GFWC

IDEAS, INFORMATION, INSIGHT, AND INSPIRATION

GFWC CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE

1919 GFWC OVERSEAS UNIT | 2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE | PRESERVING SERVICEWOMEN'S STORIES

Remembering Her Service

PRESERVING THE STORIES OF WOMEN VETERANS AND THE LEGACY THEY LEAVE BEHIND

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

FALL 2026 | VOLUME 104 | ISSUE 4

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The magazine of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, whose members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

2026-2028 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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LETTER FROM THE

International President

Dear Fellow Clubwomen,

These first months of the 2026–2028 Administration have been both fulfilling and rewarding. Having the honor of serving in the same office where so many International Presidents have led our Federation is both humbling and inspiring. Each day, I am reminded of the responsibility we share to honor our past while building a strong and vibrant future for GFWC.

I often visit the Portrait Gallery next to the President's Office for a few moments of reflection. As I look at the women who have served before me, I am inspired by their strength, wisdom, dedication, and commitment to volunteer service. Among those who have especially influenced my journey is our 1982–1984 International President, Juanita M. Bryant of North Carolina. For more than 40 years, I was privileged to know her and benefit from her advice, encouragement, and mentorship. Her example continues to guide and inspire me.

As we move forward, I encourage you to explore the GFWC Club Manual, including our 2026–2028 Unity Projects. These resources provide opportunities for clubs to engage members, welcome new ideas, collaborate, and make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Our theme, *Unity in Diversity*, reminds us that while our experiences and communities may differ, we are united by a common purpose and the volunteer spirit that has defined GFWC for generations. Our diversity is our strength, bringing together unique talents, perspectives, and experiences.

Together, let us honor our legacy, embrace our differences, and turn our shared purpose into meaningful action.

> **United in purpose and inspired by our volunteer spirit, we will continue to make a difference—one club, one community, and one act of service at a time!**

Wendy J Carriker

WENDY J. CARRIKER
GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

LETTER FROM THE

Director of Junior Clubs

It is an honor to join you in the 2026–2028 administration as GFWC's 38th Director of Junior Clubs. My GFWC journey began in 2007, joining a club as an outlet for service and finding so much more. I found a community of women, opportunities to grow leadership skills, lifelong friendships, and an international organization that is improving communities across the globe.

In our Junior pledge, we commit to "living each day, trying to accomplish something," and as GFWC members at every level – Women's, Juniors', and Juniorettes – we are collectively Living the Volunteer Spirit. This GFWC tagline embodies what we do and reflects a belief that our individual actions, driven by generosity and purpose, can create meaningful and lasting change. Our service strengthens communities, empowers women, and brings joy to ourselves and others.

The focus of the Junior Administration is to build on the strong foundation laid by former Directors of Junior Clubs and engage in initiatives focused on learning about our Junior members, empowering and educating them, and growing the GFWC membership. We will promote leadership development, support existing Junior clubs and help charter new ones, and strengthen connections through various communication channels. We will also encourage clubs at every membership level to embrace the Juniors' Special Program Advocates for Children during Advocates for Children Week each October and throughout the year.

It requires work to ensure that GFWC remains a vibrant, powerful organization, one that provides a place for all those who are Living the Volunteer Spirit to engage in meaningful volunteer work, experience personal and leadership development, and to develop lifelong relationships. I am here to serve, and along with the Junior Leadership, I am committed to "doing better than ever before what work we have to do."

In Federation Friendship & Fun,

Trina Behbahani

TRINA BEHBAHANI
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Stand Up, Speak Up, Show Up, to support survivors

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
END DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

On Saturday, September 26, GFWC clubs, Districts, States, and Regions across the United States and around the world united for the 2026 GFWC International Day of Service (IDS), one day of volunteer action dedicated to a common cause. This year's IDS supported GFWC's Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and it brings the Federation's longtime commitment to survivors into a single, powerful moment.

The World Health Organization estimates that between 736 million and 862 million women aged 15 and older have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 16 million people are affected every year. These numbers represent neighbors, coworkers, friends, and families in every community GFWC serves.

Clubs responded by tailoring their projects to local needs. They gathered comfort bags, kitchen starter kits, and household furnishings. They hosted awareness walks, invited speakers, and signed pledges to stand with survivors. They prepared meals, assembled backpacks for students in crisis, and wrote notes of encouragement to people starting over. Whether large or small, each project met a need identified by the clubwomen who know their communities best.

When members act on the same day with a shared purpose, their service becomes a visible statement that survivors are not alone and that the work of ending violence belongs to everyone. Every pair of volunteer hands strengthens the shelters, advocates, and organizations on the front lines.

GFWC Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Texas

$147K
VALUE OF GOODS DONATED

11,000
VOLUNTEERS ON ONE DAY

$125K
FUNDS DONATED

TENNESSEE, SOUTHERN REGION

GFWC DICKSON COUNTY WOMAN'S CLUB

The GFWC Dickson County Woman's Club launched its International Day of Service activities with a Pearls & Lace: Chapters of Hope Afternoon Tea, raising funds for We Are Safe (WAS), which supports victims of domestic violence and their children. Throughout the week leading up to IDS, members donated clothing, shoes, and essentials to a young mother and child facing a housing crisis. They also partnered with local sheriff's offices to provide stuffed animals and books for children displaced during domestic violence interventions. Members distributed awareness materials through schools and community organizations, posted information around town, promoted resources on social media, and advocated for more legislative support for domestic violence programs. At the week's close, members signed a pledge to support victims through listening, resource-sharing, and community advocacy. The club emphasized that its commitment reaches well beyond a single day.

GFWC Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club

CALIFORNIA, WESTERN STATES REGION

The GFWC Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club partnered with Interface Children & Family Services and exceeded its goal, assembling 300 Comfort & Care Kits for women, teens, and children in local shelters. Members, businesses, and community supporters donated items, including 960 additional items for ongoing shelter needs. On September 26, twenty-one members assembled all 300 kits in just three hours. Each included a message of encouragement: "You are strong. You are valued. You are not alone. May this kit bring you comfort and remind you that brighter days are ahead." Members personally delivered the kits and supplies to Interface shelters, strengthening community support and helping ensure shelter residents felt seen, valued, and cared for during a challenging time.

GFWC Arizona ESO 5th Wheels

ARIZONA, SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Members of GFWC Arizona ESO 5th Wheels sewed and assembled 25 handmade tote bags for women served by the Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse. They purchased fabric, gathered sewing equipment, and cut, sewed, and assembled each bag by hand. They filled the totes with jewelry, socks, shampoo, brushes, combs, notebooks, pens, and hygiene items. The bags were delivered to the Emerge Center, which has served survivors in the Tucson community for more than 50 years. The gifts were meant to offer comfort, dignity, and encouragement to women beginning their healing journey.

CONNECTICUT, NEW ENGLAND REGION

GFWC Somers Women's Club

The GFWC Somers Women's Club carried out three initiatives to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Led by the Arts and Crafts Committee, members handcrafted Comfort Bears for the local domestic violence shelter, The Network, and for the Somers Fire and Police Departments. Each bear came with a card reading, "Waving a big hug just for you." Three members sewed the bear patterns, and others stuffed and assembled the bears over three work sessions. The club also raised $584 for The Network through year-round donations, member incentive programs, and a club matching campaign. To raise public awareness, a representative from The Network spoke at the club's October meeting. The event drew 28 attendees, and the club presented an additional $50 donation.

NEW JERSEY, MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

GFWC Monroe Township Woman's Club

After researching the immediate needs of sexual assault survivors following Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) forensic exams, the Monroe Township Woman's Club developed the You Are NOT Alone Project. Partnering with two local hospitals, the club prepared bags with clean clothing, personal necessities, and comfort items. One hospital donated 75 drawstring bags, and the other contributed $250 toward expenses. Fifteen club members and 26 community volunteers took part. They requested business donations, placed community collection boxes, ran social media campaigns, and worked with National Honor Society students.

> **Volunteers contributed 242 service hours and collected 2,812 usable items valued at approximately $8,375, including clothing, undergarments, blankets, hygiene products, journals, pens, stress balls, snacks, and bottled water.**

Another 315 items, valued at about $700, went to local shelters and food banks. On the International Day of Service, members assembled and delivered 150 completed survivor bags.

MINNESOTA, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGION

GFWC WEST SUBURBAN WOMEN'S CLUB & GFWC EDINA WOMEN'S CLUB

The GFWC West Suburban Women's Club joined the GFWC Edina Federated Women's Club to assemble kitchen starter kits for individuals and families beginning new lives after crisis. Distributed through Cornerstone Minnesota, the kits support survivors of domestic violence as they rebuild in safety and stability. The club raised $1,000 to purchase cookware, and each kit included pots and pans, mixing bowls, cutting boards, dish towels, sponges, mugs, silverware, kitchen knives, hot pads, and dish soap. On September 26, eleven members and two guests assembled 40 complete kits. Each kit also included a handmade beaded bracelet and a handwritten message of encouragement, reminding recipients that their community believes in their strength and future. Members also spent time with the families and provided extra servings to take home. The meal offered nourishment, encouragement, and community connection for women building independent futures.

GFWC Muskego Woman's Club

WISCONSIN, GREAT LAKES REGION

The GFWC Muskego Woman's Club welcomed Hannah Harris of The Women's Center of Waukesha to speak about supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Afterward, members signed The Pledge to Stand With Survivors, affirming their commitment to safety, dignity, healing, and support, and the club made a donation to The Women's Center. The commitment effort reached beyond the club as members of the Muskego Police Department's Community Outreach Team signed the pledge, and the Mayor's Office joined as well. It reinforced a citywide commitment to standing with survivors. The project showed what civic leaders, law enforcement, and volunteer organizations can accomplish together.

GFWC Royal Oak Woman's Clu

MICHIGAN, GREAT LAKES REGION

The Royal Oak Woman's Club completed a two-part project for CARE House of Oakland County, the county's child advocacy center dedicated to preventing child abuse, supporting young victims, and promoting healing. Seventeen members, 10 Brownie Girl Scouts, and eight guests painted 190 kindness rocks decorated with affirmations, stars, hearts, and rainbows. Children may choose from the decorated rocks during their visits at the center. Then, ten members volunteered 25 service hours at CARE House. They cleaned and sanitized common areas, washed windows, gardened, assembled packets for parenting classes and therapy sessions, and reorganized the "Cuddle Closet" of comfort items. Members also donated $742.55 worth of toys, books, games, diapers, baby products, stuffed animals, and candy. The gifts help CARE House direct more of its funding to children and families.

GEORGIA, SOUTHERN REGION

GFWC TIFTON WOMAN'S CLUB

The Tifton Woman's Club coordinated a community-wide Day of Service fundraiser benefiting Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House, which serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse. Through community donations and partnerships, the project collected 3,767 items valued at $2,965, plus $468.10 in financial contributions. Social media outreach about the two organizations and their services generated more than 10,140 views. Eight club members contributed 39 volunteer hours.

GFWC Nashaway Woman's Club

NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW ENGLAND REGION

The GFWC Nashaway Woman's Club created 20 coping boxes for children affected by domestic violence. Two members purchased and painted the wooden boxes, while others gathered colored pencils, erasers, coloring books, crayons, Play-Doh, squishy toys, tissue paper, tissues, notebooks, and pencils. Eight members assembled and decorated the boxes with stickers and hand-painted designs at a club meeting. The club also donated $3,000, giving $1,000 each to Bridges, Front Door, and Marguerite's Place.

GFWC Woman's Club of Smithfield

VIRGINIA, SOUTHEASTERN REGION

The GFWC Woman's Club of Smithfield collected furniture and household items for the Genieve Shelter, delivering all donations on September 26. The shelter provides refuge and support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. It also offers educational programming, advocacy, and resources that help survivors move toward independent living. The donations helped create safe, comfortable homes for women and children rebuilding their lives, and members saw them as a way to restore dignity, stability, and hope. The club supports the shelter all year with Thanksgiving meal baskets, Easter baskets for children, and annual donations of items from its flea market fundraiser.

GFWC Statesville Woman's Club

NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTHEASTERN REGION

On September 26, members of the GFWC Statesville Woman's Club and community participants gathered for "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes," an event to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence. Attendees heard from the Statesville Police Department, the Iredell County Sheriff's Office, the Iredell County District Attorney's Office, and My Sister's House, the local domestic violence shelter. A City Council representative presented the official GFWC International Day of Service proclamation.

> **Two survivors shared their stories, one through the written testimony of a teenage survivor and one in public for the first time.**

The club partnered with Foundation of Hope, My Sister's House, and the Domestic Violence Task Force to assemble resource bags and collect donations for shelter families. Members also designed and sold Purple Power shirts to fund awareness and prevention efforts across North Carolina.

NEW MEXICO, SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

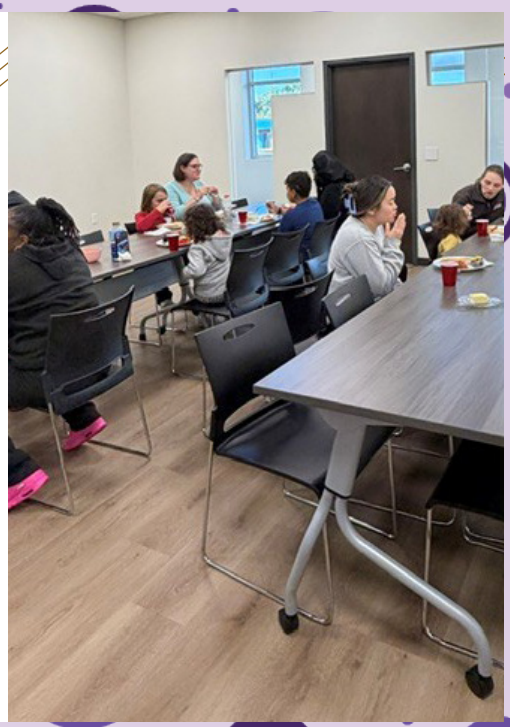
GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces & GFWC Impact Junior Club of Las Cruces

The GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces and GFWC Impact Junior Club of Las Cruces partnered with La Casa, which provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, legal services, and advocacy for survivors of violence and abuse. After consulting with La Casa staff, members identified two needs. They assembled hygiene kits with soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other essentials for shelter residents. They also created Birthday Cake Boxes for families receiving community-based services, each with cake mix, frosting, candles, soda, and a recipe, packaged in an aluminum baking pan – because every child deserves to be celebrated on their birthday.

Together, the projects provided practical necessities and moments of comfort and celebration.

IOWA, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGION

GFWC Rural Woman's Study Club



The GFWC Rural Woman's Study Club supported House of Hope by providing a complete meal of lasagna, breadsticks, Jell-O, cupcakes, and milk for 30 residents and their children. House of Hope serves women aging out of foster care along with women and children escaping domestic violence. With help from local businesses, banks, realtors, and community organizations, the residents receive housing, employment assistance, financial education, wellness programming, and support services. Six members prepared the meal, and four served it on the Day of Service. Members also spent time with the families and provided extra servings to take home. The meal offered nourishment, encouragement, and community connection for women building independent futures.

TEXAS, SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

GFWC Fairfield History Club

The GFWC Fairfield History Club chose Bags of Hope as its International Day of Service project. Members worked with counselors in Fairfield, Teague, and Wortham schools to assemble non-descriptive backpacks for high school students experiencing crisis situations. Each backpack held snacks, personal care items, blankets, handmade encouragement journals, and resource information. Gift cards were also provided to counselors to meet student needs beyond what the bags contained. The project offered immediate support along with access to longer-term assistance.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

The GFWC New England Region joined clubs across the organization for the 2026 GFWC International Day of Service on September 26, supporting GFWC's focus on ending domestic and sexual violence and supporting survivors.

Members from all six New England states generously donated board games, coloring books, crayons, markers, educational materials, flash cards, books, pet toys, and other items. In total, 158 items valued at more than $600 were donated to New Hope, Inc. in Attleboro, Massachusetts, for use in its shelter playroom and art projects.

New Hope provides safe shelter and comprehensive support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Its children's spaces offer opportunities for play, learning, recreation, and healing. Region clubwomen donated 213 toiletries items, which five members assembled into cosmetic bags. Clubs also contributed shelter-requested flip-flops. This meaningful service project reflects GFWC's commitment to community service and the power of coming together as a Federation for one day to make a lasting difference.

THANK YOU

TO THE OVER 1,000 GROUPS WHO PARTICIPATED IN 2026

Your work makes an impact in communities far beyond one day of collective service.

GFWC Marrietta Georgia Woman's Club

GFWC Woman's Club of Palatka, Florida

GFWC International President Wendy Carriker with GFWC New Jersey

GFWC Munster Junior Womans Club, Indiana

GFWC Women's Club of South County, Rhode Island

GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club, Texas

SAVE THE DATE

GFWC Day of Service

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2027

SAFE SURFIN' FOUNDATION

The Safety Hub

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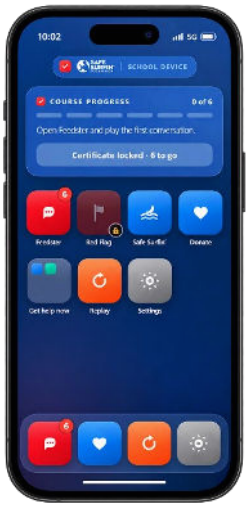
Safe Surfin' Foundation is proud to unite with the General Federation of Women's Clubs to bring state-of-the-art digital protection directly to your community.



Introducing **The Safety Hub** from Safe Surfin' Foundation — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by law enforcement professionals to protect children from online predators and digital dangers.

The Simulator: A realistic text-message simulation tool that lets kids practice responding to risky online situations before they face them in real life. They learn to recognize online risks, choose safer responses, and know where to find help. Nothing typed is saved or shared.

Cora: An AI-powered internet safety assistant ready to answer family privacy and security questions in real time.

Scam Watch: Provides parents and teachers with the latest scam alerts, app safety guides, and helpful resources.

Scan the QR code or visit
www.thesafetyhub.org

SERVICE & ADVANCEMENT

Juniorettes 101

★ **SHANNON BAILEY,** *GFWC JUNIORETTE CHAIRMAN*

GFWC Hoover Juniorettes (Alabama) showing off backpacks for donation during the 2026 GFWC IDS.

In Juniorettes, we plant the seeds of our love for GFWC. We have a priceless opportunity to nurture today's students as they become tomorrow's advocates and leaders. Let's prioritize our focus on these students for our organization's future.

SEVERAL THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT JUNIORETTES:

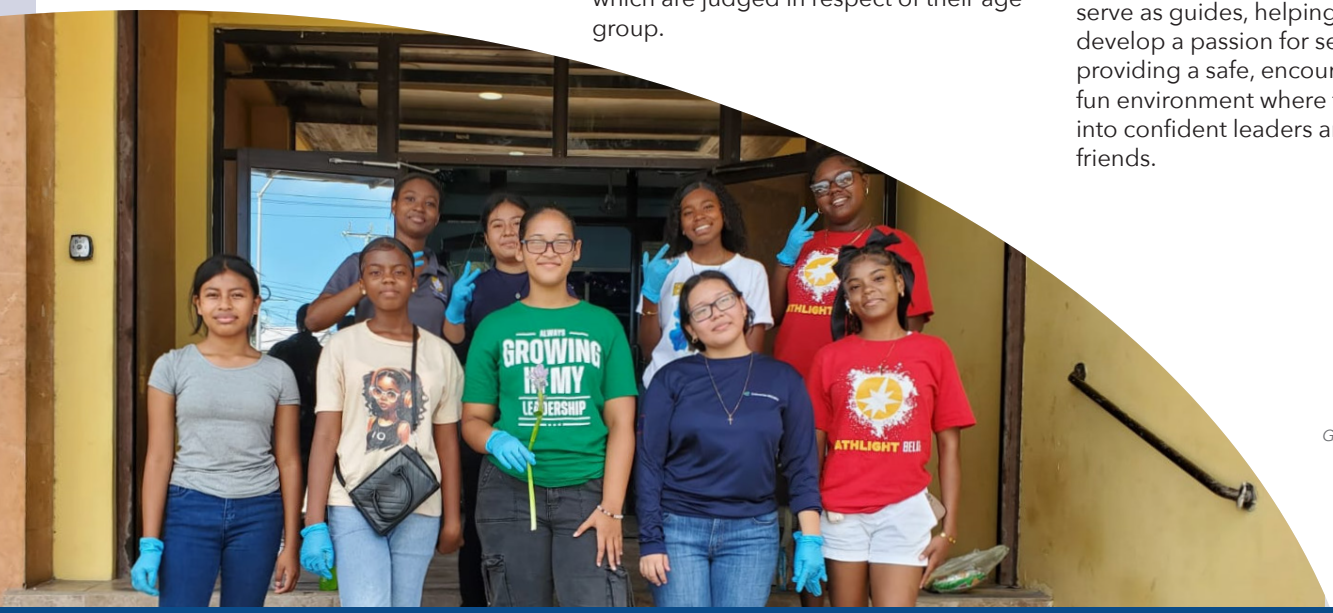
Juniorette members are middle and high school students. Some clubs are mostly middle schoolers, some are mostly high school students, and some are a thriving combination of both, with older students mentoring younger. Some clubs' members are all within one school, some are community-based, and all clubs are open to homeschoolers and students of all abilities. There are also Juniorette clubs that are mixed gender!

Juniorette clubs offer students what we love about being in GFWC: new friends, service opportunities, and the chance to grow personally and as leaders. Juniorettes have access to the GFWC Member Portal, the Club Manual, and the Learning Academy. They can also sign up to receive the News & Notes weekly newsletter. The Club Manual Juniorette section has detailed information about starting a new club, project ideas, and all GFWC forms. Juniorettes are also eligible to enter the GFWC writing contests, which are judged in respect of their age group.

A current focus for us is to retain Juniorette alumnae as GFWC members. As Juniorette members graduate from high school, they have developed a heart for service, leadership skills, and a connection to GFWC's mission. Becoming a member of a Junior or Woman's club will keep them connected to GFWC and expand GFWC membership. Several options for membership are featured in the GFWC Club Manual, including GFWC Next, which is a new National Cyber Club.

Juniorettes are the fastest-growing level of GFWC membership, with a 24% increase in members during the last administration. There are nearly 1,900 Juniorettes in 96 clubs across 22 states, and more clubs are being formed every month. We hope you will consider adding to those numbers by sponsoring a Juniorette club in the near future.

You do not have to know the latest slang or music to be a sponsoring club or an advisor. What our students need is for caring adults to invest in them. Advisors serve as guides, helping members develop a passion for service while providing a safe, encouraging, and fun environment where they can grow into confident leaders and supportive friends.



GFWC Belize City Juniorettes collect trash from streets in their neighborhood.

SERVICE & ADVANCEMENT

A Membership Journey

★ **CARRIE ZIMMERMAN,** *GFWC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER*

GFWC New Hampshire clubwomen recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Starting a new club doesn't have to be scary. But it could be a new path on your GFWC Journey!

Picture this: A young, newly married couple moved to a new state to begin their life together. The wife was a GFWC member in her previous state. She grew up in the city, served as an active volunteer in her community, and enjoyed the friendships and connections that came with being a GFWC member.

However, they moved to a rural area and, after reaching out to the GFWC State President, she discovered there was no GFWC club nearby.

BUT SHE COULD START A NEW ONE!

Using the New Club Toolkit in the GFWC Membership Portal, she followed a step-by-step process to organize a meeting, identify prospective members, and build a group of approximately 12 women who became the founding members of a new club.

With guidance from GFWC National and the State Federation, the women established an executive committee, developed bylaws, selected a club name, and completed the requirements to become a federated club.

ONE IMPORTANT STEP THAT CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED:

The State Membership Chairman or State Officer must submit the new club form, their club roster, and bylaws to GFWC Headquarters. Dues may be submitted then, or they may wait until the next February deadline. Once Headquarters receives the form, roster, and bylaws, the club should appear in the Club Directory on the GFWC website and in the Member Portal drop-down box within about two weeks. Members can then create their GFWC accounts and access the resources and benefits available through the Membership Portal.

By the following spring, this new club was officially federated. The members promoted GFWC through social media and the local newspaper. They also partnered with another nonprofit for their first community event.

So, look around your state.

Where are the communities without a GFWC club? Where are women already volunteering, serving their communities, and looking for meaningful connections?

NEW CLUB CHECKLIST

- **NEW CLUB FORM**
  Submitted by your State/DC Federation, it lists the number of members in your club, official club name, and contact information.
- **CLUB ROSTER**
  A list of the members in your new club!
- **CLUB BYLAWS**
  Your club's foundational document. Find examples in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- **CLUB DUES**
  GFWC National collects $15 per Federated member each year. These dues are collected by State Federations and can be sent with your founding documents or annually in February. **Additional dues may be added by clubs, districts, and State/DC Federations to member's total annual dues.*
- **SEND TO YOUR STATE LEADERSHIP**
  Send all materials to your State/DC Officer or Membership Chairman

When someone says, "We don't have a GFWC club here," remember the answer can be: "Then let's start one."

Don't let a move stop your GFWC journey. If needed, start a new club; you can start a new path on your GFWC journey. One woman had an idea. Twelve women joined the vision. A new club began serving its community.

THAT IS A MEMBERSHIP JOURNEY.

GFWC Maderia Woman's Club (Ohio) celebrate "Member Monday"

SERVICE & ADVANCEMENT

Every Legislative Alert Has a Story

★ **BARBARA D. WHITAKER, PRP,** *GFWC LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRMAN*

"How quickly can GFWC issue a Legislative Alert?"

The answer is simple: it depends.

Before an alert can be sent, several questions must be answered:

- ★ Does a GFWC resolution support the issue?
- ★ Is there active federal legislation?
- ★ Is the issue bipartisan?
- ★ Does it comply with GFWC governing documents?
- ★ Is it national or international in scope rather than state or local?

When these criteria are met, the review process can move quickly. But what happens when there isn't a supporting GFWC resolution?

Imagine a GFWC club member identifies an issue deserving attention. She brings it to her club, where members research the topic and discover that GFWC has no existing resolution. Determined to act, they consult the GFWC Club Manual, the Legislative Toolkit in the Digital Library on the Member Portal, and their State Federation's procedures for writing and submitting a resolution.

The proposed resolution is reviewed through the state federation's established process and, once adopted at the state convention, becomes the basis for statewide advocacy. It is then submitted to the GFWC Resolutions Chairman for consideration. Following committee review and any necessary revisions, the resolution is presented to the GFWC Executive Committee and, ultimately, to the delegates at the GFWC Annual Convention. Once adopted, it becomes official GFWC policy, allowing advocacy on a national level.

When federal legislation aligns with an adopted GFWC resolution, Debra Bryant, GFWC Federal Government Relations Consultant, works with the Legislation/Public Policy Committee and the GFWC Executive Committee to review the request and develop a Legislative Alert. The alert is then distributed through GFWC's Legislative Action Center, powered by VoterVoice, to members who have registered to receive Legislative Alerts.

Every Legislative Alert begins with an idea. Your club's thoughtful work today could become tomorrow's nationwide call to action.

HOW A LEGISLATIVE ALERT IS BORN

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
Is it bipartisan, active, and in line with GFWC?

MEMBERS SUBMIT A STATE RESOLUTION
GFWC members and clubs follow their State/DC Federation's procedures for new resolutions.

STATE FEDERATION SUBMITS TO NATIONAL
Once adopted by the state, it can be submitted to the GFWC Resolutions Committe for voting at the Annual Convention.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION BECOMES ACTIVE
GFWC staff and leadership monitor federal legislative activity that aligns with GFWC Resolutions.

SERVICE & ADVANCEMENT

The Biological Power of the Arts

THE SURPRISING SCIENCE OF WHAT ART DOES TO YOUR BODY

★ **NANCY KAUFMAN,** *GFWC ARTS & CULTURE CHAIRMAN*

A growing body of research demonstrates that participating in artistic activities, whether actively creating or passively consuming, produces tangible, measurable physical health benefits.

Engaging with art acts as a powerful intervention that alters physiological states, impacts brain chemistry, and supports systemic healing. Dr. Daisy Fancourt, a Professor of Psychobiology and Epidemiology at University College London, proposes that creative engagement in the arts constitutes the "Fifth Pillar of Health" – along with diet, exercise, sleep and stress management – and should not be considered a luxury but a complement to medical intervention. She encourages treating art as a daily habit.

Dr. Fancourt's core premise – now reinforced by research from the University of California, Berkeley – is that both active creation, including writing, crafting, dancing, music-making, and passive participation, such as reading, visiting museums, and attending shows, trigger direct biological and mental health benefits.

- Across the endocrine and immune systems, engaging with the arts lowers salivary cortisol levels, reduces systemic inflammation markers, and increases immune markers.
- Neurologically, it stimulates dopamine release, promotes neuroplasticity, preserves white and grey matter volume (which builds cognitive reserves and reduces long-term dementia risk), and alters EEG brainwaves toward low-stress flow states.
- In the cardiovascular system, it improves heart rate variability (HRV), stabilizes blood pressure, and eases autonomic strain.
- Psychologically, it enhances emotional regulation, self-efficacy, and helps process trauma.

These physiological effects manifest in distinct ways across modalities:

- Music regulates cardiac output, mitigates pain perception, and preserves memory pathways.
- Dance enhances motor coordination, white matter integrity, and functional mobility (particularly in conditions like Parkinson's).
- Visual or practical arts consistently reduce hormonal stress to induce restorative flow-state chemistry.

Just 15–20 minutes a day of low-pressure creativity delivers real health advantages – no talent or big budget required. Look for free museum days, local high school plays, or join a book club. Try new recipes, make your own greeting cards, paint by numbers, doodle, dance (even if no one's watching), or volunteer with a community theater.

Regular engagement in the arts drops depression rates by 50% while lowering chronic pain, cognitive decline, and premature mortality – regardless of socioeconomic status, baseline health, or genetics. Support or create local Arts & Culture projects today and help connect our communities to creative programs!

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

NOVEMBER IS

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month

Caregiving Changes Everything

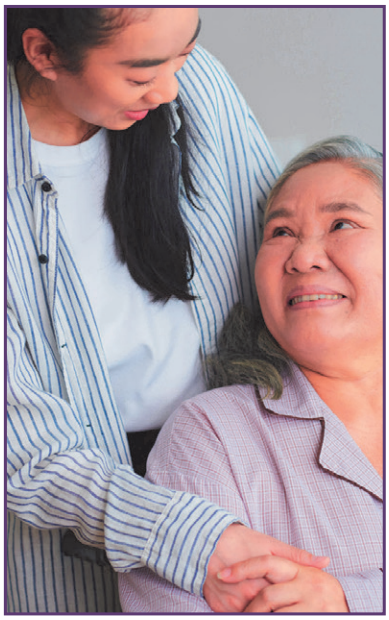
During November, the Alzheimer's Association® recognizes National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month, a time to honor caregivers, raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and connect families with information and support.

In 2025, nearly 13 million family members and friends provided more than 19 billion hours of unpaid care to people living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, a contribution valued at more than $446 billion. These numbers underscore the important role caregivers play and the need to ensure they have support throughout the caregiving journey.

To learn more about actions you can take during National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and National Family Caregivers Month and to honor a caregiver, visit **alz.org/nadam**.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free resources to help caregivers and families:

- **Caregiver resources**: Find practical information and support for every stage of caregiving, including daily care, caregiver health, safety, planning and local programs. **alz.org/care**
- **ALZ Talks**: Attend free webinars featuring experts, caregivers and people living with dementia on practical topics that can help families navigate Alzheimer's and dementia. **alz.org/alztalks**
- **My ALZ Journey™ App**: Access personalized information and resources designed to support care partners as they navigate Alzheimer's or another dementia. **alz.org/MyALZJourney**
- **24/7 Helpline** (**800.272.3900**): Connect with trained specialists for information, guidance, support and referrals to local resources. Translation services are available in more than 200 languages. **alz.org/helpline**



800.272.3900 **alz.org/nadam**

Harry just finished treatment at St. Jude for blood cancer. Now he can think about playing with toys instead of cancer.

Let's help more kids **just be kids.**

Learn More
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St. Jude Children's® Research Hospital
Finding cures. Saving children.

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HONORING HER SERVICE

"They are Our Girls now, wearing our badge upon their sleeves"

THE GENERAL FEDERATION OVERSEAS UNIT OF THE YMCA, 1919

★ **JOANNA CHURCH,** *WHRC LIBRARIAN*

Thirty-four members of the GFWC Overseas Unit honored at the 1920 Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

During World War I, the General Federation of Women's Clubs formed a War Victory Commission and asked every member across the country to contribute at least one dollar. Before the funds could be spent, however, the Armistice was declared. This was a huge relief, of course, but it left us with a problem: what to do with the money raised?

As the war effort wound down, American officials raised the need for wholesome recreation opportunities for the thousands of U.S. servicemen still in Europe. GFWC decided to use our funds to sponsor a group of women who would join the YMCA, supplying refreshments and entertainment to the troops overseas while they waited to be shipped home.

> **The members of this new "GFWC Overseas Unit" came from across the country, representing almost every state. Most were single, professional women in their late 20s or early 30s. The Federation's support – California alone raised over ten thousand dollars, or almost $200,000 in today's money, to fund their recruits – allowed nearly 100 women to put their everyday lives on hold while they served their country.**

In this 1918 poster, a woman in a YMCA uniform – note the striking blue hat – entreats the viewer to "Help Us Help Our Boys." From the YMCA poster collection, Archives and Special Collections, Springfield College

TWO IDAHO GIRLS GOING TO FRANCE AS ENTERTAINERS

Sent by Federated Women's Clubs of America to Help Make it Pleasant for Soldiers in Furlough Houses Abroad.

Headline from the Idaho Statesman, February 2, 1919

After their selection by the GFWC State Federations and a brief training period (which at least one recruit failed), the women were sent overseas and put to work. They wore YMCA uniforms, but each woman had an armband that identified GFWC as their sponsor; whether clubwomen or not, these "Daughters of the Federation" were very much representing our organization during their service.

> **"Many a time these boys have gathered about us and have read on our arms your insignia, and they said to us: What does that mean? And one fellow said, "My mother belongs to a Club, I bet she gave some money to send you over here."**
>
> **– HALLIE JAMIESON (TEXAS), IN A SPEECH GIVEN AT THE 1920 GFWC BIENNIAL GFWC OVERSEAS UNIT MEMBERS SERVED IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND GERMANY.**

Some were sent to work in large, resort-like "leave areas" on the French coast; others went inland where camp conditions were much more makeshift, and where the countryside showed inescapable evidence of the ravages of war. Four older Unit members, including long-time GFWC member Kate Friend (Texas), were tasked with chaperone duties, though how much supervision they were able to provide is unclear.

"The work is very wearing but intensely interesting. To you it sounds perhaps like nothing but play, but every hour of the day is taken in dancing, or providing entertainment or listening to a homesick boy recount how he won his croix de guerre."

-LAURA MATTHEWS (IOWA), IN A LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 1919 "GENERAL FEDERATION NEWS"

Because they were dispersed amongst the YMCA volunteers rather than serving as a single unit, the day-to-day experiences of these intrepid women varied widely (though almost everyone reported hours and hours spent dancing with homesick servicemen).

"I was in Biarritz, which means that I danced with the American Army nine hours a day."

-EVA BECHTEL (UTAH), WHO WAS STATIONED ALONG WITH OVER 25,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE BIARRITZ LEAVE AREA

Several of Our Girls were "entertainers," tasked with providing music or dramatics for the troops. Mary Belle McKellar (Louisiana) taught art at a convalescent hospital; Pattie Southall (Alabama) led choir singing with the 36th Division. "Rolling canteen" workers distributed beverages, books, and American conversation across sparse landscapes… and learned how to repair their vehicles on the fly. Others used their expertise in secretarial work or domestic science to improve conditions at the camps.

"The two girls stepped in [to replace one man] and transformed a building into an attractive canteen.... This work, done at 2 a.m. after returning from a dance, was ready for the inspection of an efficiency expert at 7 a.m. It is a bit amusing to learn that the expert could not improve upon their arrangement."

-A REPORT ON THE WORK OF DOROTHY BERRY AND GERTRUDE GARDEN (BOTH WEST VIRGINIA), JUNE 1919

Adelaide Gasaway (Indiana) pictured in her YMCA uniform, complete with "General Federation of Women's Clubs Unit" armband, 1919.

Some reported time spent mending uniforms for 'their boys,' while others described helping to write letters or buy souvenirs for folks back home. A handful of GFWC women were assigned to the Inter-Allied Games, a huge athletic event for troops held in the newly-built Pershing Stadium outside Paris. A few were lucky enough to come

Unit member Freddie Hilp (Nevada), in the white apron at left, took over 200 snapshots during her "rolling canteen" YMCA service. Her photos captured both work duties and leisure hours; famous landmarks and ruined countrysides; American soldiers, fellow YMCA volunteers, and European residents. To see more of Hilp's photos, read "WHRC: From the Archives" here.

across familiar faces from home among the troops, and more than one young woman met a future husband during her service. But there was sorrow amid the adventure: several Unit members spent weeks convalescing in hospitals after contracting influenza or typhoid, and one young woman, Eugenia Hosie (Pennsylvania), fell ill on the journey and died in England before her service could truly begin.

And then, after only a few months, the work that had carried them across the ocean came to an end, and and these dedicated women began returning home. Hoping to keep these stalwart women involved in the Federation, we invited them to attend the 1920 GFWC Biennial convention in Des Moines, where we celebrated them at teas and luncheons, and presented them each with a specially designed "decoration": an ornate gold pin, engraved with their

Soldiers and female volunteers outside a YMCA Hut used for meals and recreation.

The General Federation Overseas Unit of the YMCA (Continued)

name. Throughout the 1920s, overseas alumnae were invited to GFWC meetings across the country, giving club members the chance to hear firsthand about the work they had helped fund.

In 1920, Our Girls formed a Federated national club called the "GF Unit Club, Young Women Overseas," with Anna Finkbine (Iowa) as President. Within a few years, though, its members moved instead into local units of the Women's Overseas Service League, founded in 1921 for women veterans of the World War (because the American Legion wouldn't let women join). Today, the WOSL welcomes and supports all women who have served overseas with U.S. Armed Forces. Many GFWC Overseas Unit women stayed active in their local WOSL branches for decades, and Verna Dillow (Wyoming) went on to lead the national organization in the late 1950s.

Although little GFWC Overseas Unit material was preserved in our archives, the War Victory Commission made sure to report on their work in our magazine and convention reports; this means that modern researchers have access to fascinating accounts of the Unit's time overseas. Online resources like passport applications and YMCA service cards help confirm the names on the original GFWC list of members, and contemporary newspaper articles fill in some gaps. Most tellingly, these women took enormous pride in their overseas service – leading to its inclusion in biographies, marriage announcements, and obituaries, helping us identify them and preserve their stories.

"It was one of the greatest experiences that can ever come to any of us."

-MRS. ARLA STROPE JOHNS (KANSAS), IN 1938

Eleanor Lowe of Vermont, photographed by Nevada's Freddie Hilp. As Anna McCague (Pennsylvania) noted in a letter home, "The [Unit] girls are scattered all over France and we are always running into them unexpectedly and its great fun."

Kansas Sunflowers of "Overseas Unit" Conspicuous at Biennial Meeting Here

KANSAS SUNFLOWERS.

Three Kansas sunflowers who spread sunshine among the doughboys in France!

The girls are three of a unit of 101 girls who were sent abroad after the war by the federated clubs. Annabel Garvey served in Constantinople and France.

Nan Herron, aside from being one of the most popular workers in the A. E. F., is editor of the Topeka Daily Legal News, a poet and entertainer de luxe.

Eva Bechtel entertained in the leave areas in France.

The entire unit were honor guests at mess and two dancing parties at Camp Dodge Friday night.

Overseas Unit alumnae featured in the Des Moines Tribune during the 1920 GFWC Biennial: Annabel Garvey (daughter of the Kansas Federation president) and Nan Herren of Kansas, and Eva Bechtel of Utah.

HELP GFWC RECORD WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE

ADD TO THE REGISTRY

The Military Women's Memorial (MWM) seeks to build a comprehensive database of every woman who has served our country, including those – like the GFWC Overseas Unit – who supported troops during wartime.

Do you know of any women in your club, or your family, who could be added, whether as active duty, veterans, or as "we also served" supporters?

Create an account for the MWM Registry to add those names, and be sure to choose the General Federation of Women's Clubs as the National Registration Campaign Partner so we can count them toward our goal of **500 new registrations before the end of 2026!**

INCLUDE IN YOUR SUBMISSION:

PERSONAL INFO
Full name, address, and email

SERVICE DETAILS
Branch of service, rank, and dates of service

MILITARY HISTORY
Awards and decorations

STORY/PROFILE
Brief narrative about memorable experiences while serving

PHOTOGRAPH
Photos of servicewomen in uniform are encouraged

RECOGNITION
Select the General Federation of Women's Clubs as the National Registration Campaign Partner

GFWC EVENTS

Warm Welcomes in Old Alexandria

★ **MICHELLE MUNOZ,** *GFWC DIRECTOR-ELECT OF JUNIOR CLUBS*

GFWC's new Board of Directors meet just outside of Washington D.C. as they begin their new positions.

FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

ANTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

August finally arrives—it's time for the GFWC Fall Board of Directors meeting. We completed the registration, arranged our flights, and reserved a hotel room. The anticipation of reuniting with our GFWC club sisters is overwhelming and exciting.

PREPARING FOR THE TRIP

About five days before departure, the planning begins. We review the agenda and consider:

- What should I wear?
- What do I need to bring?
- What outings are planned?
- What will the weather be like at our destination?

With those details in mind, we can pack accordingly.

THURSDAY: ARRIVAL IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

On Thursday, many of us head to the airport for our weekend in Old Town Alexandria. Depending on where we are traveling from, the day may begin early; some members choose to drive instead. At the airport, there is always the possibility of spotting a GFWC sister—and once we reach our destination, we are sure to find one another.

After arriving, members can share a ride to the hotel. The lobby is soon bustling with GFWC sisters. Some arrive at the same time, while others have already made plans for sightseeing or lunch—and there is always an invitation to join a group.

THURSDAY EVENING: INSPIRATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Thursday evening features an incredible speaker: Anna Rathmann from the Jane Goodall Institute. She shares photographs highlighting the Institute's work.

The night is still young for this Director-Elect of Junior Clubs. We traditionally invite the State Directors to our suite to visit, talk, and catch up. This year, our Director's assistant adds a challenge: a 1,000-piece puzzle to be completed before the weekend ends. Challenge accepted—and completed by Saturday evening.

Anna Rathmann, President of the Jane Goodall Institute

Fall Board of Directors Meeting (Continued)

Puzzling in the Junior Suite

FRIDAY MORNING: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

We are up early Friday morning to board buses for Arlington National Cemetery and a tour of the Military Women's Memorial. There, we witness the changing of the guard, followed by GFWC International President Wendy Carriker and Director of Junior Clubs Trina Behbahani's presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After the ceremony, the Board of Directors gathers for a group photo. Trolleys then take us past several sites throughout the cemetery. Our final stop is the Military Women's Memorial, where we watch a short film, tour the museum, and take another group photo.

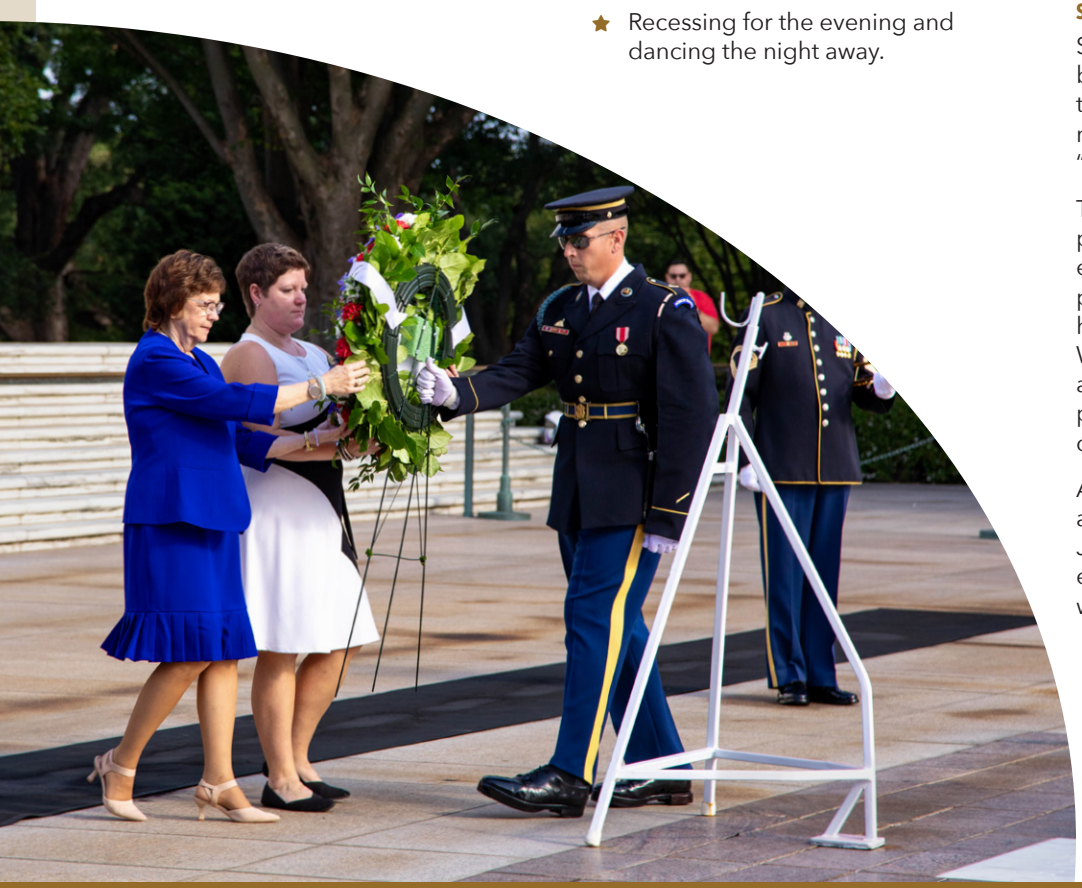
FRIDAY: BUSINESS, SERVICE, AND CELEBRATION

Our spouses or better halves may think these gatherings are simply time with friends—and friendship is certainly part of the experience. More importantly, however, we come together to conduct GFWC business, with a little downtime for fellowship and meals.

Friday's activities include:

- Visiting the GFWC Marketplace to purchase GFWC wearables.
- Taking part in a service project that repurposes outdated T-shirts into carrying bags for donation to shelters.
- Dressing as Helen Roper, the character from Three's Company, for the evening dinner.

- Listening to chairmen present updates on the Unity Projects.
- Recessing for the evening and dancing the night away.



SATURDAY: MEETINGS AND TIME TOGETHER

Saturday morning brings the Board of Directors together for focused meetings. State Presidents, State Directors of Junior Clubs, and chairmen meet with their respective committees. Afterward, everyone reconvenes for lunch, officers' reports, and additional chairman reports.

Later in the afternoon, the Region Presidents invite members to their region conferences, which take place on weekends throughout September and October. Once the afternoon meetings recess, we are free to make our own dinner plans. Groups venture beyond the hotel to try restaurants in the host city. The State Directors usually dine together before returning to the Junior Suite for more laughs and fellowship.

The puzzle is still waiting, and before long, many members gather in the suite to help complete it.

SUNDAY: CLOSING AND STAYING CONNECTED

Sunday is our final day. We gather for brunch, hear additional reports from the chairmen, and close our two-hour meeting by holding hands and singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

The Board of Directors meeting is packed from start to finish. We arrive eager to see federation sisters—and perhaps to connect with someone we have not had the chance to know before. We exchange stories and share news about club events, united by a common purpose with women from across the country.

Although we will not see one another again until the Annual Convention in June, we stay connected through texts, emails, and phone calls with the friends we proudly call our federation sisters.

HONORING HER SERVICE

Every Woman. Every Story. Every Service. A Nation's History Worth Preserving.

★ *WOMEN'S MILITARY MEMORIAL*

There are places in America that hold more than history. They hold the very soul of our Nation.

The Military Women's Memorial, located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, is one such national treasure.

For nearly three decades, the Memorial has honored the courage, commitment, sacrifice, and contributions of women who have served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces. More than a monument to the past, it is a living tribute to the women whose service has shaped our military, defended our freedoms, and strengthened our Nation.

At the heart of its mission is a profound conviction: Every woman who served deserves to be recognized. Every woman's service deserves to be remembered. Every woman's story deserves to be preserved.

Not just the generals, admirals, decorated heroes, or pioneers who shattered barriers.

Every woman.

The woman who served two years and the woman who served thirty. The woman who deployed into combat and the woman whose work made those missions possible. The woman who commanded thousands and the woman who quietly fulfilled her duties without recognition.

For 251 years, women have answered our Nation's call, often overcoming extraordinary obstacles simply to serve. Every woman, in her own way, is a trailblazer.

The Military Women's Memorial is not reserved for the famous, the firsts, or the elite. It honors every woman who served, recognizing that every job mattered, every contribution counted, and every woman helped shape the military we know today and our Nation.

MILITARY WOMEN'S MEMORIAL
Honoring her service

THE NATIONAL REGISTER: WHERE HER STORY BECOMES HISTORY

At the heart of the Memorial is the National Register, a one-of-a-kind historical repository dedicated to documenting and preserving the individual stories of women who served in and with the U.S. Armed Forces.

More than a database of names, photographs, and military records, the Register is a collection of life, of service, and of sacrifice. Behind every registration is a woman with experiences, challenges, accomplishments, and memories uniquely her own.

A photograph captures her pride in uniform. An awards and decorations section documents some of her contributions. A memorable experience reveals a closer look at her service and the defining moments that shaped her journey.

These are the human dimensions of military history that official records alone cannot capture.

> **The Register does not simply document that a woman served. It preserves the story of the woman who served.**

Today, more than 342,000 women's stories are preserved in the Register. Yet more than three million women have served in or with our Armed Forces. That means nearly 90 percent remain unrepresented.

Millions of stories are still waiting to be told.

Too often, women veterans dismiss their own service, saying, "I didn't do anything special. I was just doing my job."

But that service was special. Every assignment contributed to something greater. No rank, decoration, deployment, or length of service determines the worth of a woman's contribution.

HER SERVICE MATTERS. HER STORY MATTERS.

And when individual stories are brought together, they reveal something extraordinary: the collective history of 251 years of women's service to America.

Every registration closes a gap in our historical record. Every story preserved ensures future generations better understand who defended this Nation.

HELP PRESERVE HER STORY

History cannot preserve what it does not know.

Every woman who served or is serving deserves a place in the National Register. Registration is free.

Register your service. Encourage every military woman you know to do the same. Family members can help preserve the stories of women who are no longer with us or those who need help telling their story of service. Honor your mother, grandmother, great aunt, sister, or daughter.

Because America's history is incomplete without her story.

Every woman. Every branch. Every era. Every job. Every story.

Every one of them matters.

Register your story today at womensmemorial.org.

GFWC's Pathway to a Healthier Future with Shot@Life

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS | shot @life

Did you know that for just $10 – the cost of a case of Coca-Cola – a child can be protected from tuberculosis?

Shot@Life is excited to announce the launch of our next GFWC-exclusive fundraising initiative: **Pathway to a Healthier Future.**

GFWC clubs will support Shot@Life's UN partners to ensure critical tuberculosis, HIV, and hepatitis vaccines, tests, and treatments reach the most vulnerable children and mothers throughout the region.

Together, our goal is to raise $40,000 by September 2027! You can start a fundraiser with other women in your club or state, or scan the QR code to give today!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!

shot@life

info@shotatlife.org

Together Canine Companions

We Give Back

This holiday season, Canine Companions puppies urgently need volunteer raisers to help them become service dogs.

Open your home to a future service dog for 18 months and help a person with a disability gain greater independence.

Join our community of puppy raisers today!

Scan here to learn more!

IS IMPACT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTUALLY POSSIBLE?

The scale of human trafficking can feel overwhelming, but it isn't hopeless.

We are a non-profit whose work reached 160,000 people this year.

We know that impact IS possible. Because together, there is Hope for Justice.

hopeforjustice.org/signup

HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Hope for Justice is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

GROWING IN SERVICE

Membership Recruitment List

FOCUS ON: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AUGUST-OCTOBER 2026, MORE THAN 3 MEMBERS ADDED

GFWC Woodford County Woman's Club – 35
Versailles, KY

GFWC Fig Garden Woman's Club – 19
Fresno, CA

GFWC Mebane Woman's Club – 19
Mebane, NC

GFWC Florence Woman's Club – 17
Florence, AZ

GFWC Community Woman's Club – 16
Cocoa, FL

GFWC Ojai Valley Woman's Club – 16
Ojai, CA

GFWC Redwood City Woman's Club – 15
Redwood City, CA

GFWC Craft Juniorette – 13
Morehead, KY

GFWC Papillion Junior Woman's Club – 12
Papillion, NE

GFWC Westlake Women's Club – 11
Westlake Village, CA

GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper – 11
Jasper, TX

GFWC Acworth Carrie Dyer Woman's Club – 10
Acworth, GA

GFWC Murray Woman's Club – 10
Murray, KY

GFWC Sun City Center Woman's Club, Inc. – 10
Sun City Center, FL

GFWC Tucson Woman's Club – 10
Tucson, AZ

GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club – 9
Lewes, DE

The GFWC Woman's Club of Clayton – 9
Clayton, NC

GFWC Civic Woman's Club of Milledgeville – 8
Milledgeville, GA

GFWC Cookeville Junior Woman's Club – 8
Cookeville, TN

GFWC Dunwoody Woman's Club – 8
Dunwoody, GA

GFWC Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club – 8
Moorpark, CA

GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club – 8
Punta Gorda, FL

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club – 8
Stone Mountain, GA

GFWC Wake Forest Woman's Club – 8
Wake Forest, NC

GFWC Woman's Club of Sarasota – 8
Sarasota, FL

GFWC Dallas Woman's Club – 7
Dallas, GA

GFWC Rotunda West Woman's Club – 7
Rotunda West, FL

GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club – 7
St. Petersburg, FL

GFWC Clarksville Women's Club – 6
Clarksville, TN

GFWC Community Partners – 6
St. Petersburg, FL

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club – 6
Glendale, AZ

GFWC Homer Glen Junior Women's Club – 6
Homer Glen, IL

GFWC Kearney Woman's Club – 6
Kearney, NE

GFWC Nashaway Woman's Club – 6
Nashua, NH

GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill – 6
Rock Hill, SC

GFWC-IL Plainfield Junior Woman's Club – 6
Plainfield, IL

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club – 6
Rhinelander, WI

GFWC Austintown Junior Women's League – 5
Austintown, NE

GFWC Berea Woman's Club, Inc. – 5
Berea, KY

GFWC Federation Guild Association, Inc. – 5
Dover, DE

GFWC Jackson Woman's Club – 5
Jackson, KY

GFWC LaBelle Community Woman's Club – 5
Labelle, FL

GFWC Leitchfield Woman's Club – 5
Leitchfield, KY

GFWC Northwest Guilford Woman's Club – 5
Oak Ridge, NC

GFWC Woman's Club of Playa del Rey – 5
Playa del Rey, CA

GFWC Gloucester County Women's Club – 4
Sewell, NJ

GFWC Laramie Woman's Club – 4
Laramie, WY

GFWC Newbern Woman's Club – 4
Newbern, TN

GFWC San Diego Woman's Club – 4
San Diego, CA

GFWC Valdosta Junior Woman's Club – 4
Valdosta, GA

GFWC Burlington Woman's Club – 3
Burlington, NC

GFWC Gun Lake Area, Inc. – 3
Gun Lake, MI

GFWC Hollis Woman's Club – 3
Hollis, NH

GFWC Monday Forum – 3
Pryor, OK

GFWC Sandy Springs Woman's Club – 3
Sandy Springs, GA

GFWC Southside Woman's Club of Jacksonville, Inc. – 3
Jacksonville, FL

GFWC Three Rivers Women's Club – 3
Three Rivers, MI

GFWC Village Improvement Association – 3
Green Cove Springs, FL

GFWC Wheaton Junior Woman's Club – 3
Wheaton, IL

GFWC Woman's Club of Charleston – 3
Charleston, SC

GFWC Woman's Club of Lake Worth – 3
Lake Worth Beach, FL

GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte – 3
Port Charlotte, FL

GFWC Women's Club of Hollister – 3
Hollister, CA

Brick by Brick

REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF GFWC HEADQUARTERS

Today, we have the opportunity to restore and sustain GFWC's historic Headquarters into the future through donations to the GFWC Annual Giving Program's Brick by Brick, Continuing Our Legacy Fund.

Donations to the GFWC Brick by Brick, Continuing Our Legacy Fund will go towards the repair and restoration of the exterior walls on the backs and sides of GFWC's three iconic Headquarters buildings. The backs and sides of GFWC's buildings are grand and infinitely interesting, featuring unpainted brick walls, bay windows, balconies, and a narrow alley between 1734 N Street and 1728 N Street. You can see the exterior walls of the squash court from the back and an extensive fire escape system. We even have a large fruit-producing fig tree outside the solarium.

Over time, the brick and stonework that gives our Headquarters its grand and elegant appearance has deteriorated and needs major repairs. The backs and sides of all three buildings are in immediate need of repair and restoration.

> **We estimate that at least 50% of the walls on the three buildings require significant tuckpointing.**

There are cracks and even holes in the walls, weakening the structure and allowing significant water intrusion into the buildings. This project will continue our ongoing efforts to secure

THE REPAIRS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONATIONS TO THE BRICK BY BRICK, CONTINUING OUR LEGACY FUND WILL INCLUDE:

MAJOR MASONRY WORK

Tuckpointing on at least 50% of the three buildings

Sealing all exterior cracks and holes in and through the walls

Caulking all windows and doors

Repairing windowsills

METAL RESTORATION OF RAILINGS, DECOR, AND FIRE ESCAPES

Remove all rust

Seal joints to prevent water damage

Structural and corrosion repairs

Paint

WATER ABATEMENT

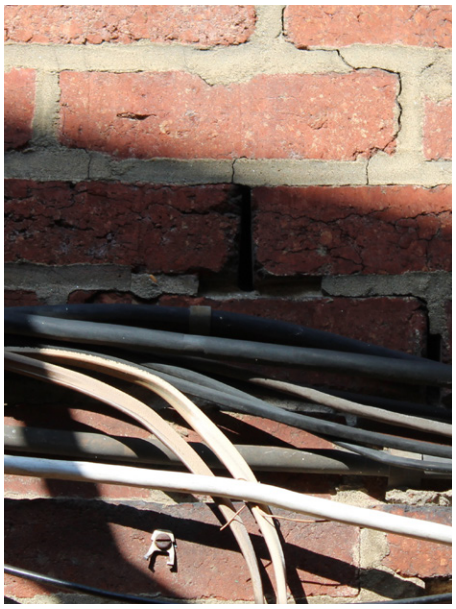
Replace and repair concrete

Seal all joints at ground level

Snake and repair all drains and downspouts

Regrade to direct water away from the buildings

Brick by Brick, Continuing Our Legacy (Continued)



the structural integrity and longevity of GFWC's beloved Headquarters.

GFWC's Headquarters is a testament to the strength, determination, and grace of GFWC club members.

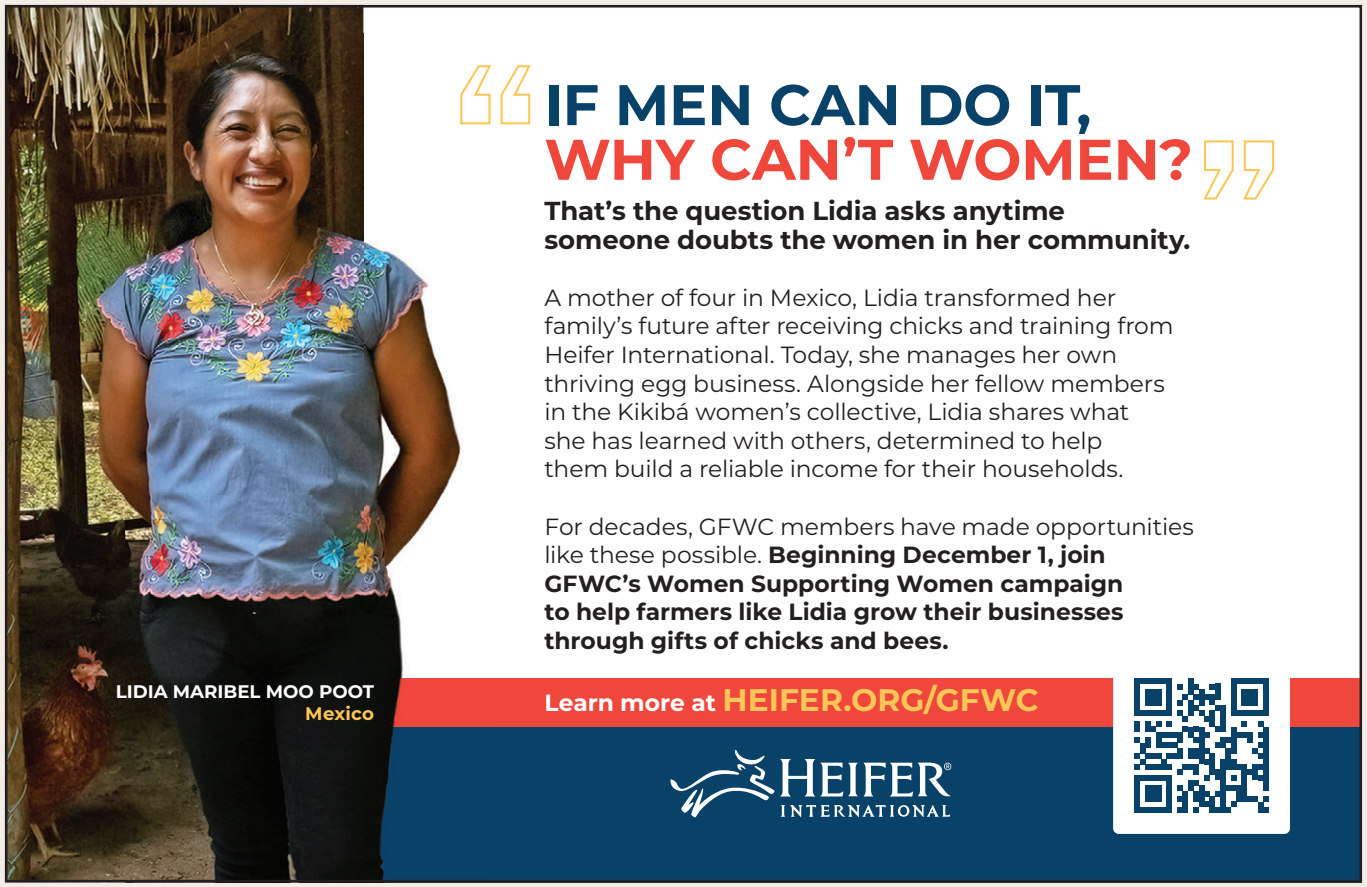
| Most importantly, it is GFWC's home.

This restoration will not only enhance the beauty of our Headquarters, it will also protect the historic interior spaces and collections and secure the buildings' long-term structural integrity.

Thank you for your support of the Brick by Brick, Continuing Our Legacy Fund and your help in preserving and protecting GFWC Headquarters.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

A Message from our Affiliate Organizations



GFWC
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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Baking Spirits Bright 2026

Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 9

10:30 am–12:30 pm or 1:30–3:30 pm

GFWC Headquarters 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

For questions or to contact us at gfwc@gfwc.org or 202.347.3168.

1734 N St NW, Washington, DC 20036

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