



NEWS & NOTES

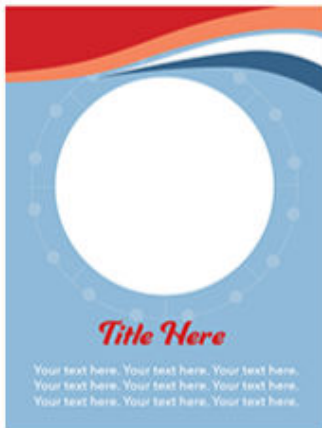
YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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January 23, 2025

GFWC: Volunteer Education Offerings

Show Your Support: 2025 Convention Program Ads Now Available!



Recognize outstanding club members and leaders in your life by purchasing an ad in the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention Program!

Distributed to every convention attendee, there's no better way to say thank you or celebrate the success of the last year.

Design your own full-page, half-page, or quarter-page ad according to the specs on the order form. Or select a GFWC design, available in full-page, half-page, or quarter-page sizes.

Orders and payments for Convention Program ads must be received by April 1, 2025, to guarantee space. Return completed forms and ad files to Design & Publications Manager, Candice Gill, CGill@GFWC.org.

[Download Form](#)

Don't Miss the Chance to Share Your Thoughts

The GFWC Membership Committee has sent out a membership survey to assess the needs of our clubs and identify how our members feel about their club culture and experience.

Your responses will help us understand what matters most to members and if clubs are meeting the needs of their members. We cannot provide clubs with tools to increase and retain their membership without your input!

Your responses will also provide feedback on what our clubs are doing right and where to improve.

The survey only takes about three to five minutes, but the aggregated information will give us a more complete picture of what our members think of their club's culture. Each completed survey is a piece of a jigsaw puzzle; when joined together, the whole picture appears. Please share this survey link with others as the more participants, the better the data.

Having new strategies to help strengthen and grow your club's membership will also strengthen our beloved Federation. As the song goes, "You can't have one without the other."

The deadline for submitting the survey is **February 6, 2025**, so take a few minutes now and click the link to join the hundreds of GFWC members who have already shared their thoughts. Thank you for your participation!



Building a Home for Coast Guard Heroism

In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the U.S. Coast Guard sprang into action, demonstrating extraordinary heroism and unwavering commitment to safeguarding our coastal communities and beyond. With thousands of service members activated following these devastating natural disasters, the Coast Guard worked tirelessly to conduct search and rescue operations that resulted in countless lives saved and assisted, clear debris, distribute emergency supplies to isolated areas, and aid in recovery efforts across the Southeast, from coastal regions to communities hundreds of miles inland in the mountains of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Heroic actions such as these will soon find a permanent home in the National Coast Guard Museum, set to open in 2026 in New London, Connecticut. As the last legacy branch of the Armed Forces to receive a national museum, this state-of-the-art facility will finally showcase the Coast Guard's exceptional 234-year history. The free admission museum will feature interactive exhibits, large-scale mission simulations, and 600+ artifacts that unequivocally bring to life the bravery and dedication of Coast Guard members during the most critical moments.

As we witness the Coast Guard's crucial role in protecting our Nation, neighbors, and friends far and wide, now is the time to support this important project. Your contribution to the National Coast Guard Museum will help ensure that the stories of courage and service, like those displayed during the recent hurricanes, are preserved for generations to come. Join us in building this long-overdue tribute to the men and women who stand always ready to serve. Together, we will create a lasting legacy that honors our Coast Guard heroes and educates visitors about their vital missions in times of crisis and beyond.



Please contribute today using the GFWC's special giving link to guarantee your gift is counted toward the Federation-wide effort

(<https://www.coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc>) or consider permanently making your mark at the Museum by purchasing an engraved paver ([Download GFWC form](#)).



Don't miss these webinars STARTING MONDAY NIGHT. Find more information and register for upcoming webinars 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

Amy Peele, GFWC Education and Libraries/Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman

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

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

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

Jude Mabone, GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman

<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, GFWC Communications Honorary Chairman

Purchase "[Turn Your Story Into Business Gold](#)" by Leslie Capps

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



Access and Inclusion for All

By: Kathy Barnes, GFWC Connecticut State President

From our motto, “Unity in Diversity,” and the recognition that in our communities, people have a diversity of abilities, the 2024-2026 GFWC Connecticut administration is focusing on increasing access and inclusion for people of different abilities.

We can support Special Olympics, raise a puppy for Canine Companions, donate books and games to Syd’s Shack to support non-verbal children, publicize the Airport Sunflower Project that supports people with hidden disabilities, and support Ability Beyond and MARC, Inc. to increase independence for those with developmental disabilities. Clubs will look at our meeting places and event locations to make access and inclusion a priority.



Our Projects So Far:

- In July, the Manchester Club changed their monthly dinner group to an event hosted by MARC, Inc. to support their work with independence for their clients.
- In September, we worked through Canine Companions’ action portal to have one municipality recognize National Service Dog Month.
- In October, our speaker for Advocates for Children Week introduced members to the Connecticut Family Support Network, working with families of children with disabilities. The Connecticut Governor’s office issued a proclamation in celebration of Advocates for Children Week.
- In December we were joined by one of our Special Olympics athletes and her coach for our social time.

Independence, inclusion, and access for all people should be an expectation, not a goal.

Supplies to Help You Move Forward



Every fresh start brings new opportunities and renewed excitement! Whether you're reorganizing, reimagining, or simply refreshing your workspace, your Office Depot Savings Program is here to help.

From essential club supplies to flexible delivery options, they make it easier for you to get what you need - all in one place. Sign up to receive exclusive member savings and free delivery on qualifying orders of \$30 or more.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club (FL)



The "Knit and Chat" group of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club (FL) created 40 pairs of mittens for the two First Grade reading classes at Title 1 Myakka River Elementary School. Reading Teacher, Mrs. A, realized early in her tenure that some of her students live in the woods or a car, and need cold weather gear.

The January 6, 2025, reading of "The Mitten Tree" by Candace Christiansen marked the 15th anniversary of Mrs. A's Mitten program. Each year, after

reading the book, the students go outside to find mittens on the bush by their door and take a pair home.

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!

**Correction: Last week's article, "Be the Voice for the Signature Program," was written by Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC Signature Program Chairman*



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