

GFWC Illinois

# Clubwoman

Volume 85, Fall 2014



A publication of the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs



## SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT TO FAMILIES OF:

**Alfa Polidora** of the Indian Head  
Park Woman's Club, District 6,  
passed at the sweet age of 92.

**Magda Stauersboll** from  
Belvidere Women's Club of District

4 passed away this summer.

**Pat Burmeister** from the Women's Club of Cham-  
paign-Urbana, District 19, recently passed away.

## A WORD OR MORE FROM CAROL

There are so many components to being an effective leader.

Prior to attending the LEADS Seminar this past June, I was asked to bring along one line about the woman who has had the greatest influence on you. My answer was: organized, unruffled, ready to guide, ready to change. My one-liner did not describe just one woman, but at least five that I have met and worked with through my affiliation with a GFWC club. Do you have one or more of these attributes?

To me, communications to the leader and from the leader are critical for the success of a group, club, company, or organization like GFWC Illinois. Have you been receiving **Key Notes**, GFWC Illinois' newest e-communications tool? To receive Key Notes directly to your inbox go to [www.gfwcillinois.org](http://www.gfwcillinois.org), then scroll down the left column and click on E-FLASH. Fill in the appropriate blanks to join GFWC Illinois' Google Group.

In this issue, you will read about leadership through the eyes of many women serving our organization.

What does leadership mean to you? Do you have a leadership success or challenge to share? Please send me your club's, your district's, or your region's story.

## GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Director of Junior Clubs: Karyn McCarthy

President Elect: Phyllis Skubic

Vice President Northern Region: Elena Lipinski

Vice President Central Region: Judy Sochor

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Secretary: Betty Peters

Treasurer: Janice Perkins

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## GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Director Elect of Junior Clubs: Jeanette T. Wells

Dean of Chairmen: Cherie Sieger

Secretary: Joanne Meyer

Treasurer: Loretta Revesz

## THE KEY TO YOUR MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief: Diane Addante

Managing Editor: Carol Jablonski

Please send your articles, photos, and suggestions to:

[carolajablonski@att.net](mailto:carolajablonski@att.net)

or, 818 Tamarack Drive, Darien, IL 60561

## CORRECTION

Sincere apologies to these ladies who deserved recognition as 25 year members of their clubs and didn't appear in the Summer edition.

### Columbia WC

Betty House

Ann Manson

Julia Mueller

Grace Volkert

### Highland WC

Elva Tucker

## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **LEADERSHIP**

*Diane Addante, GFWC IL President*

What a fascinating subject! There are so many types of leaders. It is very useful to know your own leadership style and the style of those around you so you can maximize the effectiveness of the team. My leadership style includes a strong desire to be reliable and exercise self-restraint with limited self-serving ambition. That's all great. But I also like to avoid trouble and I'm happiest behind the scenes. Those downsides are pretty major in this particular position. Luckily, being aware of the downsides helps me adapt. Planning, planning, planning avoids trouble and well, this is just not the time to be behind the scenes. Know yourself, maximize your strengths and adapt your weaknesses.

Five key qualities for leaders come from research from the book *The Leadership Challenge*. They are:

*Honesty* – In everyday dealings, of course, but also in your willingness to admit mistakes. There are so many scandals these days; when someone owns up to a mistake, it is refreshing. We don't expect our leaders to be perfect, but we want them to be honest.

*Forward Looking* - Some leaders have a clear vision, but fear losing credibility if they share a vision that doesn't come to pass. It's a legitimate concern. Still, a strong vision with a plan for the future is infinitely better than no plan or a plan that isn't communicated. Often, a leader does not have a vision for the future because they are too bogged down in the present. Set aside regular time to plan and/or delegate duties so you have time to look ahead.

*Competence* - You don't have to be the foremost authority in your area, but you do need to be competent. One of the best ways to demonstrate your competence is to celebrate team achievements. If the team is doing well, the leader must be competent.

*Inspiring* - Being inspiring is often just a matter of communicating clearly and with passion. Develop the ability to tell stories. Think Abraham Lincoln. He could spin a yarn and in the end, there was a valuable lesson that undoubtedly stuck with the listener. Connect with your audience on an emotional level and you will inspire.

*Intelligence* - Devote yourself to life-long learning. Trying to demonstrate your intelligence usually backfires. A truly intelligent person is humbled by how much they don't know. Helping others learn is more useful. Ask questions. It takes intelligence to ask good questions. If you ask questions and let others do the talking, they will come away thinking how smart you are!

Each of you has it in you to be a leader! I encourage you to enjoy the growth that leadership affords.



*Diane Addante*



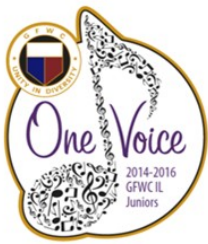
## THE VOICE OF LEADERSHIP

*Karyn M. McCarthy, GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs*

*GFWC LEADS Graduate 2013*



*Karyn M. McCarthy*



Leadership can be defined and interpreted so many ways, but to me it always comes down to **ACTION**. When I listen to someone in a leadership position, I hope that they motivate and inspire me to do something, versus telling me what to **do**. We've all known those types of leaders who stand at the front of the room and list off what needs to be done, right? And certainly that form of leadership can be effective in terms of delegating tasks and such, but I am the type of volunteer who needs more. Sure, I can make sponsorship calls and round up items for basket raffles, but I'm talking about inspiring me and motivating me to **TAKE ACTION!** That is what feeds my soul! I find myself drawn to leaders who encourage me to take things a step further, to act. Leaders who empower me as a volunteer to contribute ideas for the latest fundraiser as well as offer input concerning critical issues facing our organization.

The basic root of the word leadership is **lead**, which means: "to show the way" or "to guide or direct". I've found many leaders try to do everything themselves, versus allowing the

members to take ownership of their committees or projects. This can be demoralizing and dissuade members from stepping forward to help with projects. Why? Because volunteers like to be a part of the decisions! Of course there will always be a percentage of your membership who just want to be told to do and they will do it, but the greater majority want to be involved. They want to feel useful. A good leader will involve everyone to their full skill sets, encouraging them to use all they have to succeed.

We have so many of these types of leaders within GFWC, which is what keeps me engaged and always wanting to learn more, to do more. We are blessed with strong leaders who understand how to motivate, inspire, mentor and LEAD!

To me, there is no greater compliment than to see others flourish and grow into stronger leaders for their clubs, districts and states and it is my most sincere wish to do the same for you during this administration.

## LEADS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CLASS OF 2015

Applications for the next GFWC Illinois LEADS class will be available with the Call to the GFWC Illinois Convention, with the class tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015, prior to State Convention in Lisle.

Applications for GFWC LEADS class are due February 1, 2015, and can be found at [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org).

Both applications will be posted on the GFWC Illinois website, [gfwcillinois.org](http://gfwcillinois.org).

## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **TESTIMONIES FROM LEADS GRADUATES**

*Cherie Sieger, GFWC IL Junior Dean of Chairmen  
GFWC LEADS Graduate 2011*

I had the pleasure of and the humbled honor to be named GFWC IL LEADS Candidate in 2011. It all started with a LEADS program offered a couple of years earlier. The program featured GFWC IL leaders and officers and past GFWC IL LEADS graduates.

Do you want to learn tools of leadership? Do you want to grow personally and professionally? Do you want to meet other leaders of GFWC and GFWC IL? Do you want to tap into leadership skills you didn't even know you had? Then I highly encourage you to attend the next LEADS program.

You have been to a LEADS program before? Well - true story – a fellow member had attended a LEADS program a few years ago and thought she did not need to attend anymore, she thought each one would be the same information. She attended the LEADS last year and was very surprised to find out that was not the case. She was pleasantly surprised to find out that she learned new information and new skill sets. So if you had attended a LEADS before, come join us, you will also be surprised that you will be learning new leadership tools to use.

I have attended all the Illinois LEADS programs the past 5 years and you can be sure that I will indeed be attending next time, too! I learn something new, I learn new tools to use in my officer position, my personal life, and in my professional life. I encourage all members, especially club officers (not just club presidents), to attend Illinois LEADS. I encourage anyone thinking of moving up in their club, their district or moving up at the state level to attend LEADS. You will NOT regret it!

*Jeanette T. Wells, GFWC IL Director-Elect of Junior Clubs  
GFWC Leads Graduate 2010*

I learned so much at the GFWC IL Leads it was amazing! Our leaders in Illinois are second to none! Then when I was selected as the member from Illinois to attend LEADS at the GFWC Convention in Omaha, I was eager to learn more. The networking and the information shared was awesome. The ladies that led the class were excellent. Then having the International President come to our graduation and give us our pins, that was the only way to properly conclude that experience! Thank you GFWC IL for giving me the opportunity!

*LeeAnn Conlon, GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs, District 5  
GFWC Leads Graduate 2002*

In 2002 – I still felt I was new to GFWC – had only been a member for 6 years and was President of the Lemont Junior Woman's Club. WOW, then I went to the GFWC International Convention as the inaugural Illinois LEADS Candidate. Not only did that experience 'cement' my relationship with GFWC, I met many new friends, was embraced by the Illinois delegation, and kick-started my GFWC Illinois leadership journey, and guess what, I'm still here! It was an eye opening experience and one that I treasure, and I strongly encourage each and every one of you to attend the GFWC Illinois LEADS program. Maybe you too, will have the honor of being selected as the next Illinois candidate!



*Cherie Sieger*



*Jeanette T. Wells*



*LeeAnn Conlon*



## THE KEYS TO REPORTING . . . ONE NOTE AT A TIME

*Phyllis Skubic, GFWC IL President Elect / Dean of Chairmen*

*Cherie Sieger, GFWC IL Junior Dean of Chairmen*



*Phyllis Skubic*



*Cherie Sieger*

As we write this, the news and social media are filled with videos of celebrities, GFWC club members and everyday people accepting the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. . . . a wonderful campaign to raise awareness and funds for a devastating illness. Don't panic, we're not going to challenge anyone to dump any more ice water over their heads! However, as the Dean of Chairmen we are challenging every GFWC Illinois club that didn't report last year to submit at least **ONE REPORT** in 2015. Our goal is to have 100% of our clubs reporting. The Chairmen currently receive reports from about 65% of our clubs. We know the other 35% are not just sitting around eating bon bons . . . pick your favorite project and tell us what your members did for that ONE project in 2014. Next year the challenge will be to submit two or more reports. The **Keys to Reporting** are **organization** and **getting an early start**.

By now the Report Packets should be in the hands of every Club President. Please set aside some time before the busy holiday season arrives and go through the packet. Verify that you have all forms listed on the 'checklist'. If you are missing anything, please contact Deana at Headquarters.

Reporting is a TEAM effort . . . NOT a one woman job. Ask for volunteers to serve on this year's Reporting Committee. Start now to compile the facts, figures, and information that will go into those annual reports. Gather information from meeting agendas, newsletters, treasurer's reports, and minutes. Start with your January – June projects. Then fill in with what has happened since the new club year started. Get your narratives drafted with the main details, get your photos scanned and you will be ahead of the reporting game come January. Don't forget to report your attendance at Convention and Summer Seminar under Leadership. You can also report the different 'outside speakers' you heard that addressed Veterans Issues, Health, Women and Finance and Conservation. All reportable under their own Community Service Program area. Each outside speaker was an average of 20 minutes.

Remember, to stay within your two page limit. Each project reported should have the totals listed: monies spent/donated, hours, members participating, etc.

Reports must be postmarked no later than Monday, February 2, 2015. You also have the option of emailing your reports to most of the State and Junior Chairman. No postage, no addressing envelopes, no time spent waiting at the US Post Office. Just a few mouse clicks and you're done! Electronic version of the Statistical Report Form can be found on the GFWC Illinois website or by calling Headquarters.

Once you have completed your reports, use that information and statistics and share it with your members and your community. Celebrate your accomplishments! It's a KEY membership tool. Share the facts at your next membership recruitment event and certainly at your orientation for your NEW club members. The benefits of reporting are numerous, far-reaching and a wonderful way to preserve the history of your club and GFWC Illinois.

**WE** are here to help! We can guide you, proof-read your draft if you're not sure, and we can advise you where to report your activity so that it's under the correct Community Service Program, Advancement Area or Special Project area. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

*We are challenging every  
GFWC Illinois club that  
didn't report last year to  
submit at least  
**ONE REPORT** in 2015.*

## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **LEADERSHIP: WHAT IT MEANS TO ME**

*Phyllis Skubic, GFWC IL President-Elect*

Leadership is a million different things to me . . . big actions that define who we are but also those little leadership moments that we do all the time and are sometimes overlooked as true leadership.

- It's taking charge when no one else steps forward.
- It's brainstorming with others to reach the best possible solution for the club, committee or project.
- It's focusing on the big and little details and making sure they are addressed.
- It's mentoring others by encouraging them with praise, solid advice and good directions. And giving them sincere appreciation for the completion of their project. Offering constructive criticism if needed, but in a gentle, honest way that encourages them instead discouraging them.
- It's being the mediator when conflict arises between members. Being able to listen with an open mind to both sides and finding a 'workable' solution that everyone can live with.
- It's being trustworthy and dependable. Knowing that you will see the project through to the end.
- It's being accountable . . . as a President and even as a Chairman . . . 'the buck stops here'.
- It's being willing to ask for help, advice or guidance when needed.
- It's delegating tasks, then stepping back, hands-off, and letting the members learn and develop.
- It's finding a way to work with people in all situations, not just the fun and friendly times.
- Continuous Learning . . . learning from those that came before you, from those that will follow you and from your own mistakes.
- Being honest, kind, patient and responsible to the organization, but also to yourself.

One of the main keynote speakers at the Illinois Leadership Seminar tells each seminar group "Do YOU Un-Apologetically". Which means: Be who you are honestly and completely. Don't try to be someone else to fit into the crowd or into a mold others have outlined for you. Don't apologize for who you are - our differences make each of us unique and special - don't apologize for that uniqueness.

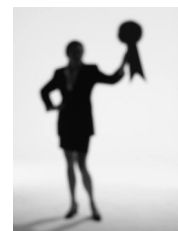
Anytime I've participated in a Leadership Styles activity I always end up smack in the middle. My strongest traits are 'Organizer and Director'.

### **BEST OF THE BEST: PUBLIC ISSUES CLUB CREATIVITY ENTRY SUBMITTED TO GFWC IL**

The Fairbury WC continued with Operation Santa, helping send over 10,000 Christmas Stockings to troops. Wish lists were placed in the club newsletter and local newspaper. Members and families sewed stockings with donated material. 'Sewing Days' were established at the mall. Club held a 'Put a Sock In It' at the high school Homecoming game. Both schools brought white socks to the event, which are placed in the toe of each stocking. The visiting team's fans even held a

sewing night for the project. Christmas cards were signed at various events and local grade schools. A grocery store in the community allowed the club to establish bags of wish list items valued at \$10 and store patrons purchase these and drop in a donation box at the store. Total community involvement for a terrific cause!

For more about Operation Santa, visit [www.operationsanta.info](http://www.operationsanta.info).



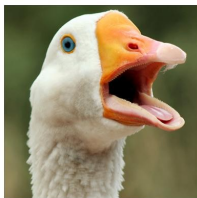
Congratulations,  
Fairbury  
Woman's  
Club!

## LEADERSHIP AND LEADS UPDATE

Elena Lipinski, GFWC IL Northern Region Vice President



Elena Lipinski



What exactly is **leadership**? One way of looking at it is in terms of interdependence since no man or woman is an island unto himself or herself. *Lessons from Geese* by Milton Olson spoke to me about both leadership and interdependence.

To begin, “As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.” The **key** shared here is that “People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.” In the case of GFWC, we all share a **sense of community** as we strive to improve the places in which we live through volunteer service. This **service** is our common goal. Working together, pulling in the same direction, we are able to accomplish more with less effort than when doing things on our own. We bounce ideas off each other and our enthusiasm in so doing becomes contagious.

Next, “Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the “lifting power” of the bird immediately in front”. The **key** stressed here is that “If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go (and be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to the others)”. For GFWC clubwomen, whenever we try to go it on our own, we are not nearly as successful as when we **work with others** and allow them to help us. Others keep us focused on our goal or mission as they are also headed in the same direction.

The third lesson we can learn from geese is that “When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.” In other words, “It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. With people, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.” For all of us GFWC Illinois club members, we need to take turns in leadership roles. We also need to work in harmony with each other and rely on each other to fulfill her part so that the job gets done well and in a prompt manner. Each of us has her own **key role** in making GFWC work smoothly.

The fourth lesson geese teach us is that “Geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed”. That it to say, “We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging – and not something else”. For GFWC this means that one role the rank and file has is to encourage our leaders by cheering them on from our vantage point. Our positive uplifting of our leaders helps them keep their momentum as they forge ahead, encouraging us with **key goals, projects, and fundraisers**.

The final lesson we can derive from geese is that “When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or catch up with the flock”. Stated differently, “If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong”. For the General Federation of Women’s Clubs to succeed, another **key** to **support** each other by showing genuine care and concern for each other. When our fellow club women are down and out, we need to lift them up, standing by them until they are ready to move ahead on their own two feet.



## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

*Judy Sochor, GFWC IL Vice President, Central Region*

*Julie Stiles, GFWC IL Junior Communications & Public Relations Chairman*

#### ***Judy***

If someone asks you about your club: "What is Your Town Woman's Club? What do they do?" It is a golden opportunity to get your point across in a timely manner—no longer than 30-60 seconds—the time it takes to ride an elevator, hence the phrase, 'elevator speech'. An 'elevator speech' can inform someone about your club, what you've accomplished and what some highlights of what your club plans to do in this club year.

An idea would be to write a short elevator speech and practice it with your club members so when they meet someone in an elevator or at the bank or anywhere they will have something ready to say.

This is one way to get the word out about your club and its affiliation with GFWC and all the benefits of belonging.

#### ***Julie***

For those fairly new to GFWC, you may be unaware of the benefits of having an *Elevator Speech* ready to roll off your tongue. It is a very, very short description of what your club does and the benefits of belonging to GFWC. (Obviously, many of us could talk for *hours* about why we think GFWC is such a fabulous organization. There are millions of reasons that keep us re-joining year after year.) And therefore, too much information will drive the potential new member away! So, your version of an *Elevator Speech* should be short, simple and intriguing to your potentially interested friend. It should include some of your clubs more famous projects that helps and involves the community. One example of utilizing *Your Elevator Speech* is when you see that person in line at the grocery store. You probably only have about 30 seconds to pique their interest. After this initial conversation of your telling them *Your Elevator Speech*, they could/will want to continue the conversation about what great things your club is doing and how they can be a part of it too!"

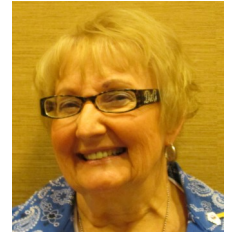
I have often thought about putting an 'Elevator Speech' on the back of business cards. They could be cheaply be made by a club member, it could include the person's email and contact information. The Elevator Speech on the back would help to keep the speech short and concise. The GFWC member could then give the card to the prospective new member and (again) keep the meeting brief so as to not over-talk and overwhelm the other person.

#### ***More from Judy***

My goal for Communications/Public Relations is to get the word out so that people know about GFWC. It is important to put articles in the paper about your club and its activities. You should try to have an article in the paper or some communication about every meeting and activity.

Be sure to leave brochures at the library, bank, etc. Also carry some in your purse to hand someone when they ask about your club and what they do. These can be downloaded from the GFWC Illinois website and can be personalized with information and contacts for your club.

I would like to get the opportunity to meet with all the districts in Central Region. Perhaps I could come to a district meeting. That way I could better help them with communications or another GFWC topic or concern.



*Judy Sochor*



*Julie Stiles*

## SECRETARY

*Betty Peters, GFWC IL Secretary*



*Betty Peters*

One definition of leadership is, “the action of leading a group or an organization to make sound decisions and inspire others to perform well.” In the various leadership positions I have held in my career and in my club work, I have strived to achieve this goal. However, the role of leading did not come naturally. It was over a period of years and training that I acquired the skills of leading groups or organizations. It began when I held offices in my local woman’s club. From there I served in offices on the district level, including district president. That position put me on the GFWC Illinois Board of Directors. After completing my term as district president, I continued on the state board in several chairmanships, and now as GFWC

Illinois Secretary.

I credit much of my ability to serve on the state board to the training and examples I received from GFWC and GFWC Illinois leaders. I had always been reluctant to speak in front of groups, but with encouragement and knowing I had the support of the club-women members, I am now confident and comfortable behind the podium. My leadership style is pretty much understated. I trust that the people I am working with know what they are doing and if they have any problems that I can help with, they will let me know. This encourages new ideas and ways of getting the job accomplished.

## CONVENTION NEWS

We have an exciting venue selected for our 120<sup>th</sup> GFWC Illinois Convention May 14-16, 2015: The Hilton Lisle-Naperville at 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle. Sheila Shea, GFWC President Elect, will be a guest for the event. The hotel is a large, bustling venue, prepared to accommodate us. If you call 800-445-8667 (630-505-0900 locally) or register online, use the code CGFW. The room rate is \$99 plus fees and that rate is good until 4/22/15, but please don’t delay – make your reservation today! If you have any problems with registering, please let Deana know (815-724-0195) and we will straighten it out.

## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR**

*Janice Perkins, GFWC IL Treasurer*

*Loretta Revesz, GFWC IL Junior Treasurer*

### **ALL DUES REMITTANCES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS.**

Email addresses ,where available, would be appreciated. Also, if you would email the list of names and addresses of your members to GFWC IL Headquarters, at [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net), that would speed up the process of including your members in the mailing list for the Clubwoman magazine.

### **October 15 and**

Club Treasurer sends check to District Treasurer or Junior District Treasurer.

### **January 15**

Check to be made payable to District or Junior District.

### **November 1 and**

District Treasurer sends check to GFWC Illinois Headquarters, 5 E. Van Buren St, Ste 208, Joliet, IL 60432.

### **February 2**

Check to be made payable to GFWC Illinois

Junior District Treasurer sends check to State Junior Treasurer Loretta Revesz, 735 Scott Drive, Elgin, IL 60123

Check to be made payable to GFWC Illinois Junior.

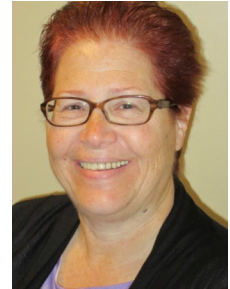
Junior District Treasurer sends District dues to District Treasurer.

Dues per member for 2014 - 2015 are:

GFWC	\$15.00 (Juniorette - \$10.00)
GFWC Illinois	\$5.00
District	Per District bylaws

Junior Clubs pay these additional dues:

GFWC Illinois Juniors	\$2.00
Junior District	Per Junior District bylaws



*Loretta Revesz  
(above)  
and  
Janice Perkins  
(below)*



## FROM OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

### EDUCATION



*Sara Gilbert, left  
Jo Koenig, right*

*Jo Koenig, Chairman  
Sara Gilbert, Junior Chairman*

All GFWC Illinois clubs are encouraged to sponsor a sophomore student for the Illinois Leadership Seminar ( [www.illinoisleadershipseminars.org](http://www.illinoisleadershipseminars.org) ). Please contact the guidance counselor at your local high school to help select the candidate that your club will sponsor. You will need to act quickly, as these seminars fill quickly. Full and partial scholarships are accepted.

GFWC is asking clubs to report all scholarship donations this year that will include partial scholarships as well as full scholarships. Suggestions for educational scholarships include, but are not limited to: college bound students, continuing education for women returning to school, and English Language Learners.

Proctor & Gamble is accepting applications for Focus of Literacy Grants. Your club may apply for up to \$200 in grant money toward a project or program in the area of education. These applications may be found at [www.GFWC.org/grants](http://www.GFWC.org/grants) . Additional grant opportunities may be at [www.nea.org/grants/finding-free-books.htm](http://www.nea.org/grants/finding-free-books.htm) .

You may also find ideas for education projects and programs that other clubs throughout the country have implemented in their communities by going to the GFWC website.

Nelson Mandela stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Please continue your clubs' support to pre-schools, schools, women returning to education, English Language Learners (English as a Second Language), and senior citizens.



### CONSERVATION



*Elaine Bush, left  
Amee Lee, right*

*Elaine Bush, Chair  
Amee Lee, Junior Chair*

The Conservation Community Service Program has several areas of interest in which you may involve the club members! Some are Monarch Butterflies, Clean Communities, Recycling, Shawnee National Forest, and ReCork. Observe America Recycles Day on November 15, Earth Day on April 22, and Arbor Day on April 25 .

GFWC IL has supported Shawnee National Forest replanting of trees since 1934! It is on the Monetary Project Sheet that your club treasurer should have. Place it in your budget! Discover if your community has a Recycle Center - save your items for it! Make a commitment to pick up the litter on the street/area where you live! Learn how you can help the Monarch Butterflies by going to [www.livemonarch.com](http://www.livemonarch.com). ReCork is looking for all natural wine corks to recycle into new items replacing petroleum based materials. Have club members and/or area restaurants save their corks, collect at the events you already have, and ask your recycle center to save them. Check out [www.ReCork.org](http://www.ReCork.org). Find out how you can send in your corks.

Each club member is part of the **KEY** to carrying out the Conservation Community Service Program work!



## *... volunteers are the key*

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### **HOME LIFE**

*Marsha Vaughn, Chairman*  
*Cyndi Fulco, Junior Chairman*

As you plan your new club year, consider the newest program started by GFWC Illinois called **A Healthier You!** What is your promise for a 'healthier' you this year? It can be an individual 'promise' or a club project! The individual would keep a record each week how she is doing towards the 'promise'. As a club project, the Home Life Chair could keep a notebook to pass at each meeting for those who chose to make a 'promise' to indicate if she kept her 'promise'. Some ideas for a 'promise' are: eating more fruit and/or vegetables; walking a certain distance each day or week; using a smaller plate for meals; to stop smoking; etc. **Here's to a Healthier You This Year!**

November is Diabetes Awareness month. Plan a program for a club meeting. Also, December is Cancer Awareness month. However you promote it, stress to members the importance of being aware of the seven early signs of cancer.



*Cyndi Fulco, left*  
*Marsha Vaughn, right*



### **PUBLIC ISSUES**

*Karen Meyer – GFWC IL Chairman*  
*Debbie Monteith – GFWC IL Junior Chairman*

Veteran's Issues are our focus for this administration. Here are a few ideas your club can get involved in. As Summer draws to end there is still plenty of days in the Fall to enjoy a barbeque. It is a great way to get the community together for a worthy cause. Make this barbeque count by hosting a **USO Barbeque for the Troops**. Perhaps your club can co-sponsor the event with a local business or other community organization. The event not only will be great fun but it is a chance to sponsor a fundraiser for the troops. The USO provides a toolkit and along with host guidelines documents which will provide all of the information you need to raise the funds to support our troops and their families. Every dollar you raise will help your local USO provide services and support for the troops and their families. To register for your own BBQ fundraiser, go to [www.BBQfortheTroops.org](http://www.BBQfortheTroops.org).

Do you like to sew? During Summer Seminar we suggested hosting a sewing bee for Sew Much Comfort, a GFWC Partner. Currently on their website, however, they have added a note, saying "Thank you for considering volunteering to sew for Sew Much Comfort. **At this time we do not need any new seamstresses**". Never fear though, there are other ways to share your talents! Quilts for Valor Foundation, whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. You can find more information at [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org). On this website you can find a list of 20 QOV quilt shops around the state. These shops offer a range of services from UOW kits, patterns, classes, longarm quilting, longarm lessons and Rentals to in-shop workshops.



*Karen Meyer, left*  
*Debbie Monteith, right*





## MORE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

### INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

*Barbara Potter, GFWC IL Chairman*

*Kim Kalafut, GFWC IL Junior Chairman*



*Barbara Potter, left  
Kim Kalafut, right*



Every child deserves a childhood. Each girl and boy deserves an education and health care. Each deserves to be treated equally and to be protected from harm. The leading children's organization in the world, UNICEF was founded in 1946. GFWC has been supporting UNICEF since 1947. UNICEF espouses peace, security, and an end to global poverty. It supports equality for girls and their participation in community development. Giving girls and boys the best start in life means ensuring that they have health care, proper nutrition, safe water, and basic sanitation. It means protecting them from violence, exploitation, and discrimination; and preparing them to succeed in school.

UNICEF works with communities to ensure that all children are registered at birth so they can receive essential support and services. UNICEF offers immunization against preventable diseases, mosquito nets that prevent malaria, and oral rehydration salts that fight diarrhea. UNICEF also provides important micronutrients like vitamin A and

iodine, which boost immunity and prevent learning disabilities. UNICEF works to ensure that all children are in school and that they are equipped with the tools to succeed in life, including proper bathroom facilities so that girls may continue in school. UNICEF provides information about reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS.

In order to achieve these goals, UNICEF works with governments and communities. When war and natural disaster put children's health and well-being at risk, UNICEF supplies them with food, water, health care, trauma counseling, and safe places to play and learn. It reunites families and provides help to the orphaned.

UNICEF is entirely funded by voluntary contributions from governments, the private sector, and individuals. To receive information about Trick or Treat for UNICEF or other fund raising events call 1-800-486-4233 or visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org).



*Deana Justak*

### A WOMAN YOU SHOULD KNOW:

**DEANA JUSTAK, GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

I'm honored to work for such a great organization! I've been working here since 2012. Originally from Indiana, my husband's job brought us out this way. I'm a Hoosier at heart! My husband is Craig and we have been married for 19 years. Our girls Hailey 15 and Hannah 14 keep us busy with sports and activities. I can't forget our pooch Cooper. He's a Shih Tzu and usually my co-pilot. We live in Shorewood and have been there since 2001.

Some of my favorites are: The Chicago Bears, love sports and watching my girls compete. I prefer being at the beach on a gorgeous sunny day.

I am a colon cancer SURVIVOR!

I welcome your calls and visits. Office hours are 8:00-1:00 Monday through Friday.

*. . . volunteers are the key*

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## **GFWC ILLINOIS STATE PROJECT**

### **“OUR PROMISE...A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD”**

*Karel Volpert, GFWC IL Chairman*

#### ***Basket Raffle***

A huge thank you to the members and clubs who brought toys, stuffed animals, and art supplies for the children's baskets and to those who donated theme baskets for the GFWC Illinois basket raffle at the PCA Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Conference held in Springfield on November 6th and 7th. A sincere thank you to the members of The Woman's Club of Springfield for working at the raffle. The proceeds from the basket raffle will be given to PCA Illinois.



*Karel Volpert*

#### ***Blue Ribbon Fashion Show***

Mark your calendar for the annual Blue Ribbon Fashion Show which will be held on April 12, 2015 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club. Members, clubs, and districts are encouraged to donate theme baskets for the raffle and the silent auction. Becky Weber will be chairing this event.

#### ***Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Updates***

PCA Illinois is currently focusing on trainings about Child Sexual Abuse and Safe Sleep for Babies. Clubs or districts who wish to have programs on these topics or who want to sponsor trainings in their communities should contact PCA Illinois at [www.preventchildabuseillinois.org](http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org) or call 217-522-1129.

#### ***Trainings about Child Sexual Abuse***

1. Stewards of Children is a two-hour video based training that teaches adults how to recognize, react responsibly and prevent child sexual abuse. This training, developed by the Darkness To Light organization, is for parents, professionals and anyone who wants to make a difference in their community by protecting children.
2. Child Abuse Prevention 101 will provide an overview of the physical and behavioral signs, causes and dynamics associated with abuse, as well as what to do if you suspect a child is being hurt or neglected.

#### ***Trainings about Safe Sleep for Babies***

1. Shaken Baby Syndrome training will help participants understand the signs, effects and causes of SBS and the impact on families and society.
2. The Happiest Baby on the Block is a technique developed by Dr. Harvey Karp for soothing a crying infant. It includes the five specific components which trigger what Dr. Karp calls the "calming reflex." This training provides valuable tools and techniques for new and expectant parents.



## RAKE IN NEW FRIENDS

*Alice Betlach, GFWC IL Southern Region Vice President & Membership Chairman*



Fall is upon us and it is time to move into our next season of recruitment. The 2014-2016 GFWC Membership Committee theme, **A Proud Past and a Promising Future With Friends**, has its focus on seasons with, you guessed it, friends! The Fall campaign, 'Rake in New Friends' includes the months of September, October, and November and your reports are due to GFWC (address on the form) by December 1, 2014. How about a gathering for a "Chili Supper" or a bonfire with 'Wieners and Marshmallows' and invite your non-GFWC 'friends' to attend. You may have another suitable theme for your event. Present a brief description of GFWC and what activities and

projects your local club supports in and for your community. Afterwards enjoy socializing and sharing friendship.

Clubs achieving and reporting **three** new members on the GFWC Seasonal Recruitment Campaign Report form will be recognized in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. Please submit a report even if your club only recruited one or two new members. **Every Member Counts!** Please be sure to send a copy of your recruitment report to me so I can track the numbers for GFWC Illinois. Be...the KEY to increasing our membership for 2014-2016!

## REFLECTIONS ON MY TERM AS GFWC DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

*Becky Weber, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs*

AWESOME, INCREDIBLE, EXCITING and most of all FUN!!!

As the 2012-2014 GFWC Director of Junior Clubs I traveled to 20 states! I appreciate now, more than ever, how vitally important our work as volunteer clubwomen really is. "Living the Volunteer Spirit" IS a way of life for our members. We ARE improving the lives of the elderly, the abused, our children and our military, by the extraordinary projects completed by our clubs. I can honestly say, GFWC CLUBWOMEN DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our communities and the world, as we all live each day trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist.



*From left to right:  
Mel Laister  
Mary Ellen Laister  
Becky Weber  
Mike Weber*

*Editor's Note: Becky asked if she could include this particular photo for this reason: "Mel and Mike were SO VERY SUPPORTIVE and Mary Ellen and I worked so well together".*

## *. . . volunteers are the key*

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

*Alice Betlach, GFWC IL Southern Region Vice President*

A stable core of experienced members is the backbone of your club. New members can lean on and learn from veteran members. By working together experienced members and new members can function like one healthy body, standing tall, moving forward, and making strides toward accomplishing your club's goals. Members who actively participate in their club are more likely to want to continue their membership. In order to engage your members, your club should ensure an atmosphere of fellowship as well as provide varied opportunities for members to exercise their talents and abilities to feel that they are a useful member of the team. Encouraging involvement not only capitalizes on the creativity and skills of members, but increases their commitment and encourages the discovery of their yet 'undiscovered leadership skills'.

A leader is a person who brings people together and guides them to the realization of a shared mutual goal. Our task is to instill the importance of *LEADERSHIP* to each and every member. Leadership relates to, and affects every phase of our GFWC organization!



*Alice Betlach*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

*Terri Tatroe, GFWC IL Junior Membership Chairman*

You may wonder how do we recruit new members for our Club? With our [GFWC Recruitment Guide Seasonal Recruitments](#), the Elgin Junior Woman's Club submitted their 'Warm up with Members' form with an astounding 8 new members! I thought you'd like to know what club member Loretta Revesz said they did to gain new members and friends:

"We actually got back to the basics and asked people to come to a meet and greet event at a local pizza place. Each member was asked to provide at least one email address to be invited in an E-Vite. We had 8 women accept the invite and they all joined! We made the pizza event more social than hard sell. We gave out a folder with information about us, spoke for 2 minutes, and then just had fun.

Two of the people who joined told us they joined because of the way we all hugged each other and interacted together. They said they could tell we were friends and they wanted to be a part of that."



*Terri Tatroe*



## FROM OUR GFWC ILLINOIS DISTRICTS



### **DISTRICT 11**

*Faith Cromwell, President*

District 11 has been very busy this summer. We are setting up a Facebook account as well as our own web page with the goal of keeping all of our clubs informed about the events and fundraisers going on at the district and state levels. Clubs have been busy planning their Fall fundraisers, craft shows, Road Rally Ruckus, Rib Cook-Off, Howl at the Moon and a Chili Cook Off. District 11 will be participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's this fall. This summer was a great time for recruiting new members. One club recruited nine new members with a pizza party and another club participated in Dirty Girl Mud Run. As students are getting ready to go back to school, one club helped put together school supplies and back packs for over 1,000 low income families.



### **DISTRICT 23**

*Mary Jane Koester, President*

The GFWC District 23 is comprised of 15 counties in the Southern Illinois Region.

We consist of 8 General Clubs and 2 Junior Clubs with a membership of 140.

One of our clubs, the GFWC IL Centralia Woman's Club, established in 1904, celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 9, 2014.

District 23 is very proud of the GFWC IL Centralia Woman's Club as well, as all of our clubs for their accomplishments in volunteering and promotion of GFWC in our own communities. District 23 is definitely 'Living the Volunteer Spirit'.

In July, many of our members attended the Southern Region Summer Seminar held in Vandalia. The members took home a lot of information they could present to their clubs, when they resumed in September to begin another club year.

I am looking forward to representing GFWC IL District 23 for the next two years.

## **PIERCE'S PARLIAMENTARY POINTERS**

*Jacquelyn Pierce, GFWC IL Parliamentarian, NAP Registered Parliamentarian*



*Jackie Pierce*

### **A SOAP OPERA ON PARLIAMENTARY LAW: "AS THE WORLD TURNS"**

Being one of THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS, I spent THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES in a SEARCH FOR TOMORROW that brought me to the EDGE OF NIGHT. I was headed for ANOTHER WORLD. After winding up in GENERAL HOSPITAL and being cared for by THE DOCTORS, "Robert's Rules of Order" THE GUIDING LIGHT, broke through my SECRET STORM. Lovingly Parliamentary Law rescued me from FALCON CREST and shared in MY DYNASTY to be one of ALL MY CHILDREN ...and to lead with ONE LIFE TO LIVE.



*. . . volunteers are the key*

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## GFWC NEEDS OUR HELP

*Diane Addante, GFWC Illinois President*

GFWC Headquarters in Washington DC, as you have no doubt heard, is in dire need of repairs and updates. One way to support this project is to contribute to the 1734 Society, a longstanding means of preserving and maintaining headquarters as a National Historic Landmark. Our WHRC Chairman/Historian, Trisha Schafer, has taken it upon herself to raise awareness of the needs of headquarters and to encourage donations to 1734 Society. We are shooting for the Alice Ames Winter Level.

### **Alice Ames Winter Level - \$1,734+**

Mrs. Winter led the drive to purchase the Federation's current Headquarters in the nation's capital at 1734 N Street NW, in Washington, D.C. During her tenure, she was appointed by President Warren G. Harding to the International Conference on the Limitation of Armaments.

#### *Benefits:*

- 1734 Society bookmark
- Annual 1734 Society newsletter highlighting GFWC Headquarters events and activities
- GFWC Holiday Ornament
- Acknowledgement of contribution on the GFWC website
- Crystal paperweight engraved with the GFWC emblem
- Your or your club's name engraved on a plaque displayed at GFWC Headquarters
- Invitation for five to attend the 1734 Society reception at the GFWC Annual Convention

To that end, in addition to generous club donations, we are selling the Centennial Medallions previously sold in and around 1994. These will be sold for \$100. Clubs and individuals who purchase the limited-supply medallion will have their name placed in the *GFWC Illinois Clubwoman Magazine* and their name will be sent to GFWC for acknowledgement. Please read the history of the medallion, prepared by Nancy F. Lee, State President 2006-2008, below. Thanks in advance for your support!

NOTE: Please send all donations and requests for medallions to GFWC Illinois Headquarters, 5 E. Van Buren Street, Joliet, IL 60432 or contact Deana at (815) 724-1095.

## HISTORY OF THE GFWC ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL MEDALLION

*Nancy Lee, GFWC Illinois President, 2006-2008*

The sculptor is Debra A. Scott of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and is teaching art in Mt. Pleasant. She was introduced to us by Jeff Boshart, Director of the Federation Art School and Department Head at Eastern Illinois University.

The focal point of the sculpture is a tree, which represents strength, stability and constancy. It also represents our environmental concerns and our investment in Shawnee National Forest. At the base of the tree is a likeness of Isabella Candee, our first presi-

dent. She is holding a book which symbolizes our long commitment to libraries and education. The roots of the tree are intertwined to symbolize unity in diversity. At the top of the tree emerges a ribbon that flows gently down the side. There are three female figures approaching the ribbon. The ribbon is their path leading back to the tree, to the strong heritage that is GFWC Illinois. Although the sculpture is circular, it is not a closed circle. The softness of the tree permits us to continue to grow and to flourish into our second century.



*Kudos to GFWC IL*

*Nancy's Bluebirds Club for*

*being the first to donate*

*\$100 to the 1734 Society*

*and receive the GFWC*

*Illinois Centennial*

*Medallion.*



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**GFWC Illinois**  
**5 East Van Buren St.**  
**Suites 206-208**  
**Joliet, IL 60432**



In conjunction with GFWC Florida, we will be raising funds to train a puppy for an injured veteran. Please consider donating via the Project Contribution Form in the Treasurer's Section of the Reporting Packet (also available at [gfwcillinois.org](http://gfwcillinois.org)). We will have a speaker for this program at State Convention in May and will be seeking donations from those in attendance after the presentation. GFWC Florida President Carole Weaver has agreed to match our donations. CCI is her special emphasis and we are excited to work jointly for such a worthwhile project.