

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC ALABAMA

May 24, 2020



Christine Steele
2018-2020 President
GFWC Alabama

Notes from the President's Desk

Over the next few days, there will be many announcements issued that would have been made at the “‘Tip Our Hats’ to ‘Celebrating 125 Years of Changing Lives Through Scholarships’” 2020 Convention.

The results of the voting on elections, bylaws, resolutions and honorary membership were previously announced.

Today will be the recognition and presentation of four individual member awards, two are given annually and the other two are awarded per administration.

Although this President sure wished she could have traveled across the state to personally present all club and individual awards, COVID-19 restrictions limited her ability to achieve this. One of this president’s biggest regrets over the Convention having to be canceled is that all clubwomen were not afforded your due applause for the hard volunteer work accomplished in your communities over the past two years. This President did achieve presenting these individual awards in a Mini Awards Day with limited attendance of under 10. Although cheers were as loud as possible, please extend your congratulations to these deserving clubwomen.

Watch for additional announcements in the coming days.

Christine Steele
President, GFWC Alabama 2018-2020

GFWC Alabama LEADS Candidate

LEADS stands for Leadership Education and Development Seminar. This is a GFWC training program which identifies members at the grassroots level who have the

potential and desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their local club. Participation in LEADS provides these members with the capabilities, confidence and commitment to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction.



Each year, one member representing each state federation is selected to attend the LEADS program, held in conjunction with the GFWC Annual International Convention. The training program includes a full day of workshops, seminars, activities, and networking opportunities.

There were four excellent applications this year.

This President is so glad she made the decision to send applications for all awards out for judging. First it would be a very difficult decision. Plus this method would eliminate any chance that bias or favoritism would play a part in the choice. GFWC state presidents are willing to act as judges for each other's awards and contests. This also helps in having to explain what these awards represent as state presidents are very familiar with GFWC and their similar state awards, especially the LEADS program.

The judges indicated that this was a difficult task as the four applicants were very deserving of the chance to represent Alabama. There was no obvious #1 so a point system was used with points awarded according to the outlined criteria. It was such a tight race that it literally came down to a few of points dividing the top entrees.

The 2020 GFWC Alabama LEADS Candidate is **Cherie Byrne**. Cherie is a member of GFWC duMidi Woman's Club having just served as their Parliamentarian, Bylaws Chairman and a member of the Conservation and Yearbook Committees. She is their incoming 2020-2022 President. Cherie has served at the district level and currently on the AFWC Board of Directors as the Resolutions Chairman and member of the Bylaws Committee. She has enjoyed attending state, regional and international GFWC conventions.

Although initially very excited to attend the LEADS program and already making plans and registered to attend the GFWC Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in June, Cherie will not be afforded the opportunity as this event was also canceled due to COVID-19. It is not official at the GFWC level yet but word is that it is being considered to have all the state's 2020 LEADS candidates also attend the 2021 LEADS program. It is hoped that GFWC will have double the amount of excellent leaders attend in 2021. It is also hoped that AFWC will honor their commitment to our 2020 LEADS candidate - Cherie Byrne. Congratulations!

Sue E Hester Outstanding District Director

The **Sue E Hester Outstanding District Director** is an award presented at the end of the administration to the director who



has provided the highest level of excellent leadership for the majority of the term. It shall include a certificate and a plaque that remains at GFWC Alabama Headquarters. The application is generally submitted by their Assistant Director. The applications includes documentation on how she has shown leadership skills to help AFWC grow stronger in

leadership, membership, reporting, CSPs, Federation involvement and Communication. Has she attended club and district meetings, workshops, AFWC, Region and GFWC conventions?

All three of our GFWC Alabama District Directors qualify for this award. But only one can be chosen. The 2018-2020 Sue E. Hester Outstanding District Director is **Gloria Stevens**.

Gloria has been a clubwoman since 1979 and served as GFWC Alabama's Director of Junior Clubs during the 1988-1990 administration. She then moved to Georgia and transferred her primary membership to a club there. Gloria transferred her membership back upon her return to Alabama as she joined GFWC duMidi Woman's Club and was a founding member of GFWC Alabama River City Woman's Club. She then became the GFWC Alabama North District Director.

While Director, her experience helped lead to an increase in membership and attendance at district meetings. Clubs who reported club projects at the District level were recognized. At each district meeting speakers covered different CSPs and successful fundraisers were held. Different methods of communications kept North District members informed.

Congratulations go to Gloria Stevens, the 2018-2020 Sue E Hester Outstanding District Director! Thank you Gloria for serving during this administration.

Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman

The **Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman** award is given annually to the outstanding clubwoman at the GFWC Alabama Annual State Convention. The entry must be submitted by her club. This award is given to the person who, in the opinion of the judges, has given of herself and typifies the real Alabama clubwoman. She is a club member who has served her club and her community through her club; she must be a good leader, open-minded, dependable and merit confidence. Her club, community and home must be better because she is an active and progressive member of each. She should also be interested in club activities on both district and state levels and have a knowledge of the need of our parent organization - the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



The 2020 Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman is **Sherry Stutts**. She has been a member of GFWC duMidi Woman's Club since 2005. Sherry is their immediate Past President and currently serves as a Director and as their Advisory Council Chairman. She served as the GFWC Alabama North District's 2nd Alternate Nominating Delegate along with being both the district and AFWC President's Project Chairman - Scholarships. She is also a charter member of GFWC Alabama River City Woman's Club. Sherry is a GFWC LEADS Graduate.

The supporting documentation in her application are too numerous to mention but all confirm her qualifications and the choice of Sherry Stutts as the 2020 Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman. Congratulations Sherry!

GFWC Jennie Award



GFWC Jennie Award. This award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym, "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary club women who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage and persistence in purpose through their roles as volunteers within

their clubs, elsewhere in the community and as members of a family or extended family. Each state awardee is sent on to the Region with the Region representative going on to the GFWC level.

GFWC Alabama's 2018-2020 Jennie Award recipient is **Roberta Atkinson**. She was recognized at the 2019 GFWC Southern Region Conference in October, 2019. Congratulations again to Roberta.

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!