

Membership
Convention 2018
Bulletin 4



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I would like to offer my sincere thanks to each of you and your clubs which have embraced the membership theme of "Shine Your Light". At the GFWC Convention in Palm Springs California last summer their theme was "It is Our Time to Shine". I must say that GFWC Florida did shine in many areas and your membership efforts to increase our members and put a spotlight on our devoted long standing members earned GFWC FL the Outstanding Achievement Award for Membership. This award was for Category Five which is the States that have the most members in GFWC. Florida is third on that list; so it was a special moment to receive this award, with New Jersey as second and California as first in this Category. Congratulations and many thanks!

This year our membership report has been submitted showing 13,917 projects or program events related to membership; 79,684 volunteer hours and \$419,607 money spent on membership. I find these facts say a lot about what you are doing.

Some examples of club membership activities included an auction of purses with lunch and games held by GFWC Williston Woman's Club and the GFWC Williston Junior Club. GFWC Sebastian Woman's Club with GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club and GFWC Sebastian River Juniorettes participated in numerous community events; such as Science and Music camps, an open house at Christmas with a Florida attired Santa handing out books to each child in attendance, Easter Egg hunt with brunch, 4th of July parade, cookout and fireworks. Then together they built and operated a haunted house. At the GFWC Tampa Woman's Club they supported one member of the Woman's Club and one member from the GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club on a mission trip to Bolivia. These two members spent hours with school children as well as providing necessary medicines. Woman's Club of Fort Pierce held a contest for the year to see who could recruit the most new members. Three members were recognized with certificates and tiaras as Queens of Recruiting. This club went from 47 members to 80. That is a huge number of new members. The GFWC Woman's Club of The Villages honored and paid tribute to a member who joined 50 years ago at the age of 22. The club recreated a formal tea like the one she first attended and presented her with the 50 year pin and Certificate from GFWC President, Shelia Shea and notes from her first club. Woman's Club of Coconut Grove started the year with 51 members. Their membership now stands at 129 (61 new members). That is like an entire new club. This club held an event which mirrored the old school "dance cards". 10 tables were set up with a program or project chair at each table to explain what was taking place. Cards were turned in and 3 cards were drawn where prizes were awarded. These are only a few of the many, many activities clubs across Florida did for our membership and their communities.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Junior Women's Club Director-elect, Shannon Bailey. At Fall Board meetings, Shannon and I asked everyone to submit a One Word answer to the question, "What Does Being a Member of GFWC FL Mean to You? Many answers were turned in at those meetings and then we received via email additional

answers taken at club or district meetings. Shannon has taken the most popular one words and created a design which has been printed on note cards. These are in sets of 10 with envelopes and are for sale at headquarters table. Be sure to pick some up to let your family and friends know what it means to belong.

My thanks for your support during my term as GFWC FL 2nd Vice President. I so very much appreciate your membership reports, contacts by phone or email and the opportunity to serve in this position. There is a movement and determination for GFWC Florida to succeed. We are all a vital part of that movement. Your clubs have created an interest in GFWC Florida and we must and will continue to be a strong viable organization with your help.

Living the Volunteer Spirit,
Linda O'Toole