

Contests & Awards Newsletter

November 2024 Vol.1 Issue 1



GFWC

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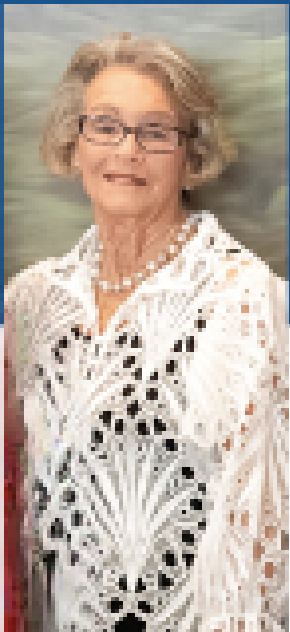
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

Meet the 2024 - 2026 Contests and Awards Chairmen:

- **Katie Moydell**, Community Impact Program Awards
 - Katiemoydell1020@gmail.com
- **Deborah Allen**, Jennie Award
 - debgfwc@gmail.com
- **Patricia (Tric) Heepe**, Photography Contests
 - theepe@aol.com
- **Hope Royer**, Writing Contests
 - hoperoyer@aol.com

Contact us:

We look forward to working with you and helping members participate in contests and awards. Don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have.



Hope Royer



Tric Heepe



Deborah Allen



Katie Moydell

GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - Tric Heepe

Greetings clubwomen!

I am honored to be appointed as the 2024-2026 Photography Contest Chairman. I have loved taking pictures since I was a teenager. Am I a great photographer? No. Am I always willing to learn? Absolutely. I look forward to growing and honing our skills during these next two years. Whether you only take pictures on your phone or you have an expensive film or digital camera, this contest is for you.

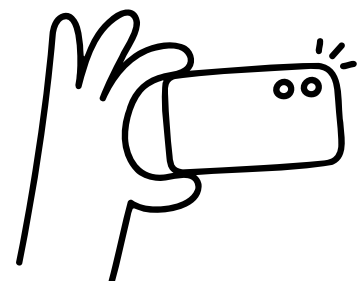
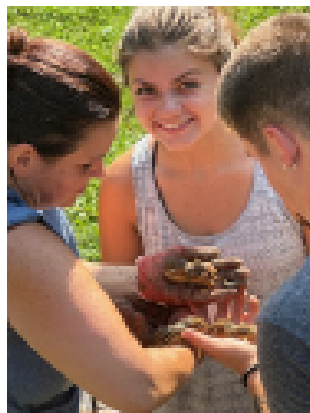
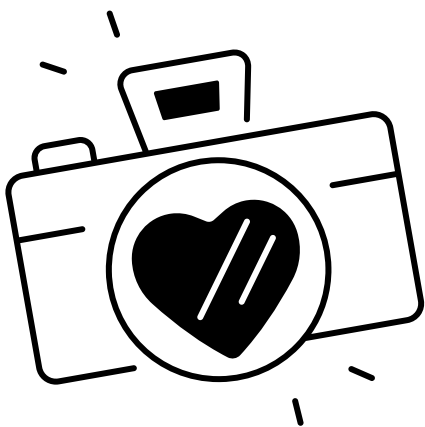
There is still time to take photographs eligible for submission in the 2024 Contest. Photographs must be taken between January 1- December 30, 2024. Please review the GFWC Club Manual Photography Guide and the Creative Waiver Form for information about submitting your photos digitally or as a print copy.

You may have noticed that the categories have remained the same. I know that you started taking pictures on January 1st with the categories of Reflections, Natural Beauty, Our World Up Close, and Living the Volunteer Spirit in mind. Photograph whatever you like, but please submit photos that fit into one of those categories. I hope to see dirt flying in Living the Volunteer Spirit submissions, in other words, I look forward to action, rather than a photo of a group of volunteers standing together smiling.

I do not consider myself a great photographer, but that doesn't stop me from taking hundreds of pictures. Some, so I will remember a moment in time, some to capture that look of joy, and some a happy accident. It doesn't matter why you took the shot, but what it does for you. If together we can get a few pointers to make our shots a little better, then we will have all won.

Here is my first pointer, a very simple one for our smartphones: Remember to clean your lens!

Please call, text, or email me with any questions, and I will find the answers for you.



Welcome to the “Writers’ Corner”!

2024-2026 WRITING CONTESTS , Hope Royer, Chairman
700 Hermitage Road Manakin Sabot, VA 23103
hoperoyer@aol.com



SHORT STORY AND POETRY

GFWC Writing Contest entries in short story and poetry are open to club members and youth from grades K-12. Contest entry information on pages 227-229 of the GFWC Club Manual is available through the Member Portal.

You’ll want to note 2024-2026 contest updates: the addition of page numbers and, for email submissions, the use of Microsoft files only. Be reminded that all entries must have been written during the contest year, January 1-December 31.

DEADLINE INFORMATION

Each State determines its own entry deadline. Be sure to keep that date in line with the GFWC entry postmark deadline April 1. You’ll want to be sure to allow adequate time for judging. Remember that a completed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must be included with each submission.

SHARING YOUR VOICE

Our GFWC Writing Contests encourage members and youth to write a story or poem to express their thoughts and share their voices. The therapeutic benefits of self-expression are well documented. Research shows that expressive writing can enhance self-awareness, decreasing depressive symptoms, anxious thoughts, and stress.

Encourage club members’ “creativity”. Why not sponsor a poetry contest? Something fun-An “Owl’s Hoot”, a “Turkey Shoot” or “Santa’s Boot”?

Continue to reach out to your local schools. New teachers may not know about the GFWC contests. Remember students have changed grade levels. Follow up on previous contest entrants.

Consider providing state and local level awards. You’d be surprised how much an award certificate means to its recipient!

“Writers’ Block” Trivia:

When Dr. Seuss was stuck writing his books, he would go to a secret closet filled with hundreds of hats and wear them till the words came.

Agatha Christie suffered from dysgraphia which meant she could not write legibly; as a result, she dictated all her novels.

John Steinbeck used 300 pencils to write East of Eden and was known to use up to 60 pencils in a day.

2024 - 2026 GFWC Jennie Award Information



How to find the fillable Jennie Award form:

Award information may be found on pages 213 - 218 of GFWC Club Manual

- Log into Member Portal
- Click on Digital Library
- Scroll to Awards & Certificates
 - Click on “Show more” (found under the CIP logo)
- Download form to begin typing.

Who is eligible:

- Members in good standing of a GFWC club
- Minimum of 5 consecutive years of GFWC service
 - Years of service can be with different GFWC clubs
 - Years of service must be consecutive not concurrent
 - GFWC Executive Officers (past and present) are not eligible

Important Dates:

- June 1, 2025: Clubs may submit 1 nominee to their State President
- August 1, 2025: State Presidents may submit 1 nominee to Region President
- December 1, 2025: Region Presidents submit 2 nominees to GFWC
- March 2026: All 16 Region Jennie Finalist featured in Clubwoman Magazine.
- April 2026: One nominee from each Region (8 total) will be chosen as a National Jennie Award honoree
- All National Jennie Award honorees will be honored at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, AZ

Deborah Allen, Chairman
debgfwc@gmail.com

Community Impact Program Award - Katie Moydell

Dearest Reader,

This is an interactive newsletter article, so I ask that you be prepared to play along. Please have your phone charged, your YouTube pulled, and your creativity cap ready!

We're going to do something a little different today and start this off with a little tune.

Dolly Parton - Jolene (Audio) - YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxrje2rXLMA>)

"Jolene" is a song written and recorded by country music artist Dolly Parton. It is considered to be one of the most representative songs of the country genre. But now you're probably wondering, "Katie, what does this have to do with the Community Impact Program?"

Well, this is the song that kept playing in my mind after speaking with the CIP Chairman for South Carolina. You see, Pamme came to me recently to ask if it was okay to emphasize the fact that this project should be an original or updated version of a current project to solve a specific community need and not a repeat of an annual project. My answer to her was absolutely yes! GFWC has maintained this project for over 75 years as a platform to develop and implement projects that meet the varying and changing needs of our communities. The Community Impact Program award has been established as a two-year plan to ensure there is time to identify, research, plan, and execute a project that makes effective change in their community. It is important that our clubs keep this in mind as they are working through the CIP process.

So that you can hear what I mean, please play this song.

Miley Cyrus - The Backyard Sessions - "Jolene" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOwblaKmyVw>)

This version of Jolene is the closest in these samples to Dolly's original version. While the distinctive tone of Miss Miley Cyrus differentiates this version, it could still be mistaken for the original without closer inspection. This version of Jolene is beautiful, but is it enough to impact the listener?

As GFWC's longest-standing project, the Community and Impact Program Award provides opportunities for growing club membership, enhancing leadership skills, building relationships with individuals and groups, and creating public awareness. It's impact and relevance must be developed and shared with your community.

Let's try another version....

Jolene, but it's to the tune of Hallelujah (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to7ITUZ2aR8>)

Was that impactful?

By mixing Dolly's words with Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, this artist has made us all stop, listen, and hear the song in a new way. When we speak to our Federations and Clubs about the CIP, we need to remember that while being like Dolly is something we should all strive for, doing so doesn't mean that we should not try a new note, chord, or beat to see if there is a new sound to be heard.

