



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

October 26, 2023



National Day of Service

® SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit | www.GFWC.org | #GFWC23NDS

National Day of Service Impact Reporting Forms are due Tuesday, October 31.

If your club participated in the 2023 GFWC National Day of Service, please complete and submit the 2023 NDS Impact Reporting Form by October 31, 2023. The form can be found in the Digital Library under "N" in the NDS folder. If your club did not register beforehand but participated in NDS please submit a form.

Clubs must submit the NDS Impact Reporting Form to be recognized.

Resolutions for 2024 Annual Convention are due November 1

Resolutions passed at state conventions should be forwarded to the GFWC Resolutions Chairman by November 1, 2023. Proposed resolutions must be typed and accompanied by supporting documentation. For more information about the resolutions process in the GFWC Standing Rules, go to the Member Portal at GFWC.org.

Cares & Concerns

GFWC Nevada President Cherie Williams-DeWitt's husband Clyde recently had his long-awaited liver transplant. Please keep Clyde and Cherie in your thoughts and prayers. Send encouragement and thinking of you cards to:

Cherie Williams-DeWitt
3301 Calle de el Cortez
Las Vegas, NV 89102



Clubwoman Celebrates 101st Birthday

The GFWC Woman's Club of Stuart (Florida) had a special Luncheon/Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. They celebrated the 101st birthday of their wonderful member, Grace Linn. Grace has been a member of GFWC for over 70 years. Her first club was the GFWC Weirton Woman's Club in West Virginia. She has been a member of the GFWC Woman's Club of Stuart for 34 years and club president from 1998-2000. A highlight of the celebration was a call from GFWC International President Debra Strahanoski. Our gracious president took time from her busy schedule to talk with Grace and extend her best wishes for a happy 101st birthday and congratulations for her long service to GFWC.



Georgia Director of Junior Clubs Project: Service Times Two

By: Nicole Braun, GFWC Georgia Director of Junior Clubs

My military and GFWC journeys intertwine.

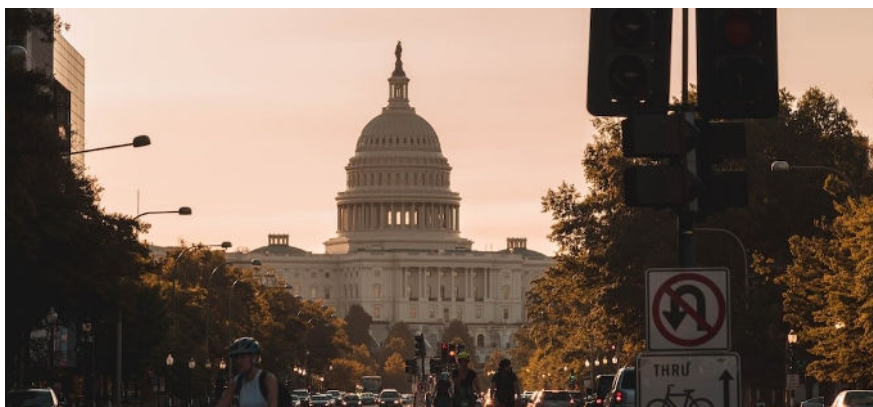
Eighteen years ago, I drove from north Georgia to pick up my boyfriend at Ft. Stewart as he was leaving for his first deployment.

The next morning, we were married outside the courthouse in Brunswick. That day officially started my journey as a military spouse and set the foundation for my special project as Georgia Director of Junior Clubs.

While the military is the theme of my project, I feel that sometimes we miss out on the different people affected by a life of service that goes far beyond the service member. Each quarter I have highlighted a different group. Fall 2022, Gold Star Families that are left behind when one gives the ultimate sacrifice. Spring 2023, the struggles children face when parents are away, and events are missed. Fall 2023, the spouse/significant other and parents that serve alongside their partner, and Spring 2024 will focus on veterans, particularly women.

In collaboration with local clubs, the community, the Georgia Federation, and the Woody Williams Foundation, we had a Gold Star memorial built in Georgia in March 2023. We held a fundraiser at our fall state meeting last year to purchase toiletry items for the All for Paul Foundation, a local Gold Star Family non-profit. In the spring, we fundraised and donated to the Military Youth Council of Georgia. This fall, we collected children's pajamas and grocery store gift cards that will be given to families during the holidays. At all state meetings, I have had a speaker bring awareness to each of my focus areas and give resources on how clubwomen can be involved.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and work in this area and look forward to great things still to come.



Legislative Corner

By: Juliet Casper, GFWC 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.

[GFWC Legislative Alerts](#): The GFWC Legislative Action Center has been activated on several important bipartisan measures that hopefully will be finalized by Congress by the end of this calendar year. YOU still have time to [ACT!](#)

- [Food Insecurity](#) includes funding for Meals on Wheels and reauthorization in the Farm Bill for nutrition programs serving women, children, and students.
- [Shot@Life](#) urges funding for global vaccines.
- [Violence Against Women](#) programs and the VOCA Crime Victims Fund provide funds for domestic violence and sexual assault services and survivors.
- [Kids Online Safety](#) addresses child sexual exploitation material and human trafficking utilizing various platforms on the Internet.

Thank you for advocating for these important measures. Currently the number of club members registered for the Legislative Action Center is 6225, which is an increase of 316 members since the end of July.

Federal Appropriations: Federal government agencies and services are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution providing level funding until November 17, 2023. To avoid a shutdown, Congress must approve another Continuing Resolution to a date certain (certain date?) or complete action on FY 2024 appropriations bills.

President Biden recently submitted an emergency supplemental appropriations package for nearly \$106 billion to assist Israel and Ukraine, provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza and support for the Palestinian refugees, secure the US-Mexico border, and combat fentanyl trafficking. Nearly half of the requested security resources are aimed at replenishing U.S. military stockpiles which would create jobs and boost our economy.

Military Justice: In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, the White House is highlighting implementation of the bipartisan provisions approved by Congress last year which amended the Uniform Code of Military Justice. These measures significantly strengthen how the military handles domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, murder, and other serious offenses. The new Office of Special Trial Counsel has been created and rules have been established making clear that prosecutorial decisions made by special trial counsel are binding and fully independent from the chain of command. Steps also are being taken to reform the court-martial sentencing system to promote uniformity and fairness to reduce disparities in sentencing in cases of rape and sexual assault.

By the end of 2023, each branch – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force – must establish and staff their own Offices of Special Trial Counsel for covered offenses which include domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Beginning January 2025, special trial counsel prosecutorial authority will expand to include sexual harassment cases.



National Coast Guard Museum

Civic Engagement and Outreach

By: GFWC Bylaws Committee

Some principles are used to interpret bylaws when there is ambiguity.

1. Each society decides for itself the meaning of its bylaws. Any ambiguous or doubtful expression should be amended as soon as possible.
2. When a provision can be interpreted in two ways, if one interpretation conflicts with other bylaws or makes them absurd, the other must be taken as the true meaning.
3. A general statement or rule has less authority than a specific one.
4. If the bylaws authorize certain things, other things of the same class are prohibited. For instance, if the officers are listed in the bylaws, the election of officers not listed is prohibited.
5. A provision granting certain privileges prohibits a greater one. If the President is granted only the right to change the place where the club meets, the time must remain the same.
6. That same provision granting certain privileges does not prohibit a lesser one. An officer may be limited to three consecutive terms but has the right only to serve two.
7. A definite penalty for a particular action prohibits the penalty from increasing or decreasing. If the bylaws rule that someone is dropped from membership for nonpayment of dues, a board vote cannot allow the person to retain membership nor be fined a higher penalty.
8. When the bylaws use a general term and two or more specific terms are used under the general one, a rule in which only the general term is used applies to all the specific terms. Suppose the bylaws provide for elected and appointed officers, and the words "officers" or "all officers" are used elsewhere to establish the term's length. In that case, the general term applies to both elected and appointed.

"Is That Really What It Says?"

Civic Engagement and Outreach

GFWC's newest cause for support is the National Coast Guard Museum Association. www.coastguardmuseum.org makes it accessible for clubs to help in making the museum a reality. The website offers information about the importance of the National Coast Guard and the responsibilities carried out by these highly trained servicemen and women. Currently, they are the only armed services branch without a national museum to celebrate their role in keeping the Nation safe.

Now, the General Federation of Woman's Clubs can be part of building the museum. Please see the links below to better assist GFWC clubs in assisting with fundraising efforts.

Two links:

- GFWC-specific giving link: www.coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc
- Link to the paver website: 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

Club Anniversaries

75
GFWC Monticello Woman's Club (Kentucky)

85
GFWC-MFWC Fine Arts Club of Bruce (Mississippi)

100
GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla (Texas)

125
GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club (Minnesota)
GFWC Over the Teacups (South Carolina)

Gold Pins

Recognizing 50 years of membership

Wanda Burklow
GFWC Eldorado Woman's Club (Illinois)

Suellen Brazil
GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club (Alabama)

Bonnie Kruse
GFWC Seward Woman's Club (Nebraska)

Florence Leger
GFWC Woman's Club of Enfield (Connecticut)

Sheila Shea
GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (Massachusetts)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Peninsula

District Club (WA)



In Washington State, the GFWC Peninsula District Club contributed to the GFWC National Day of Service by volunteering at [Emergency Food Network](#) (EFN). EFN is a supplier to food banks in Pierce County, Washington. District members packed fresh vegetables and labeled bags for distribution to food pantries, meal sites, and shelters. Working at EFN provided District Clubs the opportunity to work together and provided an activity should members' home clubs have nothing planned.

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



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

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