

LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY
NEWSLETTER
RAISE OUR UNITED VOICES



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

November 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Pat Marcello, Chairman
GFWC Middle Atlantic Region
njfswcmariypat@aol.com

Nancy Dickman
GFWC Great Lakes Region
nancy-dickman@outlook.com

Eileen Hageman
GFWC Mississippi Valley Region
eileen4gfwc@gmail.com

Katie Robey
GFWC New England Region
kdrobey@robeybaur.org

Val Redington
GFWC South Central Region
reding2727@gmail.com

Hope Hockaday
GFWC Southeastern Region
hopelynn@gmail.com

Janet Prince
GFWC Southern Region
jhprince@aol.com

Susan Tyler
GFWC Western States Region
suewatergirl@comcast.net

**GFWC Federal Government
Relations Consultant**

Debra Bryant
debra.bryant@unified-solutions.us

You have Questions ... We have Answers

- Can a member who is registered for LAC alerts tailor the alert?
 - It is important for GFWC and its members to communicate with elected officials with a consistent and timely message, so the text of the alert cannot be altered.
- If a member is registered in the LAC, is she required to take action on legislative alerts?
 - As a member of GFWC, you have an important role in civic engagement. Our legislative alerts are based upon GFWC resolutions adopted during each annual convention. If a member personally disagrees with the position of GFWC, she does not have to act on the legislative alert.
- We may potentially turn off some members with the LAC. How do we resolve that?
 - Remember to inform members that GFWC has a long history of legislative action on bipartisan issues, including the passage and continued funding of the Violence Against Women Act, among others. Reassure your club members that they may choose to only respond to the Legislative Alerts that they support. If they choose not to support the request, the emailed alert can simply be deleted.
- What if a member doesn't agree with the GFWC Resolution?
 - That member is not required to take any action on the legislative alert.
- Are state federations entitled to request legislative alerts at the State level?
 - Before taking action, the following GFWC LAC policies and procedures must be followed:
 - ❖ States may request that GFWC send state alerts in the following areas:

Legislation Action Center (LAC)
registration site



- GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention;
 - Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children;
 - Community Service Program Area: Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness;
 - Issues must be germane to GFWC Resolutions.
 - Refer to the GFWC Club Manual (page 161) for full details.
 - What role do State Bylaws play in LAC registration/participation?
 - As part of their GFWC membership benefit, individual members choose to register for the Legislative Action Center. There is no need for a State Federation to include that voluntary participation in any language of the Bylaws.
 - How should clubs use GFWC Resolutions?
 - GFWC Resolutions should routinely be used by members to educate and advocate for an issue at the federal, state and local levels. If no GFWC Resolution covers a state specific issue, the State Federation should draft and adopt a resolution for action.
 - May states adopt State Resolutions?
 - Yes, many states create unique Resolutions and are encouraged to do so. Tips on creating Resolutions can be found in the GFWC Club Manual (pages 169-170). Remember to review pertinent State Bylaws, and once adopted by the delegates to your State Convention, forward the Resolution(s) to the GFWC Resolutions Chairman for possible action by delegates to the GFWC Convention.
- All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the GFWC Resolutions Committee Chairman by November 1 of the year preceding the GFWC Annual Convention at which the resolution will be considered (e.g., resolutions to be considered at the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention must be submitted no later than November 1, 2024). Keep in mind that no state may take a position or pass a resolution that conflicts with a GFWC resolution (current Resolutions may be found in the GFWC Digital Library).
- Can a virtual club focus exclusively on Legislation and Public Policy?
 - Yes. What a great way to create visibility for that club!

ATTENTION STATE PRESIDENTS/DIRECTORS OF JUNIOR CLUBS

The LAC registration numbers (as of August 1, 2024) by ZIP code are available upon request from the GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman
Mary Pat Marcello (njsfwcmarypat@aol.com).

Help your members get a jump on Step 1 of the Legislative Ladder by requesting and sharing this information!