

# *Mississippi Clubwoman*

The official publication of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.

Volume LXXIV

Spring Issue

Number 2

# 127th Annual



# State Convention



Founded on May 25, 1898 and a member of the General Federation  
of Women's Clubs Since 1904.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

June 7-9	GFWC 2025 Annual International Convention, Omni Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )
July 13	MFWC Finance Committee & Executive Committee Meeting
July 19	MFWC Summer Board Meeting and Summer Institute Workshop
September 27	2025 GFWC International Day of Service ( <a href="#">Link</a> )
September 27	St. Jude Walk, Memphis, TN or National Virtual Walk
October 16-19	GFWC Southern Region Conference, Huntsville, AL, ( <a href="#">Link</a> )
October 19-25	GFWC Advocates for Children Week ( <a href="#">Link</a> )
November 1	MFWC State Club Dues must be postmarked by this date each year to receive Honor Club status. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )

- ◆ Please send **ALL ADDITIONS (with DUES)** of your club roster directly to State Treasurer Diane Rouse, 2323 Tiffany Circle, Florence, MS 39073. She will, in turn, forward to Circulation Editor, Lisa A. Harris.
- ◆ Please send **ALL DELETIONS AND CHANGES** of your club roster directly to Circulation Editor, Lisa A. Harris at lisaharris@outlook.com.

## Mississippi Clubwoman Volume LXXIV, Number 2, Spring Issue

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**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., a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, is an organization of women whose goal is personal enrichment leading to volunteer service that benefits the community, state, nation and world.”

# A Message From Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford

Dear Friends,

The littlest feet leave the biggest footprints on our hearts. You have definitely left big footprints on my heart with the many ways you have embraced and supported my PSP. It was so uplifting to read your reports and realize so many children's lives have been enhanced by the outpouring of your generosity and time. It has been such a joy to visit with many of your clubs and make new friends.

As you know, we were struggling to fund our state convention this year. As always, our members stepped up and stepped out with big open hearts to make 2025 state convention a success. I can never thank you enough for that.

Several of us will be going to GFWC Convention in Atlanta next week. We are looking forward to having a lot of fun, receiving a lot of information to share with you, and hopefully bringing home a lot of awards for your many service projects.

We have read your surveys and we are currently planning a very informative Summer Institute for you. If you want to learn more about reporting, your role as an officer in your club and the federation, you will not want to miss this one. Mark your calendars for July 19, 2025. I am looking forward to seeing you there. More information coming soon!

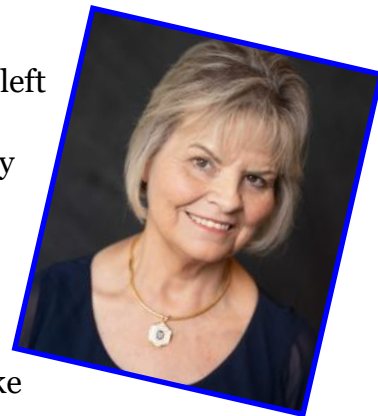
Natural disasters continue to plague our country. We want to give you the opportunity to support our federation sisters in Kentucky as we did in Mississippi, North Carolina and California. You may bring gift cards from Walmart, Dollar General, Lowe's, Home Depot, Amazon, and Visa to Summer Institute.

I appreciate each of you for the difference you make in the lives of others through your service.

In Federation Love,

*Carolyn*

Carolyn Tedford  
2024-2026 President  
GFWC-Mississippi Federation of  
Women's Clubs, Inc.



Color Me →



# 127th Annual State Convention Gulfport, MS April 24-26, 2025



**Big Hearts...Little Feet**

**Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford  
GFWC-MFWC President  
2024-2026**



# 127th Annual State Convention

## Executive Board Dinner and Meeting

Thursday,



#1 - Vice President Michelle Sutton and Southern Region Vice President Dr. Tammie M. McCoy.

#2 - Frances H. Brown, President-elect

#3 - Renee Keith, Junior Club Advisor

#4 - Phyllis Whittington, first day on the new job as Secretary

#5 - The Twins counting money.

#6 - Shirley Wiltshire, Convention Chairman

#7 - Jana Owen, City Chairman and Door Prize Chairman

#8 - Eleanor J. Bayless, Cherry Moon, Darlene Adams and





Note: Judy T. Martin did not win the 50/50 door prize. It was won by Diane Rouse, Treasurer.

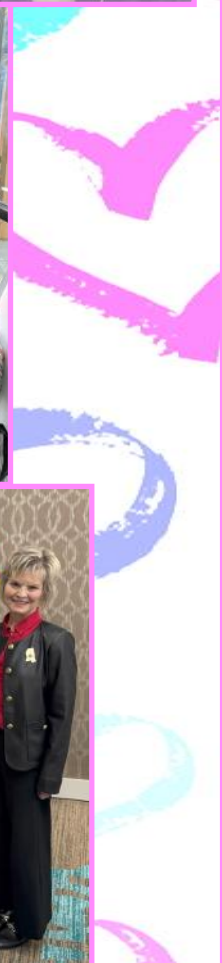
# 127th Annual State Convention

• Opening Ceremonies

• Luncheon

• Banquet

Friday,





# 127th Annual State Convention

. Prayer Breakfast

. Business Session

. Closing Remarks

Saturday,



## Clubs of the Year

- ♥ Classification A—20 or less members
- ♥ Classification B—21+ members



#1—Darlene C. Adams, Juniorette Director, announces Juniorette winners.

#2—Juniorette Classification A Club of the Year—\*Dixie Daisy Juniors (Meadville, MS)

#3—Juniorette Classification B Club of the Year—\*Les Aimes Juniors (Purvis, MS)

#4—General Club Classification A Club of the Year—\*Bruce Civic Club (Bruce, MS)

#5—General Club Classification B Club of the Year—\*Fine Arts Club of Bruce (Bruce, MS)

Available for download from our website at [https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC\\_MFWC\\_Awards.html](https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Awards.html) or scan the QR Code.

GFWC-MFWC 127th Annual Convention, Gulfport, MS, April 24-26, 2025

◦ Convention Theme: Big Hearts...Little Feet. The littlest feet leave the biggest footprints in our hearts.

- Official Program
- Awards Booklet
- Official Call

GFWC-MFWC Central District Convention, Florence, MS, March 29, 2025

◦ Convention Theme: The Wonderful Things You Will Be.

- Official Program
- Awards Booklet
- Official Call

GFWC-MFWC Northern District Convention, Bruce, MS, March 22, 2025

◦ Convention Theme: Big Hearts...Little Feet. The littlest feet leave the biggest footprints in our hearts.

- Official Program
- Awards Booklet
- Official Call

GFWC-MFWC Southern District Convention, Gulfport, MS, March 15, 2025

◦ Convention Theme: Big Hearts...Little Feet. The littlest feet leave the biggest footprints in our hearts.

- Official Program
- Awards Booklet
- Official Call



# Sarah Peugh Butterfly Scholarship

A GFWC-MFWC Scholarship

Submitted by Belina Peacher, Chairman

I did a little research, and this scholarship was initiated by Sarah Louise Pearson Peugh in 1978 as a member of the MFWC Aberdeen Club. She was a freelance writer with the Aberdeen Herald and organized the first Juniorette Club in 1974. Sarah was listed as a notable freelance writer by Marquis Who's Who.

This year's Sarah Peugh Butterfly scholarship recipient, Emma Pratt, states, "Juniorettes is important to me because if I see a difference in my community that needs to be made, I can work with my fellow members to make that change." Emma has been a Bruce Fine Arts Juniorette for three years and actively served as club Secretary and President. She has worked on the Pancakes with Santa, self-defense class, town cleanup, reading to nursing home residents and Souls for Souls to name a few projects. She is a 4.0 student ranked number 3 in her class, Beta Club member and dance instructor. Her honors and achievements include Cross Track, Annual Staff, Competition Cheer Captain, Highest Algebra 2, DE English & History averages, ACT Overachiever and Overall Best Personality.



So, she is active, she is friendly and she is smart. Her parents are Savannah & Ben Pratt and her grandmother is our Becky Wright.

Thank you to all the Juniorette members and sponsors for all you do!



# Hebron Memorial Scholarship

A GFWC-MFWC Scholarship

Submitted by Lorri Stockstill, Chairman

## And the winner is .....

Congratulations to Leah Agnew from Ackerman, MS. Leah was chosen as our MFWC Hebron Memorial Scholarship recipient. Leah is currently enrolled at University of Mississippi Medical Center pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Next paragraph tells you a snippet of what Leah mentioned in her application letter.

After completing school and taking boards, I would love to work in a high-level neonatal intensive care unit as a neonatal nurse practitioner on their transport team. The transport team is responsible for stabilizing and transferring critically ill newborns to a higher level of care after birth. I have also considered exploring options to work at my local hospital to assist in caring for well newborns and the occasional critically ill newborns. I am trying to weigh all the options and find what best suits me and my family's needs. I am a full-time wife and mother. Returning to school while working and caring for family needs has been difficult, and the financial burden is substantial. The further I advance in the program, the more clinical hours are required, which does not allow me to work as often, causing even more financial burdens. I am so thankful for the opportunity to live out a lifelong dream and would be forever grateful for any assistance I could receive.

## What is the Hebron Memorial Scholarship?

The Hebron Memorial Scholarship, is maintained by the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. Only female residents of Mississippi shall be eligible to apply. This scholarship shall be a grant, and only one may be granted during the year except with the approval of the Executive Committee. A holder of the scholarship is eligible for consideration by the Scholarship Committee to receive the grant for an additional year or years.

The following rules shall govern this scholarship:

- ♥ The maximum amount of this grant shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
- ♥ The applicant must meet the following requirements:
  - Application must be made in writing to the Chairman of the Hebron Memorial Scholarship Committee before February 1 for use within that year.
  - The applicant must be a resident of Mississippi, having graduated from an accredited high school with a good scholastic average; or in the case of an applicant for graduate school, she must have graduated from an accredited college and must be attending an accredited graduate school.
  - The applicant must be endorsed by three (3) members of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs.
  - The application must be accompanied by recommendations from three (3) other persons relative to scholarship, character, and qualities of leadership.
  - The applicant must signify her intention of completing her degree within a four-year period.
  - Preference will be given to areas of service where it is felt there is the need in the state.
  - This scholarship shall not be limited to any particular year in college, but is limited to Mississippi Institution of Higher learning. The scholarship money must be sent directly to the Institution the grantee plans to attend.
  - The Scholarship Grantee should attend the State Convention or State Board Meeting to receive recognition.

Thank you Belinda Vowell and Betty Harpe for my team of ladies that helped decide who our Hebron Memorial Scholarship would go to.

Will we see your application next year?

# Challenge Grant

A GFWC-MFWC Grant

Submitted by Cherry Moon, Chairman

The GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs have established Challenge Grants to be awarded each year to one teacher in the State of Mississippi that will benefit students with Learning Disabilities. The primary criterion for this grant is need, and the funds must be used in the classroom such as the purchase of supplies, implementing new programs or advanced technology. All grant money must be used to benefit the students.

This year, the Challenge Grant committee received the following four applications:

## First Applicant: Shannon Allen

- ♥ School: Franklin County Upper Elementary School.
- ♥ Sponsor: Homochitto Heritage Club
- ♥ Ms. Allen would use the grant funds to purchase items for a flexible seating area for her inclusion classroom. The items would include bean bag chairs, wobble stools, a mini couch and a pack of chair kickbands. Ms. Allen currently has 13 inclusion students.

## Second Applicant: Janie Harris

- ♥ School: Steen's Creek Elementary School
- ♥ Sponsor: Florentine Club
- ♥ Ms. Harris would like to purchase 2 sensory swings and 4 sensory floor mats with the grant funds. Ms. Harris has 23 students with moderate to severe autism and cognitive disabilities that would benefit from these items.

## Third Applicant: Morgan Joiner

- ♥ School: Newton County Elementary School
- ♥ Sponsor: Decatur Women's Progressive Club
- ♥ Ms. Joiner would use the grant funds to cover the purchase of the following educational tools and sensory aids for her 8 students – magnetic number tracing board, Leap Frog Learn to Read System, wooden tracing letter pad, Hand2Mind letter tracing sensory pad, magnetic blocks and kick chair bands.

## Fourth Applicant: Darnita Walker

- ♥ School: Bruce Elementary School
- ♥ Sponsor: Fine Arts Club of Bruce

- ♥ Ms. Walker is applying for the grant funds to help the ADHD students in her classroom. Ms. Walker would like to purchase items for a flexible seating area and sensory corner, such as wobble stools, exercise ball chairs, bean bags, noise-canceling headphones and a weighted blanket.

All four applicants are so deserving with wonderful ideas and projects they would like to add to their curriculum for their special need students.

And the winner is ... Janie Harris of Steen's Creek Elementary School.



# GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year

A GFWC-MFWC Award

Submitted by Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford, President

It is my pleasure as President to present the 2025 MFWC Clubwoman of the Year. Listen to what has been said of this special lady.

The 2025 Clubwoman of the year was born and raised in Natchez, Mississippi to Stanley & Martha Owens. She graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a degree in accounting.

She has been married to Ricky Moon for 46 years and has two children – LeAnn Miller and Andy Moon. Four granddaughters – Emily, Ryleigh, Kennedy and Ayven.

She is a founding member of the Vidalia Women's Club in Louisiana and has served on the Louisiana and Mississippi State Board. She has served as club treasurer, secretary, president as well as numerous committee chairs.

She Joined the GFWC-MFWC Purvis Woman's Club in 2011. Her PROUDEST moment is sharing the love of GFWC with her daughter, LeAnn Miller, a member of Purvis Woman's Club and granddaughter, Emily Preiss, a member of Purvis Les Aimes Juniorettes.

She loves traveling. I enjoy seeing her adventure posted on FB. She is also a cancer survivor, which we are all so thankful for. Please join me in congratulating your clubwoman of the year –Congratulations to the 2025 Club woman of the Year Cherry Moon!



## GFWC-MFWC Juniorette of the Year (JOY Award)

A GFWC-MFWC Award

The "Juniorette of the Year" Award is the highest honor presented annually at the State level to an outstanding GFWC-MFWC Juniorette Clubwoman. The award is given at State level to the Juniorette Clubwoman who, in the opinion of the judges, has given of herself and truly exemplifies the Mississippi Federation Clubwoman. The nominee should be a club member who has served her club and her community through her club. Her club and her community must be better because she is an active volunteer. Judging will be done by GFWC members from another state.

Each applicate will be judge on the following:

- Her past club work and accomplishments which show her sincere and continuing interest in the Federation.
- A written narrative about her family, her interest, her hobbies, her college plans, her school activities, her community and church work.
- She can also include supporting materials such as newspaper clippings, snapshots and letters from civic leaders.



And the winner of the 2025 Juniorette of the Year is Olivia Zumbro of the GFWC-MFWC Dixie Daisy Juniorettes of Meadville, MS.

# GFWC-MFWC MS LEADS

Sponsored by the **Malone-Sisk Education/Leadership Endowment Fund**

Submitted by Theresa Buntyn, Chairman

Each state federation annually selects one member to serve as its representative to GFWC LEADS to be held in conjunction with the GFWC Annual International Convention. Each year, every GFWC-MFWC club may select one member to be considered to represent GFWC-MFWC at GFWC LEADS.

A LEADS candidate should:

- ♥ Demonstrate leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project/committee chairman,
- ♥ Demonstrate leadership skills, including but not limited to organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, flexibility,
- ♥ Exhibit a commitment to the Federation,
- ♥ Exhibit an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs/projects in which she is/has been involved,
- ♥ Exhibit an interest and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in the Federation ,
- ♥ Understand and accept potential expenses involved in participation ,
- ♥ Not have held an elected position at or beyond the state level ,
- ♥ Not have attended a previous GFWC LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once. This only applies to the GFWC LEADS program. Participants can apply and attend more than one GFWC-MFWC LEADS program.

Local clubs are encouraged to underwrite a portion of attendees' expenses (e.g., travel or convention registration). LEADS attendees are responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment.

Additional information can be found at the GFWC, Members Portal and typing LEADS in the search box.

It is my privilege to announce the following LEADS Candidates from MFWC Clubs this year.



Allyson Penton  
Civic Woman's Club  
of Picayune



Beth Reeves  
Decatur Woman's  
Progressive Club



Sheila Worley  
Cosmopolitan  
Club



Tracy  
Williams  
Fine Arts Club of  
Bruce

**And the delegate to the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta, GA is Shelia Worley of the Cosmopolitan Club.**

# GFWC Jennie Award

A GFWC Award

Submitted by Melba Watkins, Chairman

Jane Cunningham Croly, the founder of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, was, I believe, a woman ahead of her time. She was a true pioneer in the pursuit of women being more independent, courageous, aspiring to and having goals that developed their own spirit of volunteer service as well as their personal lives. In her honor the Jennie Award was named for her using her writing by line of "Jennie June".

The Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs are blessed to have a plethora of women who live with the "spirit" of Mrs. Croly. Our 2024-2026 selection for the Jennie Award is Nancy Smith Griffin of the Civic Woman's Club of Picayune. Her connection to MFWC has spanned over sixty years having attended club meetings with her mother when Nancy was but a child.

During her years with MFWC she has served in untold capacities due to her outstanding leadership and her faithfulness to her club. In her community she was and still is a phenomenal city volunteer, in her church she shares her musical talent and her teaching abilities to serve her congregation.

Nancy's commitment to her family showed complete dedication. She was a single mother for nineteen years and for those years she made her girls her top priority. She worked locally so that she could be available for her daughters in their daily lives and assisted in all of their extracurricular activities such as dance team practices, performances, fundraising and other school events.

For many years Nancy suffered health issues requiring long, stressful hospital stays, but she continued to serve her club even from her hospital bed as she awaited a liver transplant. Her dedication to serving and mentoring others will always be an amazement to all who know her.

After her girls were grown Nancy began a new journey. She reconnected with a former friend and their revived friendship became new love and they have now been married for almost twenty-five years. She and her immediate family and extended family remain very close and still share holidays and many family gatherings.



*"There are two nominations that I consider to be the highest honor that one can individually receive, they are Clubwoman of the Year and GFWC Jeannie Award Nominee of the Year."*

*Dr. Carloyn S. Tedford,  
2024-2026  
GFWC-MFWC President*

I believe that Nancy should pen her autobiography. I think her story would teach many how to be the best that they can, with what they have, giving the most to those they love, regardless of the obstacles that life presents.

Congratulations to Nancy, to her family, her club and her community. I know that they are as proud of her as I am after reading her nomination packet.

## 2025 GFWC-MFWC Memorial

Death changes  
everything! They  
say to give it time,  
but time changes  
NOTHING!

I still miss the sound  
of your voice, the  
stories you told, the  
ring of your laugh,  
and your presence that  
glowed. So yes, time  
changes nothing because  
I miss you as much  
today as I did the  
day that you left.

We are about to remember five beautiful clubwomen that gave up their time and talents for our federation and their community. Their lives live on in the memories we share.

How fitting to remember them by planting wildflowers in their honor, for both their beauty, and their volunteer service during their lifetime.

Wildflowers are the driving force for life on our planet: pollinators! Besides being so beautiful, they provide critical habitat and foraging resources to pollinators and other wildlife.

Luke 12:27 says, "Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don't labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these!"

## Central District

Nada Jo Craft  
Tullos

Raleigh Woman's Club



# Northern District



Cassie Jean Ferguson  
Bryant,

Bruce Civic Club



Dorothy "Dot" Marie  
Russell Hardin

Pontotoc Woman's Club

# Southern District



Eugenia "Genie"  
Carson Webb

Women's Club of Gulfport



Dr. Judith Jones  
Breland

Women's Club of Gulfport



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## GFWC-MFWC Special Emphasis Project

- ♥ President Special Project
- ♥ Mississippi Public Broadcasting

## GFWC Signature Programs

- ♥ Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Prevention

## GFWC Community Service Projects

- ♥ Arts and Culture
- ♥ Education and Libraries

## GFWC Advancement Plans

- ♥ Communication and Public Relations
- ♥ Leadership
- ♥ Membership
- ♥ WHRC

# President's Special Project

A GFWC-MFWC Special Emphasis Project

Submitted by Diane Rouse, Chairman

As we move into the second year of 2024-26 President's Special Project: "Big Hearts...Little Feet", I have an exciting MFWC PSP Fundraiser to announce!

As you may recall, last fall we had a Youth Artwork Contest for children throughout the state from Pre-K to 18 years of age. Some of the artwork was chosen to reproduce into the 4 x 6 notecards Ways & Means has been selling for several months. The remainder of the artwork was chosen to be in a PSP Calendar, with each painting representing a month of the year.

It has been decided that rather than print and sell a "traditional" paper calendar, we will offer an "online" calendar that will be posted on the GFWC-MFWC website and Facebook page. It will also be available to download if you wish.

Here's where the fundraising component comes in. Each month of the year, you or your club can SPONSOR a day or a week or the whole month! This is how it works: June, for instance has 30 days. If you want to sponsor June 1, you pay \$1.00, June 2, \$2.00 and so on for the entire month. When all 30 days are sponsored, we will have collected \$495.00. If you want to do an entire week, just add up the numeric days and that's your total (i.e. – June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 = \$15).

Lisa will post the daily sponsors each month along with the calendar for that month. You may want to sponsor your birthday, a child or grandchild's birthday, an anniversary or other special date. You may choose dates all throughout the year at one time! ALSO, multiple people can sponsor the same date – you are not limited.

**CHOOSE YOUR DATES:** By using the Calendar Order Form available on our website at [GFWC\\_MFWC\\_MarketPlace.html](http://GFWC_MFWC_MarketPlace.html). Email completed form to Diane Rouse at [crouse99@yahoo.com](mailto:crouse99@yahoo.com) and copy Lisa Harris at [lisaharris@outlook.com](mailto:lisaharris@outlook.com).

**PAYMENT:** You can send a check payable to MFWC to Diane Rouse, 2323 Tiffany Circle, Florence MS 39073 or VENMO @Diane-Rouse-10. Be sure to put Youth Art Calendar on the memo line of your check or VENMO.



Examples of  
Youth Art  
Calendar



# Calendar Order Form



2024-2026 President Special Project

DATE OF ORDER

## CUSTOMER DETAILS

Club:  
NAME:  
ADDRESS:

PHONE:  
EMAIL:

☐ Cell    ☐ Home    ☐ Work

[illegible]

**Instruction:**

Each month of the year, you and your club can SPONSOR a day or a week or the whole month! This is how it works: June, for instance, has 30 days. If you want to sponsor June 1, you pay \$1.00, June 2, \$2.00 and so on for the entire month. If you want to do an entire week, just add up the numeric days and that's your total (i.e. - June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 = \$15).

You may want to sponsor your birthday, a child or grandchild's birthday, an anniversary or other special date. You may choose dates all throughout the year at one time! ALSO, multiple people can sponsor the same date – you are not limited.

**CHOOSE YOUR DATES:** Email your chosen date(s) to Diane Rouse at [crouse99@yahoo.com](mailto:crouse99@yahoo.com) and copy Lisa Harris at [lisaharris@outlook.com](mailto:lisaharris@outlook.com).

## PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check  
Check #

☐ VENMO

**venmo**

*Thank You*

for your support of my President's  
Special Project.

## Big Hearts ... Little Feet

**PAYMENT: Send check payable to MFWC to Diane Rouse, 2323 Tiffany Circle, Florence MS 39073 or VENMO @Diane-Rouse-10. Be sure to put Youth Art Calendar in memo line.**

# Mississippi Public Broadcasting

A GFWC-MFWC Special Emphasis Project

Submitted by Sue S. Freeman, Chairman

Congratulations to the clubs that won service awards for their support and work on behalf of MPB during 2024! Ladies, let's all strive to continue and increase our support and work for MPB during 2025.

Thank you to the individual clubwomen and to the clubs that provided monetary support for MPB during 2024. Please continue to be generous in your financial giving to MPB during 2025, too. MPB's funding from the State of Mississippi has been decreased greatly in the last several years so MPB is relying more heavily on donations from individuals and organizations. *Your continuing support makes it possible for MPB to provide quality television programming; educational videos; and radio programming.*

Thank you also to all the clubwomen and the clubs that participated with the Jumpstart Organization for the *Read for the Record* event that was held in late October 2024. MPB hopes that some of its funding will be restored by the state Legislature that will enable it to budget and provide the books once again for our clubs to utilize in this worthwhile reading program for our local libraries and our school libraries. I encourage your club to participate during October 2025 in *Read for the Record* regardless of whether MPB can help supply the books or not. Your club can order the books economically online through Amazon.

A special thank you to the clubwomen who have sent emails and/or called your state legislators along with various members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees in asking for funding support for MPB for the upcoming FY 2026.

For more information on MPB, visit the website: [www.mbponline.org](http://www.mbponline.org).

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me via email at: [Suefreeman5254@gmail.com](mailto:Suefreeman5254@gmail.com) or by calling or text at 601-946-9297.



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

TELEVISION

NEWS RADIO

MPB LEARNING

Quality programming means a bright future for Mississippi.

Support Quality Television

mpb

Your Stories. Our Mission.





# Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

A GFWC Signature Program

By: Kim Fulcher, GFWC North Carolina State President

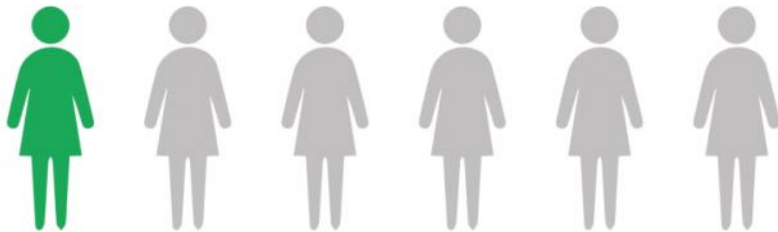
Our GFWC Signature program promotes awareness, prevention, and education opportunities for eight focus areas. These focus areas are highlighted throughout the year using color to promote awareness of issues. As GFWC members, we can “be the voice for those who have no voice.” What does this mean? We can “be the voice” by advocating for survivors, providing education to the public, and utilizing GFWC resources.

A new resource is now available in the Member Portal, under the Signature Program within the Digital Library. The document lists current state coalitions that provide awareness, prevention, and education to support domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. State Coalitions can provide speakers to meetings, offer educational opportunities, attend vendor events, and be a resource for club, District, and State meetings.

Most focus areas have a month that is considered their “advocacy” month. Many GFWC programs may be emphasized during established advocacy months. These can be used to plan for your club year.

- January - Human Trafficking-Blue, Stalking Awareness Month-Yellow;
- February - Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month-Orange;
- April - Child Abuse Awareness Month-Blue, Sexual Assault Awareness Month-Teal (Campus, Military, Native American);
- May - Missing & Murdered Indigenous Person Awareness Day (Red hand over mouth) May 5; June Elder Abuse Awareness Month-Purple,
- September - National Suicide Prevention Month (Purple & Teal);
- October - Domestic Violence Month-Purple, National Bullying Prevention Month-Blue;
- November - Native American Heritage Month-Red, Veterans Day (Military Sexual Assault)-Nov 11.

## 1 IN 6 WOMEN



**1 out of every 6** American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted).

**RAINN**

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org)  
Please visit [rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence](http://rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence) for full citation.<sup>5</sup>



## 5 TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**PHYSICAL**  
The use of physical force against another. Examples include hitting, shoving, grabbing, biting, restraining, shaking, choking, burning, forcing the use of drug/alcohol, and assault with a weapon. Physical violence may or may not result in an injury that requires medical attention.

**SEXUAL**  
The violation of an individual's bodily integrity (sexual assault), including coercing sexual contact and rape, as well as any unwelcome sexual behavior (sexual harassment), including treating someone in a sexually demeaning manner.

**ECONOMIC**  
Making or attempting to make the victim financially dependent on the abuser. Examples of this include preventing or forbidding an intimate partner from working or gaining an education, controlling the financial resources.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL**  
Intimidation, threats of harm and isolation. Examples include instilling fear in an intimate partner through threatening behavior, such as damaging property or abusing pets, constant supervision or controlling what the victim does and who they talk to.

**EMOTIONAL**  
Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth. Examples of emotional abuse include constant criticism, name-calling, embarrassing, mocking and humiliating.

FREE, 24/7, CONFIDENTIAL  
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**HOTLINE**

1(800) 799-7233



**STOP  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**

**20** is the age  
1/3 of women become  
victims of dating violence.



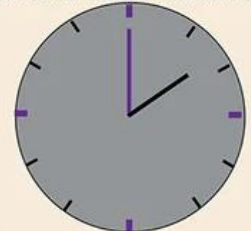
End The Silence on  
**WAKE UP! DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

ADULTS ARE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS

**15 MILLION +**

Children are witnesses to  
domestic violence each year.

HOW OFTEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?



Every **9** seconds in the US  
a woman is assaulted or beaten

WHAT IS  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence is violence or physical, mental and/or emotional abuse  
that is directed towards one's spouse, domestic partner, or child.



HOW MANY WILL BE ASSAULTED?



HOW MANY WILL SURVIVE?



The cost of intimate partner  
violence exceeds

**5.8 Billion** per year

**1/2**

Physical assaults  
are not reported



**3/4**

Rapes  
are not reported



**4/5**

Stalkings  
are not reported





## Arts and Culture

A GFWC Community Service Program

Submitted by Terrie Whitehurst, Co-Chairman

Wow! What a fast year that was. I don't know about the rest of you, but time seems to pass far too quickly. One of my biggest pleasures this past couple years, has been the art gallery. It has been a labor of love. So when I was asked to co-chair with Jodie Brickson on Arts and Culture I was all in. How ironic that should happen. I have a love of art of all kinds.

Just to explain a bit and spread a little education here.

**Culture** includes the elements that characterize a particular way of life for certain people. The **arts** are a vast subdivision of culture, composed of many creative endeavors and disciplines. The arts encompasses visual arts, literary arts and the performing arts. Literature is the art of written works. Some examples include: theater, literature, painting, sculpture, poetry, music, dance, architecture, story telling, spirituality and rituals.

In saying this, I want you to see there are so many opportunities to report in this area. Its not hard to look around and see the beauty God has prepared for us to enjoy. Hopefully, when you open your eyes, you can see some of that beauty.

Judging reports is a challenge in the event that you don't relay that beauty in your documentation. Either by a narrative or visual (pictures). As a retired nurse, I can tell you, if its not documented, it wasn't done. So going forward, give yourself due credit for your work. We looked at a lot of wonderful reports, many by our Juniorette clubs. Great job ladies!

Word of advice: when doing activities, remember in order to "count" for reporting, the activity must be a club sanctioned event or a club approved event or project.



## Education and Libraries

A GFWC Community Service Program

Submitted by Lisa McGee, Chairman

Hope everyone is doing well. It was great to see everyone's reports! I enjoyed reading about the clubs' awesome community projects. Ladies, the differences you make in your respective communities are awesome and inspiring. The creativity and ingenuity are very impressive. It was great to see those that attended the Winter Board meeting.

Spring is almost upon us. In my family, that means baseball season and beach time is near....do you see where I'm going with this? ☺ Beach time means reading books! That could mean an opportunity to start an ESO reading program!

Then comes those summer reading programs at the local libraries. They can be a lot of fun!

Spring and Summer offer opportunities for fun volunteer projects. Ladies, as you always do, you will rise to the occasion and make your respective communities a better place!



# Communication and Public Relations

A GFWC Advancement Plans

Submitted by Shirley Wiltshire, Chairman

I am so impressed with our 2024 reports. This year 18 General and 5 Juniorette Club turned in reports. Very impressive. GFWC has 6 suggestions on developing a marketing communications plan.

- Branding
- Public Relations
- Club Communications
- Social Media
- Digital Meeting Capabilities

All clubs reporting embodied most every one of these tactics to promote their club programs and projects. This one area needs to be part of planning every program and project. Take a picture or pictures at every program and project. We have just gotten through reporting 2024. TODAY is not too late to start your narrative and documentation for programs and projects for 2025. Everyone has access to cloud storage for narrative and digital pictures to document your hard work. Work smarter not harder is a mantra I like to say but I don't always do.

Our challenge by Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary, at Winter Board is to share your MFWC story on your club's social media. As a state we are doing exciting, impactful programs and projects for our membership and communities. **TELL YOUR STORY!**

My challenge to each club chairman and member to visit the GFWC member portal and use the Communication and Public Relations Toolkit to promote and develop your club's CPR plan for each program and project. It takes every member to have successful programs and projects whether it be snapping a photo and sending to Club's CPR chair, or sharing on your social media.

It was great seeing everyone and hearing about your club's projects at your District Convention. I am looking forward to see how GFWC-Mississippi does at the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta.



# Leadership

A GFWC Advancement Plans

Submitted by Theresa Buntyn, Chairman

Let have a little fun from Leadership Toolkit from GFWC. First Ladies get out your lipstick and learn your lipstick personality profile. Some of you may have done this before so this can be a great reminder. If this is your first time, have fun. See next page for the Lipstick Personality Profile.

Now time to MAKE OUR FUTURE EXTRAORDINARY: GFWC-MFWC leaders carefully consider our organization's needs and potential leaders with knowledge and skills to move closer to realizing a shared vision!  
**Surround yourself with the very BEST dedicated leaders and volunteers willing to take risks! There are those who don't just want to be "good" – they want to be "GREAT!"** So, find them and together forge your path. What makes that difference and how can you move to that level of excellence in leadership? This is from our International President Suellen Brazil. Remember she is from Alabama and has that "Southern Flare".

The Leadership Toolkit reminds of who are GREAT LEADERS:

- ♥ Demonstrate enthusiasm, energy, and creativity
- ♥ Are passionate about what they are doing
- ♥ Have deep sense of commitment & responsibility
- ♥ Believe in goals and the team's ability to accomplish them
- ♥ Take the ordinary and make it extraordinary
- ♥ Equip and organize others for success
- ♥ Are supportive of the team
- ♥ Are flexible and can regroup
- ♥ Handle problems or disappointments respectfully

Use feedback and evaluation as a powerful tool  
**TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER:** Developing a strong vision and planning for success involves consistently sharing the vision with others on our

team. Communicate your vision, gain feedback and insight from others, and refine it. Communicate the vision and think behind it regularly, remembering to get others on board. This will ensure a shared vision that belongs to everyone!

If we want to lead to the next level, we must develop a plan of action. Consider these:

- ♥ Formalize your goals. Write out goals. This helps formalize language and create accountability
- ♥ Focus on 3 – 5 goals. Choose goals that will ensure your team's maximum impact and then focus on them with great clarity.
- ♥ Write SMART Goals. Often goals aren't accomplished because they are vague. Goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-Based. If goals are well defined, members will know exactly what is desired.
- ♥ Prioritize Goals. In considering all you want to accomplish; your list may be long.  
**REMEMBER** don't overwhelm your team by trying to do everything. This may well minimize your overall impact. Determine which goals are essential to achieving the greatest impact while strengthening your organization
- ♥ Develop Team Ownership. When setting goals, it is essential to develop enthusiasm for and ownership by leaders. Engage them in discussion and brainstorming. This process will lead to stronger commitment and ownership of the goals.
- ♥ CREATE UNSTOPPABLE MOMENTUM – VISION CASTING: Average results can be comfortable. The question is: Do you want average results... or the best results possible? Vision casting is often considered the privilege of the top officer or leader.

Are you ready to be a great leader?

## DISCOVER YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALITY AND STRENGTHS – PART 4

### GFWC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

### Lipstick Personality Profile



#### *Similar to the original shape*

- Great follower
- Abides by the rules
- Does not like too much attention
- A little self-conscious
- Somewhat reserved
- Likes a schedule
- May occasionally color hair for fun.



#### *Flat top*

- Has high morals
- To the point
- Needs approval
- Careful about appearance
- Very dependable
- Conservative
- Quick minded



#### *Sharp-angled tip*

- Very opinionated
- High-spirited
- Dislikes schedules
- Selective of friends
- Outgoing
- Likes attention
- Can be Argumentative



#### *Flat top concave*

- Makes friends easily
- Inquisitive
- Makes a good detective
- Adventurous
- Likes to probe
- Complex
- Exciting



#### *Rounded, smooth tip*

- Easy-going
- The peacemaker
- Even-tempered
- Very steady
- Likeable
- Generous
- Pleasant to be around



#### *Sharp angles on both sides*

- Seeks attention
- Spiritual
- Curious
- Mysterious
- Has a big ego
- Loves life
- Looks for the easy way
- Faithful



#### *Rounded tip to a point*

- Lovable
- Family-oriented
- A "doer"
- Can give orders easily
- Domestic
- Sometimes exaggerates
- Can be stubborn over little things
- Needs people around



#### *Sharp-angled but curved tip*

- Creative
- Enthusiastic
- Energetic
- Talkative
- Loves attention
- Falls in love easily
- Helpful
- Needs a schedule but dislikes one

# MFWC Membership News

A GFWC Advancement Plans

*Submitted by Frances H. Brown, President-elect and State Membership Chairman*

Greetings Federation Friends,

WOW! You ladies never cease to amaze me with the creative ways you have embraced GFWC'S "EDUCATE, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN.

Congratulations and welcome to Poplarville Junioresettes!

21 General clubs reported 157 Projects, 3,813 Hours and spent \$32,189  
5 Junioresette clubs reported 49 projects, 780 hours and spent \$4,381

Current membership as of January 2025:

- ♥ 8 Junioresette clubs with 182 members
- ♥ 33 general clubs with 684 members.
- ♥ Overall total is 866.

This is an increase of 18. We are only 134 members away from our goal of 1,000. We can do this! Let's invite our coworkers, church friends, the friendly lady at the bank, that sweet lady who does your hair or nails, and family members. Let's give them the opportunity to make a difference. Sometimes it's the most unlikely person that turns out to be the hardest worker. Better yet, sponsor a new club in a neighboring town.

If you have not had a recruitment event, I encourage you to do so. They are a wonderful opportunity to share our mission and recruit new members.

April, May, and June recruitment focus is *Professional Development*. Suggestions include:

- ♥ Offering leadership workshops or trainings to improve your members' personal growth.
- ♥ Providing access to tools and resources that can help them advance in their careers, such as project management and public speaking.

The GFWC Membership Toolkit is an excellent resource.

Retention is just as important as recruiting. In the words of Karyn Charvat's GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook, "the secret to retention is to make members feel valued, appreciated, secure, and to be heard".

- ♥ Listen to what your members have to say.
- ♥ Use the gifts and talents they bring.
- ♥ Make them feel needed, valued, and appreciated.
- ♥ Make them feel they belong.
- ♥ Tell them how important they are to their community and our federation.

Continue to EDUCATE, EMPOWER AND ENGAGE in order to successfully retain and recruit.

Remember, I am only a call or text away and always happy to help.



# WHRC Oral History Project

A GFWC Advancement Plans

Submitted by Meri F. Newell, MS WHRC Chairman

Greetings from your WHRC Chairman!

As 2020-2022 State Vice President, I noticed that many of you had difficulty reporting in this area, feeling that, other than your Club Histories you had little to contribute. I decided to develop an Oral History Project that would give every club in the state an opportunity to be involved and on equal footing, regardless of size, median age, or club focus. The project will begin in April 2025. It will give us an opportunity to look at our past, our present, and our future as Mississippi Federated Clubwomen.

## **Outline of “Mississippi Federation Voices: Exploring our Why and Our History”**

Each club will have two interviewees; the most “seasoned” club member and the newest member of the club. They will interview each other, using questions developed from WHRC Oral History Guidelines (obtained from WHRC Librarian Joanna Church).

The interview questions:

1. Each member’s “why” for being a clubwoman
2. The reason they chose to join a Woman’s Club (what drew them to join the Club)
3. Their five most enjoyable aspects of Federation membership
4. Seasoned members’ observations of changes they have observed over the course of their membership (really expound about this!)
5. Newest members’ observations of what they bring to the table as new members (don’t be shy...you are our future!)
6. Finally, the two members will discuss what they can learn from each other, and how this can be beneficial to the club at large

The interviews will be conducted via video or as written responses. This phase will be completed by Spring 2026. Please send me the interview file (video or written response) when you have completed it.

Interviews will be compiled and transcribed in 2026 and 2027. Members will be given access to the completed, compiled document. It will be archived at the Mississippi Library Commission in Spring 2028.

I am really excited about hearing your stories, and having everyone share stories with each other. This can be a great lasting legacy for our Federation.

A final reminder: if you are celebrating a special milestone in your club (90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Federation, for example), make sure you report it and take lots of pictures. These are the moments to look back and be proud of our heritage. Also, start considering a project for next year’s Women’s History Month. Consider celebrating the women in your community that have made a real difference.



**Summer Board Meeting &  
Summer Institute  
July 19, 2025**

**more info available on June 20th**



# General Federation of Women's Club



1734 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2990

Phone:  
202-347-3168  
For membership information:  
800-443-GFWC

[www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)

# GFWC Conflict Advisers - New Name, Still a Beneficial Program

**By: Melanie Gisler, GFWC Membership Director**

Sometimes issues arise within clubs that require a more thoughtful approach or deeper consideration before action is taken. For these situations, GFWC Conflict Advisers (formerly GFWC Mediators) can serve as an impartial listener and provide thoughtful feedback and assistance in developing a resolution strategy. As always, all interaction with a GFWC Conflict Adviser is confidential.

Please note that GFWC Conflict Advisers do not provide legal advice and cannot legally negotiate between parties, nor is any participant bound by the recommendations of a GFWC Conflict Adviser.

Requests for assistance from a GFWC Conflict Adviser should be sent to me addressed as follows: Membership Director Melanie Gisler at [MGisler@GFWC.org](mailto:MGisler@GFWC.org) or call 202-347-3172. Please provide a brief description of the issue for which assistance is requested, and a Conflict Adviser will be assigned.



2025 GFWC Annual Convention:  
Spinning Vision into Reality, June 6-9

[Visit Convention Page](#)

## What You Need to Know!

- The best places to find answers to your questions are the GFWC Registration/Credentials Desk or the Georgia Welcome Desk. These are located in the Pre-Function Lobby, M4 North Tower.
- Your Convention badge is your ticket to all Business Sessions, and Workshops. Please wear it at all times.
- Your Convention Program is your friend! Please use it to reference maps, schedules, and other important information. Read and follow this document throughout the Convention. We recommend that you put your name on it so that it can be returned to you if it is misplaced, as we cannot provide replacement copies.
- MEAL TICKET and DIETARY RESTRICTION CARDS (if applicable) ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MEALS. Please note: You will not be allowed to enter a GFWC meal function without your meal ticket. Your tickets are in your registration packet. Each meal is labeled and color coded. Look for your table number on the bottom of the ticket. *Please note "open" means it is open seating; "void" means you did not sign up for that meal.* You will most likely be at a different table for each meal. Please adhere to seating assignments at meals. Please do not ask to change or switch meal options. The majority of the meals will be held in the International Ballroom. There is a map in your program for your reference.
- Extra drink tickets will be available for purchase at the GFWC Marketplace.
- If you lose your tickets, a GFWC staff member can help you.
- Plan to attend at least one of the GFWC Workshops scheduled on Sunday from 9:30–10:30 am and repeated from 10:45–11:45 am. Refer to your program for locations and workshop descriptions. This is a great place to meet new friends and gain the benefit of information provided by your GFWC Committees.
- Hotels are cold. This is a GFWC fact! Be sure to put something warm in your tote bag for our events.

# Learn Your Way Around, Access the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention Map

[OPEN DIGITAL MAP](#)

## See You Soon!

GFWC is so excited to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year with you! As you pack to join us in Atlanta, here are some last-minute items to add to your suitcase.

- A Rechargeable Phone Battery – You'll want to capture every moment with new and old friends, so keep it charged. We are offering a cool GFWC Portable Charger at the GFWC Marketplace.
- Our event will span several floors and two connected buildings. The walk between spaces is enjoyable, and we recommend comfortable footwear to make the most of the experience. Be prepared for the time it takes to move from one exciting event to the next!
- Hollywood Glamour – For those joining the red carpet at GFWC Georgia's State Night – *Hollywood of the South*, make sure to pack your glitz and glitter for Friday night.
- Boogie Moves – Pack your dance moves and boogie shoes for Saturday night's Headphone Disco.
- Red Evening Attire – Make sure to include a red evening ensemble for Monday night's *A Red Affair: Pulse of a Woman Gala*.

Leave room in your suitcase to shop the GFWC Marketplace while you're at Convention. *GFWC Marketplace will open first on Wednesday afternoon.*



Annual Convention Service Project proudly sponsored by:

**Tommy McDonald III**  
Managing Director-Investments  
(888) 489-7176

**DAVENPORT** 1863  
BUILDING WEALTH TOGETHER

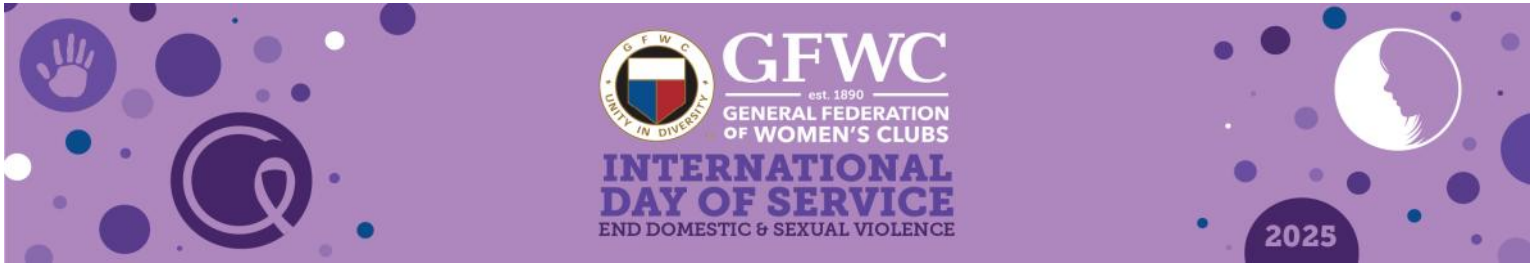
2025 GFWC Annual Convention  
Service Project

## Fill it Forward

### How it Works

All 2025 GFWC Annual Convention attendees will receive a free reusable water bottle to support Fill it Forward.

Every time you refill your bottle and scan the QR code, a donation to charitable organizations will be made in your honor.



## Register for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service (GFWC IDS) on September 27

As GFWC continues to gather impactful project ideas for clubs to undertake, one particularly creative suggestion comes from Tina Smith, 2024–2026 GFWC New Hampshire Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman.

After consulting with the team at the New Hampshire Coalition, Tina shared the recommendation that clubs consider hosting a **House Party**—a powerful and engaging way to support state Coalitions or local crisis centers. These events offer a meaningful yet manageable way for clubs and members to raise both awareness and funds for critical services in their communities.

Tina also provided a helpful resource titled [House Party 101](#)—a planning guide developed in collaboration with the NH Coalition. This document can be used as a flexible template for clubs to customize their own events.

In light of the current political climate, where many essential services—including Coalitions—are facing significant funding cuts, hosting House Parties on a unified day nationwide could serve as a bold and impactful statement of support.

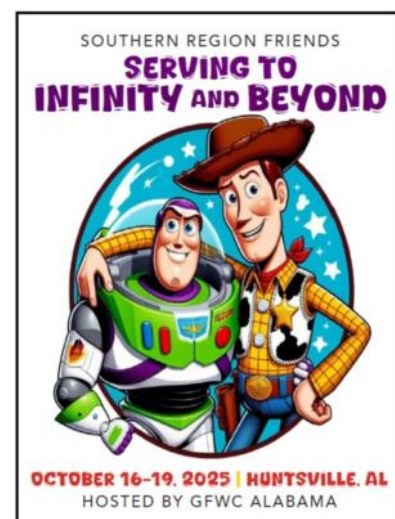
This resource will be available in the GFWC Digital Library for future reference.

### United to End Domestic & Sexual Violence!

*\* Please note that due to the sensitive nature of your volunteer activities, when working directly with survivors, some organizations may require initial training to help prepare you.*




**More Information  
Coming Soon**




# Calling all Juniors & Juniores!

## GFWC Junior Club Leadership Certification

20  
25



## WEBINAR SCHEDULE



GFWC Resources &  
Overview, Legislation

19 May      8 pm ET

16 June  
8 pm

Personal Development Part 1  
Leadership Development, Part 1

21 July  
8 pm

Team Development  
Effective Meetings


18 Aug  
8 pm

Personal Development Part 2  
Leadership Development, Part 2

Register at [memberportal.gfwc.org/events](http://memberportal.gfwc.org/events)

This newly reinvigorated program is offered to Junior and Juniores clubs to provide a pathway to leadership and personal development. Covering eight topics in its first year, the program will cover the foundation of building strong leaders.

Online registration is available on the GFWC Member Portal under “Events.” [Register today](#), the first webinar is Monday, May 19!



## GFWC

est. 1890  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

# SUPPORT THE “TAKE IT DOWN” ACT

WAY TO GO! Thank you to our GFWC Clubwomen who joined the Legislative Action Center and Took Action.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act has been passed by Congress and is on its way to the President for signature!

Because of you, victims of sexually explicit images posted on social media will be able to fight back against their perpetrators. The Act criminalizes the publication of these images, both authentic and computer-generated, requires social media platforms to remove these images, and provides law enforcement the tools needed to hold these perpetrators accountable.

Never underestimate the power of our collective voices!



GFWC Clubwoman Magazine - Spring 2025

Download Your Copy Today!

Inside this issue:

- \* May is Mental Health Awareness Month - p. 8
- \* GFWC Junior Club Leadership Certification - p. 9
- \* 2025 GFWC Annual Convention - p. 11
- \* GFWC International Day of Service: Register Today! - p. 17
- \* Advocate & Shape Tomorrow - p. 19
- \* GFWC Chairmen's Articles - p. 21-27

To download a PDF, click [here](#).

\* Scroll to bottom of the Clubwoman Magazine page for back issues of the magazine.