



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

June 29, 2023



Happy Fourth of July! 🇺🇸

As we celebrate this country on the 4th of July, may we remember our blessings of living in a free country where we are all created equal. The General Federation of Women's Clubs wishes you a safe and happy holiday!

**[View Official 2023 GFWC Annual
Convention Photos](#)**

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)



National Day of Service

© SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

550 Projects Registered!

THANK YOU! Thank you for registering to participate in the inaugural GFWC National Day of Service.

As of today, **550 clubs, districts, and federations** have pledged to complete service projects in their communities that benefit those experiencing food insecurity on September 30, 2023. These projects will have impact all over the country. There are projects planned in 48 states and the District of Columbia

If your club has yet to register, it's not too late! Sign up today and be part of a wave of service from GFWC clubwomen.

To participate in the inaugural NDS, please email Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at mgisler@gfwc.org and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

The NDS Toolkit is now available in the GFWC Member Portal in the Digital Library. After you log in, click on the profile icon. Click "My Digital Library" in the drop down menu and follow this path:

My Digital Library > Resources > N > NDS Toolkit



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

Notice: GFWC Spam Messages

GFWC has been made aware that some members are receiving phishing emails asking for donations and gift cards from someone posing as Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President. **Please do not respond to these emails and report them to your email provider (i.e. gmail, yahoo, comcast).**



Ohio State President's Project

Bee the One Bee the Change

By: Yvonne Ford, GFWC Ohio State President

If there's one thing organizations require today, it is leaders who are willing and capable of encouraging their members to view change as an opportunity to gain true understanding of their capabilities to overcome the challenges they'll undoubtedly face in today's fast-paced and evolving world.

The President's theme for this administration is "Bee the One Bee the Change" with a focus on the environment and membership. For the President's Special Emphasis, I am asking Club women to step outside the box, go outside of their comfort zone, and try something new to increase club membership or improve the environment.

I work closely with VA patients. Many of these patients are older with a lot of health problems but the ones that really touch my heart are the younger patients that not only have physical issues but suffer from PTSD. A female veteran came in and she was very fragile. You could tell she has been through a lot and was having a hard time adapting to life outside of the military. Through the months of her treatment, she shared with me she was waiting for an emotional support dog. I am a huge dog lover and believe in pet therapy. I eagerly waited for her to get this much needed support dog. Unfortunately, before she could get this dog, she passed away. The President's Special Project will be to raise money to donate to [New Life K9s](#), an organization that trains service dogs that are then donated to veterans. This organization utilizes inmates in the local prison to train the dogs. It can cost up to \$10,000 a year for each puppy/dog to be cared for, trained, and receive veterinary care. I am so proud and grateful to the clubwomen across Ohio who are supporting this project through raffles, teas, donations, and various other projects. My goal is to be able to donate at least one dog to a female veteran for emotional support.

Changes have been made statewide as we now receive our annual newsletter via email and hold many of our annual meetings via zoom, a huge savings for the state. Change is challenging but together we can do it! The clubwomen of Ohio are working together towards tomorrow and I am so very proud to represent them.

Parliamentary Authority and Your Club

By: GFWC Bylaws Committee

The usual and preferable method an ordinary society uses to provide suitable rules of order (rules of parliamentary procedure used to assist with an orderly transaction of business in meetings and to the duties of officers and committees) is to adopt a "Parliamentary Authority" within its bylaws. This is a manual of parliamentary law that, when adopted, is binding, except when a specific bylaw, special rule of order (Standing Rule), or a provision in local, state, or federal law overrides it.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has adopted the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as its Parliamentary Authority. Each club and Federation should also use the same book. The current edition is the 12th and was published in September 2020. It is available from local and online bookstores and the National Association of Parliamentarians. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief, 3rd edition, can serve as a quick guide for uncomplicated business meetings but is not a substitute for the parliamentary authority.

It is recommended that there be a separate article in a society's bylaws that states: "The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt." The club or Federation name may certainly be substituted for the word "Society." It is also recommended that any Special Rules of Order (Standing Rules) be a separate document but distributed with bylaws.



Legislative Corner

By: Juliet Casper, Legislation/Public Policy Chairman

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.

Federal Funds for Local Services: The federal appropriations process is in full swing in June and July after the White House and House congressional leadership negotiated an increase in the debt ceiling and spending limits. GFWC champions federal funding for our signature program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and programs affecting children, especially child abuse prevention and global vaccinations.

STOP Online Child Sexual Abuse Exploitation: The Senate Judiciary Committee is preparing for floor action on the EARN IT Act, the STOP CSAM Act, and other child sexual abuse legislation. GFWC is working in coalition with the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, and the GFWC Legislative Action Center has issued an alert on these bills. Cosponsors are needed to show support! If you have not taken action on this important alert, please [visit the Legislative Action Center](#) today to do so.

Food Insecurity: There was an important panel discussion on food insecurity at the GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. One panelist asked that our members support legislation to fund local food banks, reinstate the child tax credit that was given to families during COVID, and expand SNAP benefits. GFWC is monitoring bills that address food insecurity, and a Legislative Alert is planned in conjunction with our National Day of Service on September 30th.



Done-In-A-Day Projects

By: Pam Ament, Arts and Culture Chairman

It is always a joy to get emails from state Arts and Culture Chairmen asking about recommendations for Done-In-A-Day projects. These are a few of my favorites, and with a bit of planning and organizing, let's hope they will also become a favorite for your club or district.

Art Buckets for Hospital Children: Members assemble buckets filled with crayons, stickers, coloring books, and a glitter pen. The buckets are delivered to a Children's Hospital, where the recipients print their names on the bucket with the glitter pen and enjoy coloring while in the hospital bed.

Baby Shower: Members donate baby items to disadvantaged expectant mothers at their nearest hospital. Cake and ice cream are served, and the baby shower items are delivered to the hospital after the party.

Flower Arrangements for Senior Homes: Ask a member of your club who is great with flower arrangements to teach the members how to create a lovely arrangement of fresh flowers and deliver them to a Senior Home nearby.

Jewelry for Mother's Day: Ask members to bring in the jewelry they no longer wear and are willing to donate. They also donate boxes, tissue, and wrapping paper. Members assemble wrapped jewelry packages and deliver them to a shelter where kids can pick a wrapped package and give it to their mom for Mother's Day.

These are just a few community-rich ideas for all ages to promote art and culture in your area. Have fun and send me your pictures; I look forward to seeing the smiles these Done-In-A-Day projects will elicit from the members creating them and the recipients of the lovely gifts!

PRESIDENT'S GEM



North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club (SC)



Thursday, June 15th was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The North Myrtle Beach Woman's club petitioned the city to sign a proclamation setting this day aside to bring awareness to the community about our most vulnerable citizens, our elderly. Chief of Police Dana Crowell attended the event and read the proclamation.

The woman's club hosted an event at Mission BBQ to educate the community about Elder Abuse which can take many forms, those identified by the National Center on Elder

Abuse include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, abandonment, emotional or psychological, financial, or material exploitation, and self-neglect. The club was also raising funds for [SOS Care's Project Lifesaver](#), approximately \$1,000 was donated through the generosity of those in attendance. This life saving program allows individuals who may be prone to wandering to be tracked. This is done using a radio frequency tracking bracelet.

Multiple North Myrtle Beach Police officers have been trained to use this technology to find individuals wearing these bracelets. What may have taken untold man hours, days, or weeks in the past may now take as little as 30 minutes. This is life-changing for our elderly population, especially those in our community who have Alzheimer's or dementia.

If you are interested in learning more about the North Myrtle Beach Women's Club, please visit their website at - northmyrtlebeachwomansclub.org or Facebook - North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club.

If you would like to learn more about SOS Care's Project Lifesaver or make a donation, please visit their website at - soscaresc.org or Facebook - [SOS Care](#).

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



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036

www.GFWC.org