



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

APRIL 13, 2023



2023 GFWC Annual Convention

[Register for
Convention](#)

[Book Your
Room](#)

Featured Convention Speaker

Robin Yocum

Robin Yocum is known for his fiction set in the Ohio River Valley. His most recent novel, "The Sacrifice of Lester Yates," was released in April of 2021 by Arcade CrimeWise and was a finalist for the 2021 Dashiell Hammett Award for outstanding crime writing.

He is the author of five additional works of fiction:

- "A Perfect Shot"
- "A Welcome Murder"
- "A Brilliant Death"
- "The Essay"
- "Favorite Sons"



"Favorite Sons" was named the 2011 Book of the Year for Mystery/Suspense by USA Book News. "A Brilliant Death" was a Barnes & Noble No. 1 bestseller and a finalist for the 2017 Edgar Award and the Silver Falchion Award for best adult mystery.

He also has written two works of non-fiction: "Dead Before Deadline . . . and Other Tales from the Police Beat" (2004 - University of Akron Press); and "Insured for Murder" (1992 - Prometheus Books), which

he co-authored with Cathy Candisky.

Yocum joined the "Columbus Dispatch" in 1980. He worked at the paper for 11 years, including six years as the senior reporter on the investigative desk. He won more than 30 local, state, and national journalism awards in categories ranging from investigative reporting to feature writing. Before joining the investigative team, he covered the police beat for four years, which was the basis for his book, "Dead Before Deadline."

Prior to joining the Dispatch, Yocum was the associate sports editor of the Martins Ferry, Ohio, "Times Leader" and a reporter for the Lancaster, Ohio, "Eagle-Gazette."

He is the principle at Yocum Communications, a public relations and marketing consulting firm in Galena, Ohio, which he founded in 2001. Yocum grew up in the Ohio River village of Brilliant, Ohio.

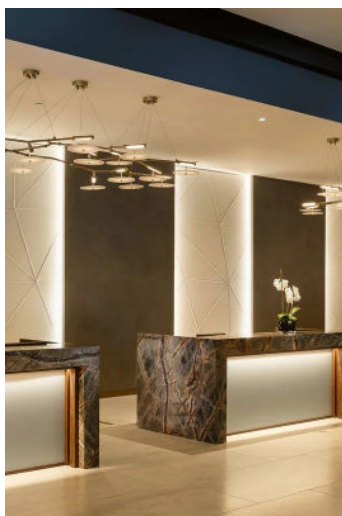
He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University.



The Deadline for Donations to the "Race to the Finish" Fundraiser is May 10

Items such as jewelry, handbags, subscriptions, experiences, or electronics are great prizes to win and donate. If you would like to donate items to the fundraiser, please download the form and submit it to Nishu Raina (nraina@gfwc.org).

[Download Donation Form](#)



**Louisville Marriott
Downtown is almost at
capacity!**

If you still need to book your room, please do so as soon as possible. The cost per room (1-4 guests) is \$201 plus taxes.

[BOOK NOW](#)

To make your reservations via phone, call 800-266-9432 or 502-627-5045 (local).

Please note that for Monday, June 12, the hotel is sold out of

rooms.

Contact Nishu Raina, Events Manager, at NRaina@GFWC.org or 202-628-2478 if you:

1. No longer plan to use a room reserved for June 12. Be sure to provide your Marriott-issued confirmation number.
2. Would like to be added to the June 12 waitlist for a room at the Marriott.
3. Booked more rooms than needed? Please contact Nishu to cancel so we do not lose the room from our block reserved for GFWC members.



National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

Register Your Club for GFWC's National Day of Service

Sign up today to participate in the inaugural GFWC National Day of Service and help end food insecurity! GFWC is here to help you get ready for September 30, 2023. Register now, and GFWC will send you information to start your National Day of Service planning process. We will also provide all registered clubs with tools and resources you can use to make the day a success, including tips for finding your local food bank or pantry, project suggestions, a press kit, and more.

To participate, please email Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, mgisler@gfwc.org and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

GFWC Marketplace Temporary Closure

We will be announcing the new Marketplace launch date in next week's edition of News & Notes.

The **GFWC Marketplace is closed temporarily** while we undertake a major renovation to the site. Stay tuned for a redesigned store, enhanced user experience, and new products for you to purchase for yourself and the clubwomen in your life. We will keep you up to date on our progress and announce the launch date of the new GFWC Marketplace in *News & Notes*.



Montana State President's Project

The Care Project

by: Lynn Foreman, GFWC Montana State President

My state project is the CARE PROJECT, which is to care for those who take care of us. The intent is to encourage and empower clubs to focus on their own community needs by recognizing individuals or organizations that “take care of us.” As part of the 2022 reporting, clubs identified projects to be included as a Care Project in their reports; sixteen reports were submitted. At our 2022 Fall Board of Directors Meeting, the club that provided the banquet table decorations paid tribute to: branches of the armed forces, firefighters, law enforcement, healthcare workers, farmers, and ranchers. As a fundraiser, we played I C A R E (Bingo). Each card square was a picture of someone who takes care of us. It was amazing and 50 unique cards were generated.

Some of the first projects of my administration were the presentation of custom-made quilts to community members including the medical providers at a Critical Access Hospital who cared for the community during the Covid pandemic and a volunteer fireman who was pictured saving a home during sub-zero temperatures with ice on his beard. Another club made “We Care” cards given to individuals who showed that they cared, along with a twenty-dollar bill.

I am excited to report that I appointed a leadership committee comprised of Montana’s past LEADs graduates. They accepted enthusiastically and have been working on developing our State LEADs program, which will be introduced at our State District Meetings this month. Zoom session(s) are planned, and an in-person program will be offered for our Fall Board of Directors meeting and at our 2024 Biennial Convention next April.



The President & Her Right to Vote

by: Diane Addante, GFWC Parliamentarian

Before studying parliamentary procedure, I thought the President of an organization could only vote by ballot or to break a tie. It is so much more interesting than that! First, assuming that the President is a voting member of the organization (sometimes Presiding Officers are not), she is entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, including the right to make motions, speak in debate, and vote. This is especially true when she is in a small group setting, such as with the Executive Committee. However, the impartiality required of the presiding officer in larger settings, such as club meetings or conventions, precludes her from making motions or speaking in debate while presiding. She should also refrain from voting except by ballot or when her vote will affect the result.

Did you catch that? It is fairly common knowledge that she can vote to break a tie. What if the vote is 25-24 in favor of an action? If she opposes the measure, she can vote against it and cause a tie, and the motion will be lost. That certainly affects the outcome, and she is entitled to do it. She is the President because we trust her to have the organization's best interest at heart, so when a vote is that close, who better to decide the outcome than the President?

In the case of a two-thirds vote, the same principle applies. She can vote to cause or block the attainment of the necessary two-thirds.

If your organization's bylaws restrict how your President can vote, consider striking that and letting parliamentary authority be your guide.

Using Self-Awareness to Develop Leadership

by: Ann Landis, GFWC Leadership Committee

From gaining the respect of team/committee members to consistently delivering results, effective leadership consists of a myriad of characteristics, strategies, and skills. However, one trait proves universal in leaders of all kinds: Self-awareness.

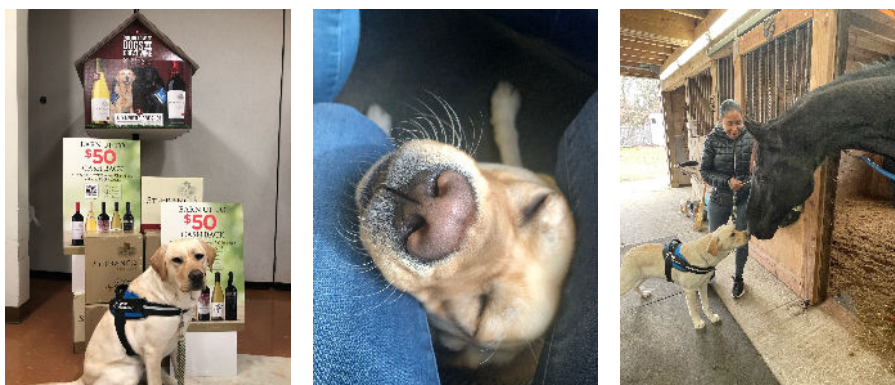
Dr. Cam Caldwell, University of Illinois author, and professor, says, “Self-awareness is an effort. It’s a conscious effort to understand who we are, who others are, the universal rules we apply, and our commitment to the future. It takes work and willingness to recognize that reality is truth.”

Self-awareness in leadership is understanding how your personality traits, habits, and abilities affect your interactions with people around you. Self-aware leaders reflect on how others perceive words and actions. They seek to change approaches so they can lead peers more effectively and guide teams to the best outcomes.

Self-aware leaders understand their shortcomings. They surround themselves with those who possess the skills needed to succeed. Those possessing self-awareness have more direction, purpose, influence, and success in their professional and personal lives. This awareness serves as a foundation for strengthening all leadership skills.

You can begin to identify your skills as a leader in multiple ways. First, start with one of the numerous tests to help you better understand your personality. Myers Briggs is one of the most well-known tests because it tells a lot about how you naturally work and communicate. Next, take advantage of the GFWC Leadership Toolkit and use the Personality Style Survey. Understanding yourself is a prerequisite to understanding and empowering others.

As John C. Maxwell says, “Leading well is not about enriching yourself; it’s about empowering others.” Use your self-awareness knowledge as a guide while leading and directing others to be their best.



Canine Companions Update: Sims

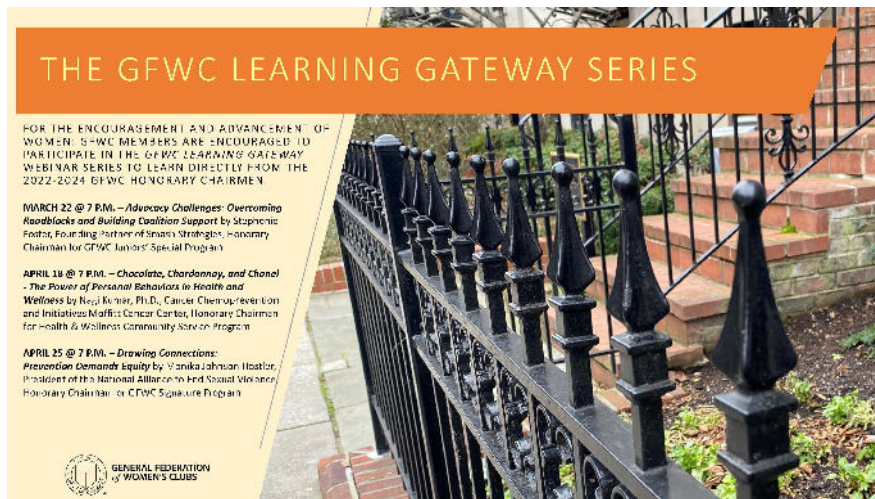
Canine Companions puppy Sims, named in honor of former GFWC International President, Marian St. Clair, is making us all proud with her training accomplishments.

Her trainer took her to a St. Francis wine event in Queens, NY where she was a rockstar at the meet and greet (picture 1). They also rode the LIRR train to NYC (picture 2) and visited a farm to meet horses (picture 3). She’s doing well as she learns more of the commands to

become a service dog. She is learning “pull” and “switch” and has a solid retrieve/tug/light. She is affectionate and stable, loves food and people.

Puppies like Sims are on a very important journey to become a life-changing service dog for a person with a disability. Canine Companions service dogs are matched at no cost to recipients—adults, children, and veterans with disabilities—after an intensive two-week training class culminating in a joyous graduation ceremony that is open to the public.

To learn more about Canine Companions, visit canine.org




THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, GFWC MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR SERIES TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM THE 2022-2024 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN

MARCH 22 @ 7 P.M. – Advocacy Challenges: Overcoming Roadblocks and Building Coalition Support by Stephanie Foster, Founding Partner of Sims Strategies, Honorary Chairman for GFWC Juniors’ Special Program

APRIL 18 @ 7 P.M. – Chocolate, Chardonnay, and Chanel – The Power of Personal Behaviors in Health and Wellness by Nezi Kenner, Ph.D., Cancer Chemoprevention and Initiatives Maffei Cancer Center, Honorary Chairman for Health & Wellness Community Service Program

APRIL 25 @ 7 P.M. – Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity by Yanka Johnson, Hostler, President of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Honorary Chairman for GFWC Signature Program

 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

To register for upcoming events, click on the titles below:

April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

[Chocolate, Chardonnay, and Chanel - The Power of Personal Behaviors in Health and Wellness](#)

April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

[Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity](#)

Watch previous webinars on the GFWC Website under the “What We Do” Tab on our website.

[**Watch Past Webinars**](#)





The General Federation of Women's Clubs is pleased to announce a new endorsed fundraiser with Lady Jayne, Ltd. Many GFWC members are already familiar with Lady Jayne Jewelry through their presence as a regular vendor at GFWC's Annual Convention.

Founder, Nancy Basch, started Lady Jayne 30 years ago when, as a professional entertainer, she found that she was allergic to jewelry made of nickel. She and her mother, Jayne, went to factory showrooms to find jewelry she could wear. Because her mother provided so much support and encouragement, she named the company after her, Lady Jayne. Lady Jayne is 100 percent nickel free, with a lifetime replacement on the Swarovski crystals, and made in the USA.

The Lady Jayne collection is an economical way to accessorize in today's market by using interchangeable GFWC emblem charms. The same charms can be used in earrings, pendants, bracelets, or necklaces and are easily changed from one to another. 12 percent of GFWC emblem purchases will be donated to GFWC.

To purchase or order for your own fundraising from Lady Jayne, Ltd., go to their website, www.ladyjayne.com. Go to "Associations" and find "General Federation of Women's Clubs" in the drop down menu, which will take you to GFWC's product line. You can also use this link to go directly the GFWC page: www.ladyjayne.com/gfwc

Shop Now

Shot@Life - Advocate to Vaccinate

From March 20 - April 30, Shot@Life supporters around the country will *Advocate to Vaccinate*, speaking to their members of Congress and their communities about the importance of fully funding global childhood immunization programs, including UNICEF, CDC, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

All GFWC members are welcome to join the push to ensure #VaccinesForAll. Whether you have five minutes or an hour, there are ways for you to get involved. [Sign](#) the latest petition to send a message to your congressional offices. See our [advocacy toolkit](#) to find out about other ways to use your voice this spring—such as

calling your legislators, writing an article for a newsletter, or meeting with your congressional offices.

Shot@Life is a campaign of the United Nations Foundation that aims to ensure that children around the world have access to lifesaving vaccines. Through public education, grassroots advocacy, and fundraising, we strive to decrease vaccine-preventable childhood deaths and give every child a shot at a healthy life no matter where they live. Find out more about the partnership between GFWC and Shot@Life at shotatlife.org/gfwc.



Volunteers in Action: Durham & Wake Forest Woman's Clubs

The Wake Forest Woman's Club (NC) was pleased to collaborate on a community service project with the Durham Woman's Club (NC). Several clubwomen traveled to Durham, North Carolina, to provide and serve lunch for women and children at the Durham Rescue Mission. The Durham Rescue Mission serves over 400,000 meals per year and provides shelter to homeless men, women, and children. They also provide "The Victory Program" a 12-month plan to help people go from addiction to employment.

Both clubs have plans for future events and joined together shortly thereafter at The Lemon Tree Cafe in Wake Forest to socialize and strategize. They plan to meet weekly to learn about how the clubs operate and can work together on future projects.

Wake Forest clubwoman Marilyn Bonnett summed up their meeting, "We are like-minded women in service to the community."



