



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

Donna M. Shibley, President



GFWC Community Service Program: Civic Engagement and Outreach ~ 2020-2022

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

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

Citizenship:

- ❄ Learn about the Citizen Information Service on the Massachusetts Government website.
 - <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciscig/guide.html>
- ❄ It is an election year - hold a voter registration in your town including your high school students.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/topics/voting>
- ❄ Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Things to do: setup a display at your library, have a club meeting and invite the public, discuss the impact Massachusetts women had on the fight for women's right to vote, take some virtual tours to learn of the struggles our foremothers.
 - <https://bwht.org/womens-suffrage-trail/>
 - <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mus/suffragists.html>
 - <https://suffrage100ma.org> has a Women's Suffrage Centennial Toolkit.

Crime Prevention, Safety and Disaster Preparedness

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

The Needy, Hungry and Homeless

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

Our Military Personnel and Veterans

- ❄ Have clothing and household items drive or have club members volunteer at the following sites:
 - The Vietnam Veterans of America call 1(800)778-8387 <https://vva.org/>
 - New England Center and Home for Veterans 617.371-1749 or <https://www.nechv.org/volunteer/group-opportunities/>
- ❄ Have your club members sponsor wreaths or lay wreaths on Wreaths Day- December 19, 2020.
 - Wreaths Across America - <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>
 - Contact your VA Medical Centers specifically Women Veterans Programs for volunteer ideas. <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=MA>

For many more ideas check out the *2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual* on the [GFWC Massachusetts website](#) by going to the **ABOUT** tab click on **What Do We Do?**