



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

APRIL 27, 2023



## 2023 GFWC Annual Convention

[Register for  
Convention](#)

[Book Your  
Room](#)

### Have a question about Convention?

Check out the [FAQs Page](#) on the 2023 Annual Convention Website



### Donate to the “Race to the Finish” Fundraiser

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](mailto:nraina@gfwc.org)).

[Donation Form](#)

## MY NAME IN PRINT OPPORTUNITY DRAWING



Enter for a chance to have your name in a published book by author, Robin Yocum

All proceeds go to the GFWC Access to Education Fund Scholarship for low-income and at-risk students

### Get Your Name in Print!

Buy tickets when you register for convention or contact Nishu Raina (202-628-2478 or [nraina@gfwc.org](mailto:nraina@gfwc.org))



### Kentucky Host State Pins Almost Gone!

This 3 1/2 inch pin is a showstopper. Get yours before they're gone! There are limited quantities available as noted below.

**Two Sponsorship Levels:**  
\$100 for Red (30 available) or  
Blue (16 available)  
\$50 for Pink (6 available)

Please contact Peggy Barnes at 859-619-8475 or [peggybarnes00@gmail.com](mailto:peggybarnes00@gmail.com) to place your order. Checks or credit cards are accepted as forms of payment. A shipping fee of \$10 will be added to the total cost if mailed. Or you can pick it up in Louisville at the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention.

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## 2023 GFWC Federation Day Reception





April 24, on a sunny, spring afternoon at GFWC Headquarters, we celebrated 133 years of sisterhood and Living the Volunteer Spirit. Clubwomen from the surrounding area gathered to connect and toast the formation of GFWC. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate Federation Day!



## GFWC Marketplace Opening May 1!

We are excited to announce the launch of GFWC's new Marketplace on Monday, May 1! You can access the Marketplace from the GFWC website or at: [www.gfwc.org/marketplace](http://www.gfwc.org/marketplace). Inside you will find the products you use and love and a new, easy to navigate layout. Note that this is a new system, and **all users will need to create a new account before using Marketplace for the first time.**

We will debut three new products at GFWC's Annual Convention in Louisville. They will be available for purchase at Convention and online shortly thereafter. We will also be adding new items over the coming months including customizable items such as business cards, so visit often!



## National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

**GFWC Staff Registers for National Day of Service**

The GFWC Staff will be working to end food insecurity on September 30, 2023, along with GFWC club members nationwide. GFWC Staff is still planning their NDS service project and are learning from all the wonderful suggestions coming from clubs daily. Register with Melanie Gisler and send an idea for a project or volunteer opportunity and it will be posted on Facebook with your club's name, city, and state.

Look for a new information page on GFWC's website under "What We Do" to help you start planning your community service project or volunteer opportunity to help end food insecurity. **You will also find a list of clubs and state federations that have already registered for the National Day of Service.**

To participate in the inaugural NDS, please email Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, [mgisler@gfwc.org](mailto:mgisler@gfwc.org) and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, [dstrahanoski@gfwc.org](mailto:dstrahanoski@gfwc.org)



## Nevada State President's Project Organ Donation Education

by: Cherie Lee Williams-De Witt, GFWC Nevada State President

April is Donate Life Month!

Organ donation education is the Nevada State President's Project for this administration. Education about organ donation is vital to dismiss myths that exist about this process and would assist those waiting for organs. This is an amazing opportunity to give the gift of life. The concept of giving a part of yourself to someone to make them whole and healthy is awe-inspiring. Given that there are over 100,000 people on the waiting list, the impact a single donor can make is immense. Every day 17 people die waiting for transplants, and nine people are added daily. Every deceased donor can save up to eight lives and enhance over 75 more. YOU can help.

By registering to become an organ donor you have the option to donate organs such as your heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small bowel. These forms of donation can enhance or even save the life of someone in need. You can also donate tissue, eye, bone



marrow, blood stem cells or donate your body for research. Follow this link to register in your state to be a donor: [www.organdonor.gov/sign-up](http://www.organdonor.gov/sign-up).

During this journey, our President has connected with Nevada Donor Network and we have learned that in the state of Nevada, the only transplant that you can receive is kidney. If you need any other type of transplant, you must travel elsewhere. Our president's husband needs a liver transplant and travels to California for medical services. This is the catalyst behind this project.

Our goal is to create an educational program model that can be used throughout the country. This education will save lives. Please join our journey to help give life!



## Legislative Corner

by: The Legislation/Public Policy Committee

*To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.*

April is federal appropriations time on Capitol Hill and a time for advocacy groups to communicate support for programs that serve their constituencies. Often, when members of Congress vote to cut a program, they say they did not hear from anyone back home that the program was important to them. GFWC prioritizes federal funding for our signature program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and programs affecting children, especially child abuse prevention and global vaccinations. Visit the [Legislative Action](#)

[Center](#) to take action on recent critically important issues including funding for global vaccinations and domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers and programs supporting prevention and services for survivors. Members of Congress need to hear from GFWC. Your Voice Matters! Haven't yet joined the GFWC Legislative Action Center - It's not too late!

Today we salute a GFWC member and two GFWC clubs for their progress on the Scavenger Hunt. The Legislation/ Public Policy Club Connection Initiative is a GFWC Scavenger Hunt intended to encourage legislative advocacy on the local, state, and national level, while also raising awareness of GFWC as an organization. The first Legislative Super Star is Kandace Hill, a member of GFWC of Holden Beach (NC). She has completed six of the nine items on the list and hopes to tackle the remaining three this year.

Two clubs submitted Scavenger Hunt forms, GFWC of Holden Beach (NC) and GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Woman's Club (AZ). Both clubs took time to match their club projects to a GFWC resolution resulting in double digit points. Both clubs took action on Legislative Action Center alerts and received responses from their elected officials. Is your club or state federation on the hunt? A search of the #GFWCAdvocacy on social media shows lots of clubs and states are scoring points with visits to their state capitals, proclamations for Advocates for Children week, and photos with elected officials. Keep up the good work, as Together We Advocate for Those in Need.

[Sign Up for LAC Alerts](#)

[Download Scavenger Hunt](#)

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## Benefits of Belonging

by: Catrina Sistrunk, Membership Committee Member

We live in an intrinsically self-centered society. The existence of the selfie stick is proof. As volunteers, we are different. We put other's needs before our own. We don't volunteer for "likes," and our focus is outward, not inward. We joke in Florida that, "we're not here for the chicken!" Although the chicken is usually delicious, it is a reminder that we're here for something bigger.

Sometimes when our energy is running low, we too might fall into the pity party of "What does GFWC do for me?" What keeps us coming back for more? It's not the physical or material things. It's a feeling.

It's a feeling of being part of an international sisterhood who has strength in unity. With over 60,000 members diverse in age, interests, experiences, and nationalities, we are united by a desire to create positive change. The volunteer spirit has no barriers, not language or borders.

It's a feeling of being able to support our communities and GFWC's wide range of partner organizations in any way needed.

It's a feeling of knowing that GFWC has a presence in Washington DC, not just our physical presence at our beautiful headquarters and Women's History and Resource Center, but also our presence on Capitol Hill.

It's the feeling of personal growth and confidence building through the various trainings and GFWC experiences.

It's a feeling of honoring the legacies of our members who have preceded us by continuing to advocate for those in need.

What are the benefits of belonging to GFWC? If nothing else that was mentioned matters, if the bigger picture doesn't matter, what does GFWC do for me? Friendship, the satisfaction of knowing I'm helping others, making a difference, and becoming the leader I never thought I could be!

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## Club Anniversaries & Gold Pins

### Club Anniversaries

**5**  
GFWC Woman's Club of Hamlin Junior Department

**30**  
Ashby Woman's Club (Virginia)

**50**  
GFWC Amherst Woman's Club (Virginia)  
GFWC Bedford Woman's Club (Virginia)

**70**  
GFWC Pea Ridge Woman's Club (West Virginia)  
GFWC Melville Woman's Club (Louisiana)  
South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club  
GFWC (Virginia)  
GFWC Roanoke Junior Women's Club, Inc (Virginia)

**75**  
Inter-Se Study Club of Jacksonville (Alabama)  
Progressive Study Club (Texas)  
GFWC Yorktown Woman's Club (Virginia)  
GFWC- Lynchburg Junior Woman's Club (Virginia)

**80**  
Riparian Woman's Club (Virginia)  
GFWC Tarrara Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Woman's Club of Jonesville (Virginia)  
Pembroke Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Wytheville Woman's Club (Virginia)  
GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club (Virginia)

**85**  
GFWC Sedley Woman's Club (Virginia)

**90**  
Pamunkey Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Woman's Club of Arlington (Virginia)  
Covington Woman's Club of GFWC (Virginia)  
Richlands Woman's Club (Virginia)

**95**  
GFWC The Woman's Club of Logan (West Virginia)  
GFWC Woman's Club of Williamson (West Virginia)  
GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas, Inc (Virginia)  
GFWC Junto Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Woman's Club of Smithfield (Virginia)

**100**  
GFWC Woman's Club of Shinnston (West Virginia)  
Wasco Woman's Club (California)  
Virgilina Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Buena Vista Woman's Club (Virginia)

**105**  
GFWC Woman's Club of Princeton (Wisconsin)

**110**  
GFWC Perry Study Club (Oklahoma)  
Woman's Club of Farmingdale (New York)  
Herndon Fortnightly Woman's Club (Virginia)  
Lexington Woman's Club ([Virginia](#))

**115**  
GFWC Woman's Club of Clarksburg (West Virginia)  
GFWC Marlinton Woman's Club (West Virginia)  
Woman's Club of Norfolk (Virginia)

**120**  
GFWC Tishomingo Daughters Club (Oklahoma)  
Pierian Club of Lampasas (Texas)

**125**  
The Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin (Texas)  
Ousamequin Club (Massachusetts)  
GFWC South Carolina (South Carolina)

### Gold Pins

Mary French Barbe  
GFWC Romney, Romney (West Virginia)

Elisabeth Parsons  
GFWC Romney, Romney (West Virginia)

Sandra Shanholtz  
GFWC Romney, Romney (West Virginia)

Vivian Strawn  
GFWC Romney, Romney (West Virginia)

Sharon Booth  
Progressive Chautauqua Circle Study Club (Iowa)

Jean Carroll Thompson  
GFWC Laurel Federated Woman's Club (Montana)

Gladys Edelstein  
The Madisonville Woman's Club (Kentucky)

Nora Hanson  
GFWC Sissonville, Sissonville (West Virginia)

Brenda Meador  
GFWC Huntington, Huntington (West Virginia)

Rebecca Morton  
GFWC Illinois Glenwood Junior Woman's Club (Illinois)

Merle Betts  
GFWC Illinois Glenwood Junior Woman's Club (Illinois)

Annette Andretich  
GFWC Illinois Glenwood Junior Woman's Club (Illinois)

Irene Rost  
GFWC Illinois Glenwood Junior Woman's Club (Illinois)

Nelda Cassell  
Frederick Woman's Civic Club, Inc. (Maryland)

Marlys Kunz  
Northwood Literary Club (North Dakota)

Judith T. Thomasson  
GFWC Melville Woman's Club (Louisiana)

Carol Carswell  
GFWC Gulf Coast Woman's Club (Florida)

Jo Ann Fortson  
GFWC Gulf Coast Woman's Club (Florida)

Dee Jackson  
GFWC Gulf Coast Woman's Club (Florida)

Peggy Walker  
GFWC Gulf Coast Woman's Club (Florida)

Carol Parks  
Woman's Club of Vineland (New Jersey)

Dorothy Schmelzeis  
Cary Woman's Club (North Carolina)

Sallie Mitchell  
GFWC Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach (Florida)



## PRESIDENT'S GEM



### Miami Woman's Club (FL)

GFWC Miami Springs Woman's Club (FL) organized Trike-A-Thon fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Miami Springs Montessori School students were matched and sponsored by MSWC members, prospective members, and friends. The students spent the week leading up to the ride learning how to ride a tricycle safely and working together raising money for the kids at St. Jude. The day of the Trike-A-Thon was a rainy one, but that could not stop the children who enjoyed all the attention from club members. All together 63 club members and 59 students raised \$4,095.00 for St. Jude Children's



Research Hospital.

We applaud these clubwomen for supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a GFWC Affiliate Organization. [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. Everything the organization does is centered on finding cures and saving children. Families at St. Jude are never charged for treatment, housing, or travel, so they can focus on helping their child live.

Is your club helping the community? Send us approximately 100 words about your project for the chance to be featured in Volunteers in Action. Please submit your story, 1-3 photos, and your club's name and state to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).

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GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

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