



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

December 14, 2023

GFWC Executive Committee Visits the White House



Last Tuesday, our Executive Committee toured the 2023 White House Holiday Display, which was themed “Magic, Wonder, and Joy.” Seventeen GFWC representatives, including Executive Committee Members, Special Assistants, and Staff, enjoyed this special tour of the decorations that took over 300 volunteers a week to complete. Approximately 14,975 feet of ribbon, over 350 candles, over 33,892 ornaments, and over 22,100 bells were used this year to decorate the White House.

Special thanks to U.S. Representative Laurel Lee of Florida's 15th Congressional District for arranging the tour.

For more information on this year’s holiday décor visit:
www.whitehouse.gov/holidays-2023/

2023 Miss DC Send-Off hosted at GFWC Headquarters





On Wednesday, December 6, the Executive Committee co-hosted a send-off celebration for Miss District of Columbia as she prepares to compete for the title of Miss America.

Jude Maboné is a heart health and athlete safety advocate, a small business owner, and an active community member serving with Children's National Hospital, the Honor Flight Network, and various other organizations in the District. Her diagnosis of heart disease at age sixteen led her to begin her community service initiative, "Check Your Heart," which provides preemptive heart screenings and AED devices for young people.

The celebration was hosted in coordination with GFWC District of Columbia as a membership recruitment event.

2023 Holiday Open House Photo Gallery

[View All 2023 Holiday Photos](#)

Hotel Bookings for the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention are Now Open



[Book Here](#)

For room booking questions, please contact the Hilton Chicago at (312) 922-4400

GFWC International Affiliate Update

By: Kathryn Sowers, International Liaisons Chairman



The GFWC International Liaison Committee is excited to announce the newest member of the GFWC International Affiliate Clubs—GFWC of Lwengo, Masaka, Uganda. Welcome!!!

Sylvia Nabukenya Yiga is the Club President, and they organized with 13 members pictured above. Their mission statement is to be a local women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service in Lwengo district and beyond.

They celebrated the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, 2023, and invited our GFWC President, Deb Strahanoski, and I as their guests. President Strahanoski was asked to be their Virtual Guest Speaker as they celebrated the day of awareness. She welcomed the club to GFWC and included a slide show. They included wonderful entertainment by the children in their community, and their interpreter, John, emceed the event.

Join the 2024 GFWC Tour “The Best of Flanders”

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



The Best of Flanders



The GFWC and Discover Europe have partnered again to craft an itinerary that highlights the best of Holland and Belgium.

The pace is never frantic, yet the days are pleasantly full and there are bound to be some unexpected diversions and adventures along the way. Your tour guide will provide background history, anecdotes, and an insight into Dutch life as you travel around.

Join us on an unforgettable journey through a country that is bursting with art and culture that are enjoyable year-round!




July 22nd - August 1st, 2024

Join GFWC International President Debra Strahanoski and clubwomen across the country on a journey to discover “The Best of Flanders,” a beautiful region with an interesting history and a rich cultural heritage. We’ll explore the Netherlands and northern Belgium, visiting world-class museums and historical sites, such as Het Loo Palace (home of the Dutch Royal Family), while enjoying local specialties

such as chocolates, cheeses, and house-brewed ales.

To enjoy the tour to the fullest, we recommend that participants be prepared to walk two and a half miles each day (4,000 to 6,500 steps depending on length of stride), though not necessarily all at once.

Review the brochure with full details and registration information [here](#).

To register, download this [form](#) and return to Discover Europe at 122 Island Street, Keene, NH 03431, along with the deposit, or fill out a digital application [here](#).

2024 Trip Brochure

GFWC and The National Coast Guard Museum: Paving the Way for Connection



"My siblings and I decided to order a commemorative paver for our father, Harry O. Taylor, Jr., who passed away in 2004. So grateful to the General Federation of Women's Clubs for getting this information out to the many clubs throughout the nation. We are extremely proud of our father's service in WWII and a wonderful way to memorialize him. Oh, the stories he would tell! God bless all our men and women who have served and continue to serve this great nation!" – Grace Tesoro, GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Women's Club (VA)

If you would like to assist with fundraising efforts, please consider the following: Donate through this GFWC-specific giving link:

www.coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc

Purchase a commemorative paver: <https://cgmuseumpavers.com/#/about>

If clubs would prefer to send a traditional contribution check (with GFWC noted on the memo line), you may do so at the following address:

National Coast Guard Museum Association
78 Howard Street, Suite A
New London, CT 06320

The Benefits of a Mentoring Program in Your Club

By: Jan Allen, GFWC Membership Committee Member

Do you need help getting members to step up into leadership positions? Are your members having fun? Are they learning and growing when it comes to GFWC? How about change? Do members get excited about starting new

projects?

Here's how to put all these aspects of membership development into perspective.

Think 70-20-10.

- 70% of your members' learning comes from actual hands-on experience. ("You give it a try." Or "How would you do this?")
- 20% of your members' learning comes from interpersonal exchanges. (Spend time with other members and get to know them and their GFWC experiences.)
- 10% of your members learn from formal training. ("Here is the manual." OR "This is how we do this.")

"Mentoring is a shared opportunity for learning and growth. Mentors say that the rewards they gain are as substantial as those for their mentees." (Partnership 4

Kids | Long-term Support for Lifelong Success. <https://p4k.org/>) Mentoring | FTG. <https://www.fiercelyctg.org/mentoring>)

The benefits of mentoring include:

- Having fun. Working with someone else is always more fun.
- Growing and learning.
- Improving Self-esteem. Feel like you are making a difference.
- Greater appreciation of diversity (thought, word, & deed).
- Feeling more productive.
- Enhancing relationships.

Are you mentor-ready?

It would help if you had a sincere desire to be involved in the development of a member. You will need to show mutual respect. Everyone has something to offer. Are your listening skills ready for this opportunity? Can you show empathy? You will need to share solutions and opportunities. Lastly, flexibility is critical.

- Here's how to get started:
- Decide on a time commitment. Are we mentoring a committee chair or a member to be club president?
- What skills are you, the mentor, bringing to the relationship, and what skills does the mentee bring?
- When do you start? And how do you know your objective is complete?
- What activities do you plan to engage in - sharing roles, shadowing, feedback, etc.?

Remember, mentoring amplifies positive change, one relationship at a time.

The Benefits of Planning

By: Suzanne Simons, GFWC Leadership Committee

Do you know the importance of a club, district, state, or region Strategic Plan? It is your GPS to GFWC's future, and everyone benefits. To use a GPS, enter the address or place to travel to and then follow the prompts. It's the same with your club's strategic plan. Plan what you want to accomplish, how you will get there, and how long it should take. Remember that you can always reroute as needed.

Planning where you're going and how to get there offers several benefits:

1. Clarity: It provides a clear destination and goals, helping you stay focused on what you want to achieve.
2. Efficiency: Planning enables you to identify the most efficient routes and methods to reach your destination, saving time and resources.
3. Motivation: A plan can boost motivation and commitment, giving you a roadmap and a sense of purpose.
4. Risk Reduction: Planning allows you to anticipate potential obstacles and risks by developing strategies to overcome them more easily.
5. Accountability: It helps you track progress, hold yourself accountable, and adjust your course as needed.
6. Prioritization: Planning helps you prioritize tasks and allocate resources effectively, ensuring you tackle the most important aspects first.
7. Flexibility: While planning is crucial, flexibility allows for adjustments and adaptations as circumstances change.
8. Confidence: Knowing where you're going and how to get there can boost your confidence, making it more likely that you'll achieve your goals.

For more Strategic Planning information, go to [GFWC.org](https://www.gfwc.org) and log into the Member Portal. In the Digital Library under "S," you will find many resources to help you get started.

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Women's Civic League (UT)



GFWC Women's Civic League (Tremonton, UT) made their annual visit to Our House, a local assisted living facility. A poinsettia was presented to each resident of the facility to start the holiday season.

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to PR@gfwc.org.



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