



# GFWC

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**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY  
NEWSLETTER

*RAISE OUR UNITED VOICES*

April 2025

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## Grassroots Advocacy – Something for Every Member!

Eileen Hageman, GFWC Mississippi Valley Region Representative

Your club will soon be planning monthly programs for the coming club year. Consider adding a Legislation/Public Policy topic. Something of interest for all!

### Program Suggestions:

1. Plan a trip to your state's capitol building. Determine what exactly your members feel is important enough to schedule meetings with your elected officials or their staff. (If you're having difficulties coming up with a topic, review the newly adopted 2025 GFWC Legislative Priorities found at <https://www.gfwc.org/priorities/>). Remember that congressional staff members' jobs (both at the state and national levels) are to meet with constituents and report what is important to voters. The prepared talking points shared by members must be concise and clear. If help is needed coming up with those talking points, review the GFWC Resolutions found in the GFWC Member Portal. Be sure to leave behind a single sheet that synthesizes your visit; remember to include contact information. Extend the courtesy of a thank you note to the staff with whom you met. These actions also reaffirms the visit.
2. Plan a designated time to sign up club members for the GFWC Member Portal and Legislative Action Center (LAC). The Member Portal contains valuable information and time-saving resources. The LAC gives members a chance to provide valuable input to their individual congressional representative for bipartisan legislation that is supported by GFWC resolutions. Once registered, members will periodically receive emails from GFWC requesting "action" which is as simple as selecting "send". If a member doesn't support the bill, she may choose not to respond. Congressional staff value their constituents' input!

**IMPORTANT:** If you experience "bounceback" from your Senator/Representative after implementing a GFWC Legislative Alert, please consider simply copying/

Legislation Action Center (LAC)  
registration site



pasting the language provided in the Alert into an email sent through your elected official's ".gov" website.

3. Meet with your city/town administrator. During your meeting, ask about the priorities and goals. Is your club sponsoring projects that no longer meet community needs? Adopting one or more of the priorities will go a long way towards enhancing your club's image.
4. Host a "meet and greet" for local school board or town council members to increase members' knowledge of local issues, and to create a partnership with these officials.
5. Invite a speaker to come to your club meeting from an affiliate organization, either in person or virtually. Publicize the event and make it open to the public. Ask for projects to promote awareness of their programs. Examples are the Alzheimer's Association, Canine Companions, Heifer International, Hope for Justice, Shot at Life, St Jude's Hospital, March of Dimes or UNICEF. This is a "win" for the organization and for the club. Local mental health and anti-trafficking agencies are also great resources. Use the GFWC Club Manual for ideas!
6. Review the Legislative Ladder, the 2024-2026 GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Club Connection Initiative found on page 159 in the Club Manual (or the fillable form found in the Digital Library at <https://www.gfwc.org/>). Plan to achieve two or three steps; thirty-five points gets your club an award certificate at the 2026 Convention.
7. Present a club program on how a bill becomes a law. Or work with your local middle school or junior high school to present this topic. Consider playing the video "I'm Just a Bill" from Schoolhouse Rock (available on YouTube), which provides information about the legislative process. Present a program to teach members about the various levels of government (city, county, state, and national) where they can use their advocacy skills.
8. Write a proclamation for an upcoming event such as Federation Day, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, or GFWC's International Day of Service to end Domestic Violence, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact your local government agencies to determine timing for submission and then schedule members to attend the actual signing. (Be sure to take photos for social media!) Information on writing a proclamation can be found in the Club Manual on page 164.
9. Is there an issue that your club members feel strongly about? A new resolution can be initiated at the club level, presented for approval by the delegates to your State Convention and, if adopted, sent to the GFWC Resolutions Chairman for possible consideration. Full details can be found in the GFWC Club Manual beginning on page 169. It's easier than you think, and this is a great legacy for your club!
10. Form a Legislation Task Force within your club to focus on (for example) safety related issues in the community. Work with town agencies to develop plans to be implemented.

Review the 2024-2026 Legislation/Public Policy Advancement Plan found in the GFWC Club Manual (beginning on page 158) to review additional project ideas to join sister members throughout GFWC participating in the goal to ***Raise Our United Voices.***