



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

Jennifer Nowak, President

**WOMEN'S HISTORY AND
RESOURCE CENTER**

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Since the Federation's founding in 1890, GFWC members have understood the historic significance of the organization's mission to improve communities through volunteer service. To preserve and better document GFWC history and member's work on local, state, national, and international levels, the **Women's History and Resource Center** of The General Federation of Women's Clubs officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC on May 1, 1984. The WHRC strives to educate and inspire GFWC members and potential members, the research community, and the public to explore the rich, historical role of women volunteers through GFWC's expansive collection. GFWC's history is full of examples of successful projects that demonstrate the important relationship between grassroots and international efforts, the significance of long-range planning and thoughtful organization, and the value of community service in developing strong and compassionate leaders.

WHRC Project Ideas Each Club Can Do Locally

- Preserve your club's history by writing about significant projects, achievements, and community impacts annually or bi-annually. Request a free copy of a "A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History" by contacting the WHRC at WHRC@GFWC.org or 202-683-2028.
- Educate your community about your club's history by inviting history teachers and students to visit your club. Share the club's scrapbooks, photos, and other artifacts from the early days.
- Observe Women's History Month in March with a community event. Consider awarding a community leader(s) who exhibits outstanding service and exemplifies the qualities set forth in Mary Stewart's Collect for Clubwomen.
- Create a monthly "Women in History" Spotlight, where club members are invited to take turns presenting a report on a well-known woman in history or one currently making history in your community.
- Create a visual display or PowerPoint video of past and present members, major service projects, and historical artifacts that can be used at membership orientations, displayed during club fundraisers, and events.
- Promote WHRC collections, services, and student field study opportunities to local colleges, universities, and historical institutions.
- Partner with your community's Historical Society or Historical Commission to promote your club in local history and preserve historical properties.
- Assist your local public school students with National History Day projects on women's history.
- Develop a process for preserving your club's records, history, and past projects and ensure the club members know where these documents are kept and who has access.

Check out: Massachusetts Women's History Center for more resources ~ [Massachusetts Women's History Center \(mawomenshistory.org\)](http://MassachusettsWomen'sHistoryCenter(mawomenshistory.org))

For the latest WHRC news, view the collections, or request new materials for research on women's history visit [What is the WHRC? - General Federation of Women's Clubs \(gfwc.org\)](http://WhatistheWHRC?-GeneralFederationofWomen'sClubs(gfwc.org))

To see the full GFWC Manual page for the WHRC Advancement Plan, go to gfwcma.org > About GFWC > What We Do~GFWC Manual > Scroll to WHRC