

The AFWC Foster House Club

The AFWC Foster House Club was organized to help renovate, maintain, and promote the use of the GFWC Alabama State Headquarters. The members have contributed generous monetary gifts and volunteer service in meeting identified goals. Membership is open to those interested in furthering its purposes. The club meets three times annually; the dues are \$30 per year. All funds raised and contributed through the organization are used to improve and enhance the headquarters so that the Federation can more effectively serve all AFWC members.

AFWC Foster House Club contributions include:

- Periodic cleaning service
- Seasonal plantings
- Storm windows
- Oriental carpeting
- Bathroom renovations
- Bedroom furnishings
- Attic insulation
- Archives document storage
- Reupholstering of furniture



The 2728 Society

The 2728 Society was organized to provide an additional avenue through which monetary support could be donated to the GFWC Alabama State Headquarters. Its name comes from the address of the headquarters – 2728 Niazuma Avenue. Friends and members may make donations through the Society in the amounts of \$27.28, \$272.80, or \$2728.00. All donations directly support our headquarters.



www.gfwcalabama.org

The AFWC Headquarters may be reserved for tours, meetings, and special social occasions with sponsorship of an AFWC member. For scheduling and fee information, please contact:
gfwcalabamapresident@gmail.com
205-323-2392

GFWC Alabama State Headquarters

2728 Niazuma Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama 35205



Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs



Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs
Since 1907

AFWC Foster House

Foster House, the official state headquarters of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, was purchased in January of 1983. Through the gifts of members and designation of federation funds, the purchase was made without a mortgage. The building houses the AFWC office, archives, meeting rooms, and bedrooms; all of which are used regularly for federation events and social gatherings.

The main floor features a large foyer, living room, solarium, and dining room, which are open and connecting to allow for comfortable gatherings. The breakfast room and spacious kitchen provide for efficient preparation and serving of meals. The second floor has three bedrooms and the GFWC Alabama office and archives. These rooms are furnished for small group meetings and can accommodate 10 for sleeping. The building has two full- and two half-bathrooms.

Beginning in 1990, major upgrades have been completed. Central air conditioning, a new furnace, and storm windows were installed to improve the efficiency and comfortable use of the building for federation activities. The kitchen was redesigned and renovated in 2010. Because of the generosity of districts, clubs, members, corporate sponsors, and friends of the federation, GFWC Alabama can be proud of its beautiful headquarters where its members can work together to serve GFWC Alabama members and enjoy festive occasions.



Foster House History

The home was built in 1913 for Dr. Sterling Foster, a Birmingham theologian who was minister of South Highland Presbyterian Church. The neighborhood was home to many of the city's prominent families and the address on Niazuma Avenue was only a few blocks from Dr. Foster's church on Highland Avenue.

Ann Patterson Foster, Dr. Foster's wife, was active in many civic organizations including the Cadmean Circle, one of the charter clubs of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. The home was lively with three children, a son and two daughters. Sterling, Jr., worked for the New Deal in the Roosevelt administration politics. Virginia, the younger daughter, married Clifford Durr from Montgomery. Mr. Durr also worked as a New Dealer under FDR; however, before moving to Washington, the couple resided in the home. Josephine, the older daughter, married Hugo Black in the living room of the Foster's home. Mr. Black, a young attorney, served as a United States Senator and was

later appointed as a Justice on the United States Supreme Court. The Hugo Black family lived at this residence during his Senatorial campaigns. Virginia Foster Durr's autobiography, *Outside the Magic Circle*, records the years her family lived at this address on Niazuma Avenue.

The structure of the house has changed very little when compared to early city records found in the Birmingham Public Library. Since the Foster family sold the home in the 1940s, it has served as the Redmont School, as Althea House, a residential drug rehabilitation facility, and now as headquarters of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs.

