

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Lynne M. Stader, President

The following resolutions are presented in accordance with "Rules Governing Resolutions: III, Procedure" for consideration at Mid-winter Meeting 2020. Please study these Resolutions and bring a copy with you to the meeting on **January 25, 2020**.

**The following two Resolutions have been reviewed and are recommended to be renewed with no changes.**

Conservation

**1. Conservation of Recreation Areas**

Education

**13. Volunteerism**

**The following four Resolutions have been reviewed and are recommended to be rescinded.**

Education

**2. Bullying**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts supports legislation to prevent bullying that would address harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber bullying in any public educational institution; and

Whereas, Bullying is defined as unwelcome written, electronic, verbal or physical acts or gestures where a student feels coerced, intimidated, harassed or threatened; and

Whereas, Bullying has been identified as a cause of youth suicides; and

Whereas, Such legislation requires school boards to adopt anti-harassment and anti-bullying policies and to ensure that students can feel safe in a learning environment; and

Whereas, It also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a model policy and training materials, to monitor school districts for compliance, and to submit annual reports to the state legislature/Department of Education; and

Whereas, Such legislation to prevent bullying in schools would not infringe upon an individual's right to free speech and would not create grounds for a lawsuit; therefore

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

1. To support such legislation and encourage their legislators to vote in favor of such legislation;
2. To present speakers and initiate forums on this subject for their members and the public;
3. To encourage school systems to adhere to strict anti-bullying policies; and
4. To work with schools to ensure that school age children are safeguarded from mental and physical anguish caused by bullying.

**Rationale: GFWC has resolution 015-750 Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing and Bullying.**

Home Life

**7. Consumer Safety**

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts recognizes that the safety of home and family is aided by current consumer knowledge and action; therefore

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

1. Urging testing and certification by a government agency of materials and additives used as ingredients in foods, medications, cosmetics, household products;

2. Supporting a standard of truthfulness and clarity in labeling, warranties, guarantees, decipherable dating, and packaging in all forms of marketing for public consumption; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges the testing and certification by government agencies of material used in household furniture and building materials to prevent use of substances that compromise health and safety; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to promote programs of education, action, and cooperation with law enforcement officials to insure consumer safety.

**Rationale: GFWC has resolution 013-090 Consumer Product Information.**

## **11. Identify Theft**

Whereas, The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that identity theft is the stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes; and

Whereas, Identity theft is an invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history; and

Whereas, Identity theft is perpetrated by stealing personal information through credit cards, driver's licenses, ATM cards, social security numbers and computer hacking; and

Whereas, Government and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers, and technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information; and

Whereas, Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, including child identity theft; its serious ramifications, and the importance of and methods for protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of person information; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in their accounts and credit reports; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges government agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish a simplified victim fraud alert process; and

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts strongly urges public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records available on the Internet; and further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its member clubs to support increased resources for stringent enforcement of The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws.

**Rationale: GFWC has resolution 015-270 Identity Theft under Public Issues.**

## Public Issues

### **8. Historic Preservation**

Whereas, Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of historic events and places shape a nation's identity; and

Whereas, Historic landmarks contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of cities, towns and rural areas; therefore

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts urges its clubs and members to support preservation of historic landmarks, districts and artifacts and to hold in memory those men and women who with such patriotic vision shaped our American legacy.

**Rationale: GFWC has a resolution 015-250 Historic Preservation.**