

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Donna M. Shibley, President
2020-2022

The following resolutions are presented in accordance with "Rules Governing Resolutions: III, Procedure" for consideration at **Combined Fall Meeting 2020**. Please study these Resolutions and bring a copy with you to the meeting on October 24, 2020.

In accordance with General Federation of Women's Clubs name change of Community Service Programs and Special Programs all titles will be updated to current GFWC language throughout the GFWC Massachusetts Resolutions document.

The following Resolution has been reviewed and is recommended to be approved with no changes.

Arts - *Updated Name* **Arts and Culture**

2. Heritage Arts and Crafts

Whereas, Heritage arts and crafts reflect the culture, history and aesthetic values of society; and

Whereas, Continued and active practice is the only way these skills can be preserved for future generations; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to preserve heritage arts and crafts by:

1. Researching the history and techniques;
2. Encouraging artisans to study and practice these skills;
3. Supporting programs that teach these skills both on the professional and amateur levels; and
4. Supporting programs that introduce these skills during early childhood development.

Rational: Relevant to GFWC MA clubwomen

The following Resolution have been reviewed and are recommended to be amended.

Conservation - *Updated Name* **Environment**

7. Keep America Beautiful

Whereas, Preserving the beauty and environmental quality of communities is of enduring importance; and

Whereas, It is the responsibility of all citizens to motivate and educate others in their communities toward positive citizen action for community improvement, conservation, and local beautification; and

Whereas, Vandalism and abuse threaten the physical environment, natural resources, and heritage of our nation's public lands; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the concept of keeping America beautiful; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges all club women to take responsibility to promote programs in schools, to educate and motivate action by their local citizenry on issues of community improvement, conservation and local beautification; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote and participate in Public Lands Day celebrations, **Arbor Day, Earth Day** and Clean Water celebrations to work for improved volunteer **action public land stewardship programs** all year long.

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Resolved, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote and participate in Public Lands Day, Arbor Day, Earth Day and Clean Water celebrations to work for improved volunteer action all year long.

Rationale: to update and include additional opportunities

The following two Resolutions have been reviewed and are recommended to be rescinded.

Home Life

14. Missing Children

Whereas, Countless numbers of children are missing and/or abducted each year; and

Whereas, Neither parents nor local law enforcement agencies have the resources to mount large search efforts; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support legislation to increase federal support for local efforts to find missing children; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work within their communities:

1. To support campaigns for fingerprinting, mouth swabbing, dental impressions, and videotaping children;
2. To support the use of the Amber Alert System;
3. To work with public and private agencies to educate parents and children about safety measures to safeguard against abduction;
4. To support the CHIP (Child Identification Program); and
5. To encourage parents and/or guardians to monitor their children’s Internet activities with particular attention to chat rooms.

Rationale: No Longer Relevant

Public Issues

14. Public Use of the State House

Whereas, Our elected representatives and senators have passed Chapter 55, Acts of 2003 which allows the State to collect a fee for non-government use of our State House; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs holds Legislation Day at the State House every two years for the education of its clubwomen and the fee is far above the amount a non-profit organization can afford; therefore

Resolved, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to contact their State Representatives and Senators asking them to work toward rescinding that portion of Chapter 55, Acts of 2003 that allows the state to charge these fees to a non-profit organization holding 501c(3) exemptions.

Rationale: No Longer Relevant

The following 18 Resolutions have been reviewed and are recommended to be rescinded. These are covered by a GFWC Resolution and need not be repeated in Massachusetts Resolutions.

Education *Updated Name* **Education and Libraries**

1. Basic Education

Whereas, United States students are not all academically prepared to compete in a global community; and

Whereas, Solutions to our educational problems must be addressed, including gender equity and lack of basic educational skills; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to:

1. Impress upon parents that the child's basic needs must be provided for in the home;
2. Encourage rededication of parents working in partnership with schools and teachers;
3. Establish strong early childhood educational programs;
4. Set up mentor programs linking business representatives, professionals, and seniors with individual students;
5. Develop an atmosphere of respect and cooperation among the student, parent, and teacher;
6. Inculcate within teachers an appreciation of the opportunity each has to develop our youth; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to become mentors, readers, and volunteers in their local schools.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 012-010 Basic Education

Education *Updated Name* Education and Libraries

3. Education of Youth

Whereas, The future of our country depends upon education and training that will enable young people of all abilities and challenges to develop and operate at their highest capabilities today, tomorrow, and in the years to come; and

Whereas, There is a need to return to basic studies in the education of reading, writing and mathematics to prepare our youth properly for its role in the world of today and the global economy of the future; and

Whereas, In addition to four year college, children can benefit from developing vocational and technical skills; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to initiate, evaluate, promote and support local and state programs designed to:

1. Support efforts to ensure adequate financial support for public schools taking into consideration the true cost of educating a child today;
2. Encourage school systems to develop new options in addition to Vocational/Technical programs to train students for trade, semi-professional and technical career opportunities;
3. Train students as skilled workers in the global marketplace, encouraging all opportunities that promote financial literacy, leadership roles, cultural exchange, and global awareness at all levels;
4. Offer languages needed in an increasingly global economy; and
5. Promote an approach to paying teachers with the priority placed on quality of work and student success as measures to determine salary.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 012-100 Literacy

Education *Updated Name* Education and Libraries

9. Media Literacy

Whereas, Movies, the internet, music videos, radio and television are powerful media tools for transmitting new ideas, cultural and ethical values, and social attitudes; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote education of parents, teachers, and civic leaders concerning their responsibility to teach youth how to discriminate in the selection and interpretation of movies, the internet, music, videos, radio and television programs.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 012-120 Digital Media in Education

Education *Updated Name* Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children

10. Suicide Awareness

Whereas, Suicide in adolescence has tripled in the last thirty years and now along with automobile accidents is a leading cause of death among young people; and

Whereas, The prevalence of suicide in our state has become a major concern to family and friends; and

Whereas, Suicide is generally characterized by a definite set of behavior patterns that can be recognized; therefore

Resolved, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to:

1. Learn and recognize the signs of suicide;
2. Promote and support suicide awareness education in their local schools and communities; and
3. Help identify and support organizations and centers where help can be found for a troubled teenager, the family and interested friends; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports legislation that will encourage Suicide Awareness Education in the schools.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 016-050 Sexual Exploitation of Children

Education *Updated Name* **Education and Libraries**

11. Two-year/Community Colleges Vocational and Technical Education Institutions

Whereas, Two-year/Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions offer an opportunity for students and adults for continuing education or to prepare for employment; and

Whereas, The Two-year/Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions offer a solid preparation for further academic achievement and may offer a wide variety of job training programs for those desiring semi-professional or technical careers; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support accredited Two-Year/Community Colleges and Vocational and Technical Education Institutions; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to offer scholarships to students attending such institutions to financially support our commitment of such Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutes.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 012-020 Community Colleges, Vocational/Technical Education Institutions

Home Life *Updated Name* **Health and Wellness**

1. Alcoholism

Whereas, The excessive consumption of alcoholic beverage by adults, youth, and children is threatening the social, economic, and moral structure of this nation; and

Whereas, Alcoholism among women continues to be documented as an alarming problem; and

Whereas, Statistics show that children ages 9-10 are drinking alcohol and that an increasing number begin drinking alcohol before the age of 13 and an alarming number of youth 14 and above drink excessively on a regular basis; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its membership to use every legitimate means to lessen this growing peril by:

1. Demanding the enforcement of liquor laws in their communities;
2. Urging that the devastating long-term effects of alcohol be taught at all levels in our public schools;
3. Educating the public to the disease concept of alcoholism;
4. Protesting to those responsible for the frequent and unnecessary drinking scenes that are presented daily through radio, television, motion pictures, theater, and magazines, and the glamorization of social drinking through liquor advertisements;
5. Supporting meaningful assistance programs directed towards women and children; and
6. Sponsoring support groups for families in which there is an alcohol problem.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 013-510 Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation

Home Life *Updated Name* **Health and Wellness**

5. Financial Security and Literacy for Women

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that statistically women live longer than men; and

Whereas, Many women are responsible for family financial planning and investing; and

Whereas, Knowledge of estate planning, investments, taxes, and insurance is necessary to achieve financial security; and

Whereas, Women face tremendous challenges as they move through life's transitions from young adulthood to retirement years; and

Whereas, Women are concerned about the financial well-being of their families as well as themselves, making sure that those they love are secure within their own financial success; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to:

1. Promote programs that will help their members to acquire understanding and self-reliance in all financial matters;
2. Acquaint their members with opportunities and workshops that promote and explain financial security; and
3. Support programs that empower women to succeed and prosper by encouraging schools, business and other service organizations to sponsor programs to promote financial literacy among women of all ages.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 013-240 Retirement Savings

Home Life *Updated Name* **Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children**

8. Foster Care

Whereas, Many factors are affecting the security of America's youth, including but not limited to divorce, child abuse, alcoholism, drug abuse, and neglect; and

Whereas, Sometimes in the best interest of the child, he or she must be removed from unsafe living conditions; and

Whereas, Thousands of teens need extended support and resources such as housing and other services as they age out of state custody; and

Whereas, Youth who age out of foster care are less likely to graduate from high school or complete higher levels of education; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work for better laws for recruiting, screening, training and adequately reimburse qualified foster parents through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and to support programs and non-profits providing optimal resources for the foster care system as well as for young adults over the age of 18 who have aged out of state foster care services.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 016-010 Child Foster Care

Home Life *Updated Name* **Health and Wellness**

12. Latch Key Children

Whereas, There are millions of children under twelve years of age who are considered latch-key children because they let themselves into their homes after school and are left alone until their parents or guardians return home; and

Whereas, These children regularly contend with situations such as fear, boredom, loneliness, household mishaps or injuries, caring for younger siblings, exposure to drugs and alcohol, abuse by siblings, poor nutrition, emotional deprivation; therefore

Resolved, That General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to:

1. Educate clubwomen and the members of their communities regarding the need for all children to learn self-care skills;
2. Support cost-effective before and after-school programs in our schools, which include the teaching of basic safety and emergency procedure;
3. Educate those involved in providing services in the areas of information and referral, telephone and computer usage, intruders, support systems and child abuse; and
4. Support daycare centers that strive to keep the high cost of childcare at a level the average family can afford.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 013-420 Child Care

Home Life *Updated Name* **Health and Wellness**

16. Nutrition

Whereas, Nutrition is a critical factor in the promotion of health and prevention of disease and in recovery and rehabilitation from illness or injury; and

Whereas, Evidence mounts that Americans who fail to attain a diet optimum for health can be found at every socio-economic level, in all ages and various degrees of physical well-being; and

Whereas, Any proposed system of health care should address itself to early identification of nutritional deficiencies, especially in children, which would prevent them from attaining their full mental and physical potentiality; and

Whereas, Governmental and non-governmental agencies which deal with health of the people should stress the responsibility of the people for their own nutritional needs; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts supports the inclusion of nutrition into the planning, organization, and implementation of health care systems as a basic component of health and medical care at local, state and national levels; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to study nutrition programs for their families and support such community programs as merit their time and attention; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts support the promotion of updated nutrition curriculum in schools which will reinforce positive nutrition and to encourage school administrators to replace snack and soda machines with fruit juice, water and healthy snacks machines which promote healthy food choices.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 013-340 Nutrition

Home Life *Updated Name* Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

19. Rape

Whereas, Rape is a violent and horrendous crime with lasting effects that are emotional as well as physical; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts advocates programs to promote and support action to combat rape through:

1. Education to protect children, youth, and adults against the crime of rape;
2. Establishment of readily available rape crisis centers;
3. Increased visibility to a rape crisis telephone number; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation that will strengthen penalties for convicted rapists; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its member clubs to promote recognition of the emotional welfare of the rape victim through programs that protect the rights and dignity of the victim.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 017-040 Sexual Assault

International Outreach - *Updated Name* Health and Wellness

1. Child Survival

Whereas, The hope for the future of our world lies with the children; and

Whereas, The United Nations reports that over 11 million children under the age of five die annually of preventable childhood diseases in the developing world; and

Whereas, The lives of these children could be saved by immunization and programs to educate the general populace in prenatal care, nutrition, basic health care and in methods to avoid contamination of food and water; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its United States Senators to support the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 013-067 Child Survival in Developing Countries

International Outreach - *Updated Name* Civic Engagement and Outreach

9. United Nations

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that the United Nations is potentially a hope for world peace and provides machinery for airing of disputes and has given dignity and importance to the smaller nations; and

Whereas, National integrity is safeguarded by the Charter of the United Nations in the stipulation therein that agreements under the United Nations shall be subject to ratification by the signatory nations in accordance with their respective constitutional processes; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts endorses the participation by the United States in the United Nations; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to inform and educate their members regarding the various United Nations agencies, their activities and objectives; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts encourages its member clubs to observe United Nations Day, October 24, in an appropriate manner.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-955 Support of the United Nations

Public Issues *Updated Name* Civic Engagement and Outreach

10. Juvenile Justice

Whereas, In many juvenile court jurisdictions in this nation adequate detention and probation services do not exist; and

Whereas, Some courts have no place to detain a child awaiting a hearing except the adult county jail; and

Whereas, Each year children are held in these jails in contradiction of the law and to their physical, mental and moral detriment; and

Whereas, Indications based on recidivism rates are that sufficient rehabilitation is not occurring in juvenile training schools or institutions where juveniles are committed; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts continues to:

1. Work for adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane facilities while providing alternative living situations such as group and foster homes with appropriate treatment;
2. Work for elimination of the practice of holding juveniles in adult jails through the establishment of regional detention facilities for those children requiring secure detention; and
3. Support school dropout prevention programs by the establishment of expanded youth service systems and local Youth Service Bureaus which advocate and offer community-based programs of counseling, tutoring, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, employment services, recreational programs, youth advocacy, and involvement of youth as volunteer resources in community based crime prevention programs.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-310 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Public Issues *Updated Name* Civic Engagement and Outreach

11. Limitation of Size and Weight of Trucks and Buses

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts is ever mindful of increasing hazards on the highways; and

Whereas, Considerable pressure was exerted to liberalize not only the length and width of trucks, but also the permissible gross loads of trucks using our interstate highway systems; and

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts believes that increased truck lengths, width and heavier loads create an even greater threat to safety on our highways and streets; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to call upon their legislators to study legislation that limits heavier, longer and wider trucks and buses on the roads and streets of this Commonwealth; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts work for the enforcement of more stringent regulations for truck and bus safety standards.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-760 Safe Highways and Infrastructure

Public Issues *Updated Name* Civic Engagement and Outreach

5. Fire Prevention

Whereas, A continuing program of education and activity for the protection of life and property from fire hazards in homes, hotels, and places of public accommodations is vital; and

Whereas, The use of smoke, carbon monoxide and heat detectors and flame resistant fabrics provide protection against injury from fire; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts requests its members to assume personal responsibility in assisting to maintain precautions against fire in their homes and public places; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges all states and local government to adopt and enforce adequate fire inspection laws; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote fire safety education in our schools and in the workplace.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-220 Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury

Public Issues *Updated Name* **Civic Engagement and Outreach**

8. Honor Our American Flag

Whereas, The United States Flag is the symbol of the Constitution and the statutes, the courts, and the legislature; and

Whereas, The United States Flag represents the promise of a nation that its citizens will have the right to work and to own, the right to play and the right to pray; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to become acquainted with the correct flag etiquette and encourage members to display the American flag at all Club meetings; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote correct flag etiquette within the school system by placing of the hand over the heart and the removal of all hats during the playing or singing of the National Anthem at parades, school sport events and public places; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts expresses its strongest objections to any form of disrespect and any manner of desecration of the American Flag, the symbol of the United States of America.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-480 Respect for the Flag of the United States

Public Issues *Updated Name* **Civic Engagement and Outreach**

13. Our American Heritage

Whereas, Many of our forefathers made the supreme sacrifice to establish this nation, to solidify its unity and to defend its principles; and

Whereas, The preservation of these principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all depend in the future upon an alert, informed, and patriotic electorate; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to emphasize the teaching of American history in our schools, increase support for the preservation of significant historical sites, enthusiastically participate in observances of national holidays and special patriotic events, encourage the prominent display of our American flag and encourage English as our national language.

Rationale: GFWC has Resolution 015-250 Historic Preservation