



# **GFWC FLORIDA**

## **FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



## **Membership Manual**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### *GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs*

[www.gfwcflorida.org](http://www.gfwcflorida.org)

Dear New Member,

As President of the GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, I welcome you into the fun and fellowship of our organization. By joining GFWC Florida Federation you automatically became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest volunteer organizations in the world.

Founded in 1895, GFWC Florida Federation has approximately 10,000 members from the Panhandle to the Keys. Federated clubs are a vital and active part of Florida communities and each club selects projects based on the needs of their community. As Federated women, we come together to address local, state, national and international issues.

Founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With more than 100,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement and work toward world peace and understanding. To encourage this support, GFWC International is actively engaged in partnerships with the following organizations:

- The Nature Generation
- ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron)
- Easter Seals
- The Heart Truth (Women's Heart Health)
- Inside Knowledge (Women's gynecologic issues)
- Canine Companions for Independence
- Heifer International
- Operation Smile
- United Nations Foundation, Shot @ Life
- UNICEF (United States Fund)
- Kettering Foundation
- Sew Much Comfort
- USO

For more details on the above organizations, you can find information in the GFWC Club Manual (at [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org)) or by going to each individual web site.

Who we are: GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change. We are mothers and daughters, business and community leaders, and women of diverse interests, talents and backgrounds – all united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.

We are the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC Florida)...

In Federation Spirit,

Mary C. Powell, President 2016-2018  
GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs  
*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

# Welcome!

Welcome to the 2016-18 GFWC Florida Membership Manual! The goal for this manual is to provide all of our clubs with basic information in one place that they might need to answer membership related questions. This information is intended to be used in club orientations, new member orientations and for club brochures, speeches, newsletters and yearbooks. Please feel free to pick and choose what you need for any given project.

The 2016-18 theme for GFWC Florida's Membership Program is "Shine Your Light". Knowing our GFWC and GFWC Florida history is an important part of understanding what holds us together as one of the largest women's volunteer organizations in the world! We have much to be proud of and our members are a vital part of both GFWC Florida and GFWC.

Current membership contests at all levels are included as are suggestions for "what to report" in membership reports. All of this information is also available on the GFWC Florida Website, [gfwcflorida.org](http://gfwcflorida.org). The GFWC 2016-18 Florida Manual is also on our website and can be downloaded or ordered from headquarters in Lakeland. The same is true of this manual. It can be downloaded or ordered from GFWC Florida Headquarter. Either manual cost \$10 to have copied and printed and mailed.

Shine Your Light is a way to spotlight new members and honor those who are long term members. I encourage you to request anniversary certificates for long standing members and purchase anniversary pins from our Mall or at Headquarters Table at Convention and Fall Board meetings. Send me names of new members so that we can put a spotlight for all to see on Membership Monday issues. Feel free to call or e-mail me with questions about membership or the start-up of a new club. My e-mail address is [lindaleeotoole@gmail.com](mailto:lindaleeotoole@gmail.com).

*"SHINE YOUR LIGHT"*

**Linda O'Toole, GFWC Florida Second Vice President**

# **Sending In New Members' Dues Throughout The Year**

It is suggested that new member dues be sent to GFWC Florida Headquarters as soon as they are collected by the club, whenever in the year that occurs. They do not need be held until all member dues are sent in December 15th. Your club will not pay twice on these new members.

When the Membership List is updated and the Remittance Form/w donations is sent in in December, the new members names will be included, but you will note next to those whose dues have already been sent that they were paid previously.

This allows us to welcome new members in the most timely manner.

## **New Member Update Information**

You can find the form here:

<http://www.gfwcflorida.org/resources>

Membership/GFWCFL membership update form 2018/Membership

# Membership Monday

Membership Monday is a weekly newsletter for GFWC Florida members. By signing up on the upper right hand side of the Home Page of [gfwcflorida.org](http://gfwcflorida.org). It is a communication tool to keep all of our members (Junior, General, and Juniorettes) knowledgeable about what other clubs around the state are doing, sharing their successful projects and pictures.

Membership Monday spotlights current club activities and new programs related to partnerships and Our President's Project, Hacienda Girls Ranch. We want to give every girl at Hacienda the opportunities for a better life. Thus, the President's theme is "A Better World For Every Girl" Clubs are encouraged to submit articles and action photos of what their members are doing. Submit articles and actions photos to [webmaster@gfwcflorida.org](mailto:webmaster@gfwcflorida.org)

# What To Report Under Membership

## Focus on Membership Recruitment

- Developed a specific one/two year recruitment program
- How potential members were targeted/contacted
- Events held to recruit new members
- New member materials/kits
- Mentoring new members
- New member orientations
- Recognizing new members
- Recognizing sponsors of new members
- New member projects (for them and/or by them)
- Start a new club, General, Junior, or Juniorette

## Focus on Membership Retention

- Recognizing and thanking members, by name with "Shout Outs", cards, birthdays, special occasions, etc. at meetings, in newsletters, on Facebook or email
- Ongoing orientations for ALL members. Can be short or long items handled in newsletters, at meetings, through websites, or handouts, regarding GFWC, GFWC Florida, or club wide programs and history.
- Greeters, name tags, welcome committees
- Club socials, summer get-togethers, lunch bunches, dinners wine tasting or ice cream socials, etc.
- Membership surveys for interests and satisfaction
- Sunshine/courtesy chairman
- Recognition of members with pins, certificate for 5,10,15, etc years.
- Special recognition for 25/50 year members
- GFWC Florida/ Volunteer of the Year program (see the website for the information and form)
- Membership Week Proclamation
- Using GFWC/GFWC Florida materials available on the website
- Celebrating Federation Day
- Jennie June Award nominations
- Sponsoring and advising a Juniorette club
- Club Anniversary Celebration

## Other

--Club Newsletter

--Club Yearbook

--1895 Society Participation and Support (supports our GFWC FL Headquarters)

--1734 Society Participation and Support (supports the GFWC Headquarters located at 1734 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

--Contribute articles to GFWC/GFWC Florida Clubwoman (submit articles to Gina King Granger at [gina@offthechartmedia.com](mailto:gina@offthechartmedia.com))

--Subscribe to GFWC Clubwoman (see [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) to order your subscription)

--Contribute to GFWC Florida Membership Monday (send articles and action photos to [webmaster@gfwcflorida.org](mailto:webmaster@gfwcflorida.org))

--GFWC Florida Road Signs

--Owns Clubhouse

--Rental/Maintenance of Clubhouse



# Where To Find Membership Information On Our Website

[gfwcflorida.org](http://gfwcflorida.org)

## Home Page

Subscribe to mailings to receive Membership Monday

## About/Membership

Shine Your Light on new members and long standing members. The Shine Your Light Logo is available to download. Find it under Resources.

## About/Programs

Membership contact information, Booster information, Membership bulletins, Junior and General Membership Contests

## Resources (first item on drop down menu)

2016-18 "How to Form a New GFWC Florida Club", 2016-18 "Volunteer of the Year" form, Membership Update Form, GFWC Florida 25/50 Year members, Transfer Out of State, Transfer in State, Juniorette information.

# Develop An “Elevator Speech”

An "elevator speech" is a brief personal statement about something that is meaningful to you, which can be presented in about 30 seconds-the length of the average elevator ride, Chance encounters at grocery stores, coffee shops, community events, and social gatherings are often great opportunities to share your enthusiasm for GFWC/GFWC Florida with a potential member. But you have to be prepared, Even if you have more time, boiling down your passion for GFWC to just a sentence or two is a great way to think about the value of your membership. New “elevator speeches” will be presented at the Membership workshop at 2016 Fall Board meeting. See Membership Monday for examples.

## SAMPLE ELEVATOR SPEECHES

I am a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (or your club) one of the largest women's volunteer organizations in the world. We are committed to the betterment of our communities through volunteerism and the empowerment of women. GFWC volunteers find joy in living and giving. Here, let me give you one of our cards. (Get cards!)

\*\*\*

GFWC is the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the oldest volunteer women's organizations in the world dedicated to service in our communities, state, nationally, and internationally, Our motto is "Unity in Diversity," We do what needs to be done in our communities. Our national emphasis is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. Would you like to learn more? Here is an informational GFWC tri-fold and my card. May I have your card? I will contact you with information on our next event. (Order or develop a trifold.)

\*\*\*

Thanks for asking about my GFWC pin. We are a service organization of women who serve our communities. I have a tri-fold about GFWC- the General Federation of Women's Clubs-that I'd like to share with you. You can also go to [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) for more information. Have a great day!

\*\*\*

This is GFWC-the General Federation of Women's Clubs, We are one of the world's largest non-profit volunteer organizations for women who work to improve communities. Would you be interested in joining us?

# Challenge Your Members!

- Orient all members so they fully understand the club, district, state and national structure (GFWC Florida and GFWC).
- Plan stimulating, different, fun club programs.
- Survey membership to determine interests.
- Initiate "mentor or sister" programs to make new members feel wanted.
- Encourage your members to participate in projects they enjoy.
- Recognize members for special accomplishments.  
Examples: Member of the Month in newsletter, highlight new members.
- Set realistic goals and measurable objectives so that members will feel creative and accomplished.
- Do not impose excessive financial obligations on members. Make sure they realize what is required by your club bylaws and what is a choice.
- Involve family members in the work of the club. Promote GFWC Florida Booster Club, now open to all friends and family.
- Encourage and support members to attend district, state and general federation meetings and conventions.
- Assign greeters at the door to make sure everyone feel welcome.
- Keep member informed of club, district, GFWC Florida and GFWC news.
- Use email, twitter or Facebook to quickly contact the membership and to share great projects going on in other clubs. Develop a club Facebook page as well as a website.
- Get all of your members signed up for Membership Monday.
- Make sure each club member is assigned to at least one Community Service Program or committee. Encourage chairman to meet with and include all members.
- Keep absent members informed of activities of the club. Contact them by email or a phone call to let them know they were missed.
- Ask all members to do something. It doesn't have to be major but everyone needs to feel necessary.
- Have name-tags for members and guests at club meetings.
- Be generous with praise. Say THANK YOU as often as you can."

# Encourage Flexibility In Your Club

There is one thing we know and that is that there is just too little of-time. One of the most common reasons why a member leaves a club is lack of time. Respect your members' time and they are more likely to make your club a permanent fixture in their lives.

- Streamline meetings to ensure they are as convenient and productive as possible to meet the needs and diversity of your club members.
- Consider the time commitments of members, and schedule meetings that accommodate as many members as possible. Sometimes this is the time to consider a new sister club or possibly a separate division to meet at a different time.
- Email or mail the minutes and treasurer's report prior to the meeting, allowing time for members to review for corrections or additions at home.
- Make an agenda and stick to it. Do write a script for each meeting. Remember to always start at the scheduled time
- Keep reports brief and pertinent. Nicely, help your chairman learn what a reasonable time is.
- To help keep reports brief at a meeting, encourage chairmen to say as much as they can in the club newsletter. At the meeting they can say their report is in the newsletter and no further information is necessary.
- Two hours is about the right time frame for a meeting.
- Allow time for discussion, you do want to hear from your members, but set a time limit on debate.
- Provide time either before or after the scheduled meeting for socializing and refreshments.
- Use various techniques to get members to sit with members they don't know as well. -- Include programs that are interesting, stimulating, and short.

# Key Points For Retaining Members



Personality

Promptness

Programs

Projects

Participation

Placement

Product

Promotion

Price

Progress

Pride

# GFWC Florida Acronyms And Frequently Used Phrases

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ADM            | Annual District Meeting (also known as Fall Tour of Officers).   |
| ACS            | American Cancer Society  |
| ACTrees        | Alliance for Community Trees   |
| BOD            | GFWC Florida Board of Directors (See GFWC Florida Bylaws at <a href="http://GFWCFlorida.org">GFWCFlorida.org</a> , Resources/Downloads tab, Members Only tab, and once in, go to Section G., Bylaws. In the Bylaws, refer to Article IX, Board of Directors for a listing of positions included in the BOD.) |
| BRICKS/BENCHES | Bricks for the walkway and driveway leading to the entrance of our Headquarters building in Lakeland. Benches also may be purchased for placement on the grounds at Headquarters. (Go to <a href="http://GFWCFlorida.org">GFWCFlorida.org</a> and click on the red Mall tab for more information.)           |
| CAP            | Child Assault Prevention.  |
| CDC            | Centers for Disease Control.   |
| CHARLOTTE      |  |
| MEEDS SMITH    | The Junior Volunteer of the Year award.  |
| CHS            | Children's Home Society (Hacienda Girls Ranch).  |
| CIP            | Community Improvement Project (A two-year project in which clubs participate to enhance lives in their communities.)   |
| COLLECT        | Our creed. (Written by Mary Stewart, GFWC was the first organization to use it in print and in its yearbook. Go to <a href="http://GFWC.org">GFWC.org</a> for a detailed history of Mary Stewart and the Collect.)   |
| CSP            | Community Service Program (Focus areas of Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach and Public Issues.)   |
| CWLA           | Child Welfare League of America.   |
| DV             | Domestic Violence Awareness.   |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| EC              | GFWC Florida Executive Committee.  |
| ESO             | Epsilon Sigma Omricon (An honorary educational society open to all per capita paying GFWC federated club members.)   |
| DD              | District Director.   |
| ESL             | English as a second language.  |
| FALL TOUR       | Annual District meetings held in the Fall. (The two tour teams are members of the Board of Directors) They split up the 14 Districts, with each visiting 7; then, while the teams remain the same in year two of the administration, they visit the Districts they did not meet in year one. These meetings provide an opportunity for those clubwomen who are unable to attend state meetings to meet with and get to know our state leaders, as well as hear about GFWC Florida programs and plans.) |
| FEDERATION SONG | Suwannee River.  |
| FFWC            | Old acronym for Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.   |
| GAIL HILL SMITH |  |
| AWARD           | Award for outstanding marketing and GFWC branding of a Junior Woman's Club project.  |
| GFWC            | General Federation of Women's Clubs (Headquartered in Washington D.C.).  |
| GFWC FL         | GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.  |
| GINNY WINSEMAN  |  |
| AWARD           | Award presented to the most outstanding Junior District Director.  |
| HOBY            | Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (A weekend of leadership training for high school sophomores.)   |
| HONOR SCORE     | A report each club may submit. (This report reflects many aspects of club work and participation. Those clubs earning 100 points or more receive an Honor Score Certificate.)  |
| JASM            | Juniorette Annual State Meeting (Usually held in June each year.)  |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| JDD         | Junior District Director   |
| JEC         | Junior Executive Committee.  |
| JETTS       | Juniorettes.   |
| JPC         | Junnior Planning Committee.  |
| JWC         | Junior Women's Clubs.  |
| JENNIE JUNE | The pen name for journalist and activist Jane Cunningham Croley, the founder of GFWC. (Go to <a href="http://GFWCFlorida.org">GFWCFlorida.org</a> and click on the Resources/Downloads tab, then click on Member at Large, Dear Jennie.) |

#### JOYCE JOHNSTON JUNIOR TO JUNIORETTE AWARD

Award presented for outstanding interaction between a Junior Woman's Club and Juniorette Club who have worked together.

JUDY LUTZ INTERACTION Award given to the Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club who have worked together to serve their communities and interests.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| KAB        | Keep America Beautiful.  |
| LAM        | List of available materials.   |
| LBP        | Lois B. Perkins Award for Florida's most outstanding Woman's Club.   |
| LEADS      | Leadership, Education And Development Seminar (A grass roots effort to identify members with leadership potential and a desire to progress to offices at club, district and state levels.) |
| MAL        | Member at Large.   |
| MARY CLARK | Award given to the most outstanding Junior Woman's Club.   |

#### MARY ANN TAYLOR AWARD

Award presented to a Junior member for exemplary child advocacy.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| MM    | Membership Monday; Membership Means Me.                                   |
| MOD   | March of Dimes  |
| MOTTO | In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity. |

NANCY CRAWFORD LEADERSHIP AWARD-- Award for most outstanding leadership by a Junior member.



ONE VOICE FOR CHILDREN ---A grant up to \$1,000, available to ALL clubs to be used for projects associated with child advocacy. Funds are raised through the Junior Fundraising table. Grant applications will be available on the website.

QR CODE Quick Response Code for GFWC Florida may be found at our website, [GFWCFlorida.org](http://GFWCFlorida.org), under Downloads for all clubs. You can use it on all of your printed materials. It can be scanned by phones, and will send the inquirer to the GFWC Florida website.

RONR Roberts Rules of Order Revised.

SRC Southern Region Conference (GFWC has 8 regions. SRC includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Aruba. SRC meets each year at the GFWC International Convention, and again in the Fall, usually October.)

SUMMER PLANNING A weekend meeting held during the Summer, usually in July, of year one of an administration. (The meeting gathers together the EC, JEC, DDs, JDDs, Chairmen and Committee Members, Junior Chairmen and Committee Members, JPC, District President's Project Chairmen, and District Membership Chairmen.)

TEDDY HULSE JUNIOR TO JR. INTERACTION AWARD

Award presented for outstanding interaction between Junior clubs who have worked together.

VOY Volunteer of Year (Each Woman's club has the opportunity to acknowledge a member for their Club VOY, and submit that name to the District for competition. District VOYs compete for a GFWC Florida VOY, which is announced at the Spring Annual Convention.

WHALE **We Have A Little Emergency.** A Junior sponsored program open to ALL, kits may be ordered from GFWC Florida Headquarters. Program allows for identifying information to be available on child car seats, in case of emergency when the adult(s) may not be in a position to provide information to emergency workers.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

A monetary award for high school seniors (male or female) who exemplify superior leadership skills and volunteerism. The Youth may be nominated from any GFWC Florida club. The award dollars are raised at the Junior Fundraising Table as well as from Club remittance forms.

1895 SOCIETY Established to preserve our past and ensure our future. Requires an annual donation for membership. Upon joining, members are given a pin and the year of their donation "charm," with yearly memberships added to the pin. Funds raised already have permitted improvements to our Headquarters building in Lakeland. Look for the 1895 Society table at state meetings to join and renew.

VSA Very Special Arts. (The international organization on arts and disability. This ties in to our Arts CSP, and clubs can find many resources and ideas at [vsarts.org](http://vsarts.org) to help develop programs for their communities.)

WHRC Women's History Resource Center, housed at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., it was established in 1984. WHRC is accessed by journalists and researchers from across the U.S.A.

# GFWC Facts

## GFWC Mission Statement

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

## Capsule History of GFWC

Founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the world's oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organizations, is well into its second century of volunteer service throughout the United States and the world.

GFWC traces its roots back to Jane Cunningham Croly, an accomplished New York newspaperwoman, who wrote under the pen name of Jennie June. Indignant that she and other women were denied admittance to a banquet honoring Charles Dickens in 1868 at the all-male New York Press Club simply because they were women, she determined to organize a club for women only.

The name chosen for this club was Sorosis, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."

Although Sorosis' founders originally supposed they were starting a new movement, they became aware over the years of the existence of other women's clubs that had formed independently to meet the needs of women in the expanding country.

In 1889, as Sorosis approached its 21<sup>st</sup> year, Mrs. Croly proposed a conference in New York to bring together delegates from 61 women's clubs. On the last day of the conference, the women took action to form a permanent organization. A committee to draft a constitution and plan of organization to be ratified the following year was chosen, with Sorosis President Ella Dietz Clymer as chairman. The constitution was adopted in April 1890, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs was born. It was chartered in 1901 by the U.S. Congress.

To this day, the middle day of the 1890 organizing conference - April 24 - is celebrated each year as Federation Day.

## Goals and Accomplishments

As it unites member clubs, the Federation's goal is to encourage women to improve their skills, expand their rights, and apply their abilities and special sensitivity to the problems of their communities and nations. Originally founded as a means of self-education and development for women, gradually the clubs' emphasis changed to community service.

GFWC areas of activity include the arts, conservation, education, home life, international affairs, and public affairs, as well as other special projects. The Federation has a distinguished record of activity on issues of historical importance and this legacy is continued today. The banding together of existing clubs in the early 1890s has become an international organization of community-based volunteers in thousands of clubs in all 50 states, plus U.S. territories.

## **A Record of Achievement**

In 1899, clubwomen established the national model for the juvenile court system.

GFWC is credited with turning the tide for passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

The War Service Fund was established during World War I to train and send 100 young women overseas to operate or manage recreational canteens for American soldiers.

During WWII, the GFWC Headquarters was transformed into a War Service office, which distributed literature to keep women alert about war activities. Clubwomen raised over \$150 million in the "Buy a Bomber" campaign and collected wedding gowns for British brides.

GFWC was at the forefront of the conservation movement, which resulted in the establishment of the Forest Reserve in 1899 and the National Park Service in 1916. Clubwomen have directly contributed to the establishment of four National Parks.

GFWC began a campaign to name official state birds and flowers in the 1920s.

By the 1930s, women's clubs were responsible for the establishment of 75% of the nation's public libraries.

As early as 1944, GFWC endorsed a resolution supporting equal rights and responsibilities for women.

Many modern safety measures were early GFWC programs. The Women's Crusade for Seatbelts program, sponsored by GFWC in 1960, helped to advocate automobile safety and resulted in more than one million car seat belts installed in the course of one year.

GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1994.

GFWC fulfilled its commitment to America's Promise by raising and donating over \$13.5 million in books and materials to public libraries and public school libraries through its Libraries 2000 project (1997-2002).

## Notable Clubwomen

*Julia Ward Howe*, best known for authoring the poem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," was a prolific writer, a leader in the suffrage movement, and a respected lecturer. She helped organize the New England Woman's Club in 1868 and served as President of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs.

*Ellen Demorest* helped revolutionize the fashion industry in the 1860s with the invention and mass-production of paper dress making patterns. She owned a successful dress making shop in New York City as well as a popular magazine and was a founding member of Sorosis.

*Jane Addams* founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, which served as a model for the social reform movement of the Progressive Era. She was a vocal advocate for working women and child labor laws. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 and was an active member of the Chicago Woman's Clubs.

*Julia Lathrop* was the first person appointed by President Taft to head the Federal Children's Bureau, which was created in 1912. AS a member of the Chicago Woman's Club, she assisted the club in working for juvenile court laws.

*Nellie Tayloe Ross* became the first female governor when she was inaugurated in Wyoming in 1924. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Cheyenne and served as the first female Director of the U.S. Mint.

*Eleanor Roosevelt* was a First Lady, social reformer, columnist, teacher, political activist, and member of the Chautauqua Woman's Club in New York. She as a tireless advocate for the poor and disadvantaged and exercised her influence as a speaker and writer.

*Bertha Ethel Knight Landes* was elected the first woman mayor of a major city (Seattle) in 1926. She had previously served as president of the city council and president of Seattle City Federation of Women's Clubs.

*Ellen S. Woodward* was appointed by President Roosevelt in 1938 to the three member Social Security Board on which she administered the programs of the Social Securities Act. She was as an active member of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, elected to the state legislature in 1925, and the second woman to serve in the House of Representatives.

## Historic Headquarters

GFWC Headquarters is located in the Dupont Circle area of Washington DC. There is a distinctively residential atmosphere on the quiet block of N Street where Headquarters stands among several other large old homes. The July 1980 issue of *The Washingtonian*, a popular magazine, carried several pages of the "The Best and Worst of Washington." When it came to the best block in Washington, the magazine stated, "there is one and only one, and that is the N Street block between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, noted for its peaceful charm and perfectly kept old-time homes."

The historic mansion at 1734 N Street, NW has an illustrious history. Rear Admiral William Radford built the five-story stone and brick mansion in 1875 upon his retirement from the U.S. Navy. By 1895 the neighborhood was well developed and ready to welcome the colorful character of the next owner, General Nelson A. Miles, Commanding General in the Spanish American War. General Miles rose to fame in the Indian wars and was cited for gallantry in the Civil War. The house was a gift to the distinguished soldier, who made it his home until 1903. He built the stable in the rear of the lot to house his thoroughbred horses. General Miles gave Duke, one of his most beautiful horses, to Buffalo Bill, who used him as a lead horse in his shows for many years. At the present time, the stable is leased to the Iron Gate Inn, a prominent Washington restaurant.

Later owners of the Nelson A. Miles mansion, as it is known, were Mr. and Mrs. John Jay White, who remodeled the house into a modern residence. Mr. White was a great traveler and a big game hunter, frequently accompanying President Theodore Roosevelt on expeditions from which he brought back trophies to adorn his house. It was during the White's residency that the impressive murals for the second floor drawing room were painted in Paris by Alfred Herter, a renowned artist. In 1922 Mr. White sold the property to the General Federation of Women's Clubs for \$70,000.

The mansion is now the center of three buildings owned by the Federation. A staff of twenty coordinates programs, provides resource material, promotes communications with members, the media and other organizations, monitors legislation, networks with federal agencies and associate groups, maintains membership records, manages a multi-layered financial structure, operates a library and archives (which involves collecting materials, assisting researchers and cataloging organization and club histories) and arranges meetings, conventions, and training seminars.

In 1991, the main building of GFWC Headquarters was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan in recognition of its "national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America." The house is full of GFWC memorabilia, antiques and gifts from state and individual members. During her two years in office, the GFWC President resides in an apartment on the fourth floor.

Members are encouraged to schedule visits for clubs or during a family trip to Washington, DC. Guided tours are provided Monday through Friday, 9am to 4:30pm. Group visits are available by advance appointment only. To arrange a visit, contact GFWC Headquarters at 202/347-3168 between 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday.

## **“Unity in Diversity” Motto**

Ella Dietz Clymer, President of Sorosis, addressed the delegates at the 1889 organizational meeting of the Federation, which called together members of existing women’s clubs. “We look for unity, but unity in diversity,” she said, “we hope that you will enrich us by your varied experience, and let us pledge ourselves to work for a common cause, the cause of united womanhood throughout the world.” Her memorable phrase, “Unity in Diversity,” was adopted as the official motto of the Federation in 1957, and it set the tone for the flexibility that has allowed GFWC to grow and adapt to the changing and diverse lifestyles and concerns of women throughout more than a century of volunteer work.

## **History of Emblem**

The Federation had not been underway long when the question arose as to what distinguishing emblem its members should wear so as to recognize each other. Dr. Leila G. Bedell of the Chicago Woman’s Club recommended at the 1892 convention that “some simple badge be designed which all could procure and wear.”

A committee was named with Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC founder; Charlotte Emerson Brown, first GFWC President; and Jennie de la M. Lozier, of Sorosis, as members. They chose a design that incorporated a rising sun as the symbol. There is no record that the design was ever endorsed by either the convention or the Board of Directors, but when the Council met in 1893, the pin was already in distribution. The pin was blue and silver with a terra cotta background.

When Alice Ames Winter became President in 1920, she was dissatisfied with the rising sun symbol, saying, “We decided that the sun had risen, and that the time had come” [for a new emblem that more nearly represented the mature organization.] Accordingly, a new design, submitted by Douglas Donaldson, was approved in 1920. The design shows a crusader’s shield, signifying enlightenment, emerging from the darkened world, which is represented by a black center; the band encircling the center signifies eternity; surrounded by the letters GFWC and the motto “Unity in Diversity.”

## **Use of Emblem**

GFWC holds trademarks on the GFWC emblem. Active members are granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free limited license to use the GFWC trademark, meaning that it may be used to promote GFWC at the club, district, state regional, and/or international levels (on items such as stationery, advertising and marketing materials, signs, websites, publications, forms, etc.). Comprehensive *GFWC Trademark Use Policies* and camera-ready artwork for the emblem are available from GFWC Headquarters.

## **Federation Flower**

The red rose was officially adopted at the Council Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 1940. It was selected from suggestions submitted by various clubs.

## **Federation Color**

A May 9, 1893, report stated that the color blue, signifying constancy, was chosen by Charlotte Emerson Brown and Jane Cunningham Croly.

## **Song**

In 1922, Katherine Lee Bates' "America, The Beautiful" was chosen because it "is a song of dignity and beauty, easily sung, and reflecting the true spirit of America and the ideals of the Federation."

## **Flag**

The GFWC official flag is blue with an embroidered Federation emblem in color in the center. The GFWC flag was unfurled for the first time at the Golden Jubilee celebration in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on May 19, 1941.

### **A Collect for Clubwomen**

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.  
Let us be done with fault-finding  
And leave off self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense  
And meet each other face to face,  
Without self-pity and without prejudice.  
May we never be hasty in judgment  
And always generous.  
Let us take time for all things;  
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
Straightforward and unafraid.  
Grant that we may realize it is  
The little things that create differences,  
That in the big things of life we are at one.  
And may we strive to touch and to know  
The great, common human heart of us all.  
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not  
To be kind!

*- Mary Stewart*

*April 1904*

## **Junior Pledge**

I pledge my loyalty  
to the Junior Clubwomen  
By doing better than ever before  
what work I have to do,  
By being prompt, honest, courteous,  
By living each day, trying to accomplish something,  
Not merely to exist.

*- Helen Cheney Kimberly*



# GFWC Achievements

## Past and Present

*Is it possible that women may have a life of their own, may learn to know and honor each other, may find solace in companionship, and lose sight of small troubles in larger aims?*

*- Jane Cunningham Croly  
Founder, GFWC*

It was 1889 when pioneer journalist and syndicated columnist, Jennie June Croly asked that rhetorical question in an issue of the magazine, *The Woman's Cycle*. But Ms. Croly had already answered it 21 years earlier when she organized Sorosis, one of the earliest women's clubs and the first step in the formation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, now one of the world's oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organizations.

Beginning in the last decade of the 19th century, women's clubs not only increased in numbers, but also enlarged their focus from self to larger aims of community service and involvement. In more recent times, GFWC members have:

Generously contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance to be used by the New York City Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered as the result of 9/11

Fulfilled a commitment to America's Promise by raising and donating over \$135 million in books and materials to public libraries and public school libraries through its Libraries 2000 Program.

Partnered with the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History in an effort to increase awareness of the important role women have played in local communities since our country was founded.

Sponsored a nationwide discussion on the changing roles of women through "Which Way Forward for Women?" forums

Initiated the annual Jane Cunningham Croly/GFWC Print Journalism Contest for Excellence in Covering Issues of Concern to Women

Attended a ceremony in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1994 at which time GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame

Initiated a Safety for Older Americans Program

Instituted a Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Founded the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center

Started an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Program for women and children

Supported equal pay for equal work

Been credited as the first women's organization to endorse the Peace Corps

Been credited as the first women's organization to implement an AIDS education program

### **Past GFWC Achievements**

Established 75 percent of public libraries throughout the United States

Established first traveling libraries

In 1904, asked Congress to enact legislation to establish a Department of Education, whose head shall be a cabinet officer

Helped establish kindergarten as part of public schools

Between 1943-45 raised over \$250 million through the sale of war bonds to purchase planes and equipment

First endorsed a resolution supporting equal rights and responsibilities for women

Established and developed night schools for adults: raised funds to keep public schools open at night

Helped establish reforms in the juvenile court system

Instrumental in the enactment of the first child labor and protection laws

Supported legislation for the eight-hour work day

Instrumental in the establishment of the first Workers Compensation Act

Fought for property rights of married women

Established Girlstown, a school for emotionally disturbed girls in Michigan in 1953

Played a significant role in the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, which was passed in June 1906

Raised funds to refurbish Independence Hall in Philadelphia

First women's organization to undertake a relief program in the food deficit region of the world through the Signs of Crisis program in association with CARE.

Launched a nationwide campaign for the improvement of school conditions and for compulsory attendance laws

Worked for the establishment of a National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, in the 1920s

Established Royal Palm State Park in Florida in 1916; maintained the park until 1947 when it became the nucleus of Everglades National Park

Helped to pass an amendment to the Federal Water Power Act in 1922, which would make it impossible for individuals or corporations to file claims for water rights in national parks or monuments

Endorsed the establishment of minimum wage commissions in all states in 1920, and urged a legal eight-hour day for women in industrial pursuits

Recruited over 6,000 young women for the Cadet Nurse Corps

Provided funds for the re-establishment of the educational systems in devastated countries after World War II

Developed an anti-pornography campaign with 38 states enacting legislation

Was selected as one of five women's organizations invited by the United States to send a consultant to the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco

# GFWC Florida History

The GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, now in its second century of community service, traces its history to the community interest found in Florida women in the late 1890s and during 1900. In 1883 the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs (FL) consisted of 18 women's groups. By 1891 the Housekeeper's Club of Coconut Grove had formed. It joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in 1891, the first Florida club to do so. By 1900 several more women's clubs had been established across the state.

On January 25, 1898 the FFWC was admitted into membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Immediately the FFWC began to widen its scope to include activities and projects on a state and national level. By 1903 the state and national organizations were joined into closer cooperation by the introduction of GFWC programs.

## Early Projects

Early special projects of the clubwomen included forest conservation. During the administration of Mrs. Lawrence Haynes, a proposal to make a Forest Reservation on Paradise Key was endorsed; this later became the heart of Royal Palm State Park. By 1905-1906 a new Federation constitution was adopted and a Florida Federation pin was designed and accepted.

Early clubwomen worked on projects that led to the passage of the Child Labor bill, Compulsory Education bill, and Fire Protection for Schools bill; traveling libraries were established; assistance was given to Seminole Indians.

By 1914 the Florida Federation had branched into departments. A grant for the Royal Palm Park was secured and a lodge was built and equipped at the park. The FFWC was now divided into five sections or districts each led by a district vice-president. During the war years members devoted their efforts to war related projects. The first Florida Bulletin, the official publication of the FFWC, was published in ten issues per year at a cost to the member of five cents per capita.

In November 1922, Junior work was adopted as a division of the senior membership with Junior members reporting separately on their activities. The Florida Bulletin was renamed the Florida Clubwoman. For the first time the FFWC had extra money to invest. The Board of Directors placed it in government bonds for an Endowment Fund.

By 1930-1932 the FFWC had to face a shortage of funds due to the failure of one of its depositories; however, the Endowment Fund remained safe. Junior clubwomen gained

separate status during the 1930-1932 administration. During the Depression years the clubs continued in their sponsorship of libraries, helped with school problems, beautified communities and assisted with welfare work.

### **The War Years**

In the World War II years federated clubwomen sewed for the Red Cross, were active in Bundles for Britain, helped with bond sales, and planted victory gardens. Travel was difficult due to gasoline rationing but all districts held meetings. FFWC President Mrs. Ralph Austin Smith used borrowed gas coupons to enable her to visit clubs throughout the state.

In the late 1940's clubs transferred their efforts from wartime to peacetime projects and concerns. The Royal State Park was presented to the United States government in a ceremony on December 6, 1947. At the ceremony, attended by President Harry S Truman, Mrs. W. S. Jennings of the FFWC was cited for her foresight in securing the lands and the FFWC was cited for keeping the park open to the public. It became the Florida Everglades National Park. GFWC came to Florida for its convention for the first time in 1949 in Hollywood with Mrs. A. T. MacKay serving as FFWC President.

### **The 1950's**

In 1950 sub-Junior groups of high school girls were formed and had their first state convention in Jacksonville in March. During the 1950's the Arts department became more active and contests for poetry and short stories were introduced. "Pennies for Pines" was begun as a state project and the first of many federation-sponsored forests was planted. In 1952 FFWC President Mrs. Walter Jones saw the need for the establishment of a permanent headquarters and had plans for such begun. By 1956 the headquarters building was completed and was dedicated in Lakeland, Florida. The reading society, Epsilon Sigma Omicron, was also established as a part of FFWC at this time. At the request of the Broward County clubs, an additional district was added to the federation structure, bringing the total to 13.

### **The 1960's And 1970's**

During the 1960-1962 administration an additional district was again added, bringing the total to the current 14 districts. The GFWC Convention was again held in Florida, this time at Miami Beach, in 1961. At the 1966 GFWC Convention, former FFWC President, Mrs. E. D. Pearce, was installed as GFWC President, the first from Florida.

In the 1970's the sponsorship of Hacienda Girls Ranch in Melbourne, Florida was adopted as a project. By 1972 funds had been raised to build the first cottage at the Ranch, named "Pratt Cottage" in honor of FFWC President Mrs. J. C. Pratt. In 1976 a second cottage was dedicated, the "King-Harris Cottage" named in honor of FFWC Presidents Mrs. Karl King and Mrs. E. Ross Harris. Trout Pond, the only recreational park for the handicapped in the United States at that time, was built by FFWC in 1971.

By 1976 clubwomen had raised funds for a Tot Lot at the park for use by mentally retarded children. The playground was dedicated on April 17, 1976. In the late 1970's clubwomen focused their interests in support of such projects as International Special Olympics, the Protect Every Child state -wide immunization project, and shoplifting prevention projects.

### **The 1980's**

The 1980's saw a continued wide variety of programs and projects offered to federation members, many of the projects and programs involving the youth of Florida. Leadership development was stressed and encouraged. High school sophomores were sponsored to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminars (HOBY). Juniorettes were recognized as the future members and leaders of the federation and leadership training was a high priority for the young women. In 1983 the Juniette category was officially accepted into the FFWC structure. Hacienda Girls Ranch was officially adopted as an ongoing project of the federation in April 1984. Funds were raised for the construction of a multipurpose building, Rainbow Building/ Perkins Hall, in 1984. Child abuse prevention and awareness was also stressed.

Other major accomplishments of the 1980's included the furnishing of a suite and a conference room at the Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge, a "stay-free" facility for cancer treatment patients at Shand's Hospital in Gainesville, Florida; the furnishing of a playroom at the Hope Lodge in Miami; and the receipt of a \$200,000 plus grant to furnish the kindergarten children of Florida with materials concerning energy conservation in the KEEP IT FLORIDA - Offalot energy education program. During the 1986-1988 administration of FFWC President Vi Thornburg, federation clubwomen traveled to Tallahassee on the first "Legislative Days" trip to view the Florida legislative process.

In the late 1980's the federation was forced to give up its headquarters building when its property lease was taken back by the city of Lakeland. During the term of Mrs. Jimmie Smith, however, a new lot was purchased; a building was designed, built, and dedicated debt free.

### **The 1990's**

The 1990's also saw continuing community service performed by federated clubwomen. Arts were stressed in the public school curriculum, clubwomen rallied to help each other and others following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew and the "no name storm"; clubs supported local chapters of the March of Dimes, raised awareness of depression and other mental health disorders, supported cancer research and drug abuse prevention projects. Membership recruitment and retention became important issues.

Dollars for Delegates was begun to aid in offsetting the expenses of delegates to state meetings; and a Membership Action Team (MAT) was established to encourage attendance at district meetings. In 1990-1992 the position of Director of Juniette Clubs

was established. In 1995 the letters GFWC were prefaced to the name, Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, to help in club identity.

Other milestones in the 1990's included the installation of Jeannine Faubion of Florida as GFWC President, the Centennial Celebration of GFWC Florida on May 5-9, 1995 and raising sufficient funds to construct and furnish the Board Room of the Canine Companions for Independence Southeastern Training Center in Orlando. The Juniorette program continued to grow and a Juniorette Annual Summer Meeting (JASM) was started to allow the young women to have a statewide meeting separate from that of the women's clubs.

### **The New Century**

GFWC Florida entered the new millennium under the direction of President Bunny Sandlin. Clubwomen turned their attention to heart disease awareness and sponsored cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes as well as provided monies and materials for Heart Camp for children at Boggy Creek Camp. With increasing costs of materials and other items members voted to increase GFWC Florida dues from \$3.00 per capita to \$5.00 per capita effective in 2003-2004.

Clubs responded to the tragedy of September 11, 2001 with contributions to a special Emergency Relief Fund of the GFWC for use by the Red Cross and to "Operation Firefighter", a fund to purchase a fire truck for the city of New York. GFWC Florida President Linda Boyd, 2002-2004, has selected as her president's project the mentoring of youth. She has also issued a "President's Challenge" asking each member club of the state to select at least one "hands-on" project to meet the needs of its community. In 2002 the GFWC Florida also saw former GFWC Florida President Judy Lutz installed as GFWC President at the GFWC Convention in Kansas City, MO and former GFWC Florida President Jimmie Smith installed as President of the GFWC Southern Region Conference. In 2004, Florida hosted the GFWC Convention 2004 in Orlando with over 1,200 members worldwide in attendance.

#### **“Operation Smile”**

In 2004 –2006, Charlyne Carruth’s presidency spotlighted “Operation Smile”. Members raised over \$300,000 during the two years and sponsored an Op Smile Mission to the Philippines. During Mrs. Carruth’s presidency we also endured the 2004 year of the hurricanes with Charlie, Francis, Jeannie and Wilma affecting every clubwomen in the state. Over thirty clubhouses were severely damaged and GFWC Florida member’s homes affected. GFWC Florida and members assisted in money and support to those hit by the devastation. Pat Keel became GFWC Florida’s President for 2006—2008 highlighting the American Cancer Society’s Scholarship Program. Again, members gave willing and over \$320,000 was raised for cancer survivors to continue their education.

Pat’s administration also produced the 1895 Society. This society raises money to preserve and protect GFWC Florida’s history and headquarters. A new roof was

installed at headquarters and the building was painted inside and out. This society continues today to provide funding for our headquarters.

Linda Dennis, GFWC President 2008—2010, focal point was Heifer International, giving hope to underprivileged countries by providing a hand, not a handout, by providing families with live stock, and education. Again, members dug deep and provided funding in excess of \$300,000 for the project. Linda continued to lead while fighting her battle with ovarian cancer. It was a great loss to GFWC Florida when Linda passed away in January 2011. 2010 — 2012, brought about a change in process.

### **Ushering In New Technology**

President Teddy Hulse, chose membership, financial security and public relations as her project. Pushing the use of technology, the website was used to the fullest. All materials previously printed, including the “Florida Clubwomen” were now available on line. Workshops were provided on commuter skills. Dues, remittance, ways and means merchandise and registration for meetings were payable via “Paypal”. Seven “Days of Service” were the highlight of the administration, allowing the members to be part of hands on projects. Money was raised for a headquarters bathroom remodel. New front doors and new furniture updated the look of headquarters.

April 2012, Pat Zazzarino was installed GFWC Florida President. Her project was providing college scholarships for deserving high school graduates and assisting with our schools. In her two years, twenty scholarships were awarded for not only graduating high school seniors but also women returning to school. During this administration, a complete bathroom remodeling of our headquarters was completed making it ADA accessible. These two years marked the loss of past presidents Jimmie Smith, and Vi Thornburg and the loss of Phyllis Wood the federation’s beloved parliamentarian.

In the 2014-2016 administration, President, Carole Weaver, chose Canine Companions for Independence focusing on “the wounded warrior”. The 2014-2016 administration raised \$330,000.00 for Canine Companions. During this time the Headquarters building located at 4444 Florida National Drive, Lakeland, Florida was given a fresh updating and redecorating. Please plan to attend the holiday open house scheduled for December 10, 2016 to see what is truly a new fresh headquarters ready to serve our GFWC Florida Federation for many years to come.



## **Our Gifts of Service**

Over 121 years since its inception the members of the GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs are still about the business of identifying the needs of the local community and then working to meet those needs through community service projects. As former GFWC Florida and GFWC President Jeannine Faubion wrote, "The history of the state would be incomplete without the immeasurable contributions of the thousands of club members, state officers and chairmen whose vision of a better community and state has been made into a reality by their untiring, unselfish work through the years...The gifts of service which they have freely given helped to make Florida what it is today."

## **We ARE Living The Volunteer Spirit**