

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC ALABAMA

May 28, 2020



Christine Steele
2018-2020 President
GFWC Alabama

Notes from the President's Desk

Dear GFWC Alabama Clubwomen,

This is the last of my Convention related emails regarding the many awards and recognition that would have been made in person at our 2020 AFWC convention last month. While cancelling the Convention was necessary for the health and well-being of all our members, it is most disappointing that we were denied the opportunity to fellowship and congratulate each other on a JOB WELL DONE in person!

In Service,
Christine Steele
President, GFWC Alabama 2018-2020

Dorothy Grames Outstanding Board Member

- The description for this award is “given at the end of each administration to the outstanding Board member who has served GFWC Alabama by going beyond her job description and supporting the President unequivocally during her administration.
- This award is very meaningful to this President. To obtain this status means you have most likely put AFWC before your family, friends and job on many occasions. It means you have dropped what you were doing to get a last minute request done. It means you have given much thought and effort into your duties and then more.
- To draw this down to just 1 person was extremely difficult. There were so many of you that fit this description. But when reflecting back there were two top contenders - let’s call them A & B.
- Both A & B from the very beginning asked what was this President’s vision and what would be expected of them. This was a good sign that they would take their positions and duties seriously. However, both of them had to be slightly nudged into accepting their appointed position.
- Then both A & B came back with goals and how they believed they could be achieved. Their plans of action were implemented.
- Then A would come up with something and **bam** she was, unbeknownst to her, in the lead for this award. But then B would also do something and she took the lead. Both still have the wheels turning and continue to do an outstanding job to this day!
- This back and forth has gone on for two years and this administration is almost over.

- So the decision comes down to A & B who are:
 - Christi Robinson, and
 - Sherry Stutts

- Christi Robinson, yes she wanted to meet with me to go over what was expected before accepting the position of Chairman of the Communication & Public Relations, known as CPR, Advancement Area. She took a bunch of notes and by golly believe she got it all down. I cannot say enough about how much I appreciate the work she has done. Bringing back the website to a vital resource that is organized and current! She brought back the vision of a published, both printed and email, quarterly Alabama Clubwoman with a monthly News & Notes and Newsflashes/Extra Extras in between. Did she know all this Constant Contact stuff before she took the job? No. Did she put the effort forth to learn and examine many possibilities unknown to AFWC. Yes. She came up with the online voting registration method that we used this spring. Christi has caught oversights made in articles submitted, especially mine! This President cannot say enough about the value she has been to not just this President but to all of the membership of AFWC. Again, I have asked her on many occasions, at last minute, can you do this? Well, Yes She Can!

- Sherry Stutts, yes she too inquired as to what she was expected to do. Yes she too had to be persuaded into taking the position of Chairman of the AFWC President's Project - *Celebrating 125 Years of Changing Lives Through Scholarships* handling Special Scholarships. Who knew what she would come up with when I mentioned gimmicks of hats and purses for scholarships! Who knew what a creative mind she had? Okay maybe some of you and I had a pretty good idea after working with her when shoes were the gimmick for membership when we worked together. I just had the idea of scholarships, hats and purses. **BAM** we all know what she did with that! Again, what an example of going above and beyond normal expectations. Her efforts have yielded multiple record breaking results for a President's Project and scholarships awarded. The first year AFWC was able to award a total of \$11,000 in scholarships, some in President's Project Special Scholarships and then gifting \$7,000 to the AFWC general traditional scholarship funds enabling all qualified applicants a scholarship! Then the second year a record breaking 42 scholarships applications were received. Twenty-one scholarships at \$1,250 have been awarded! That equals \$26,250.00 in scholarships for the second year. The total for the Celebrating 125 Years of Changing Lives with Scholarships President's Project is \$37,250 and some change. No in-kind donations for this project. All cash donations! This would have never occurred had it not been for Sherry's dedication to AFWC and the desire to raise funds to award as many scholarships as possible.

- So you can see my dilemma?
- A or B?
- Christi or Sherry?

Okay, here's what the plaque says.....

Your 2020 Dorothy Grames Outstanding Board Members are.....

Christi Robinson AND Sherry Stutts!!!!

My sincere thanks to Christi and Sherry for your willingness to give your heart, soul, skills and valuable time to AFWC during this administration. Please send Christi and Sherry a note of congratulations as this is, as the name indicates, an outstanding achievement!



Pictured Above: Sherry Stutts (*left*) and Christi Robinson (*center*) receiving their joint Outstanding Board Member award from President Christine Steele (*right*), while remaining socially distant!

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming summer dates of importance in the life of GFWC Alabama.

- **Saturday, June 27: Board of Directors Orientation**
Location: Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana
Who should attend? All incoming GFWC Alabama Board of Directors members
- **Friday, July 31 (day): Summer Board of Directors Meeting**
Location: Capitol City Club, Montgomery
Who should attend? All 2020-22 GFWC Alabama Board of Directors members
- **Friday, July 31 (evening): "Celebrating Federation" Banquet**
Meeting Location: Capitol City Club, Montgomery
Who should attend? All GFWC Alabama members should make plans to attend this special night honoring the achievements of the 2018-20 administration and installation of the new 2020-22 officers!
- **Saturday, August 1: GFWC Alabama Summer Leadership Workshop**
Location: Capitol City Club, Montgomery
Who should attend? All GFWC Alabama members should make plans to attend this day of information and idea sharing. This is for both current and emerging leaders, committee chairs and anyone else interested in a day of fun learning and fellowship preparing for the upcoming club year!

