



Key Notes

**Coming Soon to a District Near You:
GFWC Illinois Visitors!**

GFWC Illinois Awareness Program

For the remaining part of this administration, members of your Board of Directors are committed to reaching out to every district in this state federation. We've asked District Presidents and District Directors of Junior Clubs to provide their meeting schedule to us. Why? We see this as a grass roots activity for improving communication to the clubs and its individual members, with a primary objective to build a sense of pride in GFWC and GFWC Illinois. Then, we will continue by asking you to invite us to one of your club meetings.

We want each and every member to feel like their membership is worthwhile and valued, and to know how important they are to GFWC Illinois. Our goal is to provide a forum for districts, clubs and members to ask questions they may have, to learn about the vast array of resources available, to deliver tools for club and member development, and/or to get help if that is what is needed. These visits will be structured to address specific issues clubs or districts may have, or as a general get-to-know you meet and greet. Regardless of the type of visit, our goal is to support the needs of GFWC Illinois' membership.

Watch your upcoming District's Call to Meeting for our appearance. We're already on the move and we're coming to a district near you!

You've got one assignment: attend that meeting so we don't miss you.

2017 Summer Seminar: 3 Regions 3 Days

Day One: Southern Region

Alice Betlach, Vice President, Southern Region

- President Skubic presented remarks to our 36 attendees on activities, and shared information from GFWC Illinois to attendees. Junior Greetings were expressed by Jeanette Wells, Director of Junior Clubs. President-Elect, Shelli Fehr, offered to conduct Reporting Workshops to Clubs/Districts starting immediately, and she extended an enthusiastic invitation to all clubwomen to apply for a Board position during her 2018-2020 Administration, emphasizing the importance of having members from Southern Region on board.
- Shelli and I presented the "GFTV-Fixer Upper or House Hunter" presentation.
- We heard Promise Bradley, *Director of the Illinois Chapter of BeLoved US*. Promise lives in Southern Illinois. She is passionate about empowering women to achieve their goals. She is a dynamic speaker and advocate for compassionate, collaborative response to trafficking by community organizations, agencies and individuals.
- Following lunch, members assembled 3 fleece blankets which were donated to Crisis Nursery in Effingham. Attached is the fleece blanket donation to Crisis Nursery, Effingham, from Southern Region Summer Seminar. Pictured are Fallon Koester, Crisis Nursery Representative, Mary Jane Koester, GFWC IL Home Life Chairman and Meghan Rewers, Crisis Nursery Director.
- Following lunch, we heard from GFWC IL Conservation Chairman who spoke about the history of *Shawnee National Forest*.
- Mary Jane Koester, GFWC IL Home Life Chairman, shared information about "Heart Health for Women" and Gynecologic Cancer Symptoms.
- As a unique project, members shared what GFWC means to them presenting it in one word. These were written on various sizes of white card stock and pasted on a sheet of black poster board. It will appear at the GFWC IL Convention in May 2018.



Day Two: Central Region

Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, Vice President, Central Region

- The Central Region club members were educated and entertained during their meeting on Friday, July 14.
- A few highlights: A panel of three discussed Human Trafficking. It is a 150 billion dollar industry with the US supporting over 3/4 of that number! And it is right here in rural America.
- The National PE Teacher of the year explained her winning safety program which helps high school girls know they "are enough" just the way they are. She also gave all of us safety tips.
- A St. Jude representative took fleece blankets (made by attendees), teddy bears, and dress up costumes back to Peoria with her.
- Two living history ladies from over a century ago filled the ladies in on how each of us can make a difference where we live.



Day Three: Northern Region

Carol Jablonski, Vice President Northern Region

- What a delight to see 90 members wearing their club t-shirts, and welcomed almost 20 first time attendees.
- We got outside early to tour the wildlife sanctuary outside of the meeting room.
- Morgan Abate from Northern Illinois Food Bank educated us on food insecurity and the efforts toward feeding children in the summer months when they are not in school.
- The hit GFWC IL shows, ***Club Fixer Upper & New Club Hunter***, returned with hosts LeeAnn Conlon and Karyn Charvat. They shared many useful tips.
- Kathy Koran, Great Lakes Region Conference Chairman, provided the Public Service Announcement. Don't forget to register!



Tidbits for Treasurers

Michelle Schultz, GFWC IL Treasurer and Erika Dobrokta, GFWC IL Junior Treasurer

Welcome to the 2nd year of the administration! We want to share several items with you and provide a “TO DO” list for the Treasurers and club officers. The “TO DO” list is to address Dues, items based on some lessons learned this past year and some information related to becoming a 501©(3) entity.

With the beginning of the new club year for GFWC Illinois, the Dues collection process is just around the corner. Last year some issues were encountered related to the timely collection of dues and getting those dues to Headquarters. Some changes have been made that we hope will help address some of these issues. The dues forms have been redesigned with separate forms for General, Junior and Juniorette clubs. In addition, procedures/instructions have been developed for District and Junior District Treasurers that will be included with the forms you receive from Headquarters. All of these forms will be distributed earlier so that the forms get into the hands of the Treasurers sooner.

If you were at State Convention or a Summer Regional meeting, you heard about some issues that a club and a District encountered this past year that leads to what we are calling “Lessons Learned.” A District encountered an issue when the Treasurer became seriously ill, and it was found that the checking account only had one signer. The District also learned when moving the account to another financial institution that the Tax Identification Number that was being used was listed on the Bank’s records as belonging to an individual GFWC club (not the District). The District did not have their original IRS letter to verify if the number really belonged to them or not. For the individual club, it was a similar circumstance in which the Treasurer became seriously ill and unfortunately did pass. Again the account only had one signer; however, the bigger issue was that the account was opened under her personal name and Social Security Number. Upon her death, this checking account was then frozen by the Bank as she was the sole owner.

Lastly, the topic of becoming a 501©(3) entity has been more prevalent lately as GFWC opened up opportunity last year for individual clubs to apply to become a 501©(3) club under the umbrella of GFWC’s status. Each club had specific guidelines requirements to meet to potentially qualify for the designation. There is the potential for this opportunity to be offered again by GFWC the next administration so be looking for upcoming news. If your club does not want to wait and wants to tackle becoming a 501©(3) on your own, do your homework.

TO DO LIST:

- Collect dues & get the checks **TIMELY** sent to all appropriate parties.
- Get that list of all members with mailing & email addresses ready now to send with your dues
- Determine if the club/District account(s) has more than 1 authorized signer & the signers listed are correct. If not, get the appropriate persons added.
- Locate the IRS letter with your Tax Identification Number.
- Ensure the club/District account(s) is not under a personal name &/or Social Security Number.
- Thinking of applying for 501©(3) status? Check out IRS Publication 4220 & IRS Publication 557 online. Another reference is a publication put out by Secretary of State Jesse White’s office entitled *A Guide for Organizing Not-for-Profit Corporations* which is also available online.

Make A Difference Day 2017

Linda Valentino, GFWC IL Make a Difference Day Chairman



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY is a national day of helping others. It was created by USA Weekend Magazine in 1992, and since that time every fourth Saturday in October is designated as Make a Difference Day.

This year Make a Difference Day falls on October 28th. Again, I am asking all the Clubs to participate in this project. I know we make a difference in so many ways all year long, but this is a time when we can all come together and work on a project as GFWC Illinois.

I am asking that we fill the pantries throughout the State. These pantries need our support. There are more and more requests every year for help. Children, seniors, homeless, single-parent households, unemployed, sick, post-military, mentally challenged all need our help. So many rely on these pantries. Hunger should not exist in the USA. Let's make a difference this year and fill the pantries.

GFWC Illinois will again join the USA Weekend challenge. "GFWC ILLINOIS FILL THE PANTRIES PROJECT". Will your club please participate? Some portion of your project must take place on October 28th. Like other projects there will be a short report to submit to me by November 30th, so that I may collate the information and forward to the challenge.

Those who do not wish to participate in the GFWC Illinois state project may choose their own project for Make A Difference Day. Whatever your club chooses to do, I know America will be a better place because you cared enough to help others in need on this special volunteer day – October 28th.

In 2016 ten \$10,000 donations to 10 projects were awarded. I believe GFWC Illinois could be one of the ten to receive those monies for our special project.

- Choose a project that would enhance the food pantry in your area. Part of the project must take place on October 28th. Think either collection or delivery of monies or food on that date.
- Enlist your volunteers.
- Keep a record of number of volunteers, what was collected, how many hours were expended, take photos and write an accounting of what took place.
- Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.
- Send all your information to me so that I may submit it all as a planned project throughout Illinois by GFWC women.

"GFWC ILLINOIS FILL THE PANTRIES PROJECT"

Don't forget that there is a MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY award certificate to be given out by GFWC Illinois at Convention. Each Club will be judged individually for their project on MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY.

If you do not want to joint in the State project, that's okay. Make up your own project; however, if you join the GFWC Illinois project, you may not enter the USA Weekend project as an individual club.

Those clubs which participate in the GFWC Illinois Fill the Pantries qualify for the Make a Difference Day award by the State. They need to enter their project to the State Chairman, Linda Anne Valentino, by the deadline, which is November 30th.

ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY PROJECTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE, NOVEMBER 30TH TO LINDA ANNE VALENTINO, 10630 Tuttle Road, Trevor, WI 53179. Thank you.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY REPORT 2017
(For activities that took place on October 28, 2017)



CLUB _____

CLUB PRESIDENT _____

NAME OF PROJECT CHAIRMAN _____

CONTACT INFO FOR CHAIRMAN _____

Please answer all these questions in numerical order.

1. LOCATION WHERE PROJECT TOOK PLACE
2. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, THIS IS WHAT WE DID
3. PRIOR TO 10/28 WE DID THIS TO PREPARE
4. WE DID THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT BECAUSE
5. WHAT WE DID WILL HAVE A LONG TERM EFFECT BECAUSE
6. HOW MANY MEMBERS PARTICIPATED
7. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE HELPED

WAS YOUR PROJECT COVERED BY ANY MEDIA? (If so, include clippings in your entry.)

DID YOU WORK WITH ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION ON YOUR PROJECT?

(If so, please list the organization(s) _____

Send photos and any additional information that will help understand the project and the impact it had upon the community.

DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY November 30, 2017

SEND TO:

Linda Anne Valentino
10630 Tuttle Road
Trevor, WI 53179
(262) 862-9228
Lindaannev@gmail.com

Jennie Award Illinois 2017

Janice Perkins, GFWC IL Jennie Award Chairman

This best describes the Jennie Award, and is taken from the GFWC website:

The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. They are chosen by their clubs to compete at state, region, and national levels for their outstanding personal commitment to club, community, and family.

The GFWC Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym, "Jennie June." The award highlights those extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence in purpose through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, elsewhere in the community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. In fact, it is the highest honor bestowed by GFWC.



*Left: Martha Bein, GFWC IL President
Right: Becky Weber, GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs
2004-2006 Administration*

Each and every applicant is a "Jennie June" with their volunteerism in their club and community as well as their commitment to their family.

Nominated by the Woman's Club of Aurora, this year's Jennie Award goes to **Martha Bein**. Here are just a few of highlights from the nomination packet, as presented by Judy Pessetti, President of the Woman's Club of Aurora, Judy summed it best with: "Living the Volunteer Spirit is simply a way of life to Martha".



GFWC IL Past Presidents

from left to right

Diane Addante, 2014-2016

Nancy Willis, 2010-2012

Deb Strahanoski, 2008-2010

Martha Bein, 2004-2006

Marge Nelson, 2002-2004

Debbie Bach, 2000-2002

Jackie Pierce, 1992-1994

Carol Rich, 1990-1992

MARTHA'S COMMITMENT TO CLUB has been continuous:

- Martha was club president from 1992-1994, and again from 2008-2011.
- Martha helped write new Bylaws and arranged many activities for a smooth transition after restructuring from 3 departments into one General Club.
- She chaired the Centennial Committee in 1991, the Club's 110th Anniversary in 2001, and the Club's 125th Anniversary Committee in 2016.
- She served on as well as chaired many committees

MARTHA'S COMMITMENT TO GFWC ILLINOIS:

- Martha served as District President 1984 to 1986
- Served on several committees before being installed as GFWC Illinois President, 2004-2006.

COMMITMENT TO FAMILY:

- Has been involved in the raising of her two granddaughters following the sudden death of their mother, providing them with emotional, physical, and monetary support.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE:

- As a leader, Martha's sense of propriety and excellence is immediately recognized and all who work with her are inspired to achieve this standard.
- As a Past President, she stands ready to advise and support future leaders of our club.
- As Parliamentarian, she has the ability to bring order and common sense to meetings.
- As a Chairman, she is devoted, tireless, and demonstrates that "persistence of purpose" for which Jennie June was known.
- As a volunteer, her spirit is contagious, inspiring others to accomplish more.
- As a woman, her kindness and thoughtfulness are beyond compare.
- As a member, her thoughts are ever on promoting the club.
- As a friend, she is loyal, encouraging, supportive, and always ready to help.



Martha & Just a Few of Her Federation Friends

From left to right:

Deb Strahanoski, GFWC 2nd Vice President

Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs

Martha Bein, GFWC IL Jennie June Award Recipient

Phyllis Skubic, GFWC IL President

Jeanette T Wells, GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs

Congratulations, Martha!

You are invited to a fabulous

GFWC Illinois
Deb's
Diamond Divas

Girl's Night Out of Beauty

Let us whisk you away to a night of fun, food and fabulous beauty while supporting Deb on her GFWC Journey!

Your fabulous night will include:

- ♦ Mini-Facials
- ♦ Hand/Feet scrubs and paraffin treatments
- ♦ Reflexology Demonstrations
- ♦ Other fun spa and NON-SPA activities
- ♦ Decadent Menu prepared by the Autobahn's Award Winning Chef
- ♦ Girls Night Out friendly raffles, merchandise and special vendors!

**TICKET Includes spa services, activities and food.
~CASH BAR ONLY~**

TICKETS ARE \$60 PER PERSON

Remit Payment & Guest List by 9/15/17 to:

Amy Vicioso
3402 Wells Way
Joliet, IL 60431

Please make checks payable to
Deb's Diamond Divas

October 6, 2017

Autobahn Country Club
3795 Centerpoint Way
Joliet, IL 60436
6:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

GFWC Illinois
Deb's
Diamond Divas