

Doing An Oral History Interview

Basic Tips

NOTE: If you are recording your own oral history, use the questions below to inspire what you write or record.

- Set up a recorder – that way you can pay closer attention to the discussion. You can make notes of important topics as you go if you wish. Recording the interview is an absolute MUST.
- Plan to take 90 minutes to two hours for the interview...and you may have to have a follow-up interview.
- Be comfortable! Have a beverage, sit in easy chairs, relax.
- Remember to include dates whenever possible and other activity-verification.
- When you have finished, please send your recording/write-up, mementos, pictures, etc (and include the interviewer, if there is one, and the interviewee) to:

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Here are some questions that may help to get you started:

Your current club is?

Have you ever belonged to a different club?

What was a club meeting like when you first joined?

Did you go to regional, state, and national conferences?

What were they like?

What is your favorite story from your time in Women's Clubs?

What makes you laugh?

What do you remember/reminisce about when you get with other long-time members?

What project (or projects) have had the most impact on you?

Why?

Who else was involved?

What are you most proud of?

What do you want club women in 30 years to know about you/your time in GFWC?

If GFWC Alabama had a time capsule, what would you put in it?

Tell me about a special person in your club or another Alabama club.

What makes them special?

How have club women and club activities changed over time?

Who were the great characters in your club or that you worked with in the state?

Have you heard stories about the earlier days of GFWC Alabama or the start of your club?

What lessons have you learned by being a club woman?

What else are you thinking about/remembering that has not been asked yet?