

# **GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs** **Fall Board of Directors' Meeting**

**September 27-29, 2024 Orlando, Florida**

**Sara Dessureau**

**GFWC Florida President**

**Racquel Sturgis**

**GFWC Florida**

**Director of Junior Clubs**

**Honor the past,  
embrace the present,  
plan the future.**



**GFWC**

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**FLORIDA**



# Sara Dessureau

## GFWC Florida President



### When People Care .... Wonderful Things Can Happen

Welcome to your 2024 GFWC Florida Fall Board of Directors' Meeting.

The theme for this board is: *Honor the Past, Embrace the Present, Plan the Future.*

As we honor the past this weekend, we will have a special tribute to May Mann Jennings.

After many years of trying to get May Mann Jennings inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, put his seal of approval on our request.

As members you will embrace all the programs and projects that we pursue by Living the Volunteer Spirit, I know we will do as much or more as in previous years.

Another part of my theme, Planning for the Future, is centered around many of the workshops that will be offered this weekend. We will be having a special guest on Saturday, Juliet M. Casper, GFWC International Treasurer, who will be having a workshop on estate planning and probate.

Plan to attend Saturday Night Dinner, where our guest speaker will be Danielle Green from Wounded Warrior Project. I can't wait to see a sea of red, white, and blue this weekend as we honor our sisters of the federation that have served in our military.



# Racquel Sturgis

## GFWC Florida

### Director of Junior Clubs



It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2024 Fall Board of Directors Meeting!

We have planned joint workshops that will afford you hands-on learning experiences that you can take back to your clubs. The workshops were carefully designed to ensure that learning becomes fun in the most interactive way possible. Saturday after dinner, join us as your federated sisters show off their lip sync skills at our Fun Night Lip Sync Battle! At Sunday's lunch, we will hear from our guest speaker Erica Hall, Executive Director of Development for One More Child, as she shares the vision of our partnership as we "Build Families" together over the next two years.

The Junior Basket theme is "Vintage and Classic Americana", and I encourage you to visit the Junior Fundraising table to purchase an opportunity ticket for a chance to take one home! You can also drop off the school supplies for children in foster care at the Junior Fundraising table. Your donations are very much appreciated and will ensure that all students have the tools they need to succeed.

# Special Guests



## **Juliet Casper, GFWC Treasurer**

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Juliet M. Casper received her Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana in 1989; her Juris Doctorate from Indiana University School of Law in 1992; and her Masters in Library Science from Indiana University in 1993. She worked as a legal research instructor and law librarian at Northwestern University in Chicago, and at Indiana University in Bloomington. Juliet moved to the Carolinas in 2000 to be closer to her parents. She is a real estate, estate planning and probate attorney with her own firm, Roy & Casper, LLC.

Juliet has been a member of the North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club since 2002. Juliet served on the GFWC Board of Directors as a Legislation/Public Policy Committee member (2020-2022), and as its chairman (2022-2024). She also served on the Resolutions Committee (2022-2024). She served as the first president of GFWC Brockettes and is a founding member of GFWC Girls on Fire, a Florida virtual club. Julia was elected Treasurer the GFWC Annual Convention held this year in June 2024. An advocate for children, Juliet serves on the Board for Sea Haven, a crisis center for youth. In 2019 Governor McMasters appointed Juliet to the Foster Care Review Board, and is serving a second term on this board. She will be giving a workshop on estate planning on Saturday. Juliet is married to Chris Mezenski and has an adult son, Tristan.



**Erica Hall** serves as the Executive Director of Development for One More Child and has been with the organization for more than 10 years. She is responsible for leading her team in raising the philanthropic dollars needed for the organization to carry out its mission of providing Christ-centered services to vulnerable children and struggling families. Prior to serving at One More Child, Erica worked as the Education Liaison for Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communications and a Master's Degree in Non-Profit and Community Development, both from the University of Florida. She and her husband Jarrett live in Plant City with their two boys and, in her

spare time, she enjoys canning pickles and jams and traveling the United States. She only has one state left to see!



# DANIELLE GREEN



.....  
"WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT ALLOWED ME TO FEEL STRONG, BRAVE, AND CONFIDENT IN WHO I AM AS A FEMALE WARRIOR AND A COMBAT VETERAN."  
.....

Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Danielle Green's grandmother always encouraged her to "get out and be somebody." At first, it seemed like basketball would be the way she'd accomplish that mission. After earning a basketball scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and becoming the 17th-leading scorer in program history, she had certainly gotten out and become somebody.

But after graduating from Notre Dame, Danielle felt she could do more to serve others – so she joined the U.S. Army as a military police officer. In 2004, while on a 115-degree rooftop in Baghdad, Iraq, she was injured by a rocket-propelled grenade. She had to re-learn how to do almost everything. Thankfully, she wouldn't have to do it alone. Shortly after she was injured, Danielle was visited in the hospital by Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and given a backpack full of comfort items.

"As I laid in bed, I felt alone, bewildered, and scared about the unknown," remembers Danielle. "That backpack meant the world to me. From that day on, I knew I was not alone, and that Wounded Warrior Project would provide comfort in my life."

With WWP by her side, and her never-give-up attitude still firmly intact, Danielle embarked on her next calling, and the next group of people she felt she could "be somebody" for – her fellow veterans. After 12 years helping warriors with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), her path has led her to Wounded Warrior Project, where she will have the opportunity to continue saving and changing the lives of her fellow veterans.

"I'm excited to have the chance to connect with even more warriors by sharing my experience," says Danielle. "There are still so many warriors out there suffering, and I believe the best way to reach them is to share stories like mine, so they realize the Wounded Warrior Project community is the place for them to heal and find acceptance."

Founder of "Royal Palm Park" 1920

"Everglades National Park" 1947



Mrs. May Mann Jennings

GFWC Florida President 1914 – 1917

Inducted in the

Florida Women's Hall of Fame 2024

# Tentative Schedule

**Thursday 9/26/2024**

**3:00 PM to 6 PM**

**Executive Meeting**

**Friday 9/27/2024**

**2:30 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Vendors (Ballroom Lobby)**

*(Elizabeth Fisher, Finance Chairman)*

**Registration Open**

*(Tammy Kesky, Registration and Meals Director)*

*(Diania Pimenta, Credentials Chairman)*

**3:00 PM to 4:00PM**

**CSP Chairmen's Meeting**

*(Laura Connelly, First Vice President)*

**Chairmen's Meeting**

*(Sara Dessureau, President)*

**District Directors' Meeting**

*(Terry Reese, President-elect)*

**4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Scrapbook Registration**

*(Cindy Jones, Chairman)*

**4:15 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Junior Planning Committee**

*(Racquel Sturgis, Director of Junior Clubs)*

**Bylaws Committee Meeting**

*(Kelly Holmes, Chairman)*

**District President's Project Chairmen Meeting**

*(Ronda Carney, Chairman)*

**5:30 PM to 6:15 PM**

**Reception *(Invitation Only)***

**6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Dinner**

**7:45 PM to 9:15 PM**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

*(Sara Dessureau, GFWC Florida President*

*Presiding)*

**9:30 PM to 10:30 PM**

**District Gatherings**

*Bar (Credit Card/Room Charge Only)*

**Reception for:**

**Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President**

**and Shannon Bailey, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs**

# Tentative Schedule (continued)

**Saturday, 9/28/2024**

**8:00 AM to 5:30 PM**

**Vendors Open**

**Registration Open**

**8:00 AM to 8:45 AM**

**Breakfast (Invitation Only)**

**First Time Attendees**

*(Dara Bergdoll – Member-at-Large)*

**9:00 AM to 9:45 AM**

**Scrapbook Registration**

*(Cindy Jones, Chairman)*

**Newsletter and Yearbook Workshop**

*(LaurieJean Harrington, Chairman,*

**Junior Business Session**

*(Racquel Sturgis, Director of Junior Clubs)*

**President's Project Workshop**

*(Ronda Carney, Chairman)*

**10:00 AM to 10:45 AM**

**Scrapbook Judging**

**Estate Planning and Probate Workshop**

*(Juliet Casper, Guest Speaker)*

**Juniorette Advisors' Meeting**

*(Naya Makindy, Juniorette Advisor)*

**11:00 AM to 11:45 AM**

**Membership Workshop**

*(Candi Aubin, Second Vice President,*

*Sherry Clendinen, Director-elect of Junior Clubs)*

**GFWC FL Past Presidents' Meeting**

**12:00 PM to 1:30 PM**

**Luncheon "Celebrating May Mann Jennings"**

**1:30 PM to 2:00 PM**

**Scrapbook Viewing**



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# Tentative Schedule (continued)

## Saturday (continued)

- 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**      **Hands on Workshop - CSPs (WC and JWC)**  
*(Laura Connelly, First Vice President,  
Haadhaq Lawrence, Vice Director of Junior Clubs)*
- 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM**      **Scrapbook Pickup**  
**Communication and Public Relations**  
*(Lisa Trocki, Chairman,  
Melissa Mulligan, Junior Chairman)*  
**GFWC Signature Program**  
*(Sarah Anthony and Tamica Thomas-Simpson, Chairmen,  
Amber Treat, Junior Chairman)*  
**GFWC FL Past Directors Meeting**
- 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM**      **Reception (*Invitation Only*)**
- 6:30 PM**      **Processional Forms**
- 6:45 PM to 8:45 PM**      **Dinner “Celebrating and Honoring Veterans”**  
*(Speaker - Danielle Green, Wounded Warrior Project)*
- 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM**      **Junior Sponsored FUN NIGHT – “Lip Sync Battle”**  
*Bar (Credit Card/Room Charge Only)*



# Tentative Schedule (continued)

**Sunday 9/29/2024**

**8:00 AM to 8:45 AM**

**Meditation**

*(Kathy Messersmith, Chaplain)*

**8:00 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Registration**

**Vendors**

**9:00 AM to 9:45 AM**

**Junior Reporting**

*(Haadhaq Lawrence, Vice Director of Junior Clubs)*

**Woman's Club Reporting**

*(Laura Connelly, First Vice President,*

**10:00 AM to 10:45 AM**

**Junior's Special Project**

**Treasurer's Workshop**

*(Candy Jackson, Treasurer)*

**Fundraising Workshop**

*(Michelle Peragine, Chairman,*

*Andrea McDowell, Junior Chairman)*

**11:00 AM to 11:45 AM**

**Leadership Workshop**

*(Patty Fisher, Chairman,*

*Joanne Schiefer, Junior Chairman)*

**Parliamentary Procedure Workshop**

*(Teddy Hulse, Parliamentarian)*

**12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

**Junior Luncheon "Building Families"**

*(Speaker - Erica Hall, Executive Director of Development for One More Child )*

*Adjourn*



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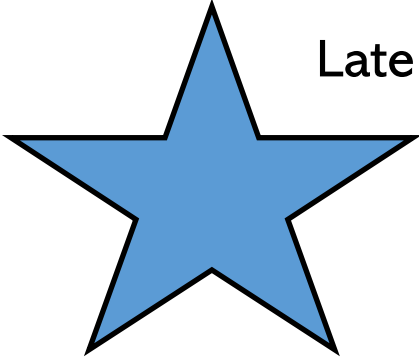


## Registration and Meals

Registration \$ 50

Deadline for registration: September 3

Late Registration \$60, (NO Meals, No refunds)



Registration Desk is CLOSED during all meal functions

### *Meals*

Friday Dinner	\$58
Saturday Lunch	\$47
Saturday Dinner	\$52
Sunday Lunch	\$47

No one admitted without a ticket

To Register

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gfwc-fl-fall-board-of-directors-meeting-2024-registration-986094714837?aff=odtdtcreator>



## Hotel Reservations

Rosen Plaza

9700 International Drive

Orlando, Florida 32819

\$145/night single or double occupancy

\$20 extra per additional person per night

Hotel Deadline September 3

To Register <https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.ashx?propertyCode=ORLRZ&group=GRPGFWCFALL24&arrivalDate=09-27-2024&departureDate=09-29-2024>



# What to Wear?



**For a Donation of \$10 (Proceeds to Flight to Honor)**

**Red, White and Blue Casual All Weekend!**

**or**

**Friday – GFWC Shirts or Club Shirts**

**Saturday & Sunday – Business Casual**



# What to Bring



Participate in the  
GFWC National Day of Service  
at GFWC FL Fall Board!

## Neighborhood Fridge Orlando

A mutual aid community food pantry and fridge  
that combats food insecurity for all

### Donations needed:

- Non-perishable food
- Male/female hygiene kits - shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, period products, deodorant, socks

The Neighborhood Fridge is a community-driven initiative that aims to address food insecurity and support those who may be struggling to access nutritious meals. By providing free food and other essential items, the Neighborhood Fridge helps to ensure that everyone in the community has access to the resources they need to thrive. The 24/7 availability of the fridges and pantry means that individuals can access the support they need at any time, regardless of their schedule or circumstances. This flexibility helps to

ensure that those who are in need of assistance can access it whenever they need it most. By offering a wide range of nourishing food and essentials, the Neighborhood Fridge helps to support the overall well-being and health of individuals in the community. This initiative not only provides immediate relief for those who are struggling, but also works to address the root causes of food insecurity and poverty.



# PROGRAM ADS

## Fall Board 2024

Back Cover Full Page Color	\$275
Inside Back Cover Full Page	\$225
INSIDE Front Cover Full Page	\$200
Confirm Available for above 3 adds}	
Full Page Color	\$150
Half Page Color	\$125
Quarter Page Color	\$ 75

**Deadline for Ad Submission**

September 3, 2024

**Mail Check payable to :**

**GFWC Florida & mail with form to:**

**Linda Votapka**

**GFWC Florida Corresponding Secretary**

**8405 75th Court**

**Vero Beach, Fl. 32967**

The Program Book measures 8 ½ x 11 inches.

All advertisements should be sent via email in "camera ready" jpg format to Linda Votapka at **correspondsec@GFWCFlorida.org**. In the subject line of email put "FALL BOARD 2024 ad". Please make sure to include the following information in the body of your email or as an attachment. Please print form and include with your payment:

Club Name/Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |       |   |       |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover Full Page Color   | \$275 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page Color    | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Back Cover Full Page  | \$225 | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page Color    | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INSIDE Front Cover Full Page | \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page Color | \$ 75 |

(Confirm Available for above 3 adds}



## GFWC JUNIOR FUNDRAISING BASKETS:

### VINTAGE AND CLASSIC AMERICANA THEMED



CREATE BASKETS THAT INCLUDE CLASSIC ADULT AND/OR CHILDREN'S MOVIES. BASKETS FILLED WITH ROAD TRIP SNACKS AND A CLASSIC TRAVEL MAP.

BASKETS FILLED WITH FAVORITE PAST-TIMES SUCH AS BOARD GAMES AND CARDS. MEMORABILIA SUCH AS OLD FASHIONED COOKBOOKS. A LARGE COOLER FILLED WITH GOODIES. THE LOTTERY, GIFT CARD AND MONEY TREES ARE ALWAYS A BIG HIT. SO MANY IDEAS!!



PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR BASKET TO THE JUNIOR FUNDRAISING TABLE. REFER TO PROGRAM FOR HOURS.

ALL GFWC MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK AT THE JUNIOR FUNDRAISING TABLE





## VINTAGE AND CLASSIC AMERICANA GIFT BASKET RULES:

1. VISIT JUNIOR FUNDRAISING TABLE TO PURCHASE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TICKETS.
2. TICKETS ARE ON ONE SHEET, WITH ONE NUMBER TO REMEMBER. NO NEED TO WRITE YOUR NAME.
3. THE WINNING OPPORTUNITY TICKETS WILL BE DRAWN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO START OF JUNIORS LUNCH.
4. WINNING NUMBERS WILL BE ON A LIST AT EACH TABLE DURING JUNIOR LUNCH.
5. THE TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED AND BASKET CLAIMED WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF THE CONCLUSION OF LUNCH.
6. UNCLAIMED BASKETS WILL BE GIVEN TO DONATING CLUB REPRESENTATIVE IF PRESENT DURING SAME TIMELINE, OTHERWISE IT IS GIVEN TO A DISTRICT DIRECTOR WHO IS PRESENT DIRECTLY AFTER THE 10 MINUTE PICKUP WINDOW.



ALL PAYMENTS ARE CONSIDERED A DONATION, THERE ARE NO REFUNDS. PROCEEDS FROM THE JUNIOR FUNDRAISING TABLE SUPPORT JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS, YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS, AND ONE VOICE FOR CHILDREN GRANTS.

**GFWC FLORIDA**  
*Fun Night*

**LIP SYNC**  
*Battle*

Unleash Your Inner Rockstar

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**AFTER SATURDAY EVENING DINNER**

**Get ready to rock the stage and show off your lip sync skills  
at our GFWC Florida Fun Night Lip Sync Battle!**

**Assemble your team (limit of 8), pick your favorite  
American classic, and compete for fabulous prizes!**

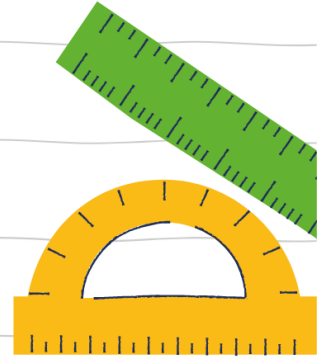
**Please RSVP by September 8th.**

**To enter, email Sherry Clendinen at [jrdirectorelect@gfwcflorida.org](mailto:jrdirectorelect@gfwcflorida.org) with  
your team name, song and artist. We will play the first verse and the chorus.**

**We will select Best Costume, Best Performance,  
Most Creative Act & Fan Favorite**



# Back to School with One More Child



Items for children in need:

- Backpacks
- 24 count crayons
- 12 count colored pencils
- 8 count markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- #2 pencils
- Pencil pouches
- Pocket folders
- Wide rule notebooks
- 3 ring binders
- Dividers
- Composition notebooks
- Paper
- Expo markers
- Socks



Bring school supplies to Fall  
Board to benefit foster  
children

