

Mississippi



Clubwoman

Volume LXX, Number 4

Spring 2020

Empowering the Heart to Make a Difference



April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month!

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

To all of my Federated Sisters,

Thank you so much for allowing me the honor and privilege of being your *Mississippi Clubwoman* editor the last 4 years. I have learned so much about the women and the clubs of our state. It has been a joy to help record all of the wonderful work that has gone on in our Federation over these last two administrations!

Just a note about this issue: At the time of publication of this issue, we are in unprecedented times. The influx of the COVID-19 virus has caused everyone in our country to have to change daily life. Articles were written in anticipation of our state convention (which has since been postponed); so, some of the content is not relevant...nonetheless, I wanted to record the anticipation and pride our clubwomen across the state had for recognizing our hard work throughout the year.

After this virus is gone, and our life goes back to "normal," we know that our club work will continue! I look forward to seeing the revitalization efforts that Federated clubwomen everywhere are without a doubt already planning! Please know that I will be cheering you on as always!

God Bless & Thank you!
Deana Pittman

GFWC Mission Statement

"The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service and to providing opportunities that strengthen the role of women."

MFWC Mission Statement

"The Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. is an organization of women whose goal is personal enrichment leading to volunteer service that benefits the community, state, nation, and world."

Mississippi Clubwoman

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Message from GFWC-MFWC President, Becky C. Wright

Dear Federation Friends,

The 2018-2020 Administration is concluding and as I reflect over the past two years I am truly amazed at the ways the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs has collectively Empowered the Heart to Make a Difference! As we began the administration knowing that for over 120 years MFWC had been making an empowering difference by addressing the diverse needs of our communities and improving the lives of others, I am pleased to see that you not only continued that tradition, but looked to the future as you embraced the challenge to Detect. Correct. Protect.



For this purpose, during this administration, we put special emphasis on continuity in empowering the difference—focusing on healthy living, empowering our membership, and encouraging lifelong learning—accepting the realization that to continue our service to others, we must first embrace the teachings of Proverbs 4:23 and guard our heart. The President's Special Project Co-Chairmen have worked diligently to empower our members with information and encouragement and along with volunteer opportunities to empower the difference in our membership through the Seven Grand Initiatives and our empowering service projects at all state meetings have served us well in creating excitement among our membership who have been cheered on by Membership Chairman Sherri E. Reid! Yay! Of course, I would be remiss not to mention the lifelong learning through ESO and the President's Reading Challenge—how empowering was that!

Consequently, the words and statistics of your reports express your efforts and your achievement. As I read about the ways you empower the difference every day, I was overjoyed—my cup runneth over! Thanks to Theresa Buntyn, MFWC Dean of Chairman, our judges received your reports prior to Judging Day to allow them the opportunity to thoroughly study your good works and review with their assistant chairman before finalizing the judging of reports. By the end of the day, it was determined that ____ clubs had reported _____ Projects; _____ Volunteer Hours; _____ Dollars Donated; and _____ In Kind Donations were made in 2019! Accordingly, as required by our MFWC bylaws—a CELEBRATION is in order! Want to know what goes in the blanks? Join me in Vicksburg for the big reveal! Let the adventure continue!

As the excitement builds for the GFWC-MFWC 2020 State Convention where we will gather together in Vicksburg April 23-25, 2020, to celebrate our history and the accomplishments of this past year, it is my pleasure to invite you to a city full of history! Vicksburg has something for everyone—if you think that fun can't be found in Vicksburg—just take a quick peek through my glasses. After all, did I not promise you to have fun during the 2018-2020 Administration? It's mandatory!

We will begin our adventure with the Pre-Convention Tour on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Dressed in white to honor the memory of the women who came before us to empower the difference with the right to vote, we will begin our tour as suffragists starting at the Hayes-Davis Home then to the Episcopal Church and ending at the Duff Green Mansion to honor our GFWC President-elect Marian St. Clair with a reception just prior to our Board Meeting. As a reminder, the MFWC Board Meeting is open to all members. The Official Opening of the 2020 MFWC State Convention will be Friday morning at 9:00 with the business session followed by the GFWC Signature Program Luncheon featuring Selika Corley-Funchess speaking about her personal experience with Human Trafficking. Friday afternoon we will continue with our

Message from GFWC-MFWC President, Becky C. Wright (continued)

project and awards. Friday night, donning our crowns and sashes in the fun pageantry of Miss Mississippi, we begin the night with a social gathering to allow everyone the opportunity to meet GFWC President-elect Marian St. Clair and have official district photos made prior to the keynote address and the Installation of the 2020-2022 MFWC Officers. Our Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning will feature Rebecca Turner, Registered Dietitian and host of Good Things with Rebecca Turner, followed by the Memorial Service celebrating the lives of those members who have passed away since the last state convention. Following the Prayer Breakfast, we will continue with the awards, including the announcement of Clubwoman of the Year, Juniorette of the Year, and Club of the Year. As you can see we have packed our 2020 MFWC State Convention with both celebration and adventure. How empowering is that? Please see the Official Call in this issue of your *Mississippi Clubwoman* magazine;—you don't want to miss a thing!

Undoubtedly, Vicksburg is full of adventure— the Mississippi River, museums, art, shopping, civil war, casinos, tour homes, spas, great food, and GHOSTS! Located on the Mississippi River, Vicksburg oozes history and mystery, but also offers heart healthy bike and walking trails! Granted, you may not be up for a bike or walk along the river, therefore you may choose to check out a walk downtown to tour an art gallery or visit the Coca-Cola Museum! Additionally, shopping opportunities await you in the downtown district—from eclectic boutiques to antique shops, finding ways to leave your financial mark in Vicksburg is easy. Nonetheless, if you are not into shopping, you may want to check out the Vicksburg National Military Park to see the site of the American Civil War Battle of Vicksburg — walk, bike, or you certainly could choose the self-guided driving tour. Did you know that the Vicksburg National Military Park is home to the second largest national cemetery in America? However, if history is not on your agenda, Vicksburg has something for everyone. Furthermore, the choice is yours whether you choose to visit the casino or save your dollars for “opportunities to own” — just be sure to find your way back to the convention if you hit the jackpot and empower the difference for others! Vicksburg has so much to offer that you may decide to stay an extra day and relax at the spa before heading home. Finally, no trip to Vicksburg would be complete without hot tamales from Solly's and pecan pie from Anchuca —best pecan pie ever! See why I need to choose the walking tour along the Mississippi River? So, come early and stay late —just make sure to show up for the adventure and celebration!

As I close in writing my final *Mississippi Clubwoman* magazine article as your state president, I am continuing to reflect on the amazing support for the President's Special Project, “Empowering the Heart to Make a Difference: Detect. Correct. Protect.” and always will I remember the difference that each of you have made in my life. To the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, and our membership, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your efforts, your kindness, your volunteer spirit, the adventure, and most importantly for empowering the difference.

In Federation love,
Becky

Administration Accomplishments: 2018-2020

- ♥ Encouraging all members to embrace the history within, MFWC graciously put out the welcome mat at our beautiful Headquarters, most notably welcoming GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock. In addition to regular meetings, eight events were held at Headquarters as well as our welcoming guests for a two-page feature in *Find It In Fondren* magazine and the presentation of the Mississippi Digital Library 2019 Cultural Heritage Digitization Award.
- ♥ Amended the Constitution and Bylaws to reflect changes resulting from redistricting and amended Standing Rules pertaining to the Hebron Memorial Scholarship to clarify.
- ♥ In support of the President's Special Project, MFWC approved a Resolution for presentation to the GFWC Resolutions Committee. After consideration, the GFWC Resolutions Committee will be proposing the resolution at the 2020 GFWC Convention as an amendment to 013-540 Tobacco and Young People.
- ♥ Building on the reinstating of the ESO Charter, the President's Reading Challenge was established with monthly President's Picks plus four selections from Reading to Children to allow members "Reading with the President" to complete the required reading to become a member of ESO within the year.
- ♥ Established a Mississippi affiliate with I Support the Girls that allowed members to embrace the GFWC Signature Program to provide bras and hygiene items to those in need across Mississippi.
- ♥ Hosted Domestic Violence: kNOW More to bring awareness and provide education on prevention for the GFWC Signature Program including planting purple pinwheels on the Headquarters lawn.
- ♥ Chartered one General Club, Leading Ladies, consisting of GFWC LEADS Delegates and one Juniorette Club.
- ♥ Focusing on Leadership, held an Incoming Leaders Training at the beginning of the administration for club presidents, district officers, and state chairmen and two MS LEADS Seminars open to all members.
- ♥ To enhance our communication, officers visited almost every club in our state to build relationships, share knowledge and encourage leadership. Additionally, MFWC continued to publish two *Mississippi Clubwoman* magazines and nine editions of *The Heartbeat* –our GFWC-MFWC Newsletter.
- ♥ Empowering the heart to make a difference, MFWC embraced the Seven Grand Initiatives of GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock, reminding GFWC and the world that Mississippi is the most charitable of all states. By implementing a service project at each state meeting and event, Mississippi not only supported the Seven Grand Initiatives, but also reflected on MFWC Past President's PSPs to remind members of the ways MFWC has a longstanding history of empowering the difference.



**Message from
GFWC-MFWC President-elect Sherri Reid**

MFWC Clubwomen are the best!! Thank you for being such dedicated VOLUNTEERS. Our members' involvement in our MFWC projects and programs shows pride and commitment in our organization.

Membership is the key to meeting our MFWC goals. Our membership contest is coming to an end. All clubs have until April 4 to add members and win that MONEY!!! By growing new members, we make our Federation strong like the tree. I am anxious to hear who will be the winners of the Membership Contest—cash rewards!!!

To the delight of us all, Spring is right around the corner! This Spring, the slogan is "Grow Members". Membership must be a priority. Women join a club for many reasons, such as, to make new friends, have fun, feel needed, accomplish something worthwhile, and contribute to the greater good. The list goes on and on. Let's keep our present members engaged using their skills and creativity as they enjoy a friendly and respectful atmosphere. Then, what better way to find new members than those who are attending a meeting, fundraiser, or community event. Seeing members' enthusiasm and enjoyment as they make a difference in their community will surely "Grow New Members!"

Our Convention in April will be a wonderful time to celebrate the successful projects and programs of our MFWC CLUB MEMBERS! I hope to see you at your District Conventions in Meridian, Bude, and Pontotoc....and, of course at our State Convention in Vicksburg!! Make your reservations now!

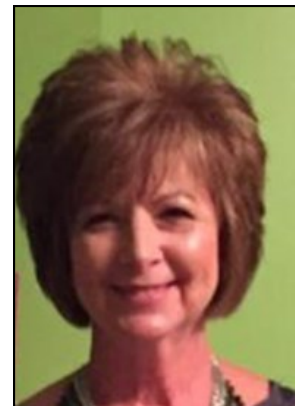


GFWC-MFWC Secretary, Frances Brown

The beautiful MFWC Headquarters was the setting for Winter Board and Judging Day February 22, 2020. It was decorated with a heart theme depicting the President's Special Project. Forty-eight members were present with President Becky C. Wright presiding. Inspiration was given by Rose Mary Shelton, MFWC Chaplain: A Time for Everything.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Betty Harpe, State Institutions Chairman.

President Wright recognized members who serve on the GFWC Board, the MFWC Executive Officers, and GFWC-MFWC Past Presidents, and new board member, Minetta Veazey, Florentine Evening Club, appointed as Home Life Chairman.



Reports were given by MFWC officers and Chairman. Reports were also given by the Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and Long-Range Planning Committee with action taken for recommendations.

Membership Chairman Sherri E. Reid reported that MFWC has 822 members in 39 general clubs and 172 Junioresettes in 10 clubs.

Lisa McFee, Nominating Committee member, submitted the following slate of officers to be presented for election at the State Convention in April, 2020: Theresa Buntyn, President-elect, GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club; Carolyn Tedford, Vice President, Poplarville Woman's Club; Deana Pittman, Recording Secretary, GFWC-MFWC Batesville Woman's Club; and Belinda Peachier, Treasurer, GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club.

Terrie Whitehurst shared highlights from the 2019 Southern Region Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, including the Tea Plantation Tour and the dinner cruise. The greatest highlight was the election of Tammie McCoy as Southern Region Treasurer.

Invitation to the 2020 MFWC State Convention in Vicksburg was extended by Belinda Peachier. The Call to Convention was distributed, along with Convention Ad Forms and hotel information.

Theresa Buntyn, Dean of Chairmen, explained guidelines for judging reports.

The Collect was led by Cindy Holcomb, Legislation and Public Policy Assistant Chairman.

Grace was given by Becky Watkins, Quitman Woman's Club, followed by a delicious catered lunch.

The afternoon service project consisted of packing fifty nonperishable meals to be distributed to those affected by the recent flood.

The afternoon was spent judging reports.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your MFWC Secretary.

Frances H. Brown,
MFWC Recording Secretary

District President Reports:



Amy Jacobs, Northern District President

Here I am again Northern District, ready to pat each one, and collectively, on the back for jobs well done. I have a large envelop in my midst with names of accomplished clubs leading their way to many awards. But I must add, honestly, every club in my district are winners. You continue to succeed in your communities with worthy and generous projects that make it a better place. You continue to strive to do better than the last time. You all are AMAZING! No doubt about it. Each club member should be proud to be a part of this district and this federation. We shine BRIGHT!

Speaking of district, I am working on your convention to be held in Pontotoc at West Heights Baptist Church on March 14. Jenae Weeks, the general chair with the Pontotoc Woman's Club, has proven herself as a convention whiz. She is a stellar organizer! Thank goodness 'cause sometimes I'm a slacker. Thanks, Jenae, for your guiding light. And to the other hostess clubs, Booneville Woman's Club, Iuka 20th Century Club, and New Century Club of Calhoun City, for all your hard work. You all are OUTSTANDING!

My friends, can you believe the time is up? We have marked off dates. We have finished projects. We have submitted our times and our efforts. I am so proud! I am so starry eyed to think I have been at the head of this celestial group who continue to be guiding lights within their communities, counties, state, federation and country and to one another.

Thank you, every one of you, for allowing me the opportunity, and having faith in me, to be your first Northern District President. It will be one of my life's highlights.

Continuing to send my love to each and again, you all ROCK!

Amy

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING." PROVERBS 3:5

District President Reports (continued):

Belinda Peacher, Central District President

Well, my Central District train is swiftly approaching its final destination! It is with excitement that we prepare to pull into the station at Meridian for the Central District Convention at The MAX on March 7! Get ready to be blown away with this new innovative museum dedicated to Mississippi Art! You don't want to miss this! The ladies with the Quitman Woman's Club, Enterprise Woman's Club & the Fortnightly Club of Meridian are putting together a great convention! We hope to see you all there! (See all the exclamation points! That's how excited I am!)



The Central District is also busy preparing to host the MF WC State Convention in historic Vicksburg at the Vicksburg Convention Center. I don't want to steal President Wright's thunder, but I will tease you with a very interesting locally lead historic city tour on Thursday leading to an elegant Board meeting at a historic city mansion. You'll have a chance to celebrate a 100 year milestone in women's history. You could even get "dressed" for this event and make a little history of your own. Be sure to book your room at the Margaritaville Hotel soon! See you there!

I would like to thank all the Central District Clubwomen for your support the past two years. I couldn't have done it without you and your enthusiasm for club work and community improvement!

All aboard the final leg of the trip!

Belinda Peacher

2018- 2020 Central District President

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President's Special Project

Submitted by Bethany Flint:

MFWC has been very busy this past year raising awareness about heart disease and supporting the American Heart Association in creative and impactful ways! We wanted to share some of our favorites!

- 20 clubs reported designating a club meeting to the President, AHA representative, or a health care professional delivering a heart healthy program.
- 9 clubs reported “raising their voice” by participating in You’re the Cure.
- 11 clubs reported receiving a proclamation from their mayor urging support of women’s heart health by declaring February Heart Month and Feb 1 as National Wear Red Day.
- 14 clubs reported presenting health moments at club meetings.

The Decatur Woman’s Progressive Club had a VERY heart-filled February meeting! They invited MFWC President Becky Wright to speak about her PSP, had a cardiologist speak about how woman can guard and take care of their heart health, had a meditation on the topic of “Spiritual and Physical Heart Health”, AND raised \$500 for the AHA with their Yellow Box Donation at that meeting alone.

Florentine Evening Club had their members bring heart healthy food donations for their local food pantry. Examples of items brought were cheerios, oatmeal, and black beans. Their club also made a \$500 donation to the PSP.

Florentine Club reported that thanks to all of the information about heart health and the importance of quick response, a member’s daughter survived a heart attack because they knew the symptoms and she was taken to the ER immediately!

Raleigh Woman’s Club presented programs on women’s heart health to two local senior citizen groups. Also, 82% of their members attended educational classes/health fairs about women’s health!

Quitman Woman’s Club had a Wear Red Day for the Art Reception where they had 178 guests attend, to whom they distributed material about the Go Red for Women Movement. They also had Compass Home Health perform Women’s Heart Health screenings at their end of the year banquet! During this very screening, one member was informed that she had an irregular heartbeat. The next day, she was referred to her doctor, who discovered that there was an issue with her heart. She immediately underwent heart surgery! This lady is very thankful to the PSP and endorses it as a lifesaving program from which she greatly benefited!

Present Day of Union Club prepared heart healthy snacks for the health fair at their local public school.

The Fine Arts Club of Bruce held a salad luncheon with the benefits from the fundraiser going to the MS Chapter of the American Heart Association in honor of the PSP. They raised \$1,196.15 through this event. They also sponsored a health fair where attendees received information about heart health, health screenings, nutrition assessments, blood pressure checks, fitness assessments, a blood drive, among other things. In collaboration with the University of MS, a survey was given to attendees concerning the community’s access to healthy food. If the attendee took the survey, they were given a \$10 gift card to a local grocery store.

President's Special Project

Batesville Woman's Club gave special education teachers a gift with heart healthy messages about "Detect, Protect, Correct" attached. They also donated 25 red knit hats to Batson for the Little Hats Big Heart campaign.

Ackerman 20th Century Club held a public, 4-hour CPR Class at the Choctaw County library. They raised \$200 for the PSP at their annual Christmas Brunch fundraiser. And, their PSP Chairman mad 105 Facebook posts regarding the PSP!!

In addition to the two heart health programs that the Woman's Club of Booneville had, each month, their president called attention to a "Heart Health Thought and Challenge". They awarded heart healthy snacks as door prizes.

Lanier Club hosted a program where a cardiologist spoke on women's heart health. They also have a member that donates her time taking blood pressure readings and educating clients about their medications at a local service organization.

The Civic Woman's Club of Picayune held a "food auction". Members prepared/cooked their favorite recipes and brought their dishes to be auctioned at their meeting. They were ready to eat, frozen for a rainy day, or even a picture with a promissory note to choose the day the winner would like the dish delivered. Fourteen meals were auctioned to the highest silent auction bidder. Dishes were heart healthy and all proceeds went to the American Heart Association on behalf of the PSP. What a fun fundraiser and winners got to enjoy a cook-free night!

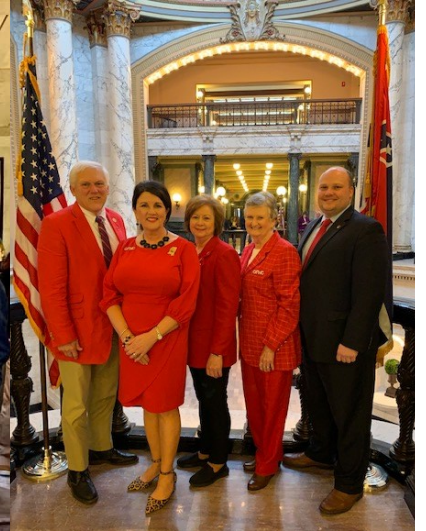
Members of the Cosmopolitan Club of Petal knitted, crocheted, and solicited 59 little red hats for the Little Hats Big Hearts campaign at Batson Children hospital in honor of MFWC President Becky Wright's birthday. (Although she would probably want mentioned that the number of hats surpassed her number of years!) The Cosmopolitan Club also participated in an exercise challenge and 28 of their members reported getting cholesterol and blood pressure screenings – some women changed medication and some saw major changes as a result of a change in diet and exercise.

Homochitto Heritage Club partnered with their Junioresettes to decorate 500 bags for a local restaurant to advertise the AHA to their customers. Some of the decorations included heart healthy tips and signs of a stroke. One of their members also arranged for a speaker to talk about healthy eating and an instructor to teach a Mexican line dance at the Juniorette Retreat.

The Juniorette Diamonds of Picayune had an RN present a workshop on hand-free CPR. The community was invited through social media. The RN showed a film from the AHA and then gave a demonstration of the hands-free CPR. She then brought out "dummies" for the girls to practice own. She taught them that doing "something" was better than doing nothing.

Thank you all so much for the thought, time, and effort put into raising awareness for heart health and funds for the American Heart Association in honor of our President's Special Project! It is greatly appreciated!

**Thank you for inspiring my heart to make a difference and
for raising awareness to protect all hearts.**



American Heart Association

American Heart Association Advocacy Day at the Capitol



President's Special Project

Submitted by: Frances Brown:

It's hard to believe this administration is coming upon the home stretch. You have empowered my heart to make a difference with your support of the President's Special Project, The Mississippi Chapter of the American Heart Association. You have supported every fundraising project: including (but not limited to) submitting recipes to create Dixie Dining III, designing Life is Why Brag Boards, and supporting the New to you Boutique. More importantly, you have challenged and empowered yourselves and others to become more heart healthy. You went red, educated yourselves about heart disease and changed your lifestyle. You not only got to know your numbers, you changed your numbers by making healthier choices and exercising more. By doing so, you also reduced your risk of diabetes and other catastrophic diseases.

We are still a few hundred dollars short of the goal. Please consider a club fundraiser or donation for the President's Special Project. We still have cookbooks available. We would love to present the Mississippi Chapter of the American Heart Association with another "Big Check" at State Convention to empower them to make a difference through research, advocacy, and education.

I am looking forward to reading your reports and becoming even more inspired and empowered to make a difference. Thank you so much for giving so generously from your heart to empower healthier hearts for everyone.

I challenge you to make this President's Special Project a lifetime lifestyle change and continue Empowering the Heart to Make a Difference: Detect. Correct. Protect.

Volunteering for St. Jude

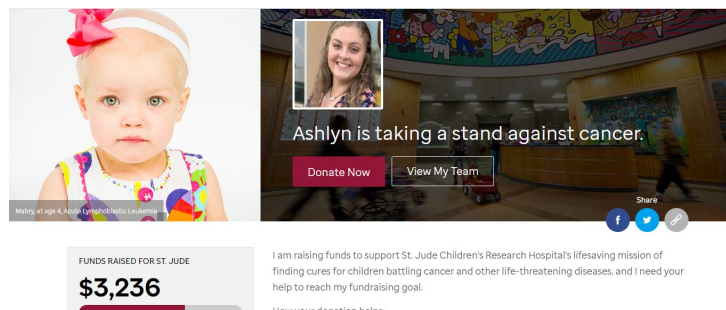
Congratulations to GFWC-MFWC Jun-iorette Diamonds member Ashlyn Wilson on her acceptance into St. Jude Leadership Society!

In October, Ashlyn attended a two-day conference at St. Jude, through the National Society of High School Scholars. This conference led to her desire to become a member of the leadership society.



To become an ambassador for St. Jude, Ashlyn had to raise \$2,500 for St. Jude, as well as attend monthly leadership meetings in Louisiana. Wilson was adamant that every little bit helps...just \$3 will help to supply isolation masks...the smallest donation can help provide things that patients need!

Picayune's Civic Woman's Club helped to kick off Ashlyn's fundraising efforts with a \$100 donation to St. Jude. To date, Ashlyn's fundraising page has raised more than \$3,000. To donate, please visit this link: http://events.stjude.org/Ashlyn_Wilson.



Ashlyn is pictured on the left on her visit to St. Jude and above with her donations that she took on her first visit!

MFWC Membership



Look at this Mother-Daughter Membership Duo!
Teenie Boone & Belinda Peacher
GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club



Membership Triple Threat!
Tracy Steen
(GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club),
and her daughters Brook (Florentine
Juniorettes member) and Bailey (past
member Florentine Juniorettes)



Another Mother/Daughter Membership Duo!
Dianne O'Neil and Golden Age Friend June Tobleman
Decatur Women's Progressive Club

MFWC Membership



GFWC-MFWC Decatur Women's Progressive Club 's
Clubwoman of the Year

Dianne Smith

*Pictured with Smith are co-presidents Theresa Buntyn and
Carolyn Huey*



Cosmopolitan Club of Petal
nominated Libby Everett for the
Jennie Award, a clubwoman's high-
est honor. Pictured here with
Everett is club president Meri Newell.



One of the greatest perks of MFWC
membership is the membership in other
organizations...It looks like Tammie
McCoy is having a great time at
Southern Region Conference!



New Century Club of Calhoun City
members celebrating the holidays...by
lending a helping hand, of course,
with "Christmas in the City"

Spotlight on Leadership for the Future...

Sherri E. Reid, GFWC-MFWC President, 2020-2022

It is with great pride and joy that I heartily give my personal endorsement, and that of Cosmopolitan Club of Petal clubwomen, for Sherri E. Reid, President-elect for President of GFWC-Mississippi 2020-2022. Sherri is an outstanding clubwoman of 15 years who has held most offices and chaired many committees in our local club. She has also served in offices including President at District Level, and has done an outstanding job as Vice-President/Dean of Chairs and President-elect/Membership Chair at State level.



Sherri Reid is an optimistic, positive person who is always ready to assist with a project, find a better solution to a conflict, and to lend a listening ear to those who are new in an office and need guidance to handle various situations. She is active in many aspects of community work outside of our club, including the Petal Arts Council, the Petal Community Choir, and various positions in her church's Administrative Board. She has brought much awareness to our members of the importance of working through GFWC-Mississippi and GFWC to broaden our sense of "community" in a small city. She has also inspired many people to think beyond their present experience to help others in need. We need officers who understand both the possibility of doing more locally and how that connects to the country and to the world at large.

On a personal note, I look forward to the opportunity to serve on this candidate's Board as I know that she will make an outstanding leader of our state organization.

Sincerely,

Meri Ford Newell

President, Cosmopolitan Club of Petal

Spotlight on Leadership for the Future...

Theresa H. Buntyn, GFWC-MFWC President-elect, 2020-2022

The GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club takes great pleasure in recommending Theresa H. Buntyn for the office of GFWC-MFWC President-elect for the 2020-2022 administration. Theresa has been an active member of the Decatur Woman's Progressive Club since 1989. She has served her club as Reporter, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Vice President, and President.



Theresa has served as an MFWC Board Member since 2012. She was Chairman of International Outreach Partnership Program for 2014-2016 and Home Life chairman 2010-2014. Theresa has served as Recording Secretary on the Executive Committee and currently is the Vice President and Dean of Chairmen. Her enthusiasm and willingness to undertake any assigned task and to follow it to completion are immeasurable assets to her club and the Federation. Theresa served as the 2014-2016 District II President. Her prior experiences and administrative roles in Home Health Care and as Club and District President have prepared her to successfully guide its membership for the last two years. Nominated by her club as a 2012 GFWC MS LEADS Participant, she was selected as the 2012 GFWC Mississippi LEADS Delegate to represent MFWC at the GFWC LEADS at the 2012 GFWC Convention. Chosen by her club as 2013 Clubwoman of the Year, and also earned the honor of 2013 GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year.

Currently the Staff Development Specialist for Accent Care Sta Home, she holds a BSN in Nursing from University Medical Center and advanced certifications in gerontology. She is the recipient of the Sta Home Agency Joyce P. Carraci Award for Excellence in Nursing. She received the Teamwork Award of Excellence for Accent Care in Dallas December of 2019.

Married for 38 years, she and her husband Mark have two sons, Eric and Wesley, daughter in law Christina and two grandsons Reagan and Grady. She and her family make their home in Decatur, MS. Theresa is a Member of the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce and was chosen "Citizen of the Year" in 2013. Theresa is currently serving as Chamber Secretary.

Theresa is a member of Clarke Venable Baptist Church and sings in the Worship Choir. Her love for missions has allowed her opportunities to use her nursing skills for adult and children ministries in Nashville, New Orleans, Waveland and Haiti.

Theresa enjoys walking her Bassett Hound Clarence, traveling, photography, antique shopping, and lining up the Christmas Parade each year. Theresa states she has enjoyed traveling across Mississippi to discuss and teach other club members about the new score card for judging and the "Reporting Playbook". She loves to serve along-side club members as she values their wisdom, insight and discussing challenges from our clubs throughout the State. This allows her to grow as a club woman to accomplish her motto "Bloom Where You Are Planted."

No matter where God places us on our journey in life, we are always to serve and do our best.

Spotlight on Leadership for the Future...

Dr. Carolyn Tedford, GFWC-MFWC Vice-President, 2020-2022

The GFWC-MFWC Poplarville Woman's Club with great pleasure and honor recommends Dr. Carolyn Tedford for the Office of GFWC-MFWC Vice-President. She is an exemplary candidate.

Carolyn was chosen as her club's first LEADS Candidate in 2018. She represented MFWC as its LEADS Delegate to the 2018 GFWC International Convention. Since becoming a GFWC-MFWC member Carolyn has served in numerous leadership capacities, most notably as Poplarville Woman's Club President. Additionally, she has served as District I Arts Chairman and on the MFWC Board as Home Life Community Service Program Assistant Chairman, Fundraiser Assistant Chairman, a member of the Challenge Grant Scholarship Committee and is currently serving as Leadership Chairman.



Her willingness to serve and her commitment to the Federation is evident in the fact that she serves currently as Treasurer for the Poplarville Woman's Club and Southern District Recording Secretary. Dedicated to serving her community, Carolyn has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for children and adults, building a foundation of excellence through a love of books, most importantly providing an environment for learning with Poplarville Reads and Excel by 5.

Currently serving as the second term President of the Rotary Club provides additional opportunities to hone her leadership skills as well as impact her community through numerous service projects. She has been recognized for her service through receiving Volunteer of the Year and Paul Harris Fellow Award. Carolyn and her husband Richard have one daughter, one son, one granddaughter and a grandson. She is a retired School Administrator and teacher. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading and volunteering to make a difference. Determined, dependable, compassionate, and persistent, Carolyn is obviously a woman who gives her all in anything and everything she does. Her commitment to the Poplarville community, the Poplarville Woman's Club, education and her Federation is no exception. We are all better because of the hard work, dedication, and inspiration Carolyn consistently provides.

GFWC-MFWC Poplarville Woman's Club proudly supports Dr. Carolyn Tedford for the office of Vice President.

Spotlight on Leadership for the Future...

Dr. Deana T. Pittman, GFWC-MFWC Secretary, 2020-2022

The Batesville Junior Woman's League proudly endorses Dr. Deana T. Pittman for the office of GFWC-MFWC Secretary. Deana is a highly enthusiastic, dynamic leader whose dedication and passion are unwavering. She was a member of the Batesville Junior Woman's League for seventeen years and served as International Chairman, Education Chairman, Dean of Chairmen, and as BJWL President.

At the district level, Deana has served as President-elect and as District President, 2016-2018. She has also served as Books Chairman and currently serves as the Northern District Chaplain.



At the state level, she has served on the MFWC Board for the last eight years. On the state level she has served as Education Chairman and has been a member of the Membership Committee, as well as the Long-range Planning Committee. Currently, Deana serves as GFWC Signature Project Chairman, and Mississippi Clubwoman Editor.

At the beginning of 2020, Deana and her fellow BJWL clubwomen transferred their membership to the Batesville Woman's Club where she serves as chairman of International Outreach.

Deana is more than just a clubwoman. She is a teacher, 4-H mentor, mother, sister, wife, daughter, avid reader, and woman of faith. Deana is an active member of Sardis Lake Baptist Church where she has volunteered with Vacation Bible School and in Women's Ministry. Deana is passionate about missions; she has participated in many mission opportunities here and abroad. Deana is also the Mississippi Affiliate Director for I Support the Girls, a non-profit that donated over 60,000 items to women and girls in need across the state of Mississippi in 2019.

Deana is married to Kerry, who serves as the Deputy Chief of Police in Batesville. Together, they have two children, Abbi and Alli. They make their home just outside of Batesville. Currently, Deana coordinates a homeschool group, Grace Connection.

A proven leader within her church, her community, her club, and in MFWC, the Batesville Junior Woman's League highly recommends Dr. Deana T. Pittman as GFWC-MFWC Secretary.

Spotlight on Leadership for the Future...

Belinda Peacher, GFWC-MFWC Treasurer, 2020-2022

It is my pleasure to nominate Belinda Peacher for the position of GFWC-MFWC Treasurer, 2020 – 2022 . Belinda has been a member of the GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club for 22 years. She has served in numerous club positions including, President, Vice-President, various department chairs, and for more than 10 years she has served as club Treasurer, initiating the use of Quick Books as her accounting software. The use of this software will certainly help her in this new position since it is the same software currently utilized by the MFWC Treasurer.



Belinda has served on the MFWC State Board for over 15 years, serving as Assistant Headquarters Chair, State Conservation Chair, Member of the Sarah Peugh Committee, Member of the Long Range Planning Committee, and currently serving as Central District President.

She is married to Steve Peacher and they have two adult sons, Daniel and Nick. They own Southeast Maintenance, Inc. which is a technical training company specializing in hydraulic, mechanical power transmission and electrical maintenance training for mill maintenance personnel across the country. Within the company, Belinda wears many hats which includes the company's marketing and accounting also utilizing the Quick Books software. She has worked with the company since 1996.

In closing, Belinda is a dedicated club woman with accounting experience and would make use of these qualities in performing the duties of GFWC-MFWC Treasurer should you support her nomination for the position.

Confidently yours,

Suzanne Poynor
President, GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club

GFWC Signature Project

To My Beautiful Federated Sisters Across the State:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your GFWC **Signature Project** chairman for the last two years. I cannot thank President Wright enough for trusting me with this position. I have learned so much about the need in our state, and most importantly, I have met some of the most amazing survivors and advocates in this area! Our Federation was also instrumental, under the guidance of President Wright, to begin the first affiliate chapter in Mississippi for I Support the Girls! This is an international affiliation that is making great strides in filling needs around the world!



In October, we held our first annual KNOW MORE event at our beautiful MFWC Headquarters. This event was filled with informational speakers, activities, and engaging conversations about how we can make a difference in every community across our state. We learned so much about just how BIG the need is in our communities. We also planted a pinwheel garden on the lawn of our headquarters in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

I look forward to continuing to serve in this area as your I Support the Girls, Mississippi Affiliate Director. Together, we will continue to meet the needs of women and girls in shelters, schools, services, and in unique situations of need.....wherever they are. God has truly blessed my heart and my life with this program through each of you!

In Federated love,
Deana Pittman

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and GFWC-MFWC is hosting a **kNOw More** event on October 5th at our headquarters in Jackson.



*don't be a silent victim fooled by
by so-called LOVE say NO MORE
to domestic violence ~Ty Howard*



Volunteers in Action

GFWC Signature Project



GFWC-MFWC Club members across the state are constantly and consistently meeting the needs of women and girls! Shown here is Sharon Hudson with her donations!



GFWC-MFWC Twentieth Century Club of Bruce packed hygiene bags for girls in need at a local school.



Bruce Junioresettes packed period packs for a shelter in need.

Volunteers in Art



(Left)
GFWC-MFWC Treasurer Diane Rouse is a woman of many talents. She is teaching a bow-tying class at our first annual *Home for the Holidays* at MFWC Headquarters. She is assisted by grand-daughter Paisley.



(Above)
Club member Libby Everett used her photographer's eye to capture this beautiful magnolia that hangs in our GFWC Headquarters. Shown here is GFWC-MFWC President-elect Sherri Reid.



(Above)
New Century Club member Pam Saw presents Anna Scott Lee, cast member (and one of our Juniores!) with a check for their local performance of *Mary Poppins, Jr.*

Education Community Service Program

Meri Ford Newell, Chair

As I finish my second year as your Education CSP chair, I am excited to look back at what we have done so far. It has been quite a year so far for our ongoing work to build an educated, more literate Mississippi! We have bought Dr. Seuss books and other children's books and placed them in our local schools and laundromats; we have read to children in Head Start programs, pre-schools, and kindergartens. Many of you participated in "Read for the Record" reading "Thank You, Omu" to children (and grown-ups) throughout the state. We have dressed up as characters from books to bring them to life for the children that we read to. It is no accident that nationwide, our state saw the largest gain in 4th and 8th grade reading skills from 2013 to the present of ANY state in the nation. YOU amazing, wonderful clubwomen are part of that amazing jump in skills!

Thank you for volunteering in your schools as tutors and supporting your teachers with additional supplies for a tiny budget. Thank you for listening to the needs of your educators and responding by sponsoring drives in your businesses and banks. You have helped make the teachers' lives in your communities a little brighter with your support.

Thank you, also, for raising scholarship funds to send high school seniors on to community colleges and universities to further their education. YOU have made the difference in their lives, and the skills that they will bring to the workforce in Mississippi will benefit everyone! You have made it possible for women to have a second chance at starting or finishing an education that they thought was out of their reach. Thank you to those who sponsored "Distinguished Young Woman of the Year" programs in your communities; these young women gained experience well beyond the talent and public speaking parts of their program.



As always, remember to include information about the scholarship programs that your club supports when you create signage for your club events. Include it in your publicity when you share it on social media. Your community may not be aware of what may be available for graduating seniors.

It is obvious that you support your public libraries! Please continue writing to your legislators and sign in **RED** to remind them how important our libraries are in the life of our communities. Ask how your club can help with library projects, and participate in and spread the word about the programs that they offer. Go to the Mississippi Library Commission website and take advantage of the resources they offer.

I look forward to reading your reports to see what great projects and programs you have been part of in your communities. Please feel free any time to email me for assistance or to be a sounding board for a new idea. My email address is newellmf57@gmail.com.

Volunteers in Home Life



Decatur Women's Progressive Club



Conservation Community Service Program

Sowing Seeds

Gulfport Public Library

Garden Gets a Makeover

Submitted by: Delia Roland

When the ladies of the Women's Club of Gulfport saw the state of the garden area outside of Gulfport Public Library, they knew something had to be done.

"I think we all feel like public spaces should not only be functional, but beautiful if we can achieve that," says Women's Club of Gulfport President Vanessa Edwards-Wasson. "It's a small thing, but we've had so many people tell us how much they appreciate it."

The club started by maintaining the space with green-thumbed members, led by Conservation Chairman Sherry Galloway, going by to clean it up and weed every so often. Members pressure washed the library wall, then painted and installed scalloped edgers. They planted a variety of flora and added a bench and decorative garden accents, such as pots and a frog. While several club members worked on this project, Pollyanna Hartwell Robelen was a standout who spent countless hours planting, trimming, painting bird houses, and repurposing a box of glass chips into a bee watering station with frog. An area on the other side of the front gate could not grow grass because people parked their bicycles there. Sherry decided that pavers placed there would solve the beautification problem. The members met at their clubhouse where artists were discovered, or artists were born, by painting and designing their own pavers. Then they installed more than 70 decorative pavers. Laura Lambert designed and painted six pavers that formed their club logo, and she and Dee Roland placed those last pavers in the middle of the "patchwork quilt."

As it has been for several years, it will continue to be an ongoing project for the members of the Women's Club of Gulfport. "Since we are a community service-driven organization, we love doing projects such as this," continued Edwards-Wasson. "It's great to know that all our hard work created a space that can be enjoyed by all who visit the library."

Conservation Volunteers



MFWC YOUTH ART AND YOUTH ART CHALLENGE

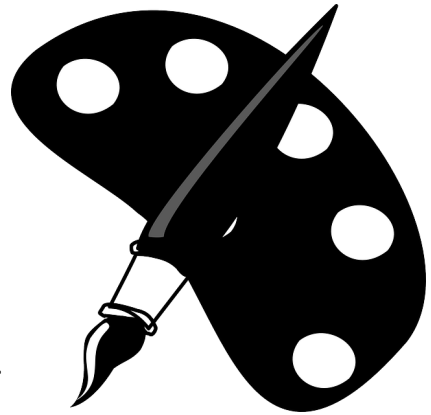
"Put your heART into it!"

The MFWC Youth Art contest encourages club members to recognize the youthful talent in their communities and give an outlet for that recognition. Also, those of us who participated and submitted art in the Challenge category observed the therapeutic benefits of art for these students. As we are well into the 2020 club year, it is never too early to begin planning for your art submissions!

Two elements to consider when submitting youth art to district conventions:

Typewritten entry card attached to the back of artwork as stated in the guidelines. Please use the form that is provided on our website GFWC-MFWC.org. You may handwrite the information on the form.

Please no three-dimensional art. The guidelines will need to be altered for next year because some art has been submitted from districts that is difficult to transport which causes great anxiety to this chairman. The contest has been written for painting/drawing submissions.



It has been my pleasure to serve as the MFWC Youth Art Chairman for the past two years (and some before that). Thank you for your support.

I have really enjoyed seeing all the artwork that was presented for judging. Please contact me if you have any questions and "fill your heart with art" as often as you can and pass this sentiment along to these young artists.

Respectfully submitted by: Libby Everett



MFWC History

Suzanne Poynor
MFWC Historian

“We are who we are because they were who they were.”

H	I	S	T	O	R	Y
1890	1898	1898	1899	1899	1904	1907
GFWC	MFWC	KOSCIUSKO	CRYSTAL	OKOLONA	MFWC	IUKA
founded	founded	20 th Century	Springs, Floral Club	Lanier Club	with GF	20 th Century

Club Histories are due March 1, 2020. Send a copy of your Club History to
GFWC-MFWC President Becky Wright and another copy to
GFWC-MFWC Historian Suzanne Poynor.

“Be a part of the present.
Your Club will impact the future!”

Becky Wright, GFWC-MFWC President
81 CR 281
Banner, MS 38913

Suzanne Poynor, MFWC Historian
25 Briarhill Cove
Florence, MS 39073

Think about some of the important events that have occurred in your club this year...record it for our future club members! Put that Clubwoman of the Year, that great fundraiser you sponsored, how your club helped (or coped) with this unique Coronavirus, all of the wonderful activities and service projects your club members sponsored, and those awards and recognition into your club histories! We want to be able to bear record for generations to come!

Home For the Holidays



MFWC Headquarters, 2019



This event was such a great time of fellowship and relaxation with our MFWC family.



***GFWC-Mississippi Federation
of Women's Clubs, Inc.***
2407 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216

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