

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

Lynne M. Stader, President

The following Resolutions are presented in accordance with "Resolutions (Rules Governing), Procedure 5." for consideration at Fall Meeting 2018. Please study these Resolutions and bring a copy with you to the meeting on October 27, 2018.

The following Resolution is proposed to be amended.

Home Life

9. Domestic Violence

Whereas, Domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational, and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury, and death to adults and children; and

Whereas, Many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations because they are deliberately placed into financial dependency by their abuser; and

Whereas, Domestic violence also includes dating violence, which is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship; and

Whereas, Lack of dating experience subjects teens to situations where they are less likely to recognize signs and/or symptoms of abuse; and

Whereas, Young people who witness violence, or are directly victimized, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and

Whereas, Many state laws and legal remedies only deal with certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support legislation and actively promote programs that:

1. Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal, partner, and elder abuse;
2. Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;
3. Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings **including pets**;
4. Provide treatment, support, legal aid, and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse;
5. Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its legislature to fund legislation that supports victims of domestic violence; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, lawyers, law enforcement, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.

Rationale: to update

The following Resolution is proposed to be amended by substitution.

Public Issues

3. Electronic Billboards

~~Whereas, Electronic Billboards are illegal in Massachusetts according to an existing 1971 agreement between Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration, when Massachusetts Agreed not to permit digital signs on highways, the Office of Outdoor Advertising is ignoring this agreement; and~~

~~Whereas, Nothing destroys the distinctive character of our communities and the natural beauty of our countryside more rapidly than uncontrolled signs and billboards; and~~

~~Whereas, Billboards lower property values and hamper economic growth; and~~

~~Whereas, Billboards are a safety hazard and are designed to distract the motorist's attention from the road and can have negative mental and physical effects on the motorist; and~~

~~Whereas, Thousands of trees are destroyed each year to improve motorists view of billboards and degrading our scenic roadsides; therefore~~

~~Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to work with local and state authorities to enforce the existing agreement and prohibit new billboard construction.~~

Strike in its entirety. Substitute with:

3. Billboards

Whereas, Distracted driving is an increasingly dangerous occurrence; and

Whereas, Billboards, especially electronic (digital) billboards, are particularly distracting to drivers; and

Whereas Billboards obscure the natural beauty of our scenic highways; and

Whereas, The construction of billboards has a detrimental effect on the environment and habitats;

therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to work with local and state officials to enforce and carefully update existing sign ordinances, and limit new billboard construction.

Rationale: to update and clarify

The following Resolution is proposed to be rescinded.

7. Home and Recreation Safety

Whereas, Accidental deaths and disabling injuries are increasing in the home annually; and

Whereas, Fire-related deaths are a major concern in the United States; and

Whereas, Each year home hazards are increasing with the addition of electronic devices, wood and coal burning stoves and illegal kerosene heaters, new household equipment, power tools, glass doors, and private swimming pools; and

Whereas, The recreational uses of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and watercraft is increasing; therefore

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to promote club and community home and recreation safety campaigns that will acquaint local citizens with the magnitude of the problem and bring up-to-date family safety education and information into every home; and further

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts calls upon its members to actively support legislation pertaining to home and recreation safety.

Rationale: Covered by Home Life #7 Consumer Safety and Public Issues #5, Fire Prevention.