



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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January 9, 2025

GFWC: Form Community Partnerships



Make Your Voice Heard

Research tells us that the most important factors in member satisfaction are **club culture** and **club experience**. The **GFWC Membership Committee** would like to learn more about your local club culture and club experience; you can help by answering the following questions! This is an anonymous survey; questions regarding your location and club type are for informational purposes only. Results will be available to the membership in 2025, and we plan to address any identified challenges throughout our communications during this administration.

Thank you for your support as we work to strengthen and grow our beloved Federation!

Take Survey



Join us for the Winter 2025 GFWC Learning Gateway Series

Start 2025 off right with 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairmen webinars. Register Today at [GFWC.org/events](https://www.gfwc.org/events)

January 27, 2025, at 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.

Purchase books by Amy Peele [here](#).

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

February 5, 2025, at 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, at 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!

Purchase "[Turn Your Story Into Business Gold](https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs)" by Leslie Capps
<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



WHRC: From the Archives

To start the new year, the WHRC blog takes another look at the theme of family, this time from the perspective of our researchers. Explore one of the great things that makes our collections unique!

[Read Now](#)

Cares & Concerns

We send great sympathies to Deborah Allen, GFWC Jennie Award Chairman, on the passing of her mother, [A. V. Meeks](#). Condolences may be shared with Deborah and her family at: 550 Crestwood Drive, Cookeville, TN 38501



Civic Engagement & Outreach: Supporting the Military

By: Sonya K. Matthies, GFWC California State
President

The focus of my Administration is on Civic Engagement and Outreach, with a particular emphasis on supporting the military. I have encouraged our clubs and districts to select initiatives that align with their local needs and strengths. Given California's size and diverse geography, the projects vary across regions, but they all share a common goal of supporting our military and veterans.

One initiative that stands out is *Shelter to Soldier*, which pairs post-9/11 veterans with trained rescue dogs to aid in their recovery and healing. Another key focus is the *Tunnel to Towers Foundation*, which has provided mortgage-free homes to Gold Star families and the children of fallen first responders, as well as specially adapted smart homes for severely injured veterans and first responders.

Beyond these programs, there are countless ways to support our military and veterans. One example is *Making Spirits Bright*, an initiative started by Sonja Reed of the GFWC Diamond Bar Women's Club, which collects and distributes holiday gifts for children at the U.S. Marine Base in 29 Palms, California.



CFWC members also engage in a variety of outreach activities, including clipping coupons to send to military personnel, sending care packages, donating gift cards, and supporting active-duty service members through USO Clubs. Some organize baby showers, deliver diapers and onesies to military families, or simply send cards of encouragement. Often, our words of support are the most meaningful gift of all. The effort required is minimal, but the impact is profound.

Are You Ready to LEAD(S)?



2024 GFWC LEADS Graduates

GFWC has been resolute and laser-focused on leadership development since the first Leadership Education Development Seminar (LEADS) in 2002. Each state may send one participant to LEADS, traditionally held the day before the opening of the GFWC Annual Convention.

GFWC Kentucky's 2024 LEADS Graduate Chrissi Cuel said of her experience:

"To me, leadership means having a clear vision and courage to take action. The seminar brought together people who care about making a difference—a melting pot of ideas where diverse perspectives come together to solve important problems.

This seminar reminded me of the responsibilities that come with leadership. It's about being accountable and setting a good example for others. The insights gained during GFWC LEADS will help me lead in a genuine way and inspire others to reach their potential.

The LEADS seminar was a transformative experience that not only shaped my approach to leadership but also helped me forge meaningful connections. I'm grateful for this opportunity and excited about how we can support one another on our journeys ahead."

GFWC LEADS candidates from across the country participate with dynamic speakers who suggest proven leadership lessons, share personal stories, discuss overcoming challenges, and offer step-by-step ways to handle successes and learn from failures. GFWC LEADS candidates form bonds that last a lifetime.

Join the GFWC LEADS community of changemakers by **following your state directions to complete the application for submission**. Chosen applications from each state are due March 15 to GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams mbwilliams@gfwc.org and GFWC Leadership Chairman Ann Landis annlandis55@gmail.com

Bundle up with GFWC Marketplace Apparel



New!

GFWC Embroidered Zipper Vests

\$50 + shipping

Layer up with this fleece-lined vest. Embroidered with metallic gold thread and with a water-resistant exterior, it's the perfect addition to your winter wardrobe.

Available in White, Navy, and Black

[SHOP NOW](#)



Most Loved

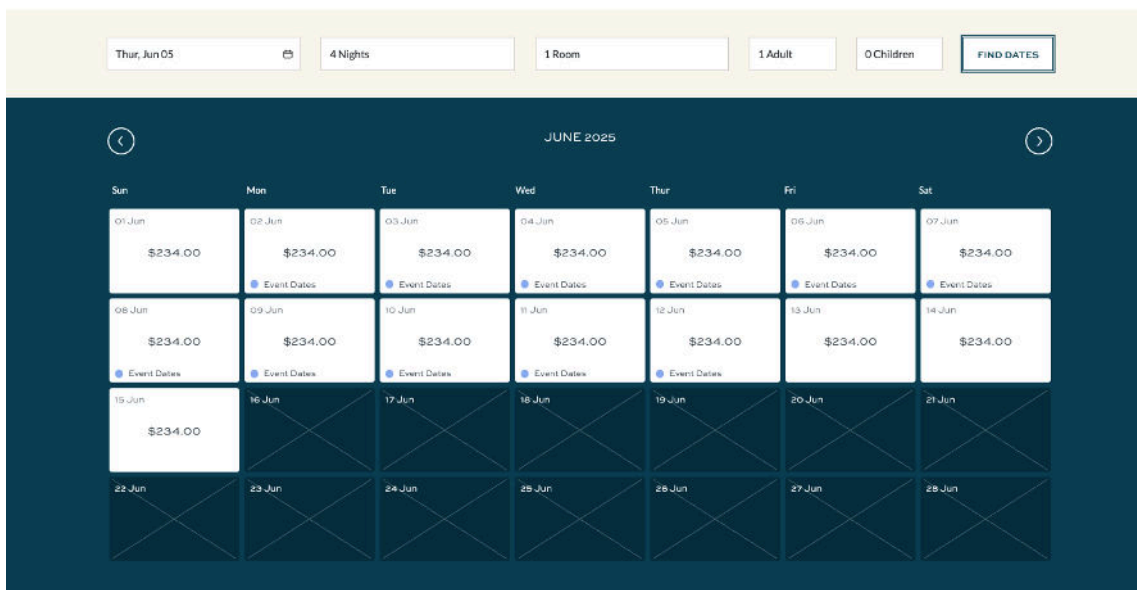
GFWC Cardigans

\$50 + shipping

Snuggle into this open-front cardigan this winter season. A best-seller for a reason, this edition of cardigans features the GFWC logo on a cozy knit of black or royal blue.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Make Plans to Stay in Atlanta with GFWC!



Reserve your room for the GFWC Annual Convention, June 7-9, 2025, and don't miss out on the excitement of this year's convention!

To book your room:

- Follow the button below to the GFWC room booking page
- Scroll down and select the first night you would like to book
- Then select how many nights you will be staying and click "Find Dates"
- Click on your dates on the calendar
- Select "Book This Event" at the bottom of your screen!

Book NOW



LOOK FOR **8** KEY INDICATORS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Physical or Sexual Violence | 5 Intimidation and Threats |
| 2 Under-age | 6 Restriction of Movement |
| 3 Deception | 7 Fear and Anxiety |
| 4 Abuse of Vulnerability | 8 Limited Family/Social Contact |

To report a concern, call **1-615-356-0946**



IMPORTANT
If you have reason to believe a person is in immediate danger call 911 first.

If you believe you may have encountered a victim of human trafficking, contact Hope for Justice and let us know as much information as possible, you may be saving someone's life.

www.hopeforjustice.org | help@hopeforjustice.org

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January 2025 is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is also known as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for us to educate ourselves about human trafficking and crucially to learn to spot the signs of trafficking. It also provides an opportunity for us to take these messages to our workplaces, our communities, our schools, our representatives, and everywhere else.

At Hope for Justice, we investigate cases of human trafficking and work closely with law enforcement to rescue victims and ensure evidence is gathered against perpetrators to see them brought to justice. Our team of investigators is drawn from some of the most respected and prestigious law enforcement agencies in the country, such as the FBI and NCIS.

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 2025, culminates in the annual observation of National Freedom Day on February 1, 2025.

What can you do?

Become part of a community of amazing volunteers, make a life-changing donation, learn about the issue, or download resources. Awareness leads to action! To find out more about our work or opportunities to partner with Hope for Justice, email amanda.jacobi@hopeforjustice.org.

Create the For The 50 symbol and share it on social media to raise awareness

Use both hands – make a fist with one hand and show five fingers on the other. Then, ask someone to take a photo and share this on social media. This is a symbol to show you're standing up for the 50 million people in modern slavery. We're encouraging you to share the image with the hashtag #ForThe50



Snowcation Calling? Hot Winter Hotel Deals & Ski Passes Available Through TicketsatWork

The mountains are calling you. Start planning your ski vacation today.

Tickets at Work has hotel and ski lift discounts for GFWC members in resorts from East to West. [Use this link to access exclusive ski discounts.](#)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress (CA)



In the season of giving, the GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress collaborated with a local high school and the California Highway Patrol to provide gifts for children during the holiday season. Club members were challenged to bring one new toy valued at around \$20 to contribute to the cause.

Club representatives dropped off 30 new toys to add to those collected by the high school and highway patrol. Thank you ladies for sharing the spirit of giving with others.

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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