a thank-you for the long hours and dedication poll workers give to ensuring a smooth voting process, making their day a little brighter and their work a bit easier.

6. GFWC Cheyenne Sorosis Club (OK) – Oklahoma Outdoor Outreach

The GFWC Cheyenne Sorosis Club joined forces with the United Methodist Church and local partners to host Oklahoma Outdoor Outreach, giving disabled, chronically ill, and terminally ill individuals the chance to experience outdoor sporting traditions. Activities included hunting, fishing, and shooting, with community volunteers and seasoned hunters guiding participants. A highlight was the special overnight youth deer hunt, held on donated land, where youth and parents enjoyed a weekend of outdoor adventure, meals, and comfortable accommodations.

7. GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) – PB & J Donation Drive

In a creative twist on community giving, a club member decorated her truck in a fun peanut butter and jelly theme for a “drive-by” collection event. Neighbors dropped off donations while enjoying peanut-themed snacks and treats, with lively music setting the tone. The festive atmosphere drew smiles and encouraged generous giving. All collected items were donated to local food pantry groups, helping stock their shelves and support families in need with a dash of creativity and joy.

8. GFWC Woman’s Club of Fairfax (VA) – Matchbox and Hot Wheel Rescue Vehicles

The club brought comfort to young hearts by collecting and donating Matchbox and Hot Wheels rescue vehicles to the local fire department. Firefighters keep these miniature treasures on hand to give to children during emergencies, offering a welcome distraction that eases fear, provides comfort, and reduces stress in frightening moments. These small acts of kindness not only help children feel safer but also build lasting, positive connections between the community’s youngest members and their first responders.

9. GFWC Yucaipa Woman’s Club (CA) – Self-Defense for Women

The club empowered members and guests by hosting a women’s self-defense class led by local experts, a Black Belt in Karate, and a former police officer, who volunteered their time and skills. Participants learned practical techniques to boost awareness, confidence, and safety. By the end of the session, attendees felt more prepared to protect themselves and safer when alone, walking away with not just new skills, but a renewed sense of strength, self-assurance, and personal empowerment.

10. GFWC 20th Century Club of Iuka (MS) – Water Security

Throughout the year, the club collected “loose change” to support Samaritan’s Purse’s Turn on the Tap campaign. This initiative brings life-changing access to clean water for communities in developing countries by digging wells, installing filters, and launching vital water projects. The club’s simple act of saving spare coins will help provide safe drinking water where it’s desperately needed, turning small everyday contributions into a powerful force for health, hope, and brighter futures across the globe.

Education & Libraries

Dana Jones, Chairman

1. GFWC Glendale Woman’s Club (AZ) – Habitat for Humanity Little Libraries

Bringing joy and learning to new homeowners, the Glendale Woman’s Club teamed up with Habitat for Humanity–Central Arizona to gift a “Little Library” with every Habitat home in Maricopa County. Each hand-assembled bookcase—personalized through family surveys—overflowed with 25+ books, games, puzzles, cuddly toys, and GFWC brochures. In 2024, members delivered 19 of these treasures, setting them up before dedication ceremonies and celebrating as families stepped into homes already rich with warmth, fun, and discovery.

2. GFWC Boise Columbian Club (ID) – St. Vincent de Paul Book Cart Project

The Boise Columbian Club launched a heartwarming book cart project for St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank clients. Members collected over 400 books in total, stocked a \$20 thrifted rolling cart, and offered visitors up to five free books while they waited in their cars. Since its October 2024 debut, the cart has been a hit—books disappear quickly! Even on colder mornings, members remain committed to keeping the cart filled with stories to share.

3. GFWC The Village Improvement Association (DE) – Rehoboth Beach Library

The Village Improvement Association supports the Rehoboth Beach Library year-round. The “Baby and Me” program engages nearly 700 children and parents, with members reading to preschoolers every Friday. Members volunteer in many ways, such as preparing and serving food to families at library events throughout the year, including an Oscar Night party, the summer reading program kick-off, and Cocoa with Santa, where each participating child also received a book purchased with club-donated funds.

4. GFWC Decatur Woman’s Progressive Club (MS) – Book Parade

The Decatur Woman’s Progressive Club hosted a “Book Parade” to promote reading and celebrate the local library. Starting at the library and winding through downtown, children carried handmade signs while members dressed as book characters. Upon returning, Mississippi’s Universal Beauty winner read to participants. Snacks were then served, ending the day with community connection and fun. The event combined creativity, culture, and storytelling to inspire a love of reading in children and families alike.

5. GFWC Gallipolis Junior Women’s Club (OH) – December 25 Days of Reading

The Gallipolis Junior Women’s Club brought holiday magic to the community with its “25 Days of Reading” project. Starting December 1, members posted nightly Facebook videos of community volunteers reading holiday books, drawing over 1,500 viewers each evening. Families who commented were entered to win one of more than 100 books, gifted to over 80 families. The project promoted early literacy, family bonding, and festive joy—making story time a nightly tradition throughout the holiday season.

6. GFWC Cahaba Valley Women of GFWC (AL) – April is Limb Loss/Limb Difference Month

In April, the Cahaba Valley Women of GFWC collected 75 books highlighting children with limb differences, distributing them to local elementary and preschools. An Amazon wish list and social media outreach—boosted by a local meteorologist—brought in books from near and far. With 27 volunteer hours and \$600 in-kind donations, members promoted understanding, inclusion, and empathy, ensuring young readers see themselves and others reflected in the stories they read.

7. GFWC Macon Service League (GA) – Educational Support Materials

Recognizing that one in 44 children is diagnosed with autism, the GFWC Macon Service League provided sensory and educational tools to enhance learning. Members spent \$90 on fabrics like velvet, fur, and sequins, and donated seven carpet squares as “reading rugs.” On National Crayon Day, they gave crayons to 218 autistic children in three counties, with extras going to a foster care center. Donations included STEM activities, fidget toys, blankets, and stuffed animals for classrooms and sensory rooms.

8. GFWC Elsinore Woman’s Club (CA) – The T.I.G.E.R Reading Program!

The Elsinore Woman’s Club launched the T.I.G.E.R. Reading Program—Together Ignite, Get Everyone Reading—to inspire students of all ages. Kicking things off in style, the club president donned a tiger mascot costume and wowed the audience at a local school board meeting, sparking district-wide enthusiasm. Schools quickly scheduled members to read in every elementary classroom. Colorful bookmarks featuring the friendly tiger were handed out, encouraging participation and spreading a love of reading throughout the community.

9. GFWC Gloucester County Women’s Club (NJ) – Look for a Book

From May to October, the Gloucester County Women’s Club delighted children with its “Look for a Book” project. Members gathered gently used and new books from libraries, garage sales, and purchases, sealing each in a plastic bag with a flyer explaining the hidden book concept and how to re-hide it after reading. Books were placed on park benches and near playgrounds, while publicity in newspapers, flyers, and the club website kept the community engaged and excited.

10. GFWC Clarksville Women's Club (TN) – Dictionaries for Third Graders

The GFWC Clarksville Women’s Club purchased, labeled, and delivered 360 dictionaries to third graders in two Title I elementary schools. Each dictionary featured the club logo and a space for the child’s name to make it truly their own. During delivery, members explained how to use the dictionaries, engaging students with fun and interactive games. The project provided a lasting resource for learning while sparking curiosity and excitement about words and language.

Environment

Sharon Oliphant, Chairman

1. GFWC Woman’s Club of Little Silver (NJ) – Counting Horseshoe Crabs

The club partners annually with the Save Coastal Wildlife Foundation. At spawning season’s start, members join evening counts to tag and measure horseshoe crabs, which come ashore and lay up to 100,000 eggs per female each season. Club members learned about this protected species, such as the fact that dead crabs are used in fertilizer, and that research on horseshoe crabs has aided biomedical companies in developing many life-saving medications.

2. GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Raleigh and GFWC Woman’s Club of Raleigh (NC) – Tuxedo Cat Ball

The clubs collaborated to support the “Black Tie” fundraiser for Safe Haven, a no-kill cat shelter. Members helped with guest registration and check-in. The evening featured food, drinks, and entertainment. The live and silent auctions raised over \$148,000. With the funds and help of club members, this past year, 1,323 cats and kittens found loving homes, 328 were rescued, and over 22 tons of food were distributed! These members are the Cat’s Meow!

3. GFWC Charlotte (MI) – Charlotte Forest Garden Designer Partnership

The Club partnered with the Charlotte Lions Club and the Eaton Conservation District to design a natural garden under a canopy. The trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants were interplanted with plants to support pollinators and other wildlife. A club member presented a design to the committee to recruit volunteers and solicit donations. The committee received a \$2,000 grant from the Agricultural Commission and \$325 in community donations. This successful project brought a new park to their community.

4. GFWC Woman’s Club of Madisonville (KY) – Enjoy the Ride: Beautifying Public Lands!

Sixteen bicycles, including a tandem bike, were painted hot pink, the club's signature color, and placed around town at locations like the Historic Courthouse and Public Library. Signage on these art installations reads, “Woman’s Club of Madisonville – Welcome to Madisonville, Enjoy the Ride.” Members and city workers care for the plants surrounding the bikes with seasonal decorations added, like Mother’s Day and July 4th. This project raised awareness of GFWC and encouraged people to enjoy the outdoors.

5. GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Lake Murray (SC) – Bird Sighting with the Girl Scouts

The GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Lake Murray led a bird-themed activity with a local Girl Scout troop. They read a book about birds, exploring facts and how to support bird populations locally. Each scout received a journal to log bird sightings and draw their discoveries. They also created a binocular craft to spark interest in birdwatching. Comparing journals and identifying birds encouraged the scouts to bond, share experiences, and make new friends through nature exploration.

6. GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club (MA) – Clean up the Woods

The GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club answered the call to address yard waste dumping near a popular trailhead. The club obtained permits and collaborated with Sustainable Northboro for help. They prepared and distributed an educational handout to 50 homes, printed by the Northboro Free Library. Boy Scouts, the Trail Committee, neighbors, and friends joined. Spearheaded by three members, multiple community presentations were given to educate the community about this issue, and the project gained attention.

7. GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne (WY) – Spill the Tea for Trees

The club participated in a fundraiser supporting tree planting and livable neighborhoods. Members raced through an obstacle course carrying cups of tea. The team with the most tea in their cups and who completed the course the fastest was the winner. The club hosted an information table about GFWC, their club, and offered a \$50 gift card to bring attention to their table. The funds raised will help maintain the gardens while increasing awareness of the club and community engagement.

8. GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces (NM) – Earth Day Water Conservation Poster Contest

The GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces sponsored a Water Conservation poster contest for April. Posters were created by third graders and judged by the Environment Committee and Club Board members. The winning posters were presented at the Las Cruces City Utilities Board Meeting. The poster contest was a huge success, and the winning class was treated to a Pizza Party.

9. GFWC Oregon City Woman’s Club (OR) – Wilted Flowers Project

Members collaborated with the manager of the Apostolic Cemetery to help “spruce up” the cemetery. Members met at the cemetery on designated days, filling garbage bags with wilted and dead flowers - as many as thirty bags a day - for the cemetery manager to dispose of. The manager welcomed and appreciated the help. The clean-up by members is heartwarming for the families, who are happy to see that time was taken to honor their loved ones.

10. GFWC Dover Century Club (DE) – Forget Me Not

The GFWC Dover Century Club planted forget-me-not seeds in their community. The project’s intent was to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s. The beautiful purple plants would be a bright reminder of this terrible life-changing disease. As an additional benefit, the plants would attract pollinators, promoting plant health through biodiversity. Additional seeds were shared at the state convention for members to plant in their communities to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s.

Health and Wellness

Lynn Foreman, Chairman

1. GFWC Warren Junior Women's League (OH) – Scarves of Love

Club members collected cold-weather items, including hats, gloves, and socks. Twelve members placed the items into large Ziplock bags that were labeled, "Please take a bag if you need items to keep warm". They hung 125 bags on the wrought iron fencing at Women's Park, a location near homeless shelters and homeless camps. The project received coverage on the local news channels, making their Club and GFWC more well-known in the community.

2. GFWC Woman's Club of Cleveland (TX) – Care for the Caregivers

The club members provided baked breads, muffins, and other goodies to show their support for the twenty-five caregivers at a community facility who cover three shifts working with patients with dementia and physical disabilities. These people are appreciated for their giving spirit as they take care of patients dealing with difficult conditions, such as incontinence, mobility issues, mood swings, suspicions of the elderly, and other conditions. The caregivers were grateful to be recipients of this act of kindness.

3. GFWC Nogales Woman's Club (AZ) – Breast Cancer Prevention Walkathon "Ventanilla de Salud" (Window of Health)

Members joined a unique one-mile walk to the International Border to form a human pink ribbon, with the Mexican Consulate-led group. The Nogales Police Department provided a safe route. Emotions grew high as they approached the border, with everyone cheering. Together in solidarity, they formed the symbol of breast cancer awareness, half on the US side of the border and half on the Mexico side of the border.

4. GFWC Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club (GA) – Get Fit Through Physical Activity

The club's fitness emphasis was derived from a project called Get Off Your Butt Fitness Club, formed during COVID to place an emphasis on physical movement to help their members, and has continued as a backbone of their Health and Wellness program. Each member creates a walking map of 2 miles, marked in 1/2-mile increments. Logs are maintained each year and include any form of exercise such as walking, sports, fitness classes, yoga, Pilates, etc.

5. GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee (WI) – Dementia Friendly Pewaukee

This club collaborates with the Pewaukee Area Arts Council (PAAC) and a local church to host monthly Caregiver Coffees. The church provides the facilities for free, and members of the Committee donate treats and coffee. Caregivers may join a peer discussion group, facilitated by a retired geriatric specialist (a club member), or they may choose to participate in an art project facilitated by PACC members. They end with both groups coming together for a sing-along.

6. GFWC Woman's Club of Saraland (AL) – Supporting Addiction Recovery

This club donated items left over from their rummage sales to CHAIRS Ministry, a program that operates a thrift store to fund its life-addiction recovery program for men. The clients are taught to clean, stock, operate the cash register, and provide customer service. They also learn to repair and build furniture they are then able to sell. Club members filled a large box truck and a member's SUV with many items.

7. GFWC Fayette County ESO (IN) – Healthy Fayette County Project: Link Healthy Community and Prosperous Community

The club members are getting their name out in the community by leading an effort to build a coalition to

improve their community's health, incorporating a monthly downtown Art Stroll. Members arranged for entertainment and manned the registration desk wearing GFWC shirts, while encouraging walking, dancing, and other physical movement. They also wrote a grant proposal for a future community-wide Healthy Places in Design workshop and hope they receive the grant.

8. GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club (MT) – Feminine Hygiene Products for Young Ladies in Need – Period Poverty

This club responded to an immediate request from a low-income district school principal who lacked funds to purchase feminine products to stock their facility. Some students were unable to attend school because they could not afford the needed feminine products. The club immediately provided \$200, then further; they applied for and received a grant that included direct shipments of supplies. Additional products are shipped quickly upon receipt of online orders placed by the school.

9. Exeter Area GFWC (NH) – Purple Party in Support of Alzheimer's Association

The Purple Party was held in support of, and to bring awareness to, the Seacoast Walk to End Alzheimer's. The evening featured a musical duo during the social hour. A local not-for-profit organization featured the short film "Dottie", an Alzheimer's journey through the eyes of the creator's grandmother. The producer and creator attended, along with the interpretive dancer featured in the film. Time was allowed for questions. DJ entertainment and an online auction followed to finish the meaningful evening.

10. GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase (MD) – Mah Jongg Classes and Drop-in to Play

This club established a Mah Jongg group by training 53 members to play, and maintains a twice-weekly schedule for the game. Mah Jongg is known to boost social and emotional wellness, combat loneliness, and help preserve cognitive function. The group welcomes members of all ages, backgrounds, and physical abilities to join. A suggestion is for clubs to start their own Mah Jongg groups and open this activity to community members.

Advancement Areas

Communication and Public Relations

Becky Bolden, Chairman

1. GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA) – Communication Calendar

The club communication chairman prepared a calendar of Facebook posts for the year. This gave insight to all members on upcoming posts, and helped the club focus on campaign-type messaging. Posts were scheduled over the months to keep engagement high. The club's Facebook page increased followers and reached the MetroWest area. Members commented on posts and shared them on their social media accounts, expanding the club's impact in the community. The focused approach also attracted new members.

2. GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton (VA) – Community Christmas

The club participates in the annual Christmas tree decorations on the lawn of Vinton's community building. The members made ornaments for the tree, designed with the GFWC emblem and their club logo on each ornament. They also made giant lollipops to stand around the lollipop and candy cane-themed tree. Santa Claus visited for three weekends, so the tree got a lot of exposure. The club prepared cookies for each child, packaged with a label with the club's information.

3. GFWC Terryville Woman's Club (CT) – Creativity and Advocacy

The club took a creative approach to raising awareness for significant causes. One member utilized her Cricut machine to design vibrant lawn signs recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness months, as well as festive holiday messages. The eye-catching signs were placed in high-traffic areas around Terryville and promoted the club's initiatives and the GFWC emblem. The project fostered community involvement by ensuring that important messages resonated throughout the town and promoted their club and GFWC.

4. GFWC Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club (GA) – Free Money

The club applied for a grant from 4Imprint.com to receive up to \$500 worth of marketing materials. The grant application was approved, allowing the club to purchase a 3'x6' banner, a GFWC-branded tablecloth, and a branded A-frame sign to be used at events. The club has used the banner and tablecloth at several community events where branded brochures were distributed. This is a great way to advertise GFWC and club projects at zero cost to the club.

5. GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club (FL) – Internship

The club started a groundbreaking partnership with Florida State College in Jacksonville. They secured a paid intern after being vetted as a legitimate non-profit organization. Following a formal interview process, the intern spearheaded key digital initiatives, including a marketing strategy, directory reformatting, Google business page creation, and website development planning. The club expanded its community presence through local newspaper coverage and launched a new digital newsletter format. The intern brought new ideas and communication tools to the club.

6. GFWC Mary Stewart Woman's Club (NC) – LinkTree

The club members had an issue with numerous emails with different links. The issue was solved with LinkTree, a social media tool that allows the sharing of links and a variety of information in one place. Members can access everything easily, including meeting agendas, a calendar of projects, reporting forms,

meeting minutes, signup forms, as well as GFWC information. They also offer QR codes at meetings for quick access to materials that will be covered.

7. GFWC Woman’s Century Club of Nampa (ID) – Nampa Senior Fair

The club participated in the Senior Citizen Fair in Nampa, which is a health and wellness event held for senior citizens to provide them with information and resources. The club’s booth had a western cowboy theme, and members wore gold and white cowgirl hats while volunteering. The club scrapbook was on display along with club brochures. Visitors registered for a door prize, which members had provided, and members posted a Facebook live feed

8. GFWC Cheyenne Sorosis Club (OK) – Pet Parade

The club sponsored a local Pet Parade, collaborating with the local library. Press releases and social media invited children throughout the county to enter their living, stuffed, or imaginary pets in the parade. The children shared information about their pet with the judges and explained why they are so special. Each participant received a certificate, and the local newspaper covered the event. The club also posted pictures on its social media platforms.

9. GFWC Mebane Woman’s Club (NC) – Podcasting

The club was invited to participate in the “Mebane on the Mic” podcast. The first podcast included many of their projects and the history of their club. They also shared information about GFWC and its mission. The club participated in

numerous podcasts about club projects and fundraising opportunities. The podcast has over 2,000 listeners and viewers. As a result, the club has built new relationships within the community, with local officials, businesses, and other non-profit organizations.

10. GFWC Bruce Juniorette Club (MS) – Random Acts of Kindness

The Juniorettes designed Thank You Cards to be used during the high school’s “Random Acts of Kindness” week. The club had the cards printed with the GFWC emblem and their club’s name. Club members obtained and manned the booth during school breaks, asking students and staff to stop and write a thank-you note to someone in the school. It was a great promotion for the Juniorette club and brought smiles to a lot of people.

Fundraising

Judy Thomas Martin, Chairman

1. GFWC San Tan Valley Woman's Club (AZ) – Fiesta Gathering

The club sponsored a Fiesta Gathering at a local community recreation room. The luncheon highlighted Hispanic traditions. Members sold tickets, decorated, prepared, and served food. The entertainment included two comedians who brought fun and laughter to the occasion. A Ballet Folklorico group provided a professional performance of traditional Mexican folklore dances. Their director explained where each dance originated and what the movements meant. The luncheon culminated with audience participation as attendees were taught a traditional Mexican dance.

2. GFWC Lafayette Suburban Junior Woman's Club (CA) – Lifestyle Tour

The club upgraded its former Kitchen Tour to showcase both the interior and exterior of five stunning homes. Collaborating with local designers, landscape architects, and businesses, they created an immersive experience beyond a traditional tour of homes. Designer-staged interiors, on-site experts, and a sip-and-shop opportunity were included. Members secured sponsorships, sold tickets, sold ads, raffled prizes donated by local businesses, and sold homemade jams. Representatives from recipient organizations provided firsthand information about the impact of the attendees' generosity.

3. GFWC Pinellas Juniores (FL) – Water Wagons

The GFWC Pinellas Juniores sold water at a booth during the community's annual arts and crafts show. They also walked the event with wagons in tow, full of ice-cold water for attendees. This was a very simple idea for a warm and sunny climate. The club sold over 500 bottles of water and received additional donations. Wearing GFWC-branded t-shirts, members promoted both their club and GFWC to the community while raising funds to support their projects.

4. GFWC Semper Fidelis Club (ME) – Wishing a "Lotto" Holiday Cheer

Wishing a "Lotto" Holiday Cheer became the tagline for this new fundraising idea. A wreath was made of fifty holiday scratch-off lottery tickets. Members donated to the cause, and club funds were added to purchase \$250 worth of scratch-off cards to adorn the wreath. Raffle tickets were then distributed to the club members to sell. This raffle was promoted on Facebook, and the wreath was displayed at 1890 Primitives, a very popular local business. The club made \$1,295.

5. GFWC Millington Junior Women's Club (MI) – Ghost Hunt

The GFWC Millington Junior Women's Club sponsored an October Ghost Hunt. Members partnered with a small business, Abnormal Paranormal, to conduct walking tours of various locations in the community known for spooky or unexplained activities. At each location, the company used its equipment to attempt to detect unusual phenomena or ghost activity. The club sold tickets, and Abnormal Paranormal donated its time and equipment. This fun and interesting event also educated the community on local history and architecture.

6. GFWC Papillion Junior Woman's Club (NE) – A Walk Through the Gardens

GFWC Papillion Junior Woman's Club hosted its annual Walk Through the Gardens at four gardens in the community. Monetary donations and nonperishable items were collected from attendees to support the local food pantry. Club members set up and cleaned up for the event; acted as greeters at each garden; served refreshments; and gave directions throughout the day. The event was covered in local media, which promoted the beauty of the community and increased awareness of the club.

7. GFWC Lamoille Women’s Club (NV) – Country Fair

The club worked with all community members, including sports teams, student groups, a pageant, and first responders, to hold a country fair in the town’s grove. Members were involved from set-up to tear-down, marking vendor booth locations, posting signage throughout the community, checking in the vendors, squeezing lemons for lemonade, and more. The event included a Food Truck Alley, and the clubhouse lawn was transformed into a Kids Zone sponsored by a local event rental and planning company.

8. GFWC Woman’s Club of Verona (NJ) – Share Your Light Night

The club encouraged the local government to proclaim December 14, 2024, as “Share Your Light Night” in the town. Members sold sponsorships and over 5,000 luminaria kits. They assembled and delivered the kits, and sponsorship lists to residents to set up on the sidewalks throughout the town. They set up 500 luminarias in the town square. They marketed on social media and the community’s online news source. They placed a banner recognizing sponsors in the town square during December.

9. GFWC Yankton (SD) – Bus Tour

The club planned and sponsored five separate bus tours, which they marketed regionally. The trips each lasted five to ten days and offered a wide variety of destinations. Activities included a musical performance, visiting a Dutch community, a winery for a grape stomp, apple picking at an orchard, attending a Christmas pageant at a cathedral, and a journey across several states to visit battlegrounds and museums. This demonstrates members’ dedication to community engagement.

10. GFWC Centennial Woman’s Club of Tullahoma (TN) – Live on the Lawn

The GFWC Centennial Woman’s Club of Tullahoma hosted its annual fundraiser, Live on the Lawn, in May. They sold gourmet picnic dinners for the evening and had a live band. They also sold sponsorships to local businesses. Each dinner was for two and came in an insulated bag branded with the club’s logo. A “Save the Date” invitation to join their club at the New Member Open House was placed in each bag.

Leadership

Ann Landis, Chairman

1. GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) – New Leaders Training

The Woman's Club of Colorado Springs believes in training new leaders. New Department Chairmen are given job descriptions, information, and training to be able to use the member portal. Each CSP chairman is charged with planning a club program. Before the club year begins, they meet to discuss their focus and plans for a program and possible projects. Members receive training on how to track programs, hours, and activities, and the importance of writing award entries is stressed.

2. GFWC Tampa Woman's Club (FL) – Fostering Inclusive and Dynamic Leadership

The club launched a Google Form sign-up for board and chairman positions as a part of their commitment to fostering inclusive and dynamic leadership. Positions with detailed descriptions give members a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments. This innovative approach to leadership recruitment encourages greater engagement and transparency, allowing more members to step into leadership roles on a variety of levels. With appropriate training, the future is bright and exciting for this club.

3. GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers (IN) – The Value of LEADS

The GFWC LEADS graduate used skills learned to lead in other organizations in her community, and became the first woman president of a predominantly male service group. She remains active in GFWC, serving as an officer and on committee appointments for her club. She credits the GFWC LEADS program for giving her the courage, strength, and ability to move into these leadership positions. She is a strong advocate and promoter of GFWC LEADS.

4. GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) – Membership Moments

This club launched "Membership Moments" and laid a foundation for continued leadership growth and unity while stressing the importance of connecting to a larger and impactful network. The goal was to emphasize, create, and connect while stressing the value of membership. Technology and the development of a comprehensive calendar with club events, locations, links for virtual participation, and details of events were available to all members and strengthened membership and communication skills while building internal bonds.

5. GFWC Nevis Area Women's Club (MN) – Award Winning Leadership Development

This club was named "Non-Profit of the Year" by the local Chamber of Commerce. This "little club that could" used mentoring and shadowing models to foster leadership development. MICRO LEADS and Virtual Mini LEADS 101 accommodated interests in developing leadership skills. New member orientation was highly attended. Zoom and recordings accommodated those who could not attend meetings. A shared Google Drive ensured all tasks and time slots for projects were covered. Leadership emerged and blossomed.

6. GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club (MT) – Ambassador of Fun

Fun was emphasized during club meetings by creating the position of "Ambassador of Fun." In February, members wore red hats to recognize the importance of heart health. In October, members wore pink to raise awareness for breast cancer prevention. *Fun* was inserted by using inexpensive specialty items for awards. Surprise member awards helped keep clubwomen upbeat; for example, an award was given to someone wearing blue earrings at a meeting. This activity kept members upbeat and moving along.

7. GFWC Chapin Woman's Club (SC) – Speed Dating

The GFWC Chapin Woman's Club in South Carolina developed a creative way to educate all members about the GFWC Community Service Programs. They designed a version of "Speed Dating" to allow club members 5-10 minutes to rotate through CSP committee-prepared displays. They were able to interact and get all their questions answered in an informal and accepting atmosphere. Members learned a lot. They were then allowed to sign up to participate in areas of interest.

8. GFWC White Lake Fort Nightly Club (SD) – Leadership in Action

Small but mighty describes women in this GFWC South Dakota club. All members are encouraged to explore and to accept leadership positions as club and state officers. This small but mighty force of women was able to fill several officer positions, knowing that attendance at state, regional, and national events reap massive benefits and provides valuable information and ideas for club members. They put leadership into action by involving clubwomen on the state level.

9. GFWC Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford (TX) – Dollars for Delegates

The club launched a "Dollars for Delegates" initiative to boost involvement in district and state activities. Donations were collected in a purple bucket from members sharing good news at meetings. The money was used to increase attendance at GFWC meetings and conferences. Attendees are encouraged to share a "Federation Minute" after returning from state, region, and national meetings, presenting what they've learned. This sharing reinforces GFWC traditions, strengthening the club, and engaging and connecting members.

10. GFWC Women's Club of Olympia Club (WA) – Membership Retreat

This club held a membership retreat to engage members and to begin the new administration. With twenty-three members in attendance, the mission was to chart the administration's leadership course. Through meeting, discussing, strategizing, and having fun, they compiled a bucket list of what they wanted to accomplish during the new two-year administration. All ideas were encouraged and welcomed. Club members were engaged and committed to endeavoring to implement ideas as they charted the course forward.

Legislation Public Policy

Mary Pat Marcello, Chairman

1. GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC) – Breast Cancer Early Diagnosis Advocacy

Because health care plans available in North Carolina would not pay for diagnostic services, members visited the NC State Treasurer, a NC State Senator, and attended a meeting of the State Health Plan Board of Trustees to advocate for better breast cancer prevention services for women with dense breasts. The club aided in drafting an amendment to the appropriate GFWC Resolution by including references to dense breasts and the increased risk of undiagnosed breast cancer.

2. GFWC Morrow Civic Woman's Club (GA) – Advocacy Partnerships

Partnering with a local church to reach out to domestic violence survivors resulted in members writing letters to their representatives advocating for an increase in funding for victim services and support of a victim-centered confidentiality bill. To prepare for the Stand with Survivors Day at the Capitol, members participated in an advocacy webinar hosted by the GA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, learning about leave-behinds and specific asks regarding domestic violence bills and spending.

3. GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club (MA) – Invite a Legislator

The club hosted a State Representative who spoke about the process used to write, introduce, and enact bills into law in the state legislature, emphasizing access to the workings of the Massachusetts legislature. Members were encouraged to take an active role in the lawmaking process of the state legislature by bringing issues to their representative or senator or filing a bill themselves, as Massachusetts is one of the few states that allows a citizen to file legislation.

4. GFWC Woman's Club of Bethesda (MD) – Developing Club Connections

By educating themselves on local issues and attending a County Commission for Women Legislative Briefing, members gained visibility for their club and networked with other local women's organizations. The club had the foresight to have membership materials available for women who attended this meeting to learn about the club and how to become involved. They saw participation in local legislation and public policy as a positive way to become involved in the community.

5. GFWC Les Amies Juniores of Purvis (MS) – Creating Positive Change through Engaging Activities

Club members attended a City Hall meeting, inspiring other young people to take an active role in their community, to learn the process for acquiring city government approval. During the meeting, the club president presented a proposal for organizing a 5K run in town, envisioned to promote health and fitness and to bring the community together. Such initiatives not only benefit the community but also nurture the leadership skills and civic awareness of the young members.

6. GFWC Yankton (SD) – Hands Free Cell Phone Use

This club has worked with a legislator to have state law changed to a "hands-free" law, meaning drivers cannot use handheld cell phones for most activities while driving, and make it a Primary Offense, rather than a Secondary Misdemeanor. Working with local law enforcement, along with the high school, citizens were educated about the dangers of texting/cell phone use while driving. The local radio station partnered with the club and ran informational ads for free.

7. GFWC Morris Woman's Club (IL) – Trafficking Notices in Public Restrooms

Identifying the lack of information containing the trafficking hotline in highway rest areas, members worked

to create legislation mandating the placement of this information. Members met with a state representative's staff to clarify the lack of adequate trafficking signage and were asked to develop specific suggested language for potential new legislation. This information was forwarded, along with examples used in neighboring states. Members hope that this issue will be resolved in the coming term.

8. GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces (NM) – Building Legislative Awareness

Through participation in the Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe, the club's goal was to demonstrate advocacy for selected legislation that were priorities of the State and GFWC, to build awareness of GFWC amongst our State Legislators and community attendees as well as educating our own members on how state legislative priorities align with GFWC resolutions, providing an opportunity for advocacy. Additionally, club members learned how state legislative priorities align with GFWC resolutions.

9. GFWC Fayette County ESO (IN) – Coffee with the Mayor

Members of the community are invited to attend bi-monthly meetings, originally initiated by the club, called "Coffee With the Mayor", with dates listed on the community calendar. Special guests, who may include district or state representatives, are invited to each event. Coffees were planned to advocate for Healthy Fayette County, an effort with other community collaborators to increase the health rankings of Fayette County. Constituents are welcome to have open conversations with the mayor and guests.

10. GFWC X-JWC of Cheyenne (WY) – State Historic Site Advocacy

This club supported GFWC Wyoming's Resolution designating the High Plains Research Station and Arboretum a state historic site due to the site's continuing importance and location. The Wyoming State Parks Historic Sites and Trails District Manager presented a program about the Arboretum, after which members participated in a tour; subsequently, letters were sent to all state legislators. After meeting with a club member, a state representative volunteered to co-sponsor the bill, making the Arboretum a state historic site.

Membership

Karyn M. Charvat, Chairman

1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club (TX) – It's a Wonderful Club

In December 2024, this newly established club celebrated its members with an amazing “thank you” dinner. Guests entered under a sign proclaiming “It's a Wonderful Club” and “You are Now in Bedford Federation Falls.” Black-and-white photos of the year's projects set the scene, while the President rang a bell for each member receiving her pin. The night ended on a sweet note—bell-shaped cookies, a cheerful reminder of each member's importance to the club and Federation.

2. GFWC Les Amies Juniores of Purvis (MS) – Progressive Dinner

This cherished Juniores tradition is all about celebrating friendship, teamwork, and the year's many achievements. The evening begins with lively group photos, capturing radiant smiles and treasured memories, before moving into a tempting array of appetizers that spark conversation and laughter. A shared main course fosters connection around the table, and a delightful dessert bar offers a sweet, lingering finale. By night's end, bonds are strengthened, new connections blossom, and everyone departs with hearts full of joy.

3. GFWC Menominee Women's Club (MI) – Door Prize Meetings

With over 125 members, this club has found a creative way to keep meetings lively and well-attended—door prizes at every monthly gathering! The anticipation adds excitement, encouraging members to show up and stay engaged. It's a simple yet thoughtful gesture that shows appreciation for each member's participation. In turn, members respond with enthusiasm, making meetings not just a time for business, but a fun, rewarding opportunity to connect and celebrate club spirit.

4. GFWC Junior Women's Club of Bellerose (NY) – Bellerose Village Day

Bellerose Village marked its centennial in style with a festive Bellerose Village Day celebration. The JWCB joined in by hosting a lively recruitment table, which quickly became the social hub of the evening and led to several enthusiastic new members. Adding a modern twist, the club created an electronic New Member Form, allowing visitors to simply scan a code, sign up instantly, and even pay dues on the spot, making joining easier than ever.

5. GFWC Semper Fidelis Club (ME) – Desert Island Survival

The State Membership Chairman created an engaging, interactive game to spotlight communication challenges. Members formed teams of five, each given a life raft and photos of 24 items. In Round One—Plane Crash! —rafts inflated, but only nine items could be saved in five minutes. In later rounds, teams decided what to throw overboard to stay afloat and avoid sharks. The lively exercise emphasized listening to every voice, fostering teamwork, and a happier, more active membership.

6. GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) – Tiaras, 'Tinis and Tampons

The After Five Evening Group of the Woman's Club of Colorado Springs hosted their 10th Annual Triple T Party, Tiaras, 'Tinis, and Tampons, to collect feminine products for local nonprofits. It also raises awareness of GFWC and the club in the community. This year's over 9,000 items were collected! Guests enjoyed food, shopping, martinis, and a lively wine-bottle ring toss. The festive night welcomed two new members, adding to the club's spirit.

7. GFWC Plainfield Junior Woman's Club (IL) – A Trip Around the PJWC World

The Membership Chairs hosted an open house showcasing all club communities and their year-round events. Potential new members and guests visited each station to learn about the club's mission and activities. After exploring, each visitor received a raffle ticket, with exciting prizes awarded throughout the event. This engaging approach sparked enthusiasm and connection, contributing to an impressive 13% membership increase in 2024, a clear sign that the club's outreach efforts are making an impact.

8. GFWC Morgan County Woman's Club (KY) – The Blessing Box

This club wraps up each meeting with the tradition of filling The Blessing Box. Members donate spare change and share personal blessings like a new baby or job promotion, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and support. Throughout the year, donations accumulate, and at year-end, members vote on where to give the funds. This year's donation went to a local ministerial association, helping provide hotel stays for domestic violence victims in the community.

9. GFWC Dallas Woman's Club (GA) – “Our Very Own Soup Swap”

Held on the clubhouse lawn, this event collected canned goods and non-perishable food for Hurricane Helene victims. In exchange, donors enjoyed a warm bowl of homemade soup—over 10 delicious varieties prepared by club members! It was a win-win: a chance to give back while connecting with members. The club gathered two truckloads totaling over 700 pounds of relief items—and welcomed several new members inspired by the spirit of giving.

10. GFWC Bear River Valley Civic League (UT) – “Women, Waffles, and GFWC!”

This club hosted a summer membership brunch featuring waffles with a variety of toppings, fresh fruit, and beverages. The relaxed setting encouraged potential members to mingle with current members, ask questions, and learn about the club's activities. The event was a hit; four guests joined that day, and three more signed up in the fall, resulting in a 25% membership increase. It proved that membership events don't need to be complicated, just creative!

Women's History and Resource Center

Marian St.Clair, Chairman

1. GFWC Bedford Woman's Club (VA) – 80th Anniversary of D-Day Educational Display

The club coordinated an educational display for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at the Bedford Museum, highlighting women in their community and others who served at home or overseas during World War II. The club obtained local biographies and photos, plus artifacts including news articles, books, quilts, and a cookbook featuring “wartime recipes.” Open June 6-8 at no charge, visiting children were given Rosie the Riveter pencils.

2. GFWC Menominee Woman's Club (MI) – 1976 Bicentennial Quilt Preservation

The club celebrated and preserved GFWC history when a quilt, created in 1976 by club members to commemorate the US Bicentennial and raise funds for the purchase of community playground equipment, was returned to the club. After surviving quilters assembled to recreate a 1976 publicity photo from the local newspaper, the quilt was displayed at the 2024 GFWC MI convention, and then donated to the GFWC WHRC for preservation.

3. GFWC Woman's Club of Indio (CA) – Hummingbird Garden Honoring Past Club Presidents

The club sponsored a hummingbird garden dedicated to its past 76 club presidents at the Coachella Valley History Museum and is creating a booklet with photos and information about the presidents that will be sold in the museum bookstore. A member donation of \$10,000 sponsored the garden, and a fundraising campaign is underway to provide a sculpture and signage. Presidents are featured in each newsletter to encourage donations.

4. GFWC Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club (NC) – “HERSTORY TEAM”

The club has established a committee, “HERSTORY TEAM, It’s Monumental!” to inform members and others about the Women’s Suffrage Monument Foundation and to encourage support of the construction of a women’s suffrage monument by the 2026 semi-quincentennial celebration. The committee has planned several educational sessions, including a public forum for the community, and is making plans to visit Washington, DC, to see the completed Suffrage Monument.

5. GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) – Celebrating the Suffragists

The club brought the history of suffragists to life at the Northborough Senior Center, highlighting the invaluable privilege of the right to vote and women’s history. Purple tablecloths, “Votes for Women” buttons, posters, and a timeline of events documenting the struggle set the scene. Four members and a community volunteer portrayed Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells, and Harry Burn (who cast the deciding vote in Tennessee).

6. GFWC Woman's Club of Bridgeport (WV) – Honoring GFWC Trailblazers

The club created a Women’s History Month program honoring six famous GFWC trailblazers, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Pearl S. Buck, and GFWC International Past Presidents Mary Katherine BarnesMiller and Maxine Scarboro. Members were asked to bring a guest to the club’s March meeting, which was such a success that the skit was also performed at the GFWC WV District Spring Workshop and the GFWC WV Summer Conference.

7. GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) – Women's Equality Day

The club held its first Women’s Equality Day with information provided by the National Women’s History

Alliance. A NWA PowerPoint was shared at a luncheon, and NWA magazines were distributed as parting gifts along with bookmarks celebrating women's history. Members invited friends and family, and the occasion was advertised in print and online to ensure a successful event. Plans are underway for a second Equality Day Celebration in 2025.

8. GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club (SC) – 50th Anniversary Celebration

The club celebrated its 50th anniversary of community service with an event focused on reflection, recognition, and camaraderie. A looping slideshow showcased the club's many meaningful projects and events, while four tables of scrapbooks displayed its rich history. A South Carolina Senate Resolution commending the club for its contributions was presented by a SC State Senator; attendees included the Mayor, City Council members, and GFWC SC leaders.

9. GFWC Women's Club of Pittsford (NY) – Educational Tool for Historical Society

The club funded an interactive flat panel (IFP) as an educational tool for the Ontario County Historical Society's Open Hearth Kitchen, a 1914 interpretation of an early nineteenth-century kitchen in an established household. The panel offers a dynamic and engaging learning experience, combining the functionality of a whiteboard, projector, and computer into a touch-enabled screen, which helps teachers and others access and share information that promotes collaborative learning.

10. GFWC Laytonsville Woman's Club (MD) – Documenting Clubwomen's History

The club continued a project to document the history of clubwomen in the Laytonsville area by searching newspaper archives and tapping the memories of longtime members for information on various topics, including the development of a prize-winning community show home in 1925, community Christmas tree projects in the late 1920s, aircraft fundraisers during WWII, and talented club seamstress who played a part in the club fashion shows of the 1950s.