



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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February 8, 2024

Winter 2024 Clubwoman Magazine Now Available



“Revitalizing Renovations,” the theme for this issue, highlights the recent refurbishments at Headquarters and upcoming celebrations. You’re invited to GFWC Women’s History Month (March 6) and WHRC 40th Anniversary (May 1) celebrations!

Also featured in this issue:

- 2024-2026 Administration Candidates for Office
- Photos from the 2023 GFWC Holiday Open House

2024 Success for Survivors Scholarship - The Deadline for Submission is Saturday, February 10

As part of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, the GFWC Success For Survivors Scholarship was created in 2012 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by intimate partner violence who are pursuing higher

education. The scholarship aims to provide survivors with a means to achieve both financial and personal independence. Since its inception, GFWC has awarded more than \$125,000 in scholarship funds.

For more information, [visit our website](#). The 2024 application can be downloaded below.

[Download Application](#)



GFWC Hosts A Special Event at Headquarters for the Miss America Organization



On February 4th, GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and the GFWC District of Columbia Women's Club hosted a high tea with current and forever (former) Miss America winners, who were in Washington, DC for the opening of an exhibit on the competition's history at the National Museum of American History. Over 50 people were in attendance, including Miss America 2024 Madison Marsh, four previous winners dating back to 1948, and four former Miss DC winners. We were delighted to welcome these accomplished women to Headquarters.

Photos by Bruce Guthrie. Top photo, left to right: Robin Fleming, CEO of the Miss America Organization; GFWC International President Strahanoski; Madison Marsh, Miss America 2024; and

GFWC District of Columbia President Mohra Gevankar Gavankar.
Bottom photo: GFWC International President Strahanoski with BeBe Shopp, Miss America 1948.

GFWC Illinois 2024 Convention Fundraiser

GFWC Illinois is excited to welcome you to Chicago for the GFWC Annual Convention. To help offset the costs of hosting the convention, GFWC Illinois is selling Chic Baubles, beautiful multi-hued, jewel-toned pins that reflect the diversity of GFWC. Limited numbers of large pins (\$100) are available. To reserve your pin and receive an order form, please contact Ruth Sloat at slootruthgfwc@gmail.com. In addition, Chicago 2024 aprons are available for \$30 each. These aprons are practical and serve as a wonderful memento of your time in Chicago.

GFWC Illinois is thrilled to welcome our GFWC sisters to our beautiful state and the vibrant city of Chicago. Your support through purchasing Chic Baubles and aprons is greatly appreciated and will contribute to the success of the convention. We look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago!



2024 Learning Gateway Series Webinars

Discover Why GFWC will be a part of the National Coast Guard Museum on February 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. ET.

The United States Coast Guard is the only branch of the military that does NOT have a National Museum. But with the help and

enthusiasm of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, we can make this museum a reality. Why the National Coast Guard Museum? Did you know the United States Coast Guard leads the way in placing women in leadership roles? Currently, the highest-ranking officer of the Coast Guard, the Commandant, is a woman. This informational webinar will allow your club members to get up close and personal with bringing this landmark museum to reality.

To register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IrO5PVfpSBaX5AMorQTNTQ

POP - Projects with Power, February 20, 2024, @ 7 p.m.

Does your club need some sparkle and POP in the projects area? Join the GFWC Community Service Program Chairmen as they host a live 1-hour webinar to highlight unique projects from last year's award entries with the Community Connection Initiatives, Honorary Chairmen, GFWC Affiliate Organizations, and more. Incoming leaders, this webinar will bring some POP into your club calendars.

To register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q84WGzSRQie1MPPPq55YzQ



President Strahanoski and the Illinois State Society of Washington, DC Honor Ronald Reagan on His Birthday

GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski was invited by the Illinois State Society of Washington, DC to participate in a celebration of President Ronald Reagan's 113th birthday. She joined Howard S. Marks, President of the Illinois State Society, in laying a wreath at Reagan's statue located at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on February 6th.

Cares & Concerns

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Eleanor "Carol" Allen, who served as President of GFWC West Virginia from 2012 to 2014. Memorial contributions may be made to the church or the GFWC WV Scholarship Fund, c/o Dana Richardson, GFWC WV Treasurer, 10945 Waterloo Road, Leon, WV 25123.

GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs Project: Turning Stones to Empower Youth

by: Suzanne Hooser, GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs



Sending a girl to school through the Heifer International program was my main goal during my administration. When you send a girl to school, you give the gift of empowerment. They are often denied the opportunity to go to school because resources are limited, and the education of girls is not held in high regard.



Roxy, the pig, became our mascot to help collect funds for this endeavor; she has been eager and willing to be stuffed full of greens and has attended every state meeting. Roxy is full of "SPAM," Sparkle, Personality, And (hopefully) Money!

In February, Roxy put on her brightest red lipstick and held a kissing booth at our Winter Workshop. With a donation, you received a sweet Hershey kiss or a full-sized Hershey bar.

I would love to send a girl to school with each year of my administration, so during December, Heifer International offered an impact of three times the donation. We jumped at the chance to use this promotion to "Send a Girl to School." Thank you to GFWC Wisconsin club members for your donations and participation in accomplishing this empowerment goal.

Roxy will continue to strut her crown and entertain us for the rest of

my administration and club members across Wisconsin will continue to Advocate for Children by engaging with our youth to make a profound difference in their lives. With empowerment, you strengthen our communities, economy, and country. When young people are given the correct tools, especially at-risk youth, they have more positive visions of themselves and their futures and achieve more positive outcomes in school, the workplace, and their communities.

Tick Tock! Tick Tock!

By: Beth Smith, GFWC Community Impact Program Chairman

Time is running out to submit your club's Community Impact Program (CIP) award entry by March 1st to the state CIP Chairman.

How do you beat the clock and get your entry in on time? The CIP award entry form is a fillable PDF and can be sent via email if digitally accepted by your state. Mailed entries are acceptable, but be sure to postmark them no later than the March 1st deadline.

Award entries are limited to ten (10) pages featuring one project based on community need or the Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. The selected project must be undertaken by your club and accomplished during the award period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. Remember to include up to ten (10) photos of your project, as "a picture is worth a thousand words."

What happens next? State CIP Chairmen will judge from all state entries, and the first-place state winner will be selected. There are no "ties" in the CIP Contest. The State CIP Chairman will mail or email the first-place state winner to Beth Smith, GFWC CIP Chairman and Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC Second Vice President. After award winners are announced at their respective State Conventions, GFWC will issue \$100 checks to the First Place State Club winners. The judges for the National winners will be placed in membership categories for judging, and the Top Project will be awarded a \$2,500 award presented in June at the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

There's no time like the present to find all the information your club needs to help you select a project and document your progress in the Community Impact Program award section of the GFWC Club Manual, located in the "C" Resources folder of the Member Portal Digital Library.

[Download the CIP Award Form](#)



March for Babies

[Register](#) to participate in GFWC Affiliate Organization March of Dimes' [March for Babies: A Mother of A Movement](#). Members can lead a team of members and walk together, either remotely or in person, to raise money for healthy moms and strong babies.

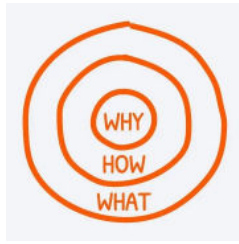
With preterm birth and maternal death rates continuing to rise, the U.S. remains among the most dangerous of the developed nations for having a child, especially for women and babies of color. By joining March for Babies: A Mother of A Movement, you're lifting up communities, creating connections, and taking action to make the U.S. a more equitable place. Be part of this movement for change and ensure that every mom and baby is healthy!

As unwavering advocates for moms and babies, we invite you to be our first advocates to register for our 3rd federal March for Change Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC, on March 5- 6!

During the [March for Change](#), March of Dimes advocates from across the country will hold in-person meetings with their members of Congress to raise awareness about the challenges families face today and advocate for the passage of critical legislation, especially:

- The PREEMIE Act to ensure critical research on preterm birth continues;
- Preventing Maternal Deaths Act to reauthorize programs to review and prevent maternal mortality due to childbirth;
- Preventing stillbirth through the SHINE for Autumn Act and the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act; and
- Funding for Maternal and Infant Health programs and research, newborn screening programs, vaccination access programs, and nutrition programs, among others

We are also working to pass critical legislation at the state level. We invite you to join us in demanding #BlanketChange in your respective states by participating in our [March for Change Advocacy Days](#) at your state capitol.



"Why do I Lead?"

By: Deb Brossard, GFWC Leadership
Committee Member

As a GFWC member and leader, do you ever stop in your tracks and ask yourself, "Why am I doing this?" Or maybe your friends and family who are not familiar with our organization see you spending your time, talent, and treasure on club work and wonder why you continue to do that, day after day, year after year.

Probably the newest leaders in GFWC, our 2023 LEADS graduates are best posed to answer this question as they had the opportunity to gain experience about the value of "The Why" and were trained and encouraged to develop their own "Why" statements.

The concept of "The Why" was developed in 2006 by an optimist and best-selling author, Simon Sinek. A concept born out of pain (his words), he encourages us to "Start with Why" to make the "What We Do" and "How We Do It" more meaningful and an inspiration to others.

Those familiar with Sinek's work know that his WHY theory is best explained through his visual of the GOLDEN CIRCLE. Simply put, WHAT we do is the RESULT, HOW we do it is the PROCESS, and WHY we do it is the PURPOSE.

There is human biology behind the Golden Circle concept, which is based on instincts, feelings, language, and logic. We need both our limbic brain and neocortex to appeal to both logic and emotions. To identify your "Why," see Sinek's simple formula.

WHY Statement Template

From *Start with Why* by Simon Sinek

TO _____
(Contribution)

SO THAT _____
(Impact)

Sinek's WHY: "To inspire people to do the things that inspire them so that, together, we can change our world."

For further information on two leadership motives that drive people to become leaders, check out research from Patrick Lencioni, author of *The Motive*.

National Wear Red Day



Beaverton Woman's Club (OR)

Our social media feeds were lit up in red last week as GFWC clubs participated in National Wear Red Day, helping to raise awareness of women's heart health. Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death for American women, and the first Friday in February - American Heart Month - is set aside for raising our voices for research and education. Here are just three of the many clubs who participated!

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



Cocoa Beach Woman's Club



Southwest Region Women's Club (CO)

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