



# Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs

*A member of the General Federation  
of Women's Clubs*



Dear Fellow Clubwomen:

I cannot thank you enough for the privilege and honor of serving as your GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Club President for 2010-2012. A special thanks to Carolyn who has served as a wonderful role model. Carolyn is very giving of her time and talents and was "always kind". My thanks also go to the club women of District III and President Jo Uptain for a wonderful convention in Tupelo. And, of course, to the ladies of the Pontotoc Woman's Club, words cannot express the heartfelt thanks for all of your encouragement, support and kindness during my journey to this office and for the wonderful reception after the installation.

Our theme for the next two years is TEAM MFWC: One Strong Voice for Volunteerism. We will be working to assist clubs in name recognition with GFWC and MFWC and we will also be working to build our team with new members and new clubs. As GFWC-MFWC members, you are vital to the success of our volunteer organization. One voice can make a difference, but imagine the voices of 1600 plus members of MFWC and the value of encouraging others to become community volunteers. I firmly believe that together everyone can do more and that collectively we add great value to our community service activities. Carlene Garner was installed as GFWC President in June. Part of her message is "And how are the clubs." Federation work is often viewed as a secret, for the next two years I would like for us to focus on getting the word out. Show your community what you do and hopefully this will then, in turn, help grow members. Many Mississippians want and need to help others; this is YOUR opportunity to be a part of finding those individuals and encouraging them to help in your endeavors.

The President's Special Project is Feeding Fellow Mississippians. This project is timely because so many Mississippians are in need of basic necessities, like food, given the current economic climate. Feeding Fellow Mississippians is important across the lifespan from the youngest baby to the oldest adult. Food is a basic right of all. MFWC members can work at food pantries and soup kitchens, can collect food items at club meetings, can get the boy and girl scouts, the churches, and other civic groups to join your endeavors, can even start backpack weekend programs for children who do not have enough food, can visit senior citizen complexes and provide food, and can complete any other project that will assist in meeting the needs of your community. We want you to be seen helping those in need in your town. Phyllis Whittington and the other PSP team members will assist in guiding you in your support of this worthy project.

Likewise, we will focus on building Membership. Suzanne Poyner will serve as our Membership Chairman, and I am very pleased that this very important matter is in her capable hands. Increasing Membership is the single most important thing we can do to better serve the citizens of our beloved State. Over the last few years, membership is dwindling from a contest high of 2,000 members; we currently have 1,637. We need federation friends to help us. I have asked the district presidents to assist me in appointing a membership task force in addition to our membership committee (District president-elects). The task force will help the committee and will look for ways to grow MFWC. The more team members that we have, the louder our voice will be.

Special emphasis will continue to be given to our State Institutions, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, HOBY, and the Mississippi Library Commission. As GFWC clubwomen we will continue to support the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. You will find additional information about these projects within the MFWC Handbook and the GFWC program guides. If you need a copy of the MFWC Handbook, please contact Diane Rouse at [crouse99@yahoo.com](mailto:crouse99@yahoo.com).

I encourage each of you to review the important dates noted herein. I encourage you to attend as many events as you possibly can. Your district presidents will plan a special spring meeting for you.

Additionally, the MFWC State convention will be held Jackson at a central location to allow more club women to attend. I also issue you a special invitation to attend our 2010 Southern Region Conference. Two of our Mississippi clubwomen, Jo Anne Reid and Judy Martin, are serving in official roles. Jo Anne is serving as Treasurer and Judy is serving as Parliamentarian. (The 2010 SRC will be in Huntsville, Alabama, a driving distance.)

I know that this club year will be interesting since we have not received all of the information from GFWC as of yet. Please bear with us and know that I will pass along any and all information as I receive it. The biggest changes are related to names of the programs and special projects. The word "departments" has been replaced with **Community Service Programs**; International Affairs will now be referred to as **International Outreach** and Public Affairs will now be **Public Issues**. You will hear more about this when the GFWC Manual is distributed. I encourage each of you to continue with the needed work in your community and the other aspects will come together over time.

Again, thank you so much for allowing me to serve as the GFWC-MFWC 57th President. Thank you for the high honor you have bestowed upon me. I will do my very best to be the leader that leaders like you deserve. Likewise, thank you for all that you do to help your communities. If I can assist you, please feel free to call. Your suggestions are always welcome. It is my hope that each of you as MFWC clubwoman will attempt to work together and to use your voice to promote volunteer work in Mississippi and in your town. Let your accomplishment be known. Remember we are all part of one team: TEAM MFWC: ONE Strong Voice for Volunteerism. Please join me in building our team in your community.

Love in Volunteer Service,

*Tammie*

Tammie McCoy  
GFWC-MFWC President  
2010-2012