



The BEAT of the Federation

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Editor: DONNA M. SHIBLEY, GFWC MASSACHUSETTS PRESIDENT 2020-2022

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Darlene Coutu
Treasurer@gfwcma.org

Director of Junior Clubs

Katie Robey
kdrobey@robeybaur.org

Help Wanted:

We have some
Chairmen openings:

Environment
Communications and
Public Relations
Legislation/Public
Policy

Fundraising Committee

Email President Shibley
if you are interested.

We'd love to have
you join the Board of
Directors.

President's message:

This Massachusetts President is thankful for many things: family, friends, and our Federation. I know as State President we are keeping the lines of communication open with our clubs and members, we are conducting state business and most importantly we are watching out for each other. When Club Presidents respond to an email from this Massachusetts President, send a text message with a question of comment, or "like" or "share" a FaceBook post, it does my heart good to know you are invested in what is happening in our state. When we meet safely to conduct state business, my heart is delighted that we can accomplish our state federation work. And when I hear of members reaching out to each other, checking in on the health and well being of fellow clubwomen, my heart knows that we will get through these tough times. My wish to you ~ enjoy a **Happy Thanksgiving** with your small circle of family/ friends.

Keep the **GFWC MA website** ~ <https://www.gfwcma.org/> within easy access. There are many forms and documents within reach.

Our next Board of Directors Meeting is Saturday, February 27, 2021. We are on schedule with the 4 times per year BoD meetings.

We will continue to give our **Hearts & Hands for GFWC** even with current restrictions in place. I am available to help each Club President with ideas and suggestions to keep your members involved and working on club business until we are able to meet in person.

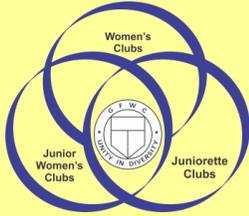
This issue we are featuring information on: Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk, Dues bills, Club reports, End of the Year donation form, Club Participation Award, Jennie June Award, Wreaths Across America, recap of Osborne Books and More Fundraiser, GFWC Affiliate updates, Items for sale, 1898 Society, the fourth website scavenger hunt as well as other pertinent info. Please share this newsletter with your club members.

Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk:

There will be an email invite coming soon for you as Club President to join this State President on Wednesday night, **December 2 @ 6:00** for a Heart to Heart talk. The goal is to check in on you and the pulse of your club. Our **special guest** will be able to answer any holiday decorating or cookie baking questions you might have.

GFWC Massachusetts Dues Bills:

Dues bills were sent out by Treasurer Darlene Coutu from (Treasurer@gfwcma.org) to each Club President. These are due by December 31, 2020. We appreciate your attention.



For Sale:

Support the Massachusetts President's focus area: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention



Purchase a heart diversity pin for \$5.00 each or a heart/hand bracelet for \$20.00. All proceeds will go towards club grants and DV/SA A&P. Contact Bernadette Bennett for your purchases: bbennett@bu.edu

REMINDER

Did you watch the Tools of the Trade~ Club Leaders Day video? Please do!

Show your support of GFWC Massachusetts by joining The 1898 Society.

Members are dedicated to the financial well-being of our state organization, funds contribute to the welfare of this Federation. We encourage all members to join each year at \$18.98 per year.

GFWC Massachusetts Club Reports:

Did you attend the November 11th Heart to Heart Club President's Report Writing Workshop? If not don't worry, your state report writing guru Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President is just an email/phone call away.

Don't forget to report on any activities your club did because of COVID-19. These include making masks, supporting front line workers in some way, etc. There will be a **special award** given at our Annual Convention for the club that went above and beyond in this area.

GFWC Massachusetts End of the Year Donation Form:

Even in these trying times, GFWC MA welcomes and appreciates any donations that your club can make. Our categories for suggested donations include: GFWC Massachusetts State Focus Areas, GFWC Massachusetts Scholarships, and GFWC Affiliates ~ National Emphasis Areas. Don't forget a donation to MassSTAR. Thank you in advance for all the ways you support your Federation.

GFWC Massachusetts Club Participation Award:

There are many ways your club can support its membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. GFWC MA wants to recognize clubs that have been active in state federation activities with support as well as spreading awareness to their clubmembers, in addition to their local club projects. Our **state trophy awards** are based on this information. Please submit this form which is due January 31, 2021.

GFWC Jennie June Award:

It is not too early to start thinking about a nominee for the GFWC Jennie Award, the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor. The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." Club Presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible. Your nominee's paperwork is due June 1, 2021.

Wreaths Across America:

What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? You'll honor an American hero at one of more than 1,200 locations nationwide on Wreaths Across America Day, December 19, 2020. It's a day that's been set aside to lay wreaths at the places where we remember, honor and teach about our veterans: cemeteries, monuments, parks and anywhere we can pay tribute to their sacrifices. Your sponsorship will ensure that a hand-crafted all-American balsam wreath hand-tied with a red velvet bow in Columbia Falls, Maine is made. It will then be sent to a participating location, where a volunteer will place it on the marker of a fallen hero. That volunteer will then "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten. Wreath individual sponsorship is only \$15.00. The laying of wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery is back on. Check your local cemetery for updates on laying of wreaths.





**GFWC MA Website
GFWCMA.org
Scavenger Hunt #4**

Can you find and answer these questions:

1. About GFWC-GFWC MA History and Accomplishments:

From 2012-2014 Mary Ann Pierce's President's Project was Birthday Wishes, Inc. What was donated in that time period?

2. Members-MA Leadership-Executive Committee:

What are President Shibley's words to live by?

3. Members-Fundraising:

What is the newest raffle item being offered?

4. Calendar:

What special day is November 28th?

5. Members-Report Writing: What are the suggested in-kind donation amounts for face masks and surgical caps?

Remember your State President as well as the Officers are available for you. Let us know what topic(s) you are looking for ♥ We want you to feel supported at this unprecedented time.

USBORNE BOOKS & MORE FUNDRAISER for Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:

We are extremely happy to announce that GFWC Massachusetts **Usborne Books & More Fundraiser** shoppers bought enough to earn \$265.00 worth of books to gift to children in domestic violence shelters. I added another \$35.00 worth of books to make our total donation \$300.00. ♥ Books will be donated to the Western MA YWCA shelter.

November's Fundraiser:

Susan B. Anthony package RAFFLE ITEM~total retail value \$100
Includes: Barbie inspiring Women Series collectible doll, votes for women enamel pin, She Believed She Could, So She Did mini-book of quotations (K. Weller), Votes for Woman face mask, Votes for Women coaster, Bad Girls throughout history set of 20 note cards w/ envelopes, American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot Votes for Women paperback (W. Conkling). Raffle Prize entries \$5.00 each, 3/\$10.00~drawing held at the end of the month. Pay by check (GFWC MA) or through Venmo GFWC Massachusetts. A timely Holiday gift for that special lady ♥

GFWC AFFILIATES:

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL:

<https://www.stjude.org/>

Looking for a holiday gift for someone that has everything.

Did you know that you can give a special gift through the St. Jude Gift shop? Here are just a few suggestions:

Give a NO More Chemo party for \$25.00.

Give books for patients for \$30.00

Give a share of platelet transfusions for \$50.00.

<https://giftshop.stjude.org/gift-of-donation.html>

Purchasing a gift of donation can help provide vital treatments, life-enriching amenities, and fun events for the children of St. Jude.



OPERATION SMILE:

<https://www.operationssmile.org/>

GLOBAL PRESENCE ~ With 35 years of expertise,

Operation Smile continues to provide life-saving reconstructive cleft surgeries and increased overall surgical safety, quality and capacity worldwide. Operation Smile empowers local health professionals through training and education to create surgical solutions that last. Most medical volunteers are from the low-and middle-income countries they serve. Their goal is to change lives and revolutionize how entire health systems deliver surgical care where they work.

Operation  Smile

MARCH OF DIMES:

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/>

GFWC Club members are encouraged to create **baby blankets** and **hats** for distribution to military families through March of Dimes Military Baby Showers. March of Dimes hosts Military Baby Showers for women and men serving our country. Often these military families are far from family during this special time, and this "touch of home" means so much. See the GFWC MA Website for Blanket Toolkit and Fact Sheet.

