

**OFFICIAL** **CALL TO THE 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**OF THE GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION**

**September 15 – 17, 2017**

**Lin Wilken, GFWC GLR President**

**“Turning Disabilities to Abilities One Heartbeat at a Time”**

You are invited to attend the 2017 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference September 15 – 17, 2017 at DoubleTree by Hilton in Oak Brook, Illinois. Conference Chairmen Kathy Koran and the members of GFWC Illinois have arranged a wonderful weekend for us. Please come early to join in for a “Murder on the High Seas” a “Whodunit at Sea” planned by GFWC Illinois. Everyone has a part and everyone is a suspect!

Friday will start with a GFWC Great Lakes Board of Directors Meeting and if you survived the “Murder on the High

Seas” a “Whodunit at Sea” on Thursday night you might enjoy an excursion across the street at the Oak Brook Shopping Mall, hotel shuttles available. Friday afternoon we will be docking The “U.S.S. GFWC Great Lakes” Region Ship for our first official port of call, the beautiful ***St. Jude’s Island of Service Project*** for the ALSAC. After re-boarding we will be off to the next stop on our journey, **The Port of** ***Illinois State Night***. A fine evening will be provided with a sumptuous dinner, a terrific motivational speaker A’ric Jackson and entertainment provided by “The Inaugural Lip Sync Challenge”.

Saturday Morning promises gentle seas and sunshine as we head out to sea again. With the Officers of the Day on deck and Admiral Shea and Vice Admiral Brock aboard, the “U.S.S. GFWC Great Lakes” Region Ship will intersperse business with informative presentations by the lively GFWC Committee mates and entertaining/educational workshops. No cruise would be complete without a dash of cheer and a dollop of fine food. Please join the Officers and your fellow passengers for our Admiral’s Ball “All the Places You Will Go” on Saturday night. Cocktail bling is the thing to bring. Our Honored guests Admiral Sheila Shea and Vice Admiral Mary Ellen Brock will be accompanied by GFWC 2nd Vice President Deb Strahanoski as we gather to celebrate “Great Lakes Region, the Heartbeat of GFWC.”

As we sail the night away under the stars of the Great Lakes, save your last bit of cruise time for Sunday morning. We will be enjoying an encore presentation of the “Partners on Parade” with GFWC Partners: “March of Dimes”, “Shot@Life” and “USO.” These partners have so much to share, you will not want to jump ship too soon. Our morning will begin with an inspiring remembrance of great leaders of GFWC GLR lost since our last cruise followed by a final fantastic meal together at sea. We look forward to a seafarers report from our region mates who serve GFWC as Committee Chairmen and Committee members. Membership motivations will abound as the ship begins to dock. We will learn the next destination of GFWC Great Lakes Region from the mates of GFWC Indiana just as we drop anchor. There will be hugs and farewells from Admiral Shea and Vice Admiral Brock as well as serenades to be heard as we disembark and head to our home ports, all in time for that favorite Sunday game of baseball, basketball, soccer, football or concert in the park.

Join us on the “U.S.S. GFWC Great Lakes” Region Ship in September! Send you reservations now and get ready for a trip filled with lots of GFWC GLR memories. You know, the kind you never forget.

**Conference Highlights:**

**Registration:**

Thursday, September 14 from 3-5pm;

Friday, September 15 from 12:00pm-5:00pm;

Saturday, September 16 from 8:00am -12:00pm.

**Thursday Night** – Optional “Murder on the High Seas” a “Whodunit at Sea” planned by GFWC Illinois will begin Thursday evening after you have checked your bags with the purser. We will set sail for a Sinuous Night of Secrets, Scandals and Seafaring Scoundrels. Come help us solve the murder aboard the “Mystery of the Seas” – You may be the Victim or the Murderer. Happy Hour Hors D’ouvres included. Cash Bar.

**Friday Morning** - The GFWC Great Lakes Region Board of Directors will meet from 9:00 – 10:00 am. Officers and Chairmen who are being asked to give reports at the Board Meeting and/or during the Conference are asked to email their reports to the Secretary prior to the Conference and bring a copy to this meeting. If you are not able to email your report, please send via snail mail to the Secretary prior to the Conference. Her contact information is in the region directory.

**Friday Afternoon** – Join us from 3:00 – 4:45 pm as the “U.S.S. GFWC Great Lakes” Region Ship will dock at St. Jude’s Island of Hope for a hands-on Service Project supporting ALSAC (the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital).

**Friday evening** – Join us on deck wearing your favorite Evening Resort wear as the Social Hour begins. Photo Ops and a cash bar provide an opportunity to catch up with long-time friends and make new Federation friends beginning at 6:00 pm. GFWC International President Sheila Shea and President-elect Mary Ellen Brock will be joining us for this informal get together. Our Captain’s Dinner will begin promptly at 7:00 pm without processional as you requested, so gather round your places as the festivities begin the highlight of our cruise. We will be motivated by A’ric Jackson, we will enjoy the best seafarer’s (not just a sea biscuit and grog) dining table and finally be entertained by “The Inaugural Lip Sync Challenge”.

**Saturday –** The opening ceremonies of the **2017 Great Lakes Region Conference** will begin *early* at 8:15am to take advantage of fair sailing weather. The Business Session is packed with dynamic speakers and Platform Workshops presented by GFWC Chairmen and Committee members from the region. GFWC International President Sheila Shea will be our “Key Note Speaker” and we also welcome Mary Ellen Brock, GFWC President-elect, who will be updating us on GFWC. I remind you to bring your notebooks (paper or electronic) so you can jot down the many ideas you get from the presenters and your fellow Convention attendees. Business of the year includes the report of the Nominating Committee and election of the 2018 - 2020 GFWC GLR officers.

**Saturday Workshops to Support your Successful Women’s Club**

**Leadership Transition – “Success for Your Successor”**

Carol Rich, GFWC Capital Campaign Committee and Kristina Higbee, GFWC Arts Chairman

**Conflict Resolution – “Difference of Opinion or Conflict? Getting to Consensus.”**

Paula Schlice, GFWC Mediator

**Protocol – “Not Just for Women with White Gloves”**

Marianne Potter, GFWC Protocol Chairman

**Parliamentary Procedure – “Lifesavers for Officers and Crew “**

Barbara Whitaker, GFWC GLR Parliamentarian

**Saturday evening –** Our Admiral’s Ball “All the Places You Will Go” is the place to wear your Cocktail bling. Our Honored guests Admiral Sheila Shea and Vice Admiral Mary Ellen Brock will be accompanied by GFWC 2nd Vice President Deb Strahanoski as we gather to celebrate “Great Lakes Region, the Heartbeat of GFWC.” Join round to meet and greet as before at the Social Hour beginning at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Tonight we will honor the best of the best – our GFWC GLR Region Jennie Award Nominees. These awesome women inspire us all to greater heights every day. The evening would not be complete without the appearance of beloved TV and Entertainment giants, Lucy and Ethel. Dana Jones, GFWC GLR Fund Raising Chairman, and Kimberly Meyer will start the evening’s fun of the GFWC GLR Purse Auction – Guest Auctioneers “Lucy Ricardo” and “Ethel Mertz”.

**Sunday morning -** Beginning at 8:00 am enjoy a sumptuous DoubleTree breakfast with your favorite friends in federation. Patricia Heitman, GFWC GLR Secretary, will present an inspiring remembrance of our “Leaders Lost since last We Met”. Last year you had a chance to meet GFWC Partners at the “Parade of Partners” Luncheon; at your request this year we have added three more GFWC Partners to our Sunday. The final GFWC Committee presentation by Membership will energize your travels home and incite your search for new clubwomen to join in the volunteer spirit. GFWC Indiana will present the invitation to the 2018 Conference in Indiana and before we adjourn the **2017 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference**, parting words from our GFWC Leadership will surely motivate you to be “living the volunteer spirit” every day.

**DRESS FOR THE WEEKEND**

**When traveling, remember to wear your GFWC membership pin or apparel.**

**Friday –** Comfortable clothes & walking shoes – Wear your GFWC Apparel. **We want Chicagoland to know we are here!**

**Friday Board of Directors Meeting** - GFWC Apparel

**Friday Evening –** Evening Resort Wear for the Captain’s Dinner

**Saturday –** Business Casual

**Saturday Evening –** Cocktail Bling for the Admiral’s Ball “All the Places You Will Go”

**Sunday Morning-** Travel wear - GFWC Apparel

**OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**State Presidents & Directors of Junior Clubs –** Please be prepared to present a three-minute report. GLR Vice President Paula Schlice will contact you with more detailed information.

Please remember to bring your state flag, pole and stand for Saturday morning opening ceremonies. The flag bearer is to wear white gloves.

**GFWC Appointees -**Reports with time limits as assigned by GFWC**. Directions will be provided in a separate email.**

**GFWC GLR Appointees-**Two minute reports. **Directions will be provided in a separate email.**

**Please submit your written reports to Pat Heitman, GFWC GLR Secretary, prior to arrival via electronic files.**

**Deadlines – Please adhere to the GLR and Hotel deadlines as listed on the Registration Form. The hotel has an unusually early deadline for the meal counts so please register as soon as you decide you can attend.**

Please share this Call with all the members in your state and club. Invite them to ride along for a fun-filled and very worthwhile weekend. We look forward to seeing you in Oak Brook, Illinois, on the “U.S.S. GFWC Great Lakes” Region Ship!

In Federation Friendship,

**Lin Wilken**

GFWC Great Lakes Region President, 2016 – 2018