



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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December 5, 2024

GFWC: Serving Our Communities

🎁 Celebrating the Season of Giving 🎁





For those of you who came to the 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House, it was a gift to see each of your smiling faces and exchange warm wishes for the season. For those who were not able to join us, we hope you enjoy finding your state's ornament on the glittering garland that greeted visitors at the front entry and photos of the stunning decorations in the drawing room.

Taking inspiration from the hand-painted murals adorning the walls of the 1734 drawing room, the space is filled with pastel blue, pink, green, and gold decorations. The awe-inspiring 14-foot trees enhance the grand scale of the space. Presents overflow onto every surface, reminding us of the most important gift we give, our time and service to others.

Thank you to all who were able to join us at the 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House. For those who were unable to make it, we hope to see you next year!

Please enjoy a glimpse of the celebration and download photos at the link below.

[View 2024 Holiday Open House Photo Album](#)

Room Reservations are Now Open for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia!



Book your room now for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia! Connected to the College Football Hall of Fame and one block from the World of Coke and Georgia Aquarium, this hotel is in the center of it all. Reserve your room for June 7-9, 2025, and don't miss out on the excitement of next year's Convention!

See hotel amenities and photos: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/atlanta-centennial-park/property-details>

Book Your Room

Four Generations of
Club Women

MRS. SARAH B.
VAN RIPER and
Family, all of Whom
are Members of the
Oneira Club of San
Diego County,
California



Oneira Club of San Diego County, California

New!

WHRC: From the Archives

The December issue of the new Women's History & Resource Center blog focuses on the family connections that run through GFWC, in the past and today. Read a few stories of generation-spanning club membership and share your own family story with us!

Read Now

Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to share the passing of GFWC member Julene Barlow McPhaul. Julene was GFWC North Carolina State President (1996-1998) and Southeastern Region President (2000-2002). Share memories and view her obituary [here](#).

GFWC sends heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ollie Mae Harvey. The GFWC West Virginia Past President served (1982-1984). Share memories and view her obituary [here](#).

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NEXT GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINARS PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN.

JANUARY 27, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission
Join Amazon best-selling and award-winning author, **Amy Peele**, GFWC Education and Libraries/Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman as she dives into her book "CUT" and how she brought a 35-year career in the transplantation field to the pages. Her Transplant Medical Murder Mystery series is referred to as "mystery with a mission and a side of humor" and enjoys five-star reviews on Goodreads and Amazon.
<https://bit.ly/3AkgYoc>

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – Heart Health Awareness Month
During Heart Health Awareness Month, **Jude Mabone**, Miss District of Columbia 2023 and GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman recounts how her own heart health scare has brought her to work with the American Heart Association. She will share her life's journey and the importance of CPR/AED training.
<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership
Leslie Capps, Founder Wild Woman Marketing and GFWC Communications Honorary Chairman Personal Connections are the key to building membership. We will delve into how using your GFWC volunteer story as a marketing strategy will gain local recognition and increase membership numbers!
<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



Join us for the Winter 2025 GFWC Learning Gateway Series

Register today to learn from 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairmen and gain insight into these varied topics:

January 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission

<https://bit.ly/3AkgYoc>

February 5, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - Heart Health Awareness Month

<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

February 11, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership

<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



Lending a Helping Hand

GFWC Alaska State President, Patrice Gitter

The state of Alaska's Signature Project is a very personal one for me. I have chosen the Domestic Abuse initiative as my signature project.

Seven years ago, my family welcomed two grandchildren who were initially put into the foster care system because of abuse in the home. Before being adopted by my son and daughter-in-law, our granddaughter was physically and emotionally abused. At age four, she didn't know if she was going to be beaten or when her next meal would be. She is now 11 years old and thriving.

Their son, adopted from the foster system at six months old, was removed from his birth mother because she used meth while pregnant with him. The drug use caused physical abnormalities and mental challenges for my grandson. He is now four years old and doing much better with the help of a hearing aid and speech class.

My state has one of the highest rates of domestic abuse in the nation. GFWC Alaska helps through programs like AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid In Crisis), which provides a safe haven for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Another organization, The Hope Center, helps single women fleeing domestic abuse. They teach these women a trade (baking) so that they can improve their circumstances and prospects.

I believe it is critical to take a holistic approach and lend a helping hand to survivors of domestic abuse and their families throughout the entire process of starting a new chapter in their lives.

To Be or Not to Be a LEADER.... That is the Question

By: Anne Engelhardt, Leadership Committee Member

This Shakespeare quote from Hamlet raises an interesting philosophical question about leadership. Think about your own leadership journey. Are you embracing it or hesitating? Have you decided to take on the mantle of leadership or step back? There are choices, responsibilities, and challenges involved in leadership.

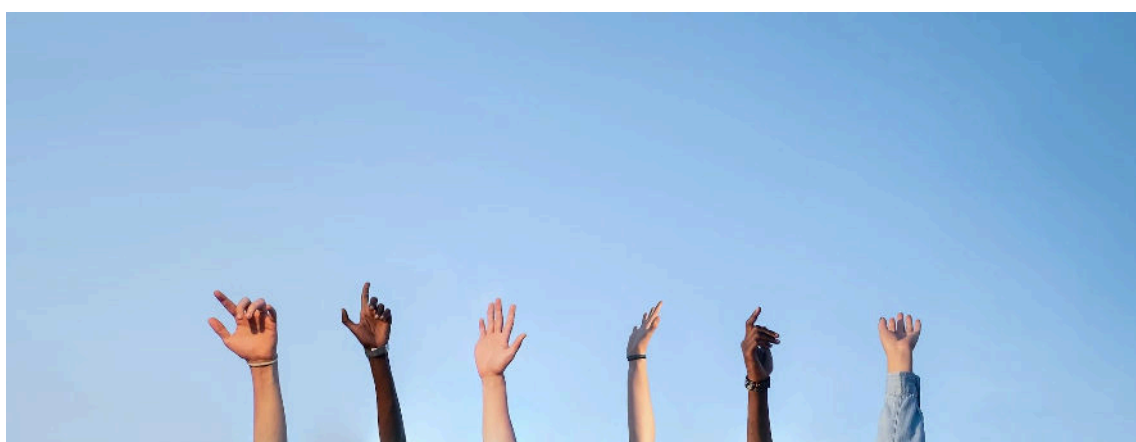
You might ponder what it means "to be" a leader versus "not to be" a leader. Are you struggling with the idea of taking a leadership role? Leaders come from all backgrounds with all kinds of skill sets. You are not alone. Use members who have held that leadership position in the past as a resource. Good succession planning is key to developing good leaders.

Leaders are always learning. You don't come out of the gate with all the answers and skills. GFWC offers support and resources like the *Club Manual* and the

Leadership Tool Kit to help guide the way.

Leaders must be open, flexible, and creative. They must be willing to blaze a path to something new and better. Don't be afraid. Educate, engage, and empower all those around them to seek something new and exciting.

Deciding to join a GFWC club was the start of your leadership journey. Lead by example as you display your dedication to improving your community through volunteer service. Now is the time to take the next step, knowing you are not alone. Don't be afraid to say yes to a leadership role.



Previous Question

By: Deen Meloro, PRP, GFWC Bylaws Committee Chairman

How many times have you heard someone say, or call out, “I call the question” or “previous question”? You might hear, “I demand the previous question,” “I move to close (or end) debate,” or “I move we vote now.” What the person is trying to do is to end debate and take a vote on the subject under discussion. However, that can't happen just by saying “previous question.”

Previous question is a motion, and as such, it must be voted on. Also, you can't just call out “previous question,” which is something often done. You have to raise your hand and wait to be called on and then state, “I move the previous question.” Your motion must be seconded. This motion cannot be debated, and it cannot be amended. It requires a two-thirds affirmative vote to pass because technically, the motion takes away someone's right to continue discussion, so you need more than a majority vote. If you get the two-thirds vote and the motion passes, you then have stopped discussion but not disposed of the question that was being debated. The motion, which was under discussion, still requires a vote.



Join Shot@Life's Spring Summit in Washington, D.C. February 24–26 to learn from global health experts and sharpen your advocacy skills! Participants will also attend congressional meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate for strong U.S. investment in lifesaving global immunization programs. There are spots/travel scholarships reserved for GFWC members, so be sure to **apply before Thursday, December 5 at 11:59 pm EST (TONIGHT), to be considered.** Learn more and apply [HERE](#) today.



Volunteers in Action: GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL)

Members of the GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club had a banner day recently, preparing nearly 450 stuffed animals for donation to the [Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center](#) and Foster to Foster. This is the club's sixth year providing a little joy and comfort to children in need.

If your club is looking for more ways to help children in need visit the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children section of the *GFWC Club Manual* for more ideas.

Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of News & Notes?

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words describing your club's favorite project to PR@GFWC.org.
Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!



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