

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC ALABAMA

March 2021



**Randy Matthews**  
2020-2022 President  
GFWC Alabama

## ***Upcoming Dates to Remember in 2021:***

**3/15:** AGS Outstanding Juniorette Nominations Due

**3/15:** GFWC AL [Scholarship Applications](#) Due

**3/15:** [Articles due](#) for April Clubwoman

**3/20:** GFWC AL Central District Meeting (Hoover)

**3/27:** Diabetes Walk (Dothan)

**3/28:** Diabetes Walk (Montgomery)

**4/15:** [Articles due](#) for May News & Notes

**4/18-24:** GFWC Volunteers in Action Week

## **Notes from the President's Desk**

Spring is on the horizon and this President could not be happier. The days have been wet and the skies dark for the past several weeks all over the state of Alabama. But with the sunshine and milder temperatures experienced this week, I hope each of you has had the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. From the white sands of our beautiful gulf coast to the mountainous terrain in North Alabama, our state offers some of the most beautiful landscapes. Spring will officially begin on March 20, 2021 with the March equinox. After this date, the Northern Hemisphere begins to be tilted more towards the sun, resulting in increased daylight hours with earlier dawns and later sunsets allowing more time to experience all the beauty found in Alabama.

The awards submissions have been officially received by this president from the GFWC Alabama Chairmen and have been forwarded to the GFWC counterparts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GFWC Alabama Community Service Program Chairmen, the GFWC Special Program Chairmen, the GFWC Alabama Advancement Plan Chairmen, and GFWC Alabama Standing and Special Committee Chairmen, for the exceptional awards submittals that each area Chairmen prepared by the deadline. I would be remiss without thanking Becky Vansant, GFWC Alabama First Vice President, for her coordination of these awards submittals.

GFWC Alabama clubs are also to be commended on their excellence in submitting club narratives of outstanding programs and projects accomplished in 2020 in each area of service. While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented many of our clubs meeting in person and halted other club activities, GFWC Alabama clubwomen prevailed in their efforts and discovered and implemented innovative ways to achieve excellence within their clubs. The club award submissions are the substance of the state submissions and serve as a historical reminder to each club and GFWC Alabama of the untiring dedication of GFWC Alabama clubwomen.

The GFWC LEADS applications and the GFWC Jennie applications for GFWC Alabama have been received and the decisions now rest with the judges in selecting the winners for the state Federation. Several applications for the Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman of the Year have been received and passed along to the exceptional panel of judges. Please join GFWC Alabama at the Annual State Convention June 3-5, 2021 at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama, to learn the winners of these prestigious honors and

**4/24:** GFWC AL South District Meeting (Virtual)

**4/24:** GFWC Federation Day

**5/1:** GFWC AL North District Meeting (Huntsville)

**5/15:** [Articles due](#) for June News & Notes

**5/31:** [Rada Cutlery](#) order deadline

**6/3-5:** 126th Annual GFWC AL State Convention (Perdido Beach Resort)

**6/15:** [Articles due](#) for July AL Clubwoman

**7/24:** Juniors Jamboree

**7/15:** [Articles due](#) for August News & Notes

**8/6-7:** GFWC AL Summer Board of Directors Meeting

**8/15:** [Articles due](#) for Sept. News & Notes

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to help celebrate their accomplishments. The official Call to the 2021 GFWC Alabama Convention will be available the first of April.

GFWC Alabama District Directors are busy preparing for the upcoming District meetings. GFWC Alabama Central District meeting will be the first held on March 20, 2021, at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Hoover, Alabama. Hosted by the Hueytown Study Club, District Director Ellen Clack has planned an educational and engaging day for everyone. The GFWC Alabama South District meeting will be held virtually on April 24 with the Call and further details coming soon from GFWC Alabama South District Director Sherri Killam-Albee. The GFWC Alabama North District meeting will be held May 1, 2021, and will be hosted by GFWC Legacy in Huntsville. Further plans will be announced in coming weeks by District Director Gail Guice. All the meetings are planned for the grassroots clubwomen and are an excellent source to obtain information about each District, GFWC Alabama and GFWC as we work together to further the mission of our organization.

This President is honored to be participating with the GFWC Maude Martin Study Club and the Tri M Juniors Club in the Diabetes Walk to benefit Camp Seale Harris on March 27, 2021, in Dothan, Alabama. Then on March 28, 2021, I will be participating in the Camp Seale Harris Diabetes Walk in Montgomery with the GFWC River Region Woman's Club. The club will have a team named "Randy's Revelers". If you are in the Dothan or Montgomery areas on those dates please come out and support Camp Seale Harris and these clubs and join in the fun! I wish to sincerely thank these and all GFWC Alabama clubs for embracing the AFWC President's Special Project with both monetary support and volunteer hours for Camp Seale Harris.

As the sunny days of Spring approach, it is my sincere desire that each club and member know the "sunlight" you bring into the lives of others through your volunteer service. I am honored to serve the outstanding volunteers of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs as State President and thank each of you for "*Living the Volunteer Spirit – Empowering Others to Live Well*".

In Federation service,  
Randy Matthews, President

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## Motivational Mondays

by Caroline Hollowell, 2nd Vice President (Membership)

Everyone needs a little motivation on Monday! Am I right? There are many ways that you can brighten someone's Monday, but why not motivate on a bigger scale?

At the start of each week write a note, send an email or post a comment on social media using #IAMGFWC to recognize a clubwoman that has done something remarkable, chaired a successful project, shared a good idea, provided

encouragement to someone needing a boost, or just been their terrific self. **We all enjoy being appreciated!**

Send an email on Monday and recognize someone deserving and give them a great big virtual hug! Stay connected and rise by lifting others! #motivationalmonday.



Volunteering two hours a week can boost your well-being. Research shows this helps combat loneliness, which has been linked to dementia.

## AFWC President's Project

# Comp a Camp For A Kid!

*AFWC President's Special Project to educate, encourage, and empower children with diabetes and their families to live well.*

**\$175**

Covers the fee for a child to attend a one-week day camp in Dothan, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham or Mobile.

**\$250**

Covers the fee for teen in high school to attend a weekend leadership retreat in Wetumpka.

**\$375**

Covers the fee for a family to attend a weekend family camp in Mobile or Lake Martin.

**\$500**

Covers the fee for a child to attend a week-long overnight camp in Mobile, AL

**\$800**

Covers the fee for a child to attend a week-long overnight camp on Lake Martin, AL

*Your support is greatly appreciated. Donations are cumulative.*



**CAMP  
SEALE  
HARRIS**



To participate in "[Comp a Camp for a Kid](#)", send your tax-deductible donation check made out to "AFWC" with "Comp a Camp" in the notes line to GFWC Alabama Treasurer Terri Walker at 1880 N Union Avenue, Ozark, AL 36360.

## GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs State Convention

**June 3-5, 2021  
Orange Beach, Alabama**

The 126<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs will be held at the Perdido Beach Resort, the Gulf Coast Paradise, Orange Beach, Alabama June 3-5, 2021. June is the 2<sup>nd</sup> sunniest month of the year

with a high of 89 and low of 73. The gulf offers golfing, fishing, and water recreation including kayaking, jet skiing, parasailing, and paddle boarding. For those interested in nature dolphin cruises, nature and birding trails are available. Don't forget our Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo "The Little Zoo That Could". It is located on 25 acres and provides a modern haven for our zoo animals. It offers a family theme-park, animal encounters, animal shows and a giraffe feeding station. The Safari Club is the 1<sup>st</sup> "green certified" restaurant in the state. The Park at OWA is a family fun destination with rides, dining and live entertainment.

GFWC Alabama South District is excited to host our state convention.



## GFWC du Midi Plarn Project



Pictured left is GFWC du Midi Woman's Club past-president Adelaide Cape presenting the Huntsville Operation Green Team Manager with two sleeping mats which will be given to homeless individuals. These two waterproof sleep mats represent 1400 plastic grocery bags that have been eliminated from our local landfill.

To construct one mat, a club member flattens 700 donated plastic grocery bags, 1.5 inch strips are cut, and the ends looped together to form a ball and bagged. The materials are passed to Club Woman Nell Fisher, at the club's First Friday (church parking lot) Drop-off. "It takes about 35 hours to crochet the plastic together with a size T hook" she said and has made two of the three donated mats.

The Plarn Project for the Huntsville Operation Green Team is a part of the GFWC du Midi Woman's Club's President, Cherie Byrne's, President's Project, "Unity in Biodiversity-Protect Our Planet" which includes waste reduction in our landfills.

It's easy to join the GFWC AL mailing list!

Just send your email address by text message:

Text  
**GFWCALABAMA**  
to **22828** to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

It's easy to join our email list! Follow the instructions above to text to join the list from your cell phone, or subscribe via our website, [www.gfwcalabama.org](http://www.gfwcalabama.org). Click on the "Contact" link and then the blue "Join Our Email List" button to sign up by completing the form.

Do you have club news to share with your Federated sisters throughout Alabama? Email your "cut and paste" ready articles (Word or text, *no PDFs please*) and/or pictures (jpeg or png) to your GFWC Alabama Communications Chair: [Christi Robinson](#) at [gfwcalabamacompr@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcalabamacompr@gmail.com) The next deadline is **March 15** for items to be included in the April GFWC Alabama Clubwoman as space allows. [Click here to see all publication deadlines AND submittal requirements.](#)

