



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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February 27, 2025

GFWC: Members-only Digital Resources

Shot@Life “2025 Advocate to Vaccinate Spring Summit”



February 24-26, in Washington, DC

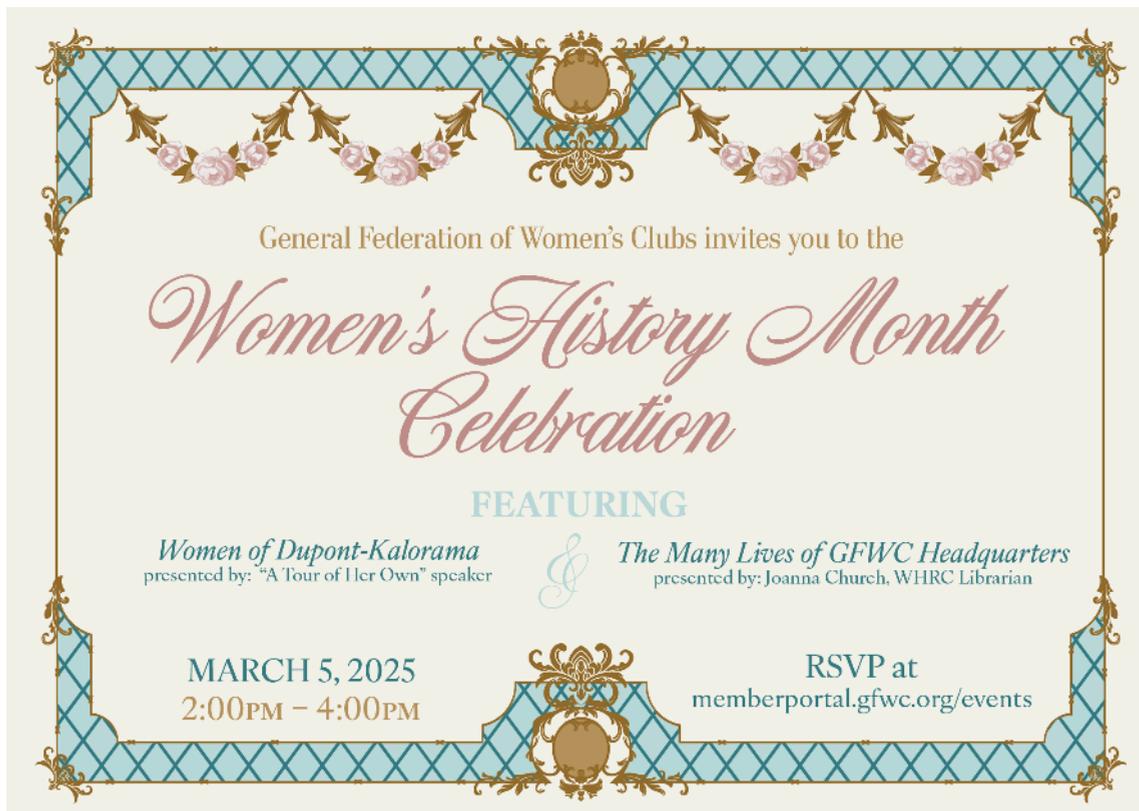
GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil attended the **2025 Advocate to Vaccinate Summit**, organized by Shot@Life, in Washington, DC, earlier this week. Also, attending this year's event are 11 **GFWC Shot@Life Champion** representatives: Elena Coates, Angie Comfort, Diane Glasgow, Lori Harding, Dianne McCarty, Mary McGahan, Bridget Murphy, Sue O'Dell, Deanna Shepard, Irene Stamper, and Susan Tyler. Three GFWC Shot@Life Champions were recognized for their exemplary support of the organization: Elena, Diane, and Susan received recognition during Wednesday's program.

Keynote speaker Ramesh Ferris kicked off the event with an inspiring speech about the importance of vaccinations and shared his personal story as a polio survivor. During the “Global Child Immunization Simulation: A Tabletop Exercise”

segment, Drs. Imran Mirza, Health Specialist, and Ibrahim Dadari, Immunization Specialist; and Steven Lauwerier, Director of Polio Eradication, of UNICEF shared strategies with attendees on how to create an immunization micro plan for healthcare workers to maximize the use of limited resources, with the goal of reaching every child in a community with immunization services.

All the guest presenters and interactive exercises served as a precursor to Hill Visits on February 25, with more than 150 Shot@Life Champions meeting with their Members of Congress to discuss the importance of vaccines nationally and around the world.

To learn more about Shot@Life, visit: www.shotatlife.org.



Don't miss these special presentations next Wednesday at the 2025 GFWC Women's History Month Celebration!

Women of Dupont-Kalorama

During the Gilded Age, the Dupont Circle neighborhood became the glimmering center for the wealthy, the politically-connected, and the socially elite. The Women of Dupont-Kalorama traces the notable women who called this neighborhood home, the good (and bad) trouble that they stirred up, and how women still shape the worlds of politics, journalism, and society today.

The Many Lives of GFWC Headquarters

GFWC Headquarters is made up of three adjacent rowhouses in DC's historic Dupont Circle neighborhood, including the National Historic Landmark, 1734 N Street, built in 1875. Many women have lived and worked in these buildings over the past century: artists, writers, doctors, lawyers, maids, cooks, stenographers, nannies, activists, socialites, federal employees, and of course, clubwomen. As we prepare for the 150th anniversary of 1734 N Street, come learn about these women and the impact they had on our Headquarters buildings and on the history of Washington, DC.

RSVP Today



June 6-9

Spinning Vision into
Reality: Join Us for the 2025
GFWC Annual Convention

REGISTER NOW



Get ready for an unforgettable experience at this year's convention! You won't want to miss out on the incredible sessions, engaging activities, and networking opportunities that await you! Come prepared to learn, connect, and recharge for an even more impactful volunteer season ahead!

[Register Now](#)

Get the Best Price, Register by March 15

Save on prices by completing your registration early! GFWC Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club attendees save \$15 on their registration. Remember that only full registration attendees are eligible for voting privileges.

Early bird registration closes Saturday, March 15, at midnight ET.

You Could Win the Golden Ticket Raffle!



\$50 per entry

[Enter to Win](#)

Win a getaway to the golden shores of paradise on an alluring all-inclusive escape to the radiant resorts of Mexico and the Caribbean. Choose from dazzling destinations like the sun-kissed sands of Puerto Plata, the bold brilliance of Puerto Morelos, the tropical splendor of Cozumel, and more.

The winner will receive a five-night stay for 2 guests from a selection of resorts.



The Hummingbird: Small Actions Lead to Positive Change

by: Cindy Biesemeyer, GFWC Idaho State President

GFWC Idaho is home to two dedicated clubs: GFWC Boise Columbian Club and GFWC Woman's Century Club. While our membership may be small, our collective impact is significant, as we work to improve our communities one step at a time. My vision is to foster collaboration between both clubs, encouraging members to come together and actively participate in projects that make a difference.

The theme I've chosen for this administration is the hummingbird, inspired by the powerful parable of the hummingbird. In this tale, small, consistent efforts can lead to meaningful, positive change. This resonates deeply with our mission to create lasting impact through continuous, small actions.

My State President's Project is focused on supporting the Idaho Youth Ranch, an organization that GFWC Idaho helped establish in 1957. Our initial contribution included funding the construction of the first cabin in Rupert, Idaho, which laid the foundation for the Ranch's growth. Today, the Idaho Youth Ranch is a vital residential center that offers mental health services to youth statewide, including therapy, counseling, equine therapy, job training, and more.

As we move forward, my goal is to raise awareness of the Idaho Youth Ranch's work and provide any support necessary. In today's world, the need for mental health resources for young people is more pressing than ever. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.



Legislative Corner

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 Action Center: Sign up for the [GFWC Legislative Action Center \(LAC\)](#)! 2025 is going to be a busy year. Our united voices matter!

Kids Online Safety: In mid-February, the Senate unanimously approved the TAKE IT DOWN Act (S. 146, H.R. 633) which will criminalize the publication or threat of publishing nonconsensual intimate imagery, including AI-generated deepfakes, require social media and other websites to remove such images within 48 hours of receiving notice from the victim, and criminalizes the individual who publishes, or threatens to publish, the imagery, as well as the platforms. Be on the lookout for a GFWC Legislative Alert to urge the House of Representatives to enact this legislation.

We expect the SHIELD Act, the NO FAKES Act, and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act to be reintroduced soon. The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on February 19 entitled, "Children's Safety in the Digital Era: Strengthening Protections and Addressing Legal Gaps."

Victims of Crime Act: The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act has been reintroduced by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO). The bill would redirect unobligated funds collected through the False Claim Act to the Crime Victims Fund, while maintaining critical protection and compensation for whistleblowers. Be on the lookout for a GFWC Legislative Alert to urge additional cosponsors for this bipartisan legislation. The Crime Victims Fund authorized by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is financed by criminal fines and penalties from convictions in federal court, not taxpayer dollars.

FY 2025 Federal Appropriations: GFWC has advocated for funding for programs and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and international vaccine programs. The current FY 2025 Continuing Resolution expires on March 14, 2025. It is still unclear if Congress will enact the pending FY 2025 appropriations bills or support another short- or long-term Continuing Resolution or force a government shutdown



Journaling Your Way to Better Health

By: Hope Royer, GFWC Writing Contest Chairman

Pen and paper have long been recognized as powerful tools. It is only in recent years that putting pen to paper has been recognized for its powerful health benefits. Experts tell us that the creative writing process can be credited with improving memory retention, reducing anxiety, improving sleep, and even mood. Creative writing sounds like a “cure-all” for so many things that ail us!

You don't have to be an aspiring author, short story writer, or poet to take advantage of the health benefits of creative writing. If you keep a journal, you already qualify! Keeping a journal can help us gain control of our emotions, improving our mental health.

If you aren't yet journaling, give it a try. Beginning creative writing as a hobby, even in later years, has been proven to increase brain function and keep the mind sharp. You might keep an exercise journal to track your progress at the gym or maybe, a food journal to help with nutrition goals. You might write down daily experiences and your reactions to them for perspective.

No matter what kind of journal you keep, putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard can be yet another step toward better health.

St. Jude patient, Avery
sickle cell disease



Avery's story

One day, Avery's teacher called the little girl's mom and said Avery was in severe pain and needed to be picked up right away. "She cried all the way home, and it broke my heart," Avery's mom remembered. When they got home, Avery's mom gave her some pain medication, but just a few hours later, she took Avery to their local hospital, where the little girl stayed for two weeks.

Unfortunately, this was not the first time Avery had been in a lot of pain, because she was diagnosed with sickle cell disease shortly after she was born. Throughout her life, she had received IV fluids, blood transfusions and strong pain medications to help manage her symptoms.

When she was 6 years old, Avery was referred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where she received a bone marrow transplant. Since the transplant, she hasn't suffered any effects of sickle cell disease or needed any more transfusions.

"St. Jude has given us the hope that she can be a child and enjoy life like any other kid," her mom said. "With St. Jude we can hope, and we can dream."

stjude.org

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Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Colleen Bailey
GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas, Nevada

Loreen Basuino
GFWC Country Woman's Club of Campbell,
California

Sheryl Borden
GFWC Portales Woman's Club, New Mexico

Debbie Earle

Helene Libby
GFWC Outlook Club, Maine

Joyce McCoy
GFWC Village Improvement Association of
Rehoboth Beach, Inc., Delaware

Kathi McGraw
GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress, California

Betty Pazder

GFWC Grand Terrace Woman's Club,
California

Harriet Ellis
GFWC The Harwinton Woman's Club,
Connecticut

Mary Alice Hydrick
GFWC-MS Florentine Club, Mississippi

Donna L. Lefler
GFWC Fairmont Woman's Club, Nebraska

GFWC Dover Century Club, Delaware

Lucielle Sitterly
GFWC Palatine Literary Society, New York

Susan Steele
GFWC Selbyville Community Club, Delaware

Gaynelle Thomas
GFWC Portales Woman's Club, New Mexico

Club Anniversaries

25
GFWC New Tampa Juniorettes, Florida

50
GFWC Port St. Lucie Woman's Club, Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of Greene County,
Virginia

60
GFWC Santa Rosa Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Deltona Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Ohio Eastlake Women's Club, Ohio
Windsor Woman's Club of CT and GFWC,
Connecticut

70
GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club, Inc.,
Florida

85
GFWC Miami Springs Woman's Club, Florida
GFWC-OK Monday Forum Club, Oklahoma

90
GFWC-OK Heeko Club, Ohio

95
GFWC-MS Florentine Club, Mississippi

100
GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of Hialeah, Inc., Florida
GFWC Blountsville Culture Club, Alabama
GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman's Study
Club, Kentucky

105
GFWC Eau Gallie Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of Lake Wales, Inc.,
Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of MacClenny, Florida

110
GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Oviedo Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of Zephyrhills, Florida
GFWC Key West Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces, New
Mexico

115
GFWC Historic Brooksville Woman's Club,
Florida
GFWC Woman's Club of Leesburg, Inc., Florida
GFWC-OK Cheyenne Platonic Club, Oklahoma

120
GFWC Woman's Club of Tallahassee, Inc.,
Florida
GFWC West Virginia

125
GFWC High Springs New Century Women's
Club, Inc., Florida

130
GFWC Crescent City Woman's Club, Inc.,
Florida
Village Improvement Association Federated
Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, Florida,
Inc., Florida
Village Improvement Association Orange City
Woman's Club, Inc., Florida
GFWC Portland Woman's Club, Florida

Volunteers in Action:

GFWC Bruce Fine Arts Juniorettes (MS)



Members of the GFWC Bruce Fine Arts Juniores recognized a need from their peers and are working to help. Working with a local organization, the Bruce United Methodist Women, they are collecting hygiene products and packing them up for donation to the bathrooms of four local schools.

Learn from these young ladies!

1. Examine your community needs
2. Assess your members' interest
3. Engage others in your volunteer work
4. Implement a sound plan
5. Celebrate and share successes

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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