



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

September 14, 2023



## Fall Board of Directors' Meeting

Last week, the GFWC Board of Directors met in Westminster, Colorado, for a weekend of important decisions and sisterhood. Attendees enjoyed informative presentations by CSP, Standing & Special Committee Chairmen. The Board of Directors was all ears for the two featured speakers, Ruth Glenn, President of Public Affairs at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Sheri Klym, Director of Memberships and Associations for the Alzheimer's Association.

One of the biggest announcements was the board's decision on an updated GFWC Emblem. We are thrilled to be making this important step forward and cannot wait to share the new look. GFWC's updated Emblem and rebranding materials will be available to members on **November 13, 2023**. We appreciate your patience and excitement as the GFWC staff works to create all the new materials needed for this launch.

[View Fall BOD Photos](#)

*Tis the season to  
Sparkle & Shine*

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
11:00 AM–1:00 PM & 1:30 PM–3:30 PM

GFWC Headquarters  
1734 N ST NW, Washington, DC 20036

RSVP to [Events@GFWC.org](mailto:Events@GFWC.org) by November 20  
Register at [www.eventsquid.com/event/20992](http://www.eventsquid.com/event/20992)



If you would like to register a group or need hotel accommodations please contact Events Manager, [Nishu Raina](#) by October 1.

[Register Now](#)

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## Technical Glitch in the GFWC Member Portal

Some Members are logging into the Member Portal and are not finding “My Digital Library” in their drop-down menu. This is not a user error; we are experiencing a glitch in the Member Portal. We are working with MemberSuite to correct this and return access to the Digital Library as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, please try one or all of the following: 1) use a different browser, 2) do not use your auto-fill, re-type your email and password, and 3) try logging in 2 or 3 times 4) refresh the page. Even if you do these suggestions, you may still not see your digital library in the menu. Thank you for your patience while we work through this.



# National Day of Service

© SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

[www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org)

#GFWC23NDS

## Contact Your Local Press About Your NDS Event

Contact your local press about your event for GFWC's National Day of Service. You can contact local TV stations, newspapers, and local event calendars to share your project. The NDS Press Kit, which can be found in the GFWC Member Portal in the Digital Library, has information, facts, and quotes about NDS and food insecurity, including an NDS Press Release Template. Several clubs have already appeared in their local papers to introduce their club and GFWC, and to invite volunteers to work with them and bring donations.

The NDS Press Kit is available in the GFWC Member Portal in the Digital Library at this click path:

My Digital Library > Resources > N > NDS Press Kit

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

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## Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to report that Phyllis L. Schaefer, GFWC Oregon State President (1972-74), passed away in July of this year. You can view her obituary [here](#).

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## Your Money Gifts...Now You Know!

By: Shelli Fehr, GFWC Annual Giving Program Chairman

Did You Know...when you make a monetary contribution to GFWC, you can select a specific use or fund for the donation?

Did You Know...a description of the various funds your gift can go to is found on [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) in the Digital Library under "A" for Annual Giving.

Did You Know...you select the fund/s from the list printed on the Annual Giving Program Donation Form that is used for every donation given to GFWC?

Did You Know...one of these funds will be highlighted each month starting in October in News and Notes?

Now you know!

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# **Virginia State President's Project: Education of Virginia's Natural Resources**

By: Bonnie Rosemond, GFWC  
Virginia State President

Conservationist and First Chief of the U.S. Forestry Service, Gifford Pinchot, says, "Without natural resources life itself is impossible. From birth to death, natural resources, transformed for human use, feed, clothe, shelter and transport us. Upon them we depend for every material necessity, comfort, convenience, and protection in our lives. Without abundant resources prosperity is out of reach."

I was raised in the rural area of Piedmont, Virginia, and was brought up to be respectful and appreciative of the many resources close at hand. Whether it was the success of vegetables and fruit grown, crops and cattle tended, or woodlands and streams that made for fun with friends. I am appreciative that GFWC Virginia members have taken on the goals and objectives to promote stewardship and education of Virginia's natural resources. Another goal of ours is to raise funds for two Virginia based non-profit organizations.

- The Wildlife Center of Virginia, a teaching hospital, aims to teach the world to care about and for wildlife and the environment.
- The Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation supports and provides educational programs for all ages that demonstrate how sustainable forestry can protect watersheds and wildlife while preserving the aesthetic and recreational value to our community. They provide scholarships for qualified students enrolled in forestry and forestry product programs.

Another objective being carried out is promoting natural resource educational programs for elementary schools, non-profit youth organizations, and service projects held at GFWC Virginia state, district, and club meetings and events.

The State Project committee has creatively promoted, raised funds, and provided members with Virginia Natural Resources information through newsletters, the state project Facebook page, and much more.

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## **GFWC's new Civic Engagement and Outreach initiative is asking us to build a museum!**

By: Sharon Oliphant, Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman & Jennifer Hawkins, GFWC Florida Clubwoman

This is not just any museum; our efforts will be to assist in the fundraising efforts for constructing the [United States Coast Guard Museum](#) in New London, Connecticut.

The United States Coast Guard has existed since 1790, starting as the Revenue Cutter Service for the newly created United States. Since that time, women have been an integral part of the Coast Guard's Mission, beginning as assistant lighthouse keepers during the Revolutionary War while their husbands were away fighting. Today, Admiral Linda Fagan serves as the Coast Guard Commandant, the highest-ranking officer of the Coast Guard, and the first woman to lead a branch of the United States military.

The United States Coast Guard has led the way with women being placed in leadership roles. The Coast Guard was the first to grant women an opportunity to attend Officer Candidacy School in the 1970's. The United States Coast Guard Academy female enrollment stands at 43% for the class of 2026, nearly 20% higher than the other three service academies.

Nearly everyone's lives have been directly or indirectly affected by the Coast Guard. Ninety percent of all imported goods to our country arrive under Coast Guard patrol, navigation aids placed in the Mississippi River and Missouri Rivers help bring commodities from the farmlands of America, and taconite from Minnesota and Michigan is shepherded through the Great Lakes with Coast Guard assistance. The Coast Guard protects the shrimp, fish, and crab you have for dinner.

Currently, the Museum Foundation has raised \$142 Million. Our long history of fulfilling needs in our community and our Nation provides us with a unique opportunity to help the Coast Guard Museum Foundation accomplish this monumental undertaking. Let us honor the women who served in the past, those who serve now, and those who will serve in the future with values, honor, respect, and devotion to duty with our fundraising skills and push the United States Coast Guard Museum across the finish line.

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2023  
RUNNER UP

**Diania Pimenta**

Diania Pimenta has been recognized as a Runner Up for the 2023 Stephenie Foster Advocate of the Year Award. Diania has demonstrated exceptional commitment in fighting for women and girls. Her dedication, leadership, advocacy efforts and vision have supported so many women and children – not only in the United States but in Bolivia as well.

She is a committed advocate whose work has affected more than 10,000 women and children, representing both her local and national GFWC chapters. This award comes with a \$1,000 gift to the GFWC Florida chapter.

Congratulations Diania!

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## Active Listening

By: GFWC Leadership Committee

You do not have to be born a leader to become a leader. Many leadership skills can be learned, including Active Listening. Listening requires the use of your ears, whereas active listening requires the use of your ears and brain. The first step is to be fully immersed in the conversation. Sometimes, instead of listening to what a person is saying, we start to think about what we are going to say so we do not hear the full conversation.

Make eye contact (not a creepy stare) and wait until the person is finished to answer. Watch for verbal and non-verbal cues (no eye-rolling, crossing your arms, frowning, etc.). Watch for inconsistencies between the content of your words, tone, and body language. To become more aware of your own body language, try this exercise in a mirror or with a friend. Compose a message with strong emotional content, then deliver it with body language that conveys the exact opposite meaning. When you exaggerate the mistakes in practice, you will gain insight into how to avoid making them in real life.



One of the key components of actively listening is to paraphrase and re-state what was said (but do not sound judgmental or condescending). This ensures you understand what the person is saying and not your interpretation. Summarize what you have heard and allow the person to say whether you have captured their meaning or intent.

If you are running short on time, I suggest that you continue the discussion when you both have more availability. This shows that you value the other person's opinion. Ask them to consider the other side and determine some solutions for you to discuss.

Finally, the most important skill you need for active listening is patience.

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## Volunteers in Action: GFWC Kansas



At the recent GFWC Kansas State Board Meeting, Bowl Koozies were created for the National Day of Service Project. These koozies are made to keep your bowl warm or cold while your hands stay comfortable. They are a thoughtful addition to a common soup can donations. Sixteen koozies were completed, with four more near completion. Each club was able to take home a koozie with instructions on how to make more. Many fabric and batting pieces were also available to members to take back to their clubs. Clear plastic sacks, a large GFWC emblem, information about GFWC, and contact information for a local club was available to put with a can of food in the local Blessing Box.

GFWC Kansas is getting ready for the GFWC National Day of Service, just two weeks away!

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).

