

Dear Fellow GFWC Alabama Clubwomen,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your GFWC Alabama President for the 2024-26 administration and to have the opportunity to work alongside your other officers. Please know that this is a role that I take very seriously. With your support and efforts, I know that we are going to take that which has already been accomplished by our predecessors and build on those accomplishments to move this organization forward and to leave it in an even better position for those who follow us.

I have a pillow that I believe summarizes this organization. It says:

*Strong women...
May we know them,
May we be them,
And may we raise them.*

We stand on the shoulders of those strong women who have gone before us. Let us be aware of our responsibilities and the challenges to carry on our incredible heritage. What will we write on the pages of our history over the next administration, the next decades, and the remainder of this century?

For the 2024-26 administration, I have selected *Living the Volunteer Spirit – Compassion in Action* as the theme. The GFWC mission statement which says we are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service to me is the definition of compassion.

In keeping with this theme, the President's Project for the administration will focus on mental health awareness. To quote the Collect for Clubwomen, "Let us forget not to be kind." And I would add that this applies to ourselves as well as others.

Again, I appreciate the confidence that you have shown in me, and I commit to serving this organization and you to the very best of my abilities. But also know that I challenge you to make friends with strong women, to be strong women, and raise up future strong women for GFWC Alabama.

In Federation Love,

Becky Vansant
2024-2026 GFWC Alabama President

2024-2026 GFWC Alabama

Yearbook Order Form

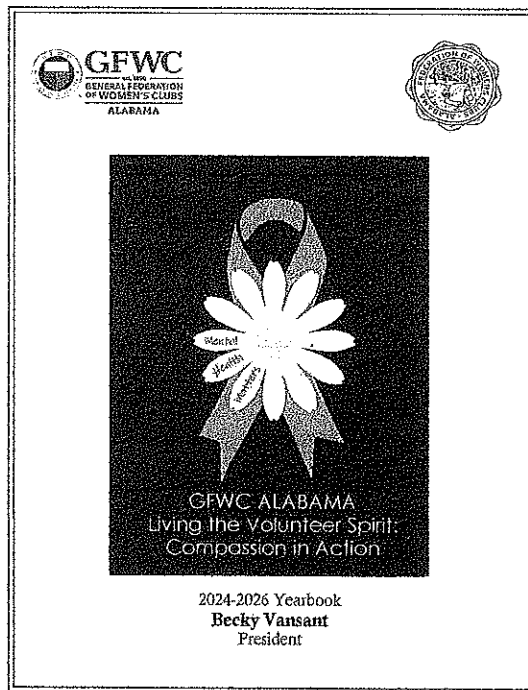
The GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs Yearbook for the 2024-26 Administration will contain updated contact information, forms, reporting information, resolutions, etc.

Everything your club will need in one place.

Hard copies of the 2024-26 GFWC Alabama Yearbook must be pre-ordered as a limited number will be printed. Cost: \$20. Payment must accompany order form, and checks should be made payable to GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs.

The GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs Yearbook for the 2024-26 Administration will be available for download on the GFWC Alabama website beginning July 15, 2024.

Pre-ordered hard copies will be available for pickup at GFWC Alabama Leadership Workshop. Following Leadership Workshop in July, books will be mailed with an additional \$5 shipping charge.



Name _____

_____ I will pick up at Leadership Workshop or _____ Please mail. I understand there is a shipping charge of \$5.

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Orders may be mailed to Becky Vansant, 11333 Chicamauga Trl SE, Huntsville, AL 35803



GFWC Alabama

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS

living the volunteer spirit



GFWC Alabama District Meetings

2024-2026

Fall 2024

North District: October 26

Huntsville Woman's Club

Central District: September 14

Columbiana Culture Club

South District: November 2

Gulf Shores Woman's Club, Inc.

Spring 2025

North District: February 22

Crossville Woman's Club

Central District: March 22

South District: March 15

GFWC Alabama River Region Woman's Club

Fall 2025

North District: October 11

Double Springs Study Club

Central District: September 20

South District: October 25

Woman's Club of Saraland

Spring 2026

North District: March 28

Central District: March 21

South District: February 28

Magazine Club of Union Springs

District Directors

North District - Cynthia Geis, 256.508.4202, cynthiageisgfwc@gmail.com

Central District - Peggy Wood, 205.529.2480, pwood409@yahoo.com

South District - Lyn Stuart, 251.605.7773, lyn_stuart@att.net

**GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs
Club Treasurer's Report Form 2024 – 2026**

Initial Report for 5/31/25 _____ Initial Report for 5/31/26 _____
Supplemental Report for 5/31/25 _____ Supplemental Report for 5/31/26 _____

Club Name: _____

Official Name According to Your Bylaws: _____

City: _____ County: _____ District: _____

Club President's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone/w/Area Code: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

Club Treasurer's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone/w/Area Code: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

Juniorette Club Advisor: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone/w/Area Code: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

On or by October 1, send this report, dues, and a complete membership roster with name, address, phone #, and e-mail address for each club member to: (membership rosters may be emailed)

GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs
Ellen Clack, Treasurer
5460 Louina Rd
Roanoke, AL 36274
(C) 334.332.7874 Email: meclack@teleclipse.net

Please make check payable to: AFWC. Dues received with a postmark after November 15th will be considered delinquent.

NOTE: Retain a copy of this report for club files.

AFWC 501(c)(4) Group Income Tax Exemption Information

Club EIN: _____

Are your Receipts \$50,000 or less per year? Yes No Circle one.

Fiscal Year End is May 31. (All clubs must have their fiscal year start June 1 and end May 31 to be in compliance with IRS rules. If your fiscal year is different, please change immediately to be able to fall under this group exemption.)

OR

GFWC 501(c)(3)

Club EIN: _____

File under GFWC Umbrella yes or no

Or

File independently yes or no

NAME OF CLUB: _____ DISTRICT: _____

ANNUAL DUES – GFWC & AFWC 2024 – 2026

General Members @ \$21.00 each # of Members _____ \$ _____

Juniorette Members @ \$14.00 each # of Members _____ \$ _____

AFWC PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: Mental Health Matters \$ _____
(Minimum donation of \$2.50 per member for club recognition)

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS: (\$25.00 minimum for club recognition) \$ _____

Funds will be used, as needed, for Past Presidents' Scholarships, Miss Alabama,
Distinguished Young Woman of Alabama (Junior Miss), and Sue Shaw Juniorette Scholarship.

Additional scholarship funds may be earmarked for: (optional)

International House Endowment Scholarship at Jacksonville State University	\$ _____
Kitty Stone Graduate Scholarship	\$ _____
Sue Hester Special Education Scholarship	\$ _____

AFWC HEADQUARTERS: 2728 Society (Maintenance/Operating/Restoration) \$ _____
(Any amount may be donated, \$27.28, 272.80, 2728.00, etc.)

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (A restricted fund to be used for
Disaster Relief when needed) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**DISTRICT TREASURERS
DUES/SCHOLARSHIP FEES PER CLUB**



ENVIRONMENT CSP



CONTACT INFORMATION

GFWC Alabama Environment CSP Chair
Patricia Cox
afwcenvironment24@gmail.com
256-810-4229

GFWC Environment CSP Chair
Sharon Oliphant
Solip561@aol.com

GFWC Affiliates

Heifer International www.heifer.org

UNICEF www.unicef.org

Environment State Initiative

Plant a Tree

- Join the Nature Conservancy in their goal of planting a billion trees. www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/plant-a-billion
- Plant a tree in your own yard or your community.
- Plant a tree in honor or memory of someone special in your life.

Together we can meet the GFWC Alabama Environment CSP goal of planting 100 trees.

GFWC Community Connection Initiative

Our National and State Parks Engage in Nature

August 25 National Park Day

"Habitat loss and a changing climate are threatening the habitats of birds and other wildlife across the country, and they need all the help they can get."

Felice Stadler, vice president of government affairs at the National Audubon Society.

Habitat for Wildlife

Wildlife has never been in greater need. From our own backyards to forests around the world our wildlife is facing habitat destruction and loss from climate change and growing populations. As clubs and as individuals we can take steps to ensure our wildlife continue to have an environment they can flourish in.

- Educate club members on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
- Support the Audubon Society by giving a gift subscription to the Audubon Magazine. www.audubon.org
- Explore the National Wildlife Federation website and sign up for the free NWF newsletter at www.support.nwf.org
- Turn your garden or yard into a certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Having a certified wildlife habitat has many benefits—both for the environment and for you.
- Celebrate Arbor Day. www.arborday.org
- Adopt a Manatee. www.savethemanatee.org
- Visit the GFWC Club Manual for more ideas on protecting wildlife.

The Environment and Mental Health

Clear your mind and renew your spirit by getting out and enjoying nature. Our state is called Alabama the Beautiful for a reason. We are blessed with beautiful state parks and green areas. Take time to enjoy and melt away the stress.

GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs

2024-2026

Bylaws Committee

Ellie Duncan – Chairman – 205-529-7954

ellieduncan@aol.com

Members of the Bylaws Committee: Donna Mahieux (North District); Jennifer Robertson (Central District); Caroline Hollowell (South District); and Donna McCurry (Parliamentary Advisor).

The GFWC Club Manual contains valuable information and resources for writing, reviewing, and/or updating your club's bylaws. The GFWC Website is www.gfwc.org. go to "Member Portal" then to "Digital Library." Another excellent source is at www.parliamentarian.org. *Pathways to Proficiency – What Does it Say in the Bylaws*; also *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition*.

A periodic review of your club's bylaws is good practice, as it keeps them in line with the club's current needs and addresses any GFWC bylaws amendments that may affect your club.

The GFWC State Bylaws Committee deals with conflict resolution. If you reach out for assistance, one of the first questions will be: "Have you looked at your club's bylaws....is the issue addressed in your bylaws?"

A few reminders to consider when reviewing/updating your club's bylaws:

Bylaws contain those rules that are so important that they can only be amended at a regular meeting of the club by a 2/3 vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous club meeting or at least 30 days in advance. Standing rules can be changed at any meeting and need a majority vote to pass. The administrative details of a club should be in the standing rules or in a procedure manual, as those are easier to amend. For instance, the meeting place or time may change, or the purveyor of the platform for electronic meetings may change.

When stating when regular meetings are to be held, the following should be included: "except when otherwise ordered by the club or the executive committee."

State if electronic meetings will be allowed and when. Electronic meetings may be held only if all participants can hear each other as they would in a face-to-face meeting; therefore, email or other printed communication may not be used as a meeting.

Join AFWC Foster House Club Today
And Support Our Beautiful AFWC State Headquarters

The Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs is fortunate to have the beautiful and historic Foster House as our State Headquarters. This is our home, and as we are all homeowners, we are concerned with making our home comfortable and welcoming. The AFWC Foster House Club was created for just this purpose.

Clubwomen throughout the state join the Foster House Club with annual membership dues of \$35. These membership dues along with other funds raised by the club are used to help maintain and give the "extras" to our home.

Foster House Club meetings are held immediately following the AFWC Board of Directors Meeting and at the annual convention. Please feel free to attend one of our meetings at any time to learn more.



Please Consider Joining AFWC Foster House Club

Annual membership dues of \$35 may be mailed to our treasurer, Roberta Atkinson 5864 Heather Way, Hoover, AL 35244. Checks should be made payable to AFWC Foster House.

Member's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Numbers _____

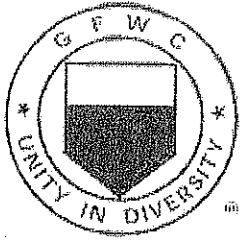
E-Mail _____



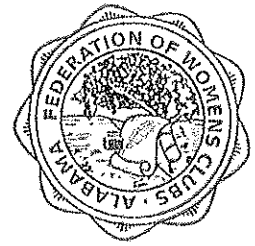
GFWC Alabama Headquarters

In 1983, AFWC purchased an historic home in Birmingham, Alabama, to serve as the official state headquarters and office for the organization. This beautiful old house was the residence of Hugo Black while he served as Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The building has numerous rooms furnished with beautiful antiques, art objects, and furnishings donated by members and friends. It is used for federation meetings, to receive official guests, and for many other social events. The headquarters also houses the archives for the organization.

GFWC Alabama Headquarters
2728 Niazuma Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35205
Website: gfwcalabama.org



GFWC Alabama
AFWC Headquarters
2728 Niazuma Avenue
Birmingham, AL



**“Continue the Spirit”
and renew your partnership with the
“GFWC Alabama 2728 Society”**

AFWC Headquarters belongs to you!

Funds from the “2728 Society” go to help preserve our beautiful headquarters. Any amount donated will be appreciated, however \$27.28 is the amount requested for the pin and/or charm. Your donation is tax-deductible.

*****Mail this form and your check to AFWC Treasurer:
Ellen Clack, 5460 Louina Road, Roanoke, AL 36274**

“2728 Society” Annual Donation:

Clubs - \$27.28 Clubs may pay on the Treasurer's Form.

Individuals - \$27.28 Checks made to **GFWC Alabama for “2728 Society**

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

For questions: Nancy Messer, 2728 Chairman 256-239-8684, nmesser70@gmail.com



UNITE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

LEADERSHIP REIMAGINED!

2024-2026 GFWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOCUMENTATION

Protocol for Poised, Powerful, and Purposeful Leadership

Cynthia Geis, 2024-2026 GFWC Protocol Chairman

Protocol for Presiding Officers:

- Learn and follow the rules of protocol and parliamentary procedures.
- Always be prompt, punctual, and organized.
- Pay attention to speakers at ALL times. No whispering to others at the head table.
- Be prepared to assist the officers and chairmen in the performance of their duties.
- Be optimistic, friendly, enthusiastic, creative, and open to new ideas.

Protocol for Order of Rank:

- The first rule of protocol is to establish rank.
- Officers are ranked according to their listing in the organization's bylaws.
- The President holds the highest rank within her own region, state, district, or club.

Protocol for Invitations and Care of Guests:

- Invited guests and speakers should be told in the invitation the meeting type, time schedule, and appropriate attire.
- When Federation officers are invited, the invitation should indicate what their responsibilities will be.

Protocol for Opening Ceremonies and Prayers:

- God before Country; prayer should be nondenominational and all-inclusive. All GFWC prayers should end with a simple "Amen."
- Salute the flag when it comes into view; at ease when the colors are posted.
- The National Anthem is sung or played before the Pledge of Allegiance.

Protocol for the Head Table:

- The presiding officer is seated to the right of the lectern; the Parliamentarian is to the left of the lectern. Remaining officers are alternated from left to right according to rank. Guests may be placed between officers.
- When a higher-ranking president is a guest, the visiting president is placed to the right of the presiding officer, while other visiting officers are alternated left to right according to rank.

Additional Protocol Guidelines for GFWC Alabama District Directors:

- Invite other District Directors and members of the State Board of Directors.
- The District should pay the registration/meal fee for the State President.
- On your printed agenda, use the complete name "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America", not just "The Pledge".

Gail Guice, GFWC Alabama Protocol Chair / gailguice@gmail.com / 256.683.6161

THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD

***HONORS ONE CLUBWOMAN FROM EACH GFWC REGION
FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CLUB, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY***

"I have never done anything that was not helpful to women, so far as it lay in my power." – Jane Cunningham Croly (placed on grave marker dedicated at GFWC's Centennial in 1991)

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at State, Regional, and National levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie 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 clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Since it is an award for lifetime personal excellence, club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians or members of long-standing for Jennie Award nominees. Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible as it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders.

The GFWC Jennie Award Guidelines and a GFWC Alabama Jennie Award Nomination Form will be available in the GFWC Alabama Yearbook. The application may also be found on the GFWC website—gfwc.org. Please note that the deadline for submitting the Jennie Award Nomination Form and supporting documents to State President Becky Vansant is March 1, 2025. They will be judged, and the winner will be presented at the AFWC Convention in April 2025. The GFWC Alabama winner's nomination package will then be submitted to the Southern Region for judging.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks and best of luck in selecting a nominee for the prestigious Jennie Award.

Sherri Killam-Albee
2024-26 GFWC Alabama Jennie Chairman
25765 Mercer Court
Daphne, AL 36526
251.979.7210
sherrikw@gmail.com



Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC)

Mary Ann Baltzer, Chairperson
51 Willow Crest Curve
Wetumpka, AL. 36092
Cell 205-837-9302
mabaltzer7@gmail.com

History..... The study of past events, events of the past..the study of change over time and it covers all aspects of human society, political, social, economic, scientific, technological, medical, cultural, intellectually, religious and military developments are all part of history.

Has your club's history been recorded? Where is it located? Is it kept up to date?

The next two years we want to answer these questions and encourage all clubs to investigate and document its own history by learning about GFWC's past.

GFWC's website is a great place to start.

Please go to their member portal and create your account if you have not done so.

Then....sign up to receive WHRC NEWS published quarterly.

If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact GFWC who will help you through the process or I will be glad to assist you in contacting them.

Founded in 1984, the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of GFWC.

If you would like a visit from Jane Cunningham Croly, our very interesting founder, to share and take you down GFWC History Lane, please contact me and we will make it happen.

Looking forward to following all the history we will be making in the next two years.

We are off to a history making start with our GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil, our first from Alabama!

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM

OFFERS GFWC CLUBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPACT A SPECIFIC PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Introduced in 1949 as the “Build a Better Community Contest,” and later known as the “Community Improvement Program Award,” this program has provided GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities.

As GFWC’s longest standing project, it has also presented opportunities for growing club membership, enhancing leadership skills, building relationships with individuals and groups, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC.

Community Impact Projects should make a visual, physical, or emotional impact at the grass-roots level. These projects should raise awareness of GFWC volunteering and the impactful efforts made by clubwomen. January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

SELECTING THE PROJECT AND PLANNING

Any grassroots project that makes a measurable impact in your local community and fits the criteria will be accepted for judging purposes. GFWC clubs are encouraged to consider the Community Connection Initiative highlighted in each of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. These Community Connection Initiatives can be found in each of their respective sections in the GFWC Club Manual under the area of interest.

- Signature Program: Become a Champion – Be the Voice for Those That Have No Voice
- Juniors’ Special Program: Be A Champion in the Lives of Children
- Arts and Culture: Developing Community Orientated Art
- Civic Engagement and Outreach: Preparation Saves Lives
- Education and Libraries: Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- Environment: National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- Health and Wellness: Caregivers’ Circle

Attached is a summary of the 2022-2024 winning projects.

Complete instructions and applications may be found in the GFWC Club Manual on the GFWC website: www.gfwc.org.

Debra Goble
GFWC Alabama Community Impact Program Chairman
256.590.3412
dgoble@peoplesbankal.com

MEMBERSHIP 2024-2026



Let's set some goals for the 2024-2026 GFWC Alabama Administration in membership. Every one of us has at least one person we know that just might want to know about our club and what we do. A simple conversation about a project could encourage someone to want to be a part of it.

Our initiative in membership this next year will be “*REACHING FOR YOUR STARS*”. What are your stars you ask?

- 1. Visitor to a club meeting**
- 2. New members**
- 3. New Clubs**

Earning stars will be easy.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Bring someone to visit your club meeting | 1 Star |
| 2. Each new member of a club | 3 Stars |
| 3. New Club | 5 Stars |

Retain current members:

Let's make sure our members are involved and educated. Each member has a special gift and we must find that gift and encourage the member to use it for successes. That, in turn, keeps a member happy and involved.

On-going training and education about 'who we are and what we do' is vital to involvement and retention. There are many ways to educate members, each club can determine what better suits its membership.

- 1. For Training, it will be easy to pick just one topic at each meeting to go over, 5-10 minutes.**

2. A whole meeting dedicated to training. Use your seasoned members or invite one of your state officers to attend your meeting and conduct a training program just for your club.

#IAMGFWC - Wear the pin

COMMUNICATE - Let your AFWC Assistant Director and your AFWC Membership chairman know what you're doing to increase/maintain your membership. Let's share what works!

Talk it up, invite, invite, invite.

JUNIORETTE

"LIFE'S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?"

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

GFWC Junioresettes are young ladies age 12-18 who are examples of how the call to do community service can be answered at any age. Even with all of their school and extracurricular activities plus social lives, they find time to make positive changes in their communities.

The purpose of a Junioresette Club is:

- To contribute to a meaningful community life,
- To become aware of community problems and how they could be met, and
- To learn the pleasures and rewards of working with a group.

According to GFWC Bylaws, Junioresette Clubs can include young students in middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools. Clubs are most successful when organized for either middle/junior high schools or high schools but not both due to varying maturity, interests, and abilities.

Federating a Junioresette Club requires a commitment from a sponsoring club, which must be an active GFWC Woman's Club or Junior Woman's Club in good standing, and a dedicated club advisor. It is required that sponsoring club members accompany Junioresette Club representatives to all levels of GFWC meetings, including State Federation, Region, and/or GFWC. As Woman's Club members and having experienced the value of giving back to our communities, the sponsoring Woman's Club members can be mentors and good examples of what "Living the Volunteer Spirits" is all about.

Juniorettes are trail blazers in their age group, and show how community service is an important and worthwhile commitment. There are countless ways that they can give back to their communities, and they are doing just that.

Since Juniorettes are students, it means that school can be a great and convenient place to accomplish their projects. Talk to your school to set up donation boxes and consider some of these great projects:

- Organize a donation drive for the local food bank.
- Collect winter coats for the homeless.
- Start a book drive for the local library, hospital, school, or relevant charity of choice.
- Collect toiletries for the area women's shelter.
- Have a holiday toy drive for children from low-income families.

Juniorette clubs can do things together as a group, meaning they can bond and have a good time while doing community service:

- Organize a car wash (or dog wash!) for a cause.
- Host a charity bake sale.
- Contact the local senior center or nursing home to learn how you can brighten their days, maybe by reading to them, helping decorate for holidays, etc.
- Volunteer at a Special Olympics event near you.
- Create care packages for the homeless shelter.
- Do a run/walk charity event.

Additionally, there are many ways that teens can put their efforts toward helping St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which would be a great way to acknowledge Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September:

- Raise funds by hosting a Jude Teen Gala, while also getting to have some fun!
- Team Up for St. Jude by picking a sporting event at your school and donating a portion of game ticket sales, organizing a spirit week for fundraising, etc.
- Make craft kits to be distributed to patients throughout the week to entertain them and their families.
- Create gift bags for the waiting room filled with items like art supplies so that patients have something to do while they wait for their doctor.

A Juniorette goal during the current administration is for clubs to partner with local Mental Health agencies to gain knowledge about, advocate for, and assist these agencies in providing successful progress in Mental Health.



Jennifer M. Robertson
GFWC Alabama First Vice President
P.O. Box 822
Wedowee, AL 36278
(256) 201-6003
jacl.robertson@gmail.com or
gfwcalabamafirstvp@gmail.com



Reporting At a Glance

The annual reporting period is from **January 1** through **December 31**.

- Use the GFWC Alabama Statistical Report Form to include total statistics for each Special Program, Community Service Programs, Affiliate Projects, and Advancement Plans.
- Narratives are optional, but GREATLY enhance chances of recognition and are required to be considered for GFWC and Federation club awards. They are encouraged.
- Find the Narrative Reporting Form, Statistical Reporting Form, President's Award of Excellence, and Affiliate Reporting Forms on the website <https://www.gfwcalabama.org> and/or in the RACS.

Membership Categories

Women's Clubs

Category A	1-10 Members
Category B	11-20 Members
Category C	21-30 Members
Category D	31-50 Members
Category E	51 + Members

Juniorette Clubs

Category A	1-24 Members
Category B	25-49 Members
Category C	50 + Members

Special Awards Deadline: February 1

- **Julia Bullock Award** - This award shall be a certificate and/or the clubs' name engraved on a plaque donated by Julia Bullock, GFWC Alabama Past President. The plaque shall remain in Headquarters. The winning club shall have the Most Outstanding Report in the Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP on the state level annually.
- **Annette Tucker Health Award** – This award shall be a GFWC Alabama certificate given annually to the club with the best overall report in the area of health. The GFWC Alabama Health and Wellness CSP Chairman will be responsible for having reports judged.
- **Madelyn Rowell Communications Award** – A GFWC Alabama award certificate shall be presented to the club with the best communications program. The award shall be presented at the AFWC Convention. A plaque shall hang in the AFWC Headquarters with the name of the winning club for each administration.
- **LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar)**
GFWC's LEADS training program 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 skills, confidence, and commitment to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction.

- **Emily Smith AFWC Rising Leader** – This award shall be presented at the GFWC Alabama Convention annually. The purpose of the award is to promote programs of Leadership Development to identify members at the grass roots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC Alabama beyond their individual clubs. It shall be presented to the member selected to represent GFWC Alabama in the GFWC LEADS program.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

- **GFWC Alabama President's Special Program** – Annual recognition given for contributions given from 100% of a club's membership (\$2.50 per member). This information is recorded based on receipts by the GFWC Alabama Treasurer.
- **GFWC Alabama Scholarships** – Recognition given annually to those clubs who have donated a minimum of \$25 to the GFWC Alabama General Scholarship Fund. This information is recorded based on receipts by the GFWC Alabama Treasurer.
- **2728 Society** – Annual recognition for a \$27.28 or more in donations to the GFWC Alabama Headquarters Restoration Fund. This information is recorded based on receipts by the GFWC Alabama Treasurer.
- **President's Award of Excellence** - Clubs must complete the form. A minimum of 100 points must be earned to receive this distinction.

Distinction Awards

- **Suellen Brazil Outstanding Club Award** – This award shall be given annually to recognize outstanding achievement by the state's most distinguished clubs. A GFWC Alabama award certificate shall be given to each winner according to membership categories.
- **Louise M. Wilson Outstanding Clubwoman Award** – This award is given annually to the person who, in the opinion of the judges, has given of herself and typifies the real Alabama Clubwoman.
- **GFWC Jennie Award** – The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. Given in the second year of the administration. Each club should submit her nomination to the state president by June 1, 2025.

Two Year Awards – See criteria/deadlines in the RACS or www.gfwcalabama.org

- Community Impact Program
- Sue E. Hester Outstanding District Director
- Wayne Phelps Membership Award
- Dorothy Grames Outstanding Board Member

Juniorette Awards

- Juniorette Club of the Year
- Antoinette Stallworth Givens Award for Outstanding Alabama Juniorette Clubwoman

Affiliates

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Alzheimer's Association | • Heifer International | • Operation Smile |
| • Hope for Justice | • UNICEF | • Canine Companion |
| • Shot @ Life | • St. Jude Research Hospital | • March of Dimes |



Ellen Clack, GFWC Alabama Treasurer
5460 Louina Rd. Roanoke, AL 36274
334 332-7874 gfwcalabamatreasurer2022@gmail.com



I am delighted to be your GFWC Alabama Treasurer for the next 2 years. If you have any financial questions, please call or email me. I may need to do some research first, but I will find the answer for you in a timely manner. Also, I am available to review your club finances at the end of the club year. Please look for my articles in the Alabama Clubwoman and GFWC Alabama News & Notes. I plan to have informative articles about financial matters that affect GFWC Alabama, the districts, and clubs. There will also be reminders about upcoming deadlines. I look forward to working with you and making sure you have the information you need to take care of your club's financial resources.

Dues and Related Deadlines: Dues are reported on the Club Treasurer's Report Form 2024-2026. Please fill out the form **completely** so that I have the information needed to file the required IRS tax forms. Along with this report, include payment for your dues and a complete membership roster including name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. This information should also be mailed to your District Treasurer, following the deadlines shown below:

October 1 st	Annual dues are due—State and District
November 1 st	Clubs with dues unpaid will be notified; District Directors will be notified with regard to clubs with dues unpaid
November 15 th	Last day to pay dues and be eligible for awards and avoid a \$25 penalty
November 25 th	District directors will be notified of their delinquent clubs

IRS 990-N ePostcards: All clubs that are designated as a 501(c)(4) organization under the GFWC Alabama 501(c)(3) umbrella are required by the IRS to complete a 990-N ePostcard by October 15th. The Club Treasurer's Report is used to complete the required information. I will complete the 990-N cards for you and email verification of filing for your financial records.

A club that has its own 501(c)(3) designation exemption is required to file information with the IRS. Please send me confirmation that you have filed as required. I will verify that each and every GFWC Alabama club has filed the required forms with the IRS.

501(c)(3) vs 501(c)(4): I won't go into all the differences here because it might cause your head to explode or bore you to tears. However, it is important to know some of the differences in these 2 designations so that you don't knowingly violate IRS regulations and put your nonprofit status at risk. This is also important for your personal tax filings and the deductible donations you declare. Information provided below was obtained from the Nonprofit Law Blog by NEO Law Group. <https://nonprofitlawblog.com/comparing-501c3-vs-501c4-nonprofit-startups/>

Both are considered nonprofit organizations and are tax-exempt from federal income taxes on the income raised or earned related to their exempt purposes. Contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations are tax deductible, with some exceptions. Contributions to 501(c)(4) organizations are generally **not** tax deductible with limited exceptions for certain contributions to volunteer fire companies and war veteran organizations. **Moreover, a 501(c)(4) organization must disclose, in any fundraising solicitation, that contributions to the organization are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions. The disclosure must be expressed in a conspicuous and easily recognizable format.** Certain payments to 501(c)(4) organizations may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business.

Develop an Effective Club Budget: A budget is more than an accounting of receipts and disbursements. It provides a financial document that provides an overview of how your club plans to use its resources. It is an excellent planning tool and helps an organization focus on primary goals and desired outcomes. A budget is a set of guidelines and the numbers are based on the best estimates at the time. They are not set in stone, but are always open to amendment as needed.

With a budget, you and your members will know what is going on financially and where you stand. Are you overspending on the expenses for your major fundraiser? How will this affect the outcome? Will you be able to contribute the desired amount to the organizations your support? Having a written financial plan will help members understand the choices being made and the impact on outcomes.

Hopefully, this explains the value of creating an annual club budget. If you do not have a budget you can start now or at any time during the year.

This information was obtained from GFWC.org in the GFWC Leadership Toolkit. Mary Beth Williams, GFWC Treasurer, 2020-2022 is the author.



Scholarship and Award Opportunities

Support your local, district, and state scholarship programs !

Did you know GFWC Alabama scholarships were first given to students in 1902? We can only imagine the difference these scholarships have made in the lives of many young women across our state in the last 122 years. Yes, it is the "Little Things in Life that Make Differences." The bake sales, silent auctions, rummage sales, penny, quarter, and dollar donations can change the life and provide new opportunities for young women in our state. How many teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, businesswomen, or scientists have served our country well using scholarship money from GFWC Alabama club members?

How can Clubs participate?

1. GFWC Alabama clubs are urged to **contribute at least \$25.00 or more** to the following scholarships that are given at the state level. Recognition will be given at the state convention.
 - Sue Shaw Juniorette Scholarship of \$500.00 given to a GFWC Alabama Juniorette member.
 - Past President's Scholarship of \$500.00 given to a student sponsored by a federated club.
 - Kitty Stone Graduate Scholarship of \$1,500.00 given to a student entering graduate school or attending graduate school.
 - Sue and Virginia Hester Special Education Scholarship of \$1,000.00 given to a student majoring in special education.

(These scholarships are given to a female planning to or attending a college in Alabama. Applications are found in the 2024-2026 GFWC Alabama Yearbook and online.)

2. GFWC Alabama Clubs are urged to **participate** in District Scholarship activities by making In-Kind donations and monetary donations at fall and spring district meetings. Clubs are encouraged to keep notes on how many club members attended, In-kind donations, and monetary donations for reporting purposes.
3. GFWC Alabama clubs are urged to **donate money** for the Miss Alabama Scholarship. This \$1,000.00 scholarship is given to the Miss Alabama Program Directors and they decide on the recipient. Report the amount your club makes for this scholarship.
4. GFWC Alabama clubs are urged to **create and maintain** scholarships for students attending schools in their local communities. Clubs should keep notes on how money was raised, how much was awarded, when and where awarded, and who received the scholarship for reporting purposes.
5. GFWC clubs are urged to **send in a copy** of their club yearbook to the University of Alabama Journalism Department by November 1 for judging. Four clubs will **each** win a total of \$900.00 to give to a local senior planning to attend the university.

GFWC Alabama Scholarship Chairman

Cheri McCain

2351 Lawrence Street West
Russellville, Alabama
256-710-4821
cheri.mccain2012@gmail.com

Tips for Scholarship Activities and Reporting

Club women lead very busy lives. GFWC Alabama reporting season arrives quickly in January with reports being due to GFW Alabama headquarters by February 1. Be prepared for reporting by following these tips throughout the year.

1. Reporting is for January 1 through December 31 of each year. Don't wait until December to start trying to remember what you did back in January or February! Start now by **making a list of scholarship activities** of your club. Include detailed information when reporting on scholarship activities. Who?, What?, When?, Where? How Much? Here are a few actual scholarship reports from clubs:
 - a. At the fall Central District meeting, Shades Mountain Women's Club members participated in the annual District Baked Goods Silent Auction. The members baked or bought \$120.00 of baked goods to be auctioned off during the meeting. The proceeds of the auction benefit Central District scholarship for a female senior student.
 - b. Two \$1,000.00 scholarships were presented to senior girls graduating high school in Decatur. One is now a freshman at Gadsden State and the other is attending Alabama A&M University. 17 applications were received, and a committee met to choose the winner. An article along with their photo was in the Decatur Daily Newspaper.
 - c. Huntsville Women's Club won one of the four \$900.00 scholarships given to GFWC Alabama clubs for excellence in yearbooks. This was awarded to a recipient that attended St. Paul Catholic High School and the University of Alabama.
2. Scholarship activities are tied in with Education and Libraries **but should be reported separately!** Your club should submit Education and Libraries activities on one report and scholarship activities on another report. After judging and totaling the statistics, both GFWC Alabama chairmen then combine the reports for submission to the international chairman. Thank you for helping to make the reporting process easier by separating the two reports!
3. Read the Education and Library portion of the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual for ideas on projects for your clubs.
4. Find information and applications for the GFWC Alabama scholarships in the 2024-2026 GFWC Alabama yearbook and online at gfwcalabama.org.



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ALABAMA

Tips for taking minutes:

- Minutes should contain what was done, not what was said by the members. Remarks made in debate and opinions of the secretary should never be included.
- Minutes should not be prepared in the form of an essay or in the style of a newspaper article. They should be comprehensive but as brief as possible while maintaining accuracy.
- Remember that meeting minutes are for future and outside readers as much as they are for the people present. Make sure whatever you write down will be clear to people coming into the process at a later time.
- Minutes should be prepared in a final form before being read and approved since they become the legal evidence of what transpired in the meeting.
- Minutes should contain names of members in attendance, or a sign-in sheet may be attached. List any guests and their affiliations.
- Note the time the meeting is called to order and by whom.
- State that the minutes from the prior meeting date were approved as submitted or were corrected.
- Include a brief financial report (previous balance, total receipts since last report, total disbursements since last report, current balance) and attach the written, detailed version.
- State any board recommendations. The minutes should list all recommendations from the board and whether they were adopted, defeated, etc.
- Minutes should contain highlights of oral reports. If written reports are given, the minutes should state that reports were given and copies are attached.
- Include final wording of all main motions and any motion to reconsider, also whether each was adopted, lost, or temporarily disposed of; generally, motions withdrawn are not recorded. State the name of the maker of the motion, but not the person who seconded. If a count is ordered or a vote is by ballot, the number of votes on each side must be entered. In an election, the full report of the tellers must be included if by ballot vote.
- Note any announcements.
- The last paragraph contains the time the meeting is adjourned.
- The minutes are closed with the signature and title of the person writing the minutes. The words "respectively submitted" are no longer used before the signature.
- If the minutes are being approved by a committee, then there must be a section entitled "Approved By" with a signature line for each member of the approval committee.



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- Minutes of an organization are, in effect, a legal document. Pages of such documents should always be numbered if they consist of more than one page.

Other Factoids and Guidelines for the Secretarial Role

- You will need to have a good working knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
- Unlike the president, the secretary does not forfeit any of the rights of membership by holding office. You are free to make motions, debate, and vote on all business matters.
- Keep a careful and authentic record of the proceedings. These are the legal records of your organization. The meeting minutes serve as a record of what action has been taken. *In the eyes of the IRS, courts, and auditors, meeting minutes are legal documents.*
- Send the president a copy of the minutes as soon as possible after the meeting.
- In the absence of the president and vice presidents, the secretary calls the meeting to order and immediately conducts the election of a chairman pro tem.

-Information is credited to Gail Guice, who so generously shared with me. Thank you, Gail!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM 2024-2026 HEALTH and WELLNESS

Carol Cleveland - Chairman ccleveland4727@gmail.com
10642 Poser Drive, Fairhope, AL 36532
334-412-7757

The Alabama General Federation of Women's Clubs (AFWC) is dedicated to enhancing the health and wellness of individuals and communities throughout Alabama. Our goals are structured to address various aspects of well-being, encompassing physical, mental, and social health.

As stated by Dr. Mark Hyman, "The power of community to create health is far greater than any physician, clinic or hospital". As an organization, and as individuals, we have the power to be change agents in our communities in three vital areas:

- **Disease Awareness & Prevention** - In this area we can become aware of the causes of diseases, as well as symptoms of diseases such as: Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Heart Disease, Stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Diabetes, Vision Disease, Glaucoma, and Macular Degeneration. Other things we can do in this area are sharing ways of diseases prevention through self awareness gained through medical screenings, routine checkups, the availability of vaccines, and sharing of information through workshops, brochures, flyers, and social media.
- **Nutrition** - Nutrition is one the most important areas to explore to gain the knowledge needed to support healthy living. A basic knowledge of food groups, wise food choices rich in nutrients, knowledge of food additives, healthy cooking methods, and the importance and safe use of vitamins and supplements is critical to help people make mindful and healthy food choices.
- **Physical and Emotional Care** - Learning behaviors that promote a healthy mind, body, and spirit are critical to a long and healthy life. Included in these healthy behaviors are physical, social, emotional, environmental, and social well-being.

Goals and Emphasis for AFWC Health and Wellness - 2024-2026

- **Nutrition Awareness** - Learn foods rich in nutrients, become aware of the danger of food additives, learn about mindful eating, set a goal to limit sugar & sodium,

become aware of apps that identify safe/unsafe food choices at the grocery stores through barcode scanning.

- **Diabetes** - Identify healthy food choices for diabetes, learn how to exercise for diabetes, become aware of common medication and supplements for diabetes.
- **Alzheimer's & Dementia** - Learn the signs for cognitive decline, common behavioral changes, resources for caregivers, and current and possible new treatments.

By focusing on these goals, the AFWC aims to create a healthy, happier Alabama, where individuals and communities thrive through enhanced well-being and support.

Ideas for Health & Wellness Projects for 2024-2026 (Refer to Club Manual for Many More Ideas)

- Celebrate American Heart Health in February, plan a program for your club on woman's heart health, wear red on the first Friday and provide information on heart health.
- Celebrate Diabetes Awareness Month in November, organize a Diabetes Walk-A-Thon in your community, share early signs and symptoms of diabetes with your club.
- Celebrate Alzheimer's Awareness in November, plan a program for your club on resources for Alzheimer's patients, and caregivers.
- Make care bags for cancer patients (blankets, socks, lotions, balms, water, hard candy, books, crossword puzzles, etc.).
- Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March by organizing a healthy pot luck meal at your monthly meeting. Invite a nutritionist to speak on healthy eating and vitamin/supplement use), and food additives.
- Participate in school Backpack Programs to provide nutritious food for students over the weekends.
- Integrate physical activities in club meetings through chair yoga, flexibility exercises, and balance training.
- Work with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) by educating, advocating, donating during Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Invite a NAMI volunteer to provide an education class to your community on the basics for parents and caregivers for youth with mental health issues.
- Learn and share the risk factors and signs and symptoms of someone in danger of suicide as outlined by the NIMH. Consider holding a club or community program on the five action steps to help someone in emotional pain and/or distribute the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK).

Resources

gfwcalabama.org

gfwc.org

Affiliate Organizations - Resources in the Portal

Please Call Me If You Have Questions About the Health and Wellness CSP



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Is Your Club in Need of CPR?

Know where you can get help!

The GFWC Alabama Communications and Public Relations Committee is here to aid you and your club with all your communications needs. The GFWC Club Manual contains an excellent resource: the "Communications and Public Relations" Advancement Guide (available at gfwc.org and via our own gfwcalabama.org/resources page).

Public relations covers more than just publicity. The term public relations describes the interrelationships between GFWC, its members, the general public, and other entities, including the government. Our main goal in communications and public relations will be to get the word out to the public about who we are. We must publicize our clubs' projects in order to let communities know we exist. We must stress the important things our clubs are a part of and the need that exists for our organization to make the community a better place to live. While recognition or a thank you is not something that clubwomen expect, we are looking for partners to help make our communities a better place. Without communication and public relations, how will the women in your community know that we exist?

The Committee members and their contact emails are listed on the back of this page. We are here to assist you in any way that we can!

Top 5 Things to Do Immediately:

1. Establish an online presence for your club. This can be via a website or a public Facebook page. If you choose to go the website route, register a domain name for your club, like AFWC has registered gfwcalabama.org.
2. Create a generic web-based email account that can be passed on to future CPR Chairs and club officers. Gmail and Yahoo are two examples of web-based services that you can use. Ideally, your email will include your club's name, where available, such as gfwclegacy@gmail.com.
3. After Steps 1 & 2, contact us at afwc2728@gmail.com and share your website, Facebook page, and/or club email address. We will then provide a link to your club from our State website!
4. Populate your Facebook page or website with information about your club, when it meets, some pictures of recent events or programs, names of current club officers, and a link to your club email address.
5. Download the Communications and Public Relations Advancement Guide (available on GFWC.org and our website) for branding, logos, press release info and more! Include all your digital addresses on ALL written club materials (brochures, handouts, etc.).

Remember: Check the GFWC Club Manual and our website for all your CPR needs!
www.gfwcalabama.org

GFWC Alabama CPR Publications and Resources

GFWC Alabama



Our website has a new look!

Visit gfwcalabama.org and take a tour!

The main menu bar at the top of every page now has the headings of:

home about resources events gallery contact

Many of these contain additional subheadings that link to other pages, including information on our AFWC leadership and history, President's Project, membership with club listings, and more! All the forms you'll need for dues payments and reporting will be provided via links on the "resources" page, as well as links to great GFWC resources, such as the 2024-2026 Club Manual, logos, and marketplace. The "events" page contains a list of upcoming State and District events with links to registration forms for those events, where applicable. The "gallery" page contains recent pictures of events as well as a link at the bottom to our "SmugMug" page that is maintained by Gregg Geis and includes dozens of pictures available for download from all major state events. Our goal is to be your one stop shop for all your club and state federation needs! If you can think of something that we may want to include or have pictures of your club members in action (jpeg files less than 5MB please), by all means, shoot us an email at afwc2728@gmail.com and share your info and ideas!

Digital Publications

The Alabama Clubwoman is published quarterly and will continue to contain articles about upcoming and recent events, pertinent updates on pending state deadlines (such as dues payments or reporting), and information submitted from clubs. In between the quarterly Clubwoman publications, there will now be a monthly News & Notes for GFWC Alabama. These newsletters will be a shorter format than the full Clubwoman and highlight specific officer roles, CSPs and Advancement Areas on a rotating schedule. The 2024-2026 Newsletter Deadlines may be found on gfwcalabama.org on the "resources" page under the CPR Advancement Area listings.

GFWC AL CPR Committee Members

Name	Area of Responsibility
Karol Kapustka karolkapustka63@gmail.com	Chair, Mailing List Admin, Publisher/Editor
Tracy Sayne tracylswayne@swaywin.com	Website Admin
Mary Beth Robinson Mary.beth.14@gmail.com	Social Media Admin

At your 1st meeting of the new club year, take a minute to make sure EVERY member of your club is a part of the GFWC Alabama mailing list. Have everyone go to gfwcalabama.org, select the "contact" page during the meeting, and click on the "Join Our Email List" button, fill it out, click the "Sign Up" button at the bottom, and VOILA! They are now on distribution for all GFWC Alabama digital news and emails ☺

*Does your club have a Facebook page?
Be sure to add that info to all
publications, using a recognizable icon*

Find us on   Like

Parliamentary Procedures: "Cheat Sheet"

Main Motion:

1. A member must be recognized by the Chair in order to make a motion.
2. Requires a second.
3. Once seconded, the motion is "on the floor" for discussion. The Chair restates the motion prior to allowing discussion to ensue.
4. Requires simple majority for approval.

Debate/Discussion:

1. Once a motion is on the floor, if no one offers to discuss then the Chair immediately proceeds to a vote.
2. The person who moved the motion has the right to speak first after the Chair's call for discussion. The Chair must recognize that person first.
3. A member may only speak twice to a motion. The second chance to speak to a motion can occur after everyone speaks for the first time.

Closing Debate/Discussion:

1. A common mistake Chairs make is to close discussion.
2. The Chair does not have authority to close discussion on a motion.
3. Discussion is closed either through a lack of further member comments, or a successful calling of the question.
4. When a debate appears to the chair to be finished, he/she should inquire, "Are you ready for the question?"

Limiting Time of Debate/Discussion:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. Can not apply to anything but the motion before the Board at that time.
4. It is amendable.
5. Requires a 2/3 majority for approval.
6. If successful, the effect is to limit discussion to a certain time period (e.g., 30 minutes) including the main motion & amendments.

Amendment of a Main Motion:

1. Requires a second.
2. It is amendable (but the amendment of an amendment is not amendable; see Amendment of an Amendment below).
3. Can (1) add words, (2) strike words, and/or (3) substitute new language to the main motion.
4. Requires simple majority for approval.

Amendment of an Amendment:

1. Requires a second.
2. It is not amendable; that is, a first motion to amend is amendable, but an amendment to an amendment (amendment of the second degree) is not amendable.
3. Can (1) add words, (2) strike words, and/or (3) substitute new language to the first amendment motion.
4. Requires simple majority for approval.

Reconsidering an Approved Motion:

1. Requires a second.
2. If seconded, it must be acted upon immediately.
3. It is not amendable, cannot be tabled indefinitely, and it cannot be referred to a committee.
4. May only be made during the same meeting at which the previous motion was approved.
5. This motion may be made while any other question is pending, even if it means interrupting a member who has the floor.
6. The motion to reconsider is debatable so long as the action being reconsidered was debatable. If the action being reconsidered was not debatable, then the motion to reconsider is likewise not debatable.
7. Only requires a simple majority to pass, regardless of the vote necessary to adopt the action being reconsidered.
8. If the motion to reconsider is lost it cannot be repeated.
9. If successful, the effect is to place before the Board the original question in the exact position it occupied before it was voted upon (including any amendments it had).
10. A motion to reconsider provides a means of correcting (at least on the day on which it occurred) Board errors due to hasty action.

Rescinding an Approved Motion:

1. Requires a second.
2. Requires a 2/3 majority to pass.
3. Must be noticed at the previous meeting, or called for as part of the agenda for the current meeting; that a motion for rescission of an approved action will be considered by the Board.
4. Cannot be made during the same meeting at which the original motion was approved (a motion to reconsider is used in that case).
5. It is debatable.
6. It is amendable.

Tabling a Motion:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. Can not apply to anything but the motion before the Board at that time.
4. Is not amendable.
5. Requires a simple majority for approval.
6. If successful, the effect is to table a motion until the next regular meeting of the Board.

Taking a Motion from the Table:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. It is not amendable.
4. Can not apply to anything but the previously tabled motion.
5. Requires a simple majority for approval.

Tabling a Motion Indefinitely:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. Can not apply to anything but the motion before the Board at that time.
4. It is not amendable.
5. Requires a simple majority for approval.
6. If successful, the effect is to table a motion until such time, subsequent to the current meeting, that a member of the Board moves, has seconded, and has approved (simple majority) a motion to retrieve the item from the table.
7. The object of this motion is not to postpone, but to reject the main motion without incurring the risk of a direct vote on it.

Referring a Motion to a Committee:

1. Requires a second.
2. It is debatable (not the main motion, only the motion to refer to a committee).
3. It is amendable.
4. Requires a simple majority for approval.
5. Takes precedence over motions to amend and to table.

Withdrawing a Motion:

1. May be made at any time before a vote on the motion has occurred.
2. Requires a second.
3. It is not debatable.
4. It is not amendable.
5. Requires a simple majority for approval.

Calling the Question:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. Is not amendable.
4. Requires a 2/3 majority for approval.
5. If successful, the effect is to end all debate on the motion before the Board and force a roll call vote.

Voting:

1. The Chair restates the question immediately prior to the vote.
2. The Chair calls for the yes votes and counts.
3. The Chair calls for the no votes and counts.
4. A roll call vote (otherwise known as a "rising vote") is required for any motion which requires a 2/3 majority to pass, or when a voice or show of hands vote produced an inconclusive result.
5. A motion fails on a tie vote.
6. Abstentions are treated as a non-vote (that is, as if a member were absent).
7. The Chair may vote (as well as make motions and speak on behalf of one side or the other).

Point of Order:

1. Does not require a second.
2. Can be made even when it interrupts the speech of another member.
3. Cannot be debated or amended.
4. Must be decided by the Chair without debate.
5. Upon announcing his/her decision, the Chair should explain the reasons for the decision.
6. The decision by the Chair may be appealed by two members, one appealing and the other seconding the appeal, and then entering debate and voting as a Board on the decision (simple majority for approval).
7. If the Chair is in doubt and chooses to submit the question to a vote of the Board, then it does become a debatable issue (simple majority for approval).

Adjournment:

1. Requires a second.
2. Acted upon immediately and is not debatable.
3. Is not amendable.
4. If the meeting is, in effect, the last regular meeting of the Board, then the motion to adjourn should be treated as any other main motion and debate, amendments, etc. allowed.
5. The motion to adjourn may not be made when another motion is already on the floor.
6. Even though the motion to adjourn is not debatable (except as noted in item 4 above) the chair has the right to inform the Board about any business requiring attention before adjournment. If the chair feels an item must be attended to before the Board adjourns, he/she can request that the mover withdraw the motion to adjourn.
7. A motion to adjourn requires a simple majority vote for approval.

Nomination Procedure:

1. Chair opens nominations.
2. No second needed to nominate someone.
2. Motion/second needed to close, and a 2/3 vote.
4. Open discussion upon closure of nominations.
5. Vote; nominee with most votes is appointed.

Resolutions Are Groovy!

WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A resolution is a formal statement of opinion or determination adopted by an organization for implementation by its members. It is typically submitted in writing so that it may be easily considered and then distributed to members in order to provide direction for the organization and its members once adopted. A resolution typically contains two main parts: a preamble (the "whereas" statement(s) + some background info explaining the need) and a request or plan for action (the "resolved(s)" or requests for action).

WHY DO GFWC AND GFWC ALABAMA NEED RESOLUTIONS?

Resolutions serve as a statement of the Character of the Federation. They reveal the objectives for which GFWC and GFWC Alabama want its clubwomen to work and form the foundation upon which club programs and projects are built.

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB PROMOTE RESOLUTIONS?

Resolutions are your roadmap for club action. Every club can give meaning to the resolutions adopted by GFWC and GFWC Alabama through study, programs, projects and communications aimed at the identified need, which attempt to accomplish the indicated goal. Adopting a resolution is only the first step in causing an action or promoting a position.

NOW, HOW CAN YOU (YES, YOU!!!) SUBMIT A RESOLUTION?

If you or your club identifies an issue that needs to be addressed, there is a **FORM** for that (and a handy notebook for your thoughts & ideas!) ->

If you have questions or need assistance in drafting and/or submitting a resolution, or if you need to know how to access the current GFWC and GFWC Alabama Resolutions, please contact Resolutions Chairman, Jennifer Barber (jcunnin2@yahoo.com; 256-490-9731).

RESOLUTIONS OVERVIEW

What are they and why do we need them?

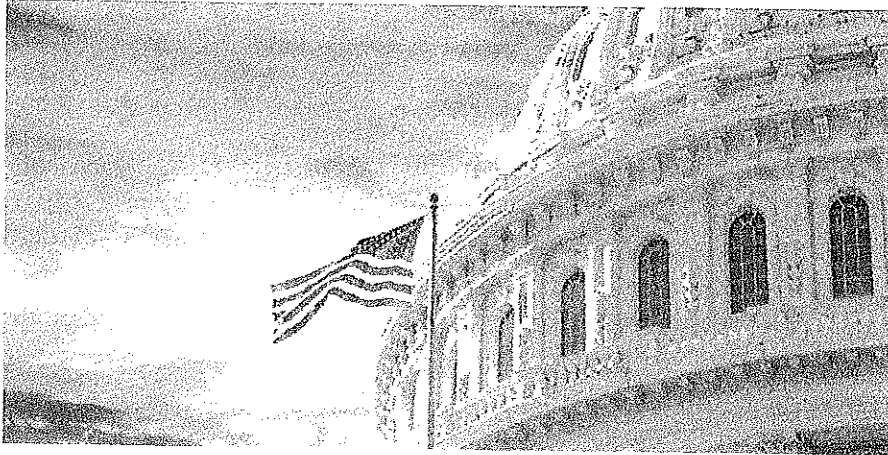
A resolution on a public policy issue is a formal expression of the opinion of GFWC and/or of GFWC Alabama and guides the advocacy efforts of each organization's membership and leadership. Resolutions are used to educate and influence the decisions and actions of an elected body, including local governments such as town/city/county councils and school boards, state legislators, governors, or Congress as well as Federation leadership. Resolutions serve as a statement of the character of our Federation. They reveal the objectives toward which a majority of clubwomen choose to work because they have been formally adopted by our elected leaders at convention. They form the foundation upon which our Federation programs and projects are built, so are meaningless unless clubwomen actively promote them in every possible way. This is achieved through study, programs, projects, and communication with those in positions able to help accomplish the desired results. Resolutions serve as our guidelines for action! Every club should review the current GFWC and GFWC Alabama Resolutions, which are available online, and should make sure their members are familiar with the contents.

Jennifer Barber
2024-2026 Resolutions Chairman
jlcunnin2@yahoo.com

GFWC Legislation/Public Policy

AFWC Leadership Workshop

July 13, 2024



As GFWC Alabama Legislation/Public Policy Chairman, I encourage you to become familiar with the Legislation/Public Policy material that is available to all our members. Please contact me if you need additional information. My email address is bossmothh@aol.com.

To access the Legislation/Public Policy site:

1. Go to the GFWC Member Portal at GFWC.org.
2. Click on the "What We Do" tab.
3. Click on Legislation/Public Policy in the drop down menu.
4. Scroll down to Legislative Action Center and click on the Legislative Action Center link in the first paragraph. You will be directed to the "Action Center" page where you can take action, view your election center, sign up for alerts, find legislation, and view a scorecard to see how officials voted on key issues.

Legislative Action Center

Take Action: Use Our Legislative Alerts

Once you complete the "Sign Up for Alerts" section, the alerts will be emailed to you. The Legislative Action Center is a powerful tool to notify you about GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. You can track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.

Advocacy in Action

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, GFWC often joins other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter. These letters, in addition to individual clubwomen contacting their members of Congress directly through the Legislative Action Center, result in a national network of grassroots advocates working together to improve the lives of club members, their communities, our nation, and the global community.

To promote the interests of the Federation and its members, GFWC may provide additional information including bill summaries, congressional conference reports, and research findings germane to GFWC advocacy efforts. We also encourage clubwomen to engage in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their professional staff. These meetings may be on Capitol Hill or in-district. To assist you in your legislative visits, GFWC provides talking points and leave-behinds for our core issues as well as for other timely matters.

This is GFWC advocacy in action!

Advocacy and GFWC

According to the GFWC Standing Rules, "Member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions." Clubs and clubwomen are the local advocates for GFWC's legislative agenda. It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

When advocating on behalf of the Federation, it is critical to remember:

- When speaking on behalf of the Federation, members may not oppose the GFWC resolutions.
- GFWC is a nonpartisan, nondenominational organization. Clubwomen are allowed to advocate for policies or legislation, but NOT allowed by law to endorse candidates or engage in partisan politics. GFWC members must separate personal political activities from official club or state federation work.
- Minority opinions may be expressed as follows: A member organization (club or state federation) holding a minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.¹

Penny Berry
GFWC Alabama Chairman
Legislation/Public Policy

¹ GFWC.org, Legislation/Public Policy



GFWC
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GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM (CIP)

2022-2024 WINNING PROJECTS

SHINING EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

GFWC Lawrence Classics - GFWC Kansas

Community Connection Initiative/Environment: Sparkling Seeds, Brilliant Butterflies, Glamorous Garden Gloves

Mission: Expand current garden, educational, and job opportunities at a foster care youth home

Actions: Review current garden and develop goals to expand food grown on-site for resident consumption, provide foster youth work opportunities, add pumpkin patch and pollinator garden, teach food preservation. Applied for and awarded a \$10,000 grant to fund the 2023 project, including part-time salary for foster youth garden attendants. Club boosters used recycled pallets to build 26 raised garden beds and eight strawberry beds. Landscaping and tree service companies donated soil, plants, and mulch. A local store donated the seeds and an equipment repair shop offered a discounted rate.

Collaborations: O'Connell Children's Shelter (homes for 50 youth), Club boosters, Douglas County Community Foundation (Grant), Douglas County Extension Office, University of Kansas Field Station, church volunteers

Outcomes: Improved youth gardening, harvesting, and preparation skills but also improved resulting in increased produce for daily consumption, freezing and pickling, and 135 pumpkins were harvested for the community fall festival. Results included on-the-job skills training, employment of two youth garden attendants, and five youth for "mini garden" flowerpot care. We raised awareness of the community foster home system and increased interactions with youth-encouraged volunteerism in other programs like 4H.

Publicity: Social media, club website, shelter website, PowerPoint presentation shared at community events

GFWC of Central Oregon - GFWC Oregon

Community Connection Initiative/Arts & Culture: Community Historical Gems

Mission: Raise awareness of the city's history through the eyes of the founding "mothers" of our community

Actions: Gain the support of the Chamber of Commerce, research historic landmarks and influential women from the time of the first settlers to the present day, meet with Historical Society to determine candidates and landmarks for the "Quest," driving and walking activity matching 12 prominent, historical women with 12 landmarks. The "Ladies, Legacies, and Landmarks Quest" can be downloaded from website or hardcopy from Chamber of Commerce. A celebration was held to commemorate the launch of the Quest with prizes, silent auction, and club members dressed as historical women.

Collaborations: Redmond Chamber of Commerce, Redmond Historical Society, Past and present employees of local newspaper Redmond Spokesman, local businesses

Outcomes: The celebration raised \$4000 for Saving Grace, a domestic violence shelter, the community gained perspective on the women influential to its development. The "Ladies, Legacies, and Landmarks Quest" continues to be available to the community and visitors via the Chamber of Commerce, and the club gained two new members.

Publicity: Club website, Chamber of Commerce events page, newspaper, television

GFWC CrêSer - GFWC Brazil (International Affiliate)

Other: Building Dreams, Ilumina Project

Mission: Renovate a house to provide educational and employment opportunities for youth

Actions: Renovate the CrêSer house headquarters into a modern office and classroom, add a security system and network, and provide state-of-the-art electricity, solar energy, rainwater collection, and accessibility. Fundraising campaigns included events, dinners, concerts, and collecting material donations from private companies and individuals. Applied for and granted \$70,000 in funding from the Government of the State of São Paulo to implement the educational training phase of the project.

Collaborations: Building supply companies donated materials worth \$80,000, Government of the State of São Paulo, community volunteers, local donors

Outcomes: The remodel is complete and includes a computer room equipped to support up to 20 students per class for vocational courses, enabling us to certify 500 young people annually. The building is now available for use by other community organizations, further enhancing its impact. The greater visibility of the club has led to a significant increase in membership by 23%.

Publicity: Social media, publicity of major fundraising events, word of mouth



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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM (CIP)

2022-2024 WINNING PROJECTS

SHINING EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Women's Club - GFWC Virginia

Community Connection Initiative/Civic Engagement and Outreach: A Little Thanks Goes a Long Way

Mission: Save the Botetourt County Historical Museum from closure

Actions: Ready a house built in 1871 to allow the museum to be relocated. Club members cleaned and painted every room, supplied recycled packing materials for moving over 6,000 artifacts, and prepared food for workers and events held at the museum. The club donated and installed a microwave, refrigerator, cabinets, furnishings, and American and Virginia flags. The members completed and maintained yard work and sidewalk projects.

Collaborations: Botetourt Historical Society, Virginia Department of Transportation, Sheriff's Department, neighbors, town mayor and council, Historic Fincastle, Daughters of the American Revolution, Countywide League of African Americans, Preservation Botetourt, Virginia State Garden Club.

Outcomes: Media coverage of the move increased awareness of the museum and women's club, increasing membership and friendships. The money saved on the move funded a full-time museum director. The club was awarded the Garland Stevens Heritage Award for volunteer service and historical preservation.

Publicity: Newspaper articles, social media, Visit Virginia Blue Ridge Tourism website, Attic Productions local historical play, Fincastle Library exhibitions

GFWC Manistique Women's Club - GFWC Michigan

Community Connection Initiative/Environment: Sparkling Seeds, Brilliant Butterflies, Glamorous Garden Gloves

Mission: Beautify a vacant city lot by creating a community garden

Actions: Gain city council approval to use the vacant lot and get underground utilities marked. Form a Community Garden Group with local organizations, hold meetings to create the plan and delegate responsibilities. Measure the lot and develop construction plans to accommodate people with mobility challenges and wheelchair accessibility. Applied for and received \$6,000 in grants with additional financial and material donations from local businesses. Club members took key roles as project leader, garden projects coordinator, treasurer, and garden manager. Partner organizations installed 60 garden beds and fencing, creating rental contracts for annual bed use with fees supporting the garden upkeep. Some beds were donated for use by the local food bank. The composting bin was built at a community composting workshop hosted by the Conservation District. Future plans include an arts and sensory space, and flowers and bushes for pollinators.

Collaborations: 4-H, Scouts, Kiwanis Builders Club, local businesses, community volunteers

Outcomes: Young people gained pride in the establishment, building, participation, and upkeep. Renters grew vegetables and fruits, worked in their beds, socialized, and learned alongside the other renters. The Senior Citizen's Center reserved multiple beds. The club gained a new member.

Publicity: Manistique Community Garden (MCG) Facebook page, newspaper articles

GFWC Nevis Women's Club - GFWC Minnesota

Other: Leadership - Empowering Women to Lead

Mission: Host a leadership-focused conference to expose rural women to women leaders, role models, and potential mentors while forming new friendships and networks

Actions: A club member committee was formed to coordinate conference marketing, management, grant funding, and fundraising. We analyzed research data to understand the target audience and set a goal of 300 attendees, including indigenous women. A registration fee was set. The project plan with timelines included location, budget expenses and revenues, marketing, speakers, and partnerships. Targeted fundraising included donations, grants from corporations and foundations, and club-hosted fundraisers. The University of Minnesota donated a graduate student to assist with social media and attendee surveys, local organizations volunteered to work during the conference, and door prizes were donated by businesses and health systems.

Collaborations: Women's Foundation of Minnesota, League of Women Voters, St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary, Leech Lake Nation, University of Minnesota, Park Rapids Community Education, local businesses

Outcomes: 290 women registered to attend, 149 attendees completed surveys, and three follow-up focus groups determined content for the next conference. A profit of \$8,000 will be reinvested in the 2nd conference, along with three donors increasing support. We formalized a partnership with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, improved club member confidence in tackling more significant issues and projects, and increased community awareness of GFWC.

Publicity: Conference website, social media, brochure, presentations to local organizations, flyers and postcards, newspaper ads, free use of business billboards, radio public service announcements, newspaper articles, other organizations advertised the event on the website, reporters attended the event for a newspaper story and public television



EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Community Service Program



2024-2026
AFWC CSP Chairman,
Nancy Hesser
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Wedowee, AL 36278

To succeed in an ever-changing world acquiring knowledge is key.
As clubwomen, we must promote education in both children and adults. I am urging each club in this administration to encourage educational growth of individuals, your communities, and around the world by choosing the initiatives that will work best for your club and communities.

STATENIDE INITIATIVE

THIS YEAR I AM ASKING THAT YOUR CLUB PARTNER WITH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL WITH THEIR EDUCATION RESOURCES I WILL PROVIDE SOME EDUCATIONAL TOOLS OR YOUR CLUB CAN GO TO HEIFER.ORG/GFWC OR HEIFER.ORG/SCHOOLS TO GAIN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. HEIFER INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES ENCOURAGE READING, PROMOTE AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANT WORLD ISSUES, AND CAN BE CUSTOMIZED FOR AGES PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. YOU CAN EVEN USE THESE RESOURCES TO EDUCATE YOUR CLUB MEMBERS!
MY CHALLENGE IS FOR ALL CLUBS IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO PARTNER WITH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL IN SOME WAY THROUGH THEIR EDUCATION RESOURCES. EACH CLUB THAT REPORTS THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT OUR STATE CONVENTION AND AWARDS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE MOST IMPACTFUL PROJECTS!

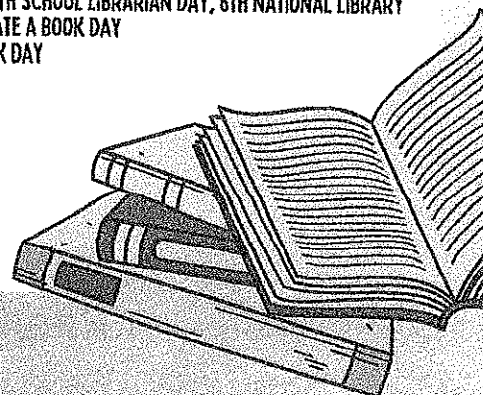
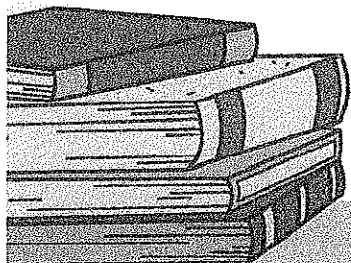
Suggested Projects:

- Read to area children at their school anytime of year but especially in March!
- Support the Dolly Paton National Literacy Program - Or start one!
- Establish or support a Little Free Library in your community
- Sponsor a classroom or grade level and give each student a book - Include a note in each book
- Recognize teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in May
- Go to the nursing home/assisted living and read or start a free library/book trading group there
- Have a meeting to learn more about eBooks & technology with learning
- Sponsor a poetry writing contest in your club, at a school, or for homeschoolers
- Collect books from the community for starting a free library or donating to local schools and nursing homes
- Volunteer at your local ARC's or Learning Center for Special Needs adults - read, donate craft or learning supplies
- Sponsor a student attending HOBY
- Sponsor a scholarship for area graduating seniors
- Volunteer once a month in classrooms in your area (high school too!)
- Join ESO and establish an ESO Reading Group for study and discussion

A FEW DATES TO REMEMBER & USE FOR IDEAS:

- SEPTEMBER - 7TH - BUY A BOOK DAY, 11TH - LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP, 18TH - READ AN EBOOK DAY
- OCTOBER - NATIONAL BOOK MONTH, NATIONAL POETRY DAY
- NOVEMBER - NATIONAL FAMILY LITERACY MONTH, 11TH - NATIONAL YOUNG READERS WEEK, 17TH - NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, 25TH - NATIONAL BOOK WEEK
- JANUARY - 2ND - NATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION DAY, 30TH - NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK
- FEBRUARY - LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH, 1ST - TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY, 14TH - INTERNATIONAL BOOK GIVING DAY, 20TH - CLEAN OUT YOUR BOOKCASE DAY
- MARCH - NATIONAL MARCH INTO LITERACY MONTH, NATIONAL READING MONTH, 2ND - READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY/WEEK, 16TH - WORLD FOLKTALES & FABLES WEEK, 19TH - INTERNATIONAL READ TO ME DAY
- APRIL - NATIONAL LITERATURE MONTH, SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH, 2ND - INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY, 4TH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY, 6TH NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, NATIONAL BOOKMOBILE DAY, 12TH - D.E.A.R DAY (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ DAY), 14TH, NATIONAL DONATE A BOOK DAY
- MAY - GET CAUGHT READING MONTH, 1ST - MOTHER GOOSE DAY, 5TH - CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK, 8TH - MAKE A BOOK DAY

PLEASE REPORT ALL YOUR EDUCATION CSP. EACH PROJECT, WHETHER LARGE OR SMALL, MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR FINAL INFORMATION. ALSO REPORT ANY SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN, THIS MAY BE REPORTED IN 2 CATEGORIES.





**GFWC Alabama
Civic Engagement and Outreach
Community Service Program
July 13, 2024**

Welcome to the 2024 Leadership Workshop!

I am fortunate and excited to serve as the GFWC Alabama Civic Engagement and Outreach Chair for this Administration! I truly believe that by reaching out and engaging our club members in various community activities, we will leave a lasting legacy on our communities while planting seeds of change for the future. And the most exciting part is that it doesn't matter whether your club is small or large, you can come together to make our world a better place.

As stated in the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual: "The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program (CSP) reminds GFWC members that each member is part of a larger society and we are responsible for **taking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community**—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. **GFWC focuses on addressing issues of public concern.**

Volunteering is one of the best ways to put civic duty into action and it is often the first step in building a stronger connection to community. However, there are **other ways to contribute, such as advocating, fundraising or donating, and problem-solving.**"

During this Administration, **the Community Connection Initiative** will be **"Preparation Saves Lives."** Ideas mentioned in GFWC Club Manual include, but are certainly not limited to, educating members and their communities on the importance of learning life-saving skills such as CPR, purchasing AED devices for locations which may not have them readily available, have members create a binder which will hold contact information, important documents and other essential items. Another idea is to learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher and what types to use in different situations. Not all fire extinguishers are created equal!

Also under the Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP is our **National Day of Service**. On September 28, 2024, each and every GFWC club is encouraged to join our communities in the fight against food insecurities. Whether it is helping stock a food pantry, helping provide a meal to those who have no place to call home or filling backpacks for students who go home on the weekends without the guarantee of meals or other situations which most of us cannot imagine, if we all play a role no matter how small it may seem, we can make an impact on the lives of others. I encourage you and your club to join GFWC clubs from across the United States as well as international clubs from Austria, Belize, Aruba and Brazil.

Of course, there are many other areas of Civic Engagement and Outreach, such as citizenship, crime prevention and safety, as well as support to our military personnel and veterans. I hope you will stop by the Civic Engagement and Outreach table to pick up a more detailed handout for project suggestions. If not, let me know and I will be happy to email a copy.

In addition to this handout, I will be sending out "Info Sheets" to the District Directors which will highlight projects and upcoming events from Alabama and other states and countries around the first of each month. Also, watch our Facebook page, GFWC News and Notes, and GFWC Alabama News and Notes for up-to-date happenings.

Remember to keep records of all of the amazing work you do for your community so you can submit reports at the end of the year. I ask you to consider reports not as a chore but as a diary to be left for future generations to understand what we did and how we made our communities better and to encourage them to never give up on making our world a better place.

Thank you for attending today's workshop! If I can be of any help or if you have any suggestions you'd like to share with other clubs, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Donna Mahieux
121 Mill Creek Crossing
Madison, AL 35758
dmahieux@att.net
(256) 694-6591

Yours in Federation,

Donna

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

BECOME A CHAMPION - KNOW THE PROGRAM!

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.

In partnership with GFWC and community members, clubs are asked to pledge to work together with passion and purpose to **advocate** for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and **educate** the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and how informing members can improve outcomes for survivors.

The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

Campus Sexual Assault: Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs on a school campus without the explicit consent of the recipient.

Child Abuse: Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.

Elder Abuse: Abuse later in life includes the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes: Sexual human trafficking is any act that has been induced by recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for purposes of a sex act in which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Intimate Partner Violence: Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

Military Sexual Assault: Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

Teen Dating Violence: Teen dating violence (TDV) - also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse — includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship. For more information about teen dating violence, visit <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/crimes/teen-dating-violence>.

Violence Against Native Americans: American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the United States. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.

Source: GFWC 2024-2026 Club Manual

GFWC Success for Survivor Scholarship

The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship was created in 2012 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by intimate partner violence who are pursuing higher education. The scholarship aims to provide survivors with means to reshape their future by securing employment and gaining personal independence. Since its inception, GFWC has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarship funds. This scholarship is solely funded by donations from State Federations, clubs, and individual clubwomen. Please send the application information to your local shelters!

2024-2025 Timeline of Events:

Application Open: October 13, 2024

Application Deadline: February 10, 2025

Recipients Notified: May - June 2025

Monetary Awards Sent to Schools: July 2025

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Months and Special Dates to Remember

January	Human Trafficking Awareness Month – Blue Stalking Awareness Month – Yellow
February	Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month – Orange
March	Women's History Month "No More" Week – March 2-8, 2025
April	Child Abuse Awareness Month – Blue Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAM) (includes Campus, Military, Native American) – Teal
May 5	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Day – Red hand over mouth
June	Elder Abuse Awareness Month – Purple • Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15th
August 26	Women's Equality Day
September	National Suicide Prevention Month (Purple & Teal)
October	Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Purple National Bullying Prevention Month – Orange • Stop Bullying Day – 2nd Wednesday of October
November	Native American Heritage Month – Red Veterans Day – November 11

There is a plethora of information available about these awareness months on the internet. Search using the name of the awareness month to find resources for your club.

Cynthia Geis, 2024-2026 GFWC Alabama Signature Program Chairman
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