



The Fall Board Workshop, reiterated the need for clubs to become involved in developing legislation and public policy in their communities. Thirty-five clubs took this to heart and reported activities. These clubs reported 4,698 hours of service and spending \$2197.00. Projects included 42 projects in local advocacy of issues important to clubs in the area, 1 club project continues centered around the fighting of Fracking in the Florida Panhandle and 3 clubs were active in the issues of human trafficking and women's rights. Sixteen clubs wrote letters and contacted congressional leaders through the GFWC Advocacy Center Legislative Alerts, 3 clubs held local candidate forums, 8 clubs reported working in the polls, transporting voters to the polls and more, 3 club sits on a local community board, 8 clubs invited local officials to speak at club meetings and rent their clubhouse for local planning and advocacy group meetings, 5 clubs attended legislative workshops, 5 clubs are tracking legislative issues and alerts members through their Facebook page, 1 club receives emails from their local delegation in Washington outlining issues, 10 clubs distributed legislative issues information to the members, clubs have appointed Legislation and Public Policy chairmen in their clubs, with two even developed a Legislation and Public Policy Handbook for their club, one club reports attending "Women in Politics Training", and one club has worked with the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Essay Contest to encourage students to participate.

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Crestview** has a member appointed to the City of Crestview Liaison Committee. In addition to serving on this committee, she reports each month on the issues facing the City and encourages the members to get involved. She brings ideas back to the committee from this community group on how to address community issues.

The **GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club** made this advancement area an important one to the club by presenting a program at the club where it was stressed the importance of "making their voices heard." Members were given lists of contact information for their local and state elected officials, an email system was set up to make sure all members receive Legislative Alerts and members respond addressing issues important to the area.

In an effort to better understand the "legislative process" members of the **GFWC Capital City Woman's Club** attended the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's "Woman's Day at the Capitol" in Tallahassee. The event is held annual and educates women on how to best present your issue to the Legislators, issues facing Florida, how to get involved at the local level and much more.

The club Legislation Chairman of the **GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club** developed a "Legislation and Public Policy Handbook" for the members. It included eleven sections on issues that were pertinent to the club and their projects. Issues were tracked and highlighted at every club meeting.

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs** was one of several clubs who attended "Citizen Academy" workshops throughout the state. But they took the information they learned and the contacts they made with city officials back to the club and decided how to best use them to advocate for issues important to the club members. Issues addressed were funding for their local library, public art displays, maintaining the "Pennies for Pinellas" tax and much more. The local mayor and commissioners were invited to attend club meetings to listen to the concerns of the members.

The **GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club** has a rather unique situation with members living in the small communities surrounding the club. As such, members sit on Chamber of Commerce seats in two communities and on the City Council in another. This involvement allows them to

advocate for issues on a much larger scale than most clubs. They actively participate in projects throughout the area allowing members to become more aware of the issues and concerns in their wide reaching area. They are advocate for projects addressing homelessness, mental health and children and continuously remind members to take time to “Make your voice heard. Stand up and be counted.”

***Become Aware***—educate yourself on the issues, ***Become Active***—you have a voice—we have already proven that we do make a difference, and ***Become an Advocate*** for the issues we as GFWC clubwomen support.