

GFWC Illinois



Creating Leaders, Changing Lives

Clubwoman

Magazine



GIFTS OF GFWC



**GFWC Illinois Legislation Day
Springfield, Illinois
Thursday, March 8, 2012**

GFWC Illinois women gather to meet and hear from our representatives in Springfield.



**Women with Voices
Women Making a Difference in our Communities**

SUMMER 2012
Volume 81
No. 04



in this issue...

Front & Back Covers: Each year in March the GFWC members make the journey to Springfield, IL. **Why?**

To make it known that volunteer groups such as GFWC have an insight into the political arena. We become better volunteers when we know the compass of our appointed leaders. We make known the needs of our communities to these governing bodies. And that we can successfully reach our mission goals by interaction with these appointed leaders.

The front and back page pictures are of those ladies who attended the March 8, 2012, trip to Springfield, IL chaired by Gerri Eck. Thank you Gerri for your hard work in coordinating the arrangements. Job well done!

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GFWC Illinois Executive Committee

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With Our Sympathy

GFWC Illinois sends sympathies to the following members and families who have recently lost love ones:

Jean E. Seitsinger
 GFWC Illinois Past President 1998-2000

Janet Hager - Princeville WC

Karen Wasson - Somonauk Jr. WC
 Our condolences to the family members
 of Karen to

Mandi Barter & Jenny Wasson
 also of Somonauk Jr. WC

Catherine Percy
 Jeanne Travis - The GFWC Wauconda WC
 Lillian Stockbar - Lockport WC
 Carol Stevens

...gifts of leadership



**Gift of Leadership
Patricia L. Heitman
GFWC Illinois President
2012-2014**



Greetings Everyone,

It is with great honor that I serve as your GFWC Illinois President. The theme that I have chosen for the 2012-2014 Administration is ***"Gifts of GFWC"*** using a gift box as the logo. The colors will be silver as an accent; white as a symbol of loyalty; orange for creativity; and purple for leadership.

My special emphasis will be Easter Seals and our State Project ***"Our Promise...A Safe Place for Every Child."*** Easter Seals was instrumental in my recovery when at the age of 4, I had an illness that left me crippled. Our State Project needs our support and awareness; strides have been made and we must continue moving toward the eradication of child abuse.

Most of you are aware that at the 117th Annual Convention, a permanent logo was voted on for GFWC Illinois. Located at the bottom of this article is the black and white version of that emblem. It was sent out as an e-flash but if you need to have it sent to you, please contact Deana Justak, Executive Secretary, at our GFWC Illinois Headquarters (815/724-0195 or gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net) to have one sent to you.

We are in the process of updating the GFWC Illinois yearbook for the 2012-2013 club year. If you have an update for your club's information and it has not been submitted, please contact GFWC Illinois Headquarters to submit that information. The GFWC Illinois yearbook will be distributed in the fall with the informational packet.

Plans are being finalized for Summer Seminar; letters were mailed to each of the club presidents with the information and reservation form. The **deadline is July 7, 2012**; so if you haven't made your reservation contact GFWC Illinois Headquarters to do so.

This Administration GFWC Illinois will be hosting the GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference on October 12-13, 2012 at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hills Resort. Please mark your calendars to attend this event. The GFWC International President Mary Ellen Laister, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Becky Weber, and GFWC President Elect Babs Condon will be our special guests. The GFWC Officers and Chairmen from the GFWC Great Lakes Region will be presenting and/or participating in the workshops. This more intimate setting is the best way to meet the GFWC Officers and learn more about the programs of GFWC. The Conference Reservation and Hotel Reservation forms will be available on the website as well as in this issue of *GFWC Illinois Clubwoman*.

I look forward to working with you, the greatest ***'Gift of GFWC'***, our members. If there is anything that I may be of service to you, feel free to contact me. Thank you for sharing your 'gifts' with GFWC Illinois.



gifts of leadership...



The Gift of Leadership Trisha Schafer GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs



My theme for the GFWC-IL Juniors for 2012-14 is: ***“EWE Make The Difference.”*** And the reason I chose this is: EWE.... The Volunteer! EWE are all so important, not just as club members but as leaders! Whether you're a leader in either your family, club, community, or in a GFWC district, state, international position... every organization needs leaders at every level!

This administration will be filled with on-going goals like: membership recruitment and retention, empowering new leaders, and communicating our GFWC accomplishments. But we will also ***“Celebrate the Individual Clubwoman.”*** The untiring service we give to our communities and the dedicated efforts to improve the quality of life through education and strengthening the home has Made The Difference!!! And we will concentrate efforts to highlight these accomplishments and much more!

Throughout this 2012-14 administration, the Illinois Junior Organization will focus on: our Personal Health – (because if we don't take care of ourselves, how can we take care of others?!),... our Personal Growth – through education, communication, technology, ... and our Personal Enjoyment – through sharing our talents, inspirations and passions. We all do ***“Make The Difference”*** in our Communities, our Country & our World! I truly believe that volunteering is what makes the community you live in become your “home town.” And, I am looking forward to receiving the gifts of friendship as I hopefully get to meet many of our Junior & General Members across Illinois in their hometowns!

In Federation Friendship & Love ~ Trisha

District 15 GFWC Illinois Abington Junior



The Abington Juniors made 27 lap robes and distributed them to 5 nursing homes and care centers in their local communities.

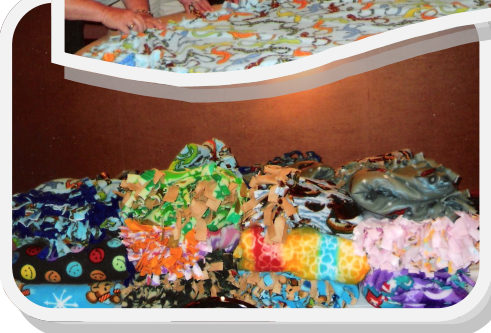


“Lap Robe Mania”



The members at the GFWC Illinois 2012 Convention in Decatur made 26 fleece blankets which were given to a Decatur Women's Shelter. Club members from Cerro Gordo WC, Paxton WC, Decatur WC, and Bismarck WC and even the hotel waitress learn how to make lap robes as a hands-on project from this workshop.

Left to Right: Patty Lovekamp, Cynthia Swanson, Waitress, Judy Sochor, Darla Weltman and Karel Volpert making lap robes at the GFWC Illinois 2012 Convention in Decatur



... gifts of teaching



THE GIFT OF TEACHING

Diane Addante, GFWC Illinois President Elect/Dean of Chairmen

Karyn McCarthy, GFWC Illinois Director-elect of Junior Clubs

Jeanette T Wells, GFWC Illinois Junior Dean of Chairmen

This is a **preliminary assessment of the Reporting section of the 2012-2014 GFWC Club Manual**. We will have additional information after GFWC Convention and encourage you to attend Summer Seminar on July 12, 13 or 14 to get up-to-the-minute tips for reporting. After reviewing the new Club Manual, this is our take:

First, individual **clubs will no longer send reports directly to GFWC**. As in the past, Clubs will send their reports to District and State representatives per their reporting grid in accordance with our usual guidelines (due February 1, two pages maximum narrative, etc.). The State Chairmen summarize those reports and submit stats to the State President, who then sends the info along to GFWC. GFWC has always received statistics and summary narratives from the states, but receiving the individual Club reports has been identified as a redundancy and saving all that paper and postage is a definite plus!

The report form itself is now crystal clear with regard to Partnerships. The **partnership projects are listed on the face of the form**. Your statistics will be reported under the partnership projects listed and non-partnership activity will be summarized under "Community Service Projects" for each Community Service Program. We are no longer using the term "Collaboration." Please give these new forms a try, and at the end of the process give us your constructive feedback.

If your club doesn't normally report, please consider this. It is so helpful for each club to report their great projects. If reporting seems overwhelming, pick one project that you love and submit a report on that. Having information on as many worthwhile projects as possible is more important than ever. The way State Chairmen are reporting has changed, and rather than summarizing all projects reported they are asked to pick 10 projects that have an impact upon communities around the state. If you do something that would inspire not only your fellow clubwomen in Illinois, but potentially those around the country and world, we want to know about it so we can share it with GFWC! If you are not sure where to begin, don't hesitate to contact me (dinaper@cs.com or 630-416-0756) or Junior Dean of Chairman Jeanette T. Wells (gfwc.jtw@gmail.com or 630-865-4765)

Reporting/Informational Packets-We will be updating these forms over the summer with the goal of mailing the packets to each District President by the middle of September. The District President will then distribute them to the clubs promptly. Please note: **There will be one packet distributed to each club for the two years of this administration.** So don't use up all your forms or throw the packet away, you will need it next year too. We are following GFWC's example and trying to be green and fiscally responsible.

Challenge-We challenge all clubs who don't report to consider submitting ONE report this year. If you always report-THANK YOU and keep it up! It really does give our organization more influence when we tally and share the number of projects, hours and dollars we expend as volunteers. Once we get all the particulars, we would be glad to do reporting workshops for you. Don't hesitate to let us know if we can assist in any way. Have a great summer!



Happy Anniversary to District 21-Nokomis
Woman's Club celebrating 100 years on
November 4, 2011.



News that Day

*On **November 4, 1911** the dirigible balloon "Akon" was
tested at Atlantic City in its first flight. *

gifts of involvement & action...



Membership - The Sole of the Federation
Karel Volpert - GFWC Illinois Central Region Vice President



GFWC ILLINOIS GOALS During the next club year, members are asked to put on their best “*work shoes*” and step forward to help reach these membership goals.

1. GFWC Illinois will gain a total of 200 new members. If each of the 200 clubs in the state gets 1 new member, we will reach our goal.
2. Six new clubs will be started in Illinois. This will be possible if 2 new clubs are formed in each region.
3. New members will be highlighted in the GFWC Illinois Clubwoman Magazine.
4. Twenty clubs will be recognized in the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine for their success in the Fall GFWC Recruitment Campaign. To be recognized, a club should have 3 or more new members during September, October, and November. If 1 club in each of our 20 districts submits a report, we will reach this goal.

RECRUITMENT “FOOT” NOTES Recruiting new members is vital to our organization. These tools and resources will help us as we share information about GFWC with prospective members.

- * GFWC WEBSITE (www.GFWC.org): up-to-date resource for GFWC news, information, and feature articles
- * GFWC FACEBOOK PAGE (www.Facebook.com/GFWCMembers): view the fellowship and fun of the members around the world
- * GFWC DVD AND PSA: historical background and current information at local, state, and national levels
- * GFWC BROCHURE: brief history of GFWC and details on members, programs, and mission
- * GFWC MINI TRI-FOLD: miniature brochure to carry with you to distribute
- * GFWC MEMBER PIN: wear with pride to promote GFWC
- * GFWC MEMBERSHIP GRANTS: \$50 to assist clubs with member recruitment programs and \$100 to assist districts with building new clubs (Go to www.GFWC.org/GFWCMembers.)

PLANNING AND EXECUTING A RECRUITMENT EVENT Guidelines and suggestions for themes and recruitment campaigns can be found in the Membership Advancement Guide.

- * Develop a fun and relevant theme to interest a wide community audience.
- * Invite neighbors, friends, co-workers, and family.
- * Pick a convenient date and location.
- * Publicize using local newspaper, community calendar, club website, Facebook, and Twitter.
- * Send E-vites to keep costs low.
- * Have refreshments!
- * Decorate with photographs and displays related to club programs and projects, emphasizing their impact on the local community.
- * Make newcomers feel welcome: initiate ice breakers and have club members share stories about club projects.
- * Provide a small thank you gift for each prospective member, preferably with the GFWC emblem. Include a name and contact number for the club.
- * Follow up with each new person attending by telephone, email, or personal visit.

SEASONAL RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN GFWC Illinois clubs are encouraged to participate in the GFWC seasonal membership recruitment campaign.

- * “**KICK UP YOUR HEELS**” in the summer (June, July, and August.) Report due September 1.
- * “**LACE UP YOUR SHOES**” during the fall (September, October, and November.) Report due December 1.
- * “**DIG OUT YOUR BOOTS**” throughout the winter (December, January, and February.) Report due March 1.
- * “**PUMP UP YOUR MEMBERS**” in the spring (March, April, and May.) Report due June 1.

BEGINNING THE TRIP Membership is the Sole of the Federation, let us “**kick up our heels,**” so that GFWC Illinois clubs will gain 200 or more new members during this club year.

...gifts of involvement & action



Leadership - The Gifts of Leadership
Phyllis Skubic - GFWC Illinois Northern Region Vice President
Nancy Spartz - GFWC Illinois Junior Leadership Chairman



The Gifts of Leadership: The Gift . . . of Self Discovery, The Gift . . . of Developing Others The Gift . . . of Personal Growth and Advancement

GFWC offers members the priceless gift of discovering who we are and allows us the opportunity to discover just who we can become! Our discovery journey begins with you. As a Leader in your District, Club or as a Chairman, it is essential for you to exhibit strong leadership traits, principals, and skills. Do you have a copy of the “GFWC Illinois Leadership Kit” that was released last December? If not, ask your predecessor. If she can’t find it – call me. I’ll get you a copy immediately. This Leadership Kit filled with priceless information and every tool you’ll need to become a more effective Club or District President, Director of Junior Clubs or Chairman.

Little things to do at your next club or district meeting to help you, and your members, start your journey of leadership development:

- ◆ Use a podium whenever possible
- ◆ Stand when you preside or present. Even when you don’t have a podium, you should stand at the head table whenever possible.
- ◆ Ask your members to stand when they address the ‘Chair’ or the membership
- ◆ Officers and Chairmen should always use the podium to give their reports.
- ◆ Ask them to state their name first. This allows every member the opportunity to put a name, face and voice together. Especially important at the start of a club year.

Statistics show the number one fear for most people, is speaking before a group! Use the following tips to help you control your presentation jitters and make those annoying butterflies “fly in formation.

Relax Smile Enjoy the moment. Each time you preside or present, it will get easier and easier, until it becomes natural and seamless. Remember – you are talking to friends – supportive friends!!

It’s good to be nervous. Being nervous means you care about giving a good presentation. Your nervousness produces adrenaline which helps you think faster, speak more fluently, and add the needed enthusiasm to convey your message.

Don’t try to be perfect. The fear of public speaking often stems from a fear of imperfection. Accept the fact that no one ever gets it perfect and neither will you. You do not have to become Super Speaker.

Smile. Your audience will tend to mirror your expressions, and the surest and simplest way to create a rapport with an audience is to smile at them.

Pause and sip. When you first face your audience, pause for a count of two. The pause will help you relax. Keep in mind that it will likely seem like an eternity to you, but the audience won’t even notice it. The pause will help them quiet down and ready themselves to listen.

Make eye contact. Start with a few friendly faces in different areas of the room.

Speak with E-N-T-H-U-S-I-A-S-M! You cannot expect listeners to be enthusiastic about your ideas when you sound indifferent. It’s essential that you convey your enthusiasm.

On Leadership

I’ll tell you what makes a great leader. A great leader has a knack for making people think they are better than they think they are. A great leader forces you to have a good opinion of yourself. She lets you know she believes in you. She makes you get more out of yourself. And once you learn how good you really are, you’ll never settle for anything less than your best.

- Unknown

gifts of involvement & action...



The Gift of Communication & Identity Jaclyn Hancock - GFWC Illinois Southern Region Vice President



Federation Friends - What a wonderful opportunity for me to serve as one of your vice presidents. Thank so much. It is said, *"Happiness is having something to love, something to do, and something to hope for."* As you know, I love GFWC and all the areas of service. I am proud of us. The next two years are already exciting to even contemplate.

Serving also as your Communications and Identity VP is necessary. We must make others realize who we are, and what we do. It seems we need to awaken others to our name and our endeavors.

Everything we do has a public relations component. Public Relations covers more than just publicity. It describes the interrelationship between GFWC, the members, the general public, and even the government. These next two years, I will give ideas, resources, tools and tips necessary for achieving successful public relations and professional communications. Our clubs are a dynamic, a powerful force in our community. We need partners to help make our community a better place. We want like-minded women to know we exist. We want others to know we have meaningful causes.

One thing we need to do is make certain that our GFWC brand becomes the image to the public. It speaks of our identity, our volunteerism, and our service. Having over 100,000 members in all of the United States and more than a dozen countries tells volumes. We are dedicated to community improvement and global awareness and change.

This formula for happiness and success is the **Gift of Love of GFWC by being a CIA members.** Yes, CIA. **C** means connect; **I** means inspire; and **A** means action. Connecting involves connecting with each and all. We want to inspire others to join as members or partners on important projects. Action involves following through.

Walk the Talk in other words.

We are volunteers. We have unity in diversity. If we want to have vital connections with those around us, to feel their needs, and to share, we need to be in fellowship, to be immersed in community. Think of an electric outlet in your home. You can attach a toaster cord to it, or a blender, or a lamp, or a computer, or you can disconnect. When we connect, we are powered. Powered to make a difference. We are able to love - connect, inspire, and act. The gifts of community involvement and action will be told through communication and identity.

Ladies, let me tell you how to connect, how to inspire, and how to act. If you want me to send a newsletter, speak to your club, your district, share advice, etc. please contact me: Jaclyn Hancock, 13649 Oscar Road, Marion, Illinois 62959,



Left to Right: Laura Daniels, Cindy Miller, Pat Heitman, Linda Walters, Mary Arnold

District 16 - GFWC Princeville Woman's Club



Left to Right: Marcia Markwalder, Pat Heitman and Sandy Behrends
Standing: Mary Arnold

GFWC Illinois President Elect Patricia Heitman joins the members of the Princeville WC at their September 27, 2011 luncheon meeting held at the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church. Also joining Pat, are Marcia Markwalder Past President of District 16 and Sandy Behrends current President of District 16. Pat spoke of the history of GFWC and what this organization has accomplished.

...gifts of involvement & action

The Gift of Awareness & Prevention State Special Emphasis - Prevention of Child Abuse (PCA Illinois) PCA Conference / Fashion Show Luncheon Kathy Koran, GFWC Illinois Chairman



With the graduation 2012 season coming to a close I can't help but wonder how many of those graduates are grateful that their high school years are behind them. Many of us are puzzled as to why young people would want the high school experience to be over, one word, **BULLYING**. They are relieved that the daily bullying that they faced is finally over.

Bullying should not be a rite of passage. And today, it's become an even bigger issue with potentially serious consequences. You cannot watch the news or pick up the newspaper without seeing an article on bullying. Even television shows are starting to address this issue. A recent program showed how children that choose to be different were either doused with a Slurpee or tossed in a dumpster by members of the football team. Another recorded what people would do if they were confronted with a bullying situation and how they would handle it. Some parents would probably be shocked and embarrassed to know that their child is a bully. They tend to brush off bullying situations by deflecting the actions as **"just teasing."** So how do we know the difference between teasing and bullying?

Christine Feller of the State of Illinois, Internet Crimes Against Children division explains it as, ***"During teasing everyone is still laughing. Bad teasing becomes bullying when it is more persistent and can be prolonged over several days or longer. Bullying is a form of abuse. It's about power and control."***

So as parents, grandparents and guardians what can we do to protect our children from bullying? We can start by recognizing where the bullying is being initiated. In today's society the weapon of choice appears to be cyber bullying. Cyber bullying uses modern technology to cause embarrassment or harm. Most common in middle school and high school, cyber bullying may include rude or nasty text messages and spreading lies through e-mail or on social networks like Facebook.

To be on the safe side, monitor your child's electronic communications, at least periodically, and adjust privacy settings to control contact. Use search engines to look for your child's name and online ID's, so you can check for cyber bullying behavior. If your child is being cyber bullied, tell your child not to respond. Instead try blocking all contact and, if necessary, report the incident to school officials or law enforcement.

On a lighter note, please mark your calendars now in bright blue ink for the **16th Annual Blue Ribbon Luncheon and Fashion show to be held on SUNDAY, April 7, 2013 at the Bolingbrook Country Club.** And finally we will once again be sponsoring a basket raffle for the Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Statewide Conference, ***"Children Matter...Get Involved,"*** October 18 – 19, 2012 in Springfield, Illinois. If your club or District would care to donate a basket it would be greatly appreciated. If you are attending the Great Lakes Region Conference you can bring it and give it to me there. Or feel free to mail it to me, Kathy Koran, 5436 S. 73rd Court, Summit, IL, 60501.



Happy Anniversary to District 7- Franklin Park
Woman's Club celebrating 115 years on
October 21, 2012.

News That Day

*On **October 21, 1897** Yerkes Observatory of the
University of Chicago is dedicated*



gifts of involvement & action...



THE GIFT OF ART

Elena Lipinski, GFWC Illinois Arts Chairman

The **GFWC Arts Community Service Program** encourages GFWC clubwomen to publicize and sustain arts activities in their communities, state and nation. It is intended to motivate clubwomen to engage the creative character within themselves. It encourages clubwomen to create programs and projects that include both traditional and modern music, dance, theatre, drama, art and arts-related areas like writing and photography.

The GFWC Arts Community Service Program is divided into two areas: **Partnerships** and **Community Service Projects**, formerly called Collaborations.

GFWC has an Arts **Partnership** with the, collaborative indoor work of art in the world. productivity, and commitment to work. GFWC through **Faces Make Places: Celebrating Workers in Our Communities**, a project honoring those whose work we admire but have yet to



an organization whose focus is to create the largest This project celebrates American ingenuity, clubwomen can support the American Mural Project

recognize. In addition, GFWC clubwomen can participate in an **Art Project Honoring Important People in Their Community** by creating symbolic portraits of those individuals which convey a story about the work they do and displaying them and hosting a fundraising event to celebrate the art and people it represents.

GFWC Arts **Community Service Projects** are programs and projects that clubwomen start and take part in as they serve their communities. These programs and projects may involve just the individual club and its members or it may include other organizations and members of the community. Projects related to the GFWC partners, including the American Mural Project, are not included in this area!

Each year of the 2012-2014 GFWC Administration there are ---**Youth Writing Contexts** subdivided into four categories which cover grades K through 12.



In addition, there are **GFWC Member Writing** and **GFWC Photography Contests**. The Photography Contests are further subdivided into **The World in Pictures Photography Contest**, **GFWC Volunteers in Action Photography Contest**, and **A Year In Pictures Contest**.



I encourage all GFWC Illinois clubwomen to get celebrating workers and honoring important people in their challenge Illinois clubwomen to initiate both arts programs and service projects in their communities. Finally, I ask I individual clubwomen to participate in the writing and/or photography contests, showcasing their artistic creativity.

involved in the American Mural Project by community through art. In addition, I



Left to right: Coral Berryman, Darla Weltmer, and Linda Bowlby

District 19 - GFWC Decatur Woman's Club

Members of the GFWC Decatur WC have made navy & red scarves for the Special Olympics Winter Games.

Other members who also knitted scarves were Ramona Borders, Carole LePage, and friend of the club Machel Bower.

They will continue making them and send to North Dakota and Alaska since the Illinois games have already been played.



...gifts of involvement & action

THE GIFT OF CONSERVATION

Gerri Eck, GFWC Illinois Conservation Chairman

Aimee Lee, GFWC Illinois Junior Conservation Chairman

There are several dictionary definitions of conservation: 1. The act of conserving; prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; preservation: 2. Official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management. 3. A district, river, forest, etc. under such supervision. 4. The careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion. 5. The restoration and preservation of work of arts.

According to GFWC our natural resources are among our most precious treasures. The GFWC Conservation Community Service Program is designed for members to gain an appreciation for our environment. Through preservation, maintenance, and restoration of our natural resources, it strives to educate members about the importance of beautifying our communities; preserving, maintaining, and restoring natural resources; and stimulating citizen action to address these concerns. Our natural resources include, but are not limited to, water, trees, plants, air, land, and wildlife.

As chairmen our goal for this administration we are going to help the districts and clubs incorporate any and all of these topics into your conservation plans: Recycling, Soil Conservation, Noxious Weeds, Air and Water Quality, Waste Handling, Natural Resource Restoration, Land Maintenance, Tree Planting, Beautification, Wildlife Protection, Proper Care for Domesticated Animals, Food Sources, and Community Gardens.

GFWC program ideas are endless. Below is a list of several ideas on how clubs may support the Conservation Community Service Program.

- ◆ Investigate and support local conservation ordinances and policies.
- ◆ Learn about local programs available for member and club participation.
- ◆ Educate young people about the importance of natural resources.
- ◆ Invite local experts to speak at club meetings.
- ◆ Write op-ed pieces, letters to the editor, and press releases about important conservation issues in your community and submit them to your local media.
- ◆ Advocate for improved recycling and conservation programs.
- ◆ Plant native species for beautification and restoration of land and waterways.
- ◆ Clean up along roadways, waterways, and trails.
- ◆ Implement beautification projects at parks, cemeteries, hospitals, shelters, and other community gathering places.
- ◆ Donate funds for reforestation plans and get involved with tree planting.
- ◆ Organize curbside recycling programs if none exist in your community.
- ◆ Implement energy conservation practices in your clubhouse, home, office, and public buildings.
- ◆ Provide local shelters and sanctuaries needed items for animal rehabilitation and well being.
- ◆ Create community gardens to promote self sufficiency.

Here are dates to remember for Conservation:

March 22 - World Day of Water

April 22 - Earth Day

April 29 - Arbor Day

November 15- American Recycling Day

June- Keep America Beautiful Month

June 5 - World Environmental Day

July - Recreation and Parks Month



Suggested Websites to get you started:

Arbor Day Foundation www.arborday.org www.arborday.org

US Department of Agriculture www.wsda.gov

National Gardening Association www.garden.org

US Department of Energy

National Audubon Society

www.energy.gov

www.audubon.org

gifts of involvement & action...

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Teresa Sanford, GFWC Illinois Education Chairman
Joanne Meyer, GFWC Illinois Junior Education Chairman

The best gift anyone can give someone is the gift that opens not only their eyes and hearts but their minds as well, that is what education does! It's a virtual spiral- education improves the wellbeing and opportunities of individual women; educate women, in turn, provide better nutrition and education for the members of their families. Education provides girls and women with knowledge, skills, and self-confidence. It unleashes their ability socially and economically to their families' wellbeing. It enables them to take greater control of their lives. Education is one of the cornerstones of GFWC. A primary focus is on literacy and schools. The GFWC Education Community Service program works to improve literacy and education awareness in communities at home and around the world.

According to the new GFWC Education partnership chairman (Adina Fox) and the program chairman (Marianne Potter) clubwomen are dedicated to promoting a commitment to literacy and lifelong learning by:

- ◆ Encouraging members and others to foster and support educational opportunities for all ages in their communities.
- ◆ Promoting and supporting Epsilon Sigma Omicron, an honorary educational society open to all per capita paying GFWC members that provides clubwomen with a structured reading program for self-enrichment and personal growth.
- ◆ Educating members and others on ways to improve low adult and youth literacy rates.
- ◆ Supporting libraries in their efforts to provide information and materials and educational opportunities.

Program ideas are endless. Consider projects that help people overcome learning disabilities; support your library; promote literacy; mentor young people; and encourage lifelong learning. Here are a few ideas that could get your club members involved:

- ◆ Take steps to improve a child's education by reading with them, encourage using TV wisely, find out if your community school has high standards, keep in touch with the school, vote on school board issues, become a school advocate, help as a school tutor, or become a reading buddy.
- ◆ Examine factors in your community that may affect literacy levels, such as:
 - ** Existence of learning disabilities
 - ** Prevalence of English as a second language
 - ** Formal education terminated early
 - ** Visual difficulties, or physical or mental conditions that inhibit learning
- ◆ Offer scholarships to local high school students or those returning to higher education
- ◆ Start a local book club for members or community members
- ◆ Apply for a GFWC Focus on Literacy Grant to fund a literacy program in your community available at www.GFWC.org
- ◆ Partner with the American Library Association / www.ALA.org

Watch for more ideas as the year progresses! If you have a great idea for more projects just let **Teresa Sanford, GFWC Illinois Education Chairman or Joanne Meyer, Junior Education Chairman** know the details and we will pass it on to other clubs.



Happy Anniversary to District 16-GFWC
Princeville Woman's Club celebrating
55 years on March 25, 2012



News that Day

March 25, 1957 - European Common Market founded

Happy Anniversary to District 16-GFWC
Femme Unir Woman's Club of
Bartonville, IL celebrating 50 years on
December 10, 2011



News that Day

*** December 10, 1961 - U.S. performs nuclear test
at Carlsbad, New Mexico (underground) ***

...gifts of involvement & action

THE GIFT OF HOME LIFE

Elaine Bush, GFWC Illinois Home Life Chairman

Each of us can make the GFWC Home Life Community Service Program an active and vital one for our club! The Program continues to give us resources to identify and meet the needs of our community in the areas of wellness for women, children, the disabled, and the elderly; as well as hunger; housing, and homelessness; personal finance; and identity theft. Programs which are meeting these needs should be continued. Undoubtedly, there are needs which could use our loving concern and action.

The challenge is to identify the needs and the resources available in our community. What needs are and are not being met in our community? What are the interests of our members in the areas where needs are not being met? Is there leadership potential among those interested? What resources are available in the community to meet the needs? Set aside some time at your Executive Board meeting or Club Meeting to brainstorm the needs and resources. Appoint/find volunteers interested in meeting the challenge to identify the needs and resources available. Use/find a survey for the community such as distributed by the former Home Life Chair!!! What action can our club begin to assist individuals in our community? Are there members in our club who have needs not being met? Are members prepared 'financially' for retirement? Do our families have needs which are not being met?

Important dates within our GFWC Home Life Community Service Program aid us as we plan projects and events meeting the needs we have identified. Looking ahead we find monthly emphasis:

- ♦ **September** - Cholesterol Awareness; National Infant Mortality Awareness; Ovarian Cancer Awareness
- ♦ **October** - Breast Cancer Awareness; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness
- ♦ **November** - National Alzheimer's Awareness
- ♦ **January** - Cervical Cancer Awareness; National Birth Defects Prevention; National Blood Donor; National Poverty in America Awareness
- ♦ **February** - American Heart
- ♦ **March** - American Red Cross; National Consumer Protection
- ♦ **April** - Cancer Control; National Financial Literacy
- ♦ **May** - America Stroke; Mental Health; National Arthritis; Older Americans
- ♦ **July** - National Retirement Planning
- ♦ **August** - National Immunization Awareness



Does the local food pantry need volunteers to shelf the items and/or distribute the items on a certain day? Would the Pregnancy Care Clinic appreciate hand-made or purchased receiving blankets, baby caps & sweaters, or fleece blankets? Is there a need for chemo caps at the Cancer Care Center? Not only do these items meet the needs of health and nutrition but they also encourage self esteem and a sense of well being.

District 23 - GFWC Illinois Vandalia Woman's Club

CONSERVATION FOR GREEN SPACES AT WORK

Clubwomen from the Vandalia WC are seen here writing letters to Illinois Congressional Representatives to stop the land-for-land exchange between Shawnee National Forest and Peabody Coal. The targeted Shawnee National Forest acreage is home to many endangered species and would likely be used as strip mining of coal.

Members from left to right: Mary Truitt, Edna Francisco, Darlene McKenna, Grace Lebold, Rea Evans, Wilma Brown, Elaine Bush, and Peg Dees.



gifts of involvement & action...

THE GIFT OF INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH Phyllis Nightlinger, GFWC Illinois International Outreach Chairman

There is a lot of hunger and devastation that is going on all over the world. We as club members are very generous with our money and our hearts. We partnership with many of the organizations whose mission is to help with those problems. Listed is the projects that are being supported this year.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

More than 65 years Heifer International has provided gifts of livestock and agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle for food and income. Heifer has helped more than 15 million families in 125 countries. If you could just help by choosing a few animals to purchase and sending that donation, it would help the families to get started with their lives of combating hunger.

OPERATION SMILE

At Operation Smile, medical volunteers provide safe, effective and free clef lip and cleft palate repair surgery for children born all over the world. It is free surgeries by volunteers and donors throughout the world. GFWC members and Operation Smile will continue to give children new smiles and new lives. This is a heart warming feeling to see a child smile after he or she had the surgery. Sew and prepare Smile Bags, Smile Dolls, children's hospital gowns, blanket and quilts, and arm bands for children undergoing surgery.

SHOT@LIFE

United Nations Foundation seeks to educate, connect and empower Americans to champion vaccines in order to save children in developing countries. Every 20 seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, and polio. YOU can help save a child's life by encouraging, learning about, advocating, and donating. Follow SHOT@LIFE on Facebook and Twitter to get more information.

UNICEF

UNICEF Healthy Villages Program works with villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo to support efforts to build and maintain basic systems to provide clean water, a simple latrine for every home, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets in each home. Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF is still an ongoing project. You can go on line and order the boxes at [www.Trickortreatfor UNICEF.org](http://www.TrickortreatforUNICEF.org).

HELPING BABIES BREATHE

A New Project - A GOLDEN MINUTE

I am so excited about this new project. Helping Babies Breathe is an evidence-based educational program to teach neonatal resuscitation techniques in resource-limited areas. A flip chart will help the learners to see each step. There is a kit that you as clubs can purchase to help save babies. They are \$70.00. More information will be at the Summer Seminar.

District 16

GFWC Femme Unir Woman's Club of Bartonville, IL

President Nancy Willis joined the ladies of Femme Unir WC in celebration of 50 years of Federated fellowship on December 10, 2011. Seven of the original members attended the event and are shown in the picture.

Femme Unir has been busy all year round on November 12, 2011, they held their Salad Luncheon Fundraiser. The ladies raised nearly \$6,000 for their community philanthropies. One of their on-going projects is making caps for kids awaiting surgery at OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois. They will also be hosting the District 16's Annual Convention on April 19, 2011 in Creve Coeur, Illinois.

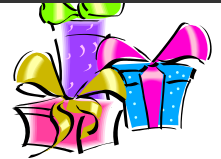


Left to Right: Carleen Leach, President of Femme Unir WC, Nancy Willis President of GFWC Illinois, Sallie Beebe, Mariella Oedewaldt, Eleanor Fauber, Marilyn Love, Mardell Rapp, Dorothy Meyers, Barbara Monroe

...gifts of involvement & action

THE GIFT OF PUBLIC ISSUES

Evelyn Dill, GFWC Illinois Public Issues Chairman
Patti McNaught, GFWC Illinois Junior Public Issues Chairman



The Public Issues Community Service Program is designed to actively connect members with effective projects and activities relating to civic engagement and focuses on the following areas.

CITIZENSHIP

Educate club members and local communities on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Celebrate patriotism, visit, volunteer, and help preserve historic sites, monuments, and homes. Promote classroom lessons on American heritage symbols. Take an active role in the election process by encouraging qualified women to seek elected and appointed offices. Participate in the legislative process by holding National Issue Forums. Help someone study for the U. S. Citizenship Test. Visit www.USCitizenship.org. Create and support ways to observe the National Day of Remembrance and Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day each year.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Educate club members and the community on needs of military families. Conduct programs and projects to recognize and honor all veterans. Assist and advocate for severely wounded, ill or injured soldiers, veterans and their families. Promote the hiring of returning veterans. Recognize returning men and women for their dedication and patriotism by inviting them to speak at club meetings and community forums. Promote legislation in support of veterans issues. Provide resources to support military families and volunteer at community veterans facilities.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Educate club members and local communities on disaster readiness, recovery, and relief. Develop community programs and coalitions to address disaster recovery and relief. Work with law enforcement agencies and first responders to increase public awareness. Partner with local health organizations to sponsor First Aid and CPR classes and programs. Build a kit for disaster preparedness and learn about opportunities to get involved and expand resources for first responders. Provide in-kind and financial assistance to disaster victims. Consider supporting the GFWC Disaster Relief-Library Fund.

SAFETY

Educate club members and local communities on home, road, and internet safety by providing programs, tools and training. Establish an awareness campaign to remind community members to change batteries in smoke detectors when clocks change back between standard and daylight savings time. Work with local fire departments to provide safety awareness. Sponsor programs on home fire drills, safe storage of combustibles, and safety concerns for children and older adults. Promote vehicle safety. Work with local officials and schools to encourage driver training and safe driving seminars for young and mature drivers. Get involved with local National Night Out events. Register, at no charge, and receive the NNO resource kit. Work with local law enforcement officials, neighborhood coalitions, and civic groups on crime prevention programs.

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM

Clubs are encouraged to support the American Indian Center in Chicago through donations: clothing of all sizes, school supplies, and food for their pantry, also monetary donations for the Native American Scholarship program. Club members can be educated by having Native American programs and attending Pow Wow's. All monetary donations should be sent to your District Treasurer. All other donation can be given directly to the Center at 1530 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640.

District 16 - GFWC Pekin Woman's Club

This club has been busy with their collaboration with the Tazewell County Museum & Education Center and the War of 1812 Symposium. They recently had a Native American program called "*Honoring in a Good Way.*" This club is mindful of keeping history alive and telling its story. Good work Christal Daget and the members of Pekin WC for making a difference in your community.

gifts of involvement & action...

The Gift of Helping GFWC Signature Project - Domestic Abuse Awareness and Prevention Marge Nelson, GFWC Illinois Chairman

The goal of the **GFWC Signature Project - Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention** is to increase awareness and prevention of the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the nation. In addition to intimate partner abuse, the GFWC Signature Project also works to combat child abuse, teen dating violence, and elder abuse. One in nine Americans over the age of 60 has experienced some form of elder abuse. Male children who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners as adults. Domestic Violence is hidden, but it is everywhere and in every neighborhood. The more it is openly discussed, the less it will be able to remain concealed.

IDEAS:

- ◆ Distribute purple ribbons to clergy, police chiefs, librarians, and others in your community.
- ◆ Let people know that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- ◆ Plant a pinwheel garden to raise awareness and money for child abuse and neglect.
- ◆ Provide your local libraries with materials for a display.
- ◆ Hold a fundraising event with proceeds benefitting a local shelter or the GFWC Signature Project Fund.
- ◆ Place shelter "wish lists" in local beauty salons.
- ◆ Have members wear pajamas and bring a pair from infant sizes through adult women's sizes.
(We did this at state board level and I had a group from my church do this.)
- ◆ When these ladies are ready to go looking for a job they will need a purse.
(My club and my church did this and we donated to two shelters.)
(Put a \$1.00 in the bottom of the purse.)
(Then add to the purse tissues, comb, mints, pen and pad of paper, new lipstick, or nail polish.)
- ◆ How about having the members bring in new underwear, shirts and pants of all sizes.
- ◆ During the month of October turn on your porch light - make sure it's purple.



We can't do everything but we CAN do something.

The Gift of Community Improvement Program Award Betty Peters, GFWC Illinois Chairman

The GFWC Community Improvement Program Award provides GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. It benefits clubs by increasing membership opportunities, developing leadership skills, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC. It also enhances the relationship between clubs and their communities. Club projects that help make your community a better place to live are "**community improvement**" projects and are eligible for national recognition and reward. The project should address a specific need of your community. Almost any project can be turned into a Community Improvement project. The project must be accomplished during the program period **January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2013**. Club entries must be sent to me postmarked no later than **March 1, 2014**. The projects will be judged at the state level and the top winner will be sent to GFWC for judging on the national level. GFWC awards a total of \$19,360.00 to state and national winners. Detailed information on the Community Improvement Program Award can be found in the 2012-2014 GFWC Club Manual or by visiting [GFWC.org/Club Manual](http://GFWC.org/ClubManual). I look forward to receiving many entries from the clubs of Illinois for the Community Improvement Program Award.



**** Reminder ****
Summer Seminars will be held on July 12 in Effingham ,
July 13 in Bloomington
& July 14 in Naperville



...gifts of history & order

Legislation

LeeAnn Conlon, GFWC Illinois Chairman

As noted by Margaret Mead *“Thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”* However, the path to change is not always simple. Since 1890, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs has rallied its community based membership on many issues of national and international importance.

Today, the **GFWC Public Policy and Advocacy Program** exceeds this record of national significance with an organized and effective framework. Federated clubwomen represent their communities like few other constituencies. Even in modern day Washington D.C., where the tool of grassroots advocacy is wielded by everyone from Beer Wholesales of America to Chase Manhattan Bank, the voice of GFWC members remains distinct and powerful. The Federation’s voice comes directly from the local level as GFWC takes positions based on the concerns of communities, families and citizens

Resolutions are the backbone of all GFWC public policy initiatives and form the basis for all legislative action. Resolutions, or policy positions, reflect the members’ shared beliefs on issues of national and international significance. Today, GFWC has more than 200 resolutions addressing issues such as conservation, education, women’s health, the welfare of children, the United Nations, crime prevention and support of the arts.

The **resolutions** adopted by our membership form the framework for all legislative action undertaken by our Federation and reflect the policy of the organization. Only with a **resolution** “on the books” can GFWC have the authority to advocate for or against an issues. Since **GFWC Resolutions** have such broad appeal, GFWC is frequently asked by national interest groups to take position on a variety of issues pending before Congress. The **GFWC Resolutions**, combined with Federation leadership and club member interest, provide the rationale for choosing the issues on which GFWC members will take positions and mobilize the grassroots.

GFWC determines its **public policy agenda** based on Congress’s legislative agenda. If a bill of interest to GFWC is moving through Congress and has the legislators’ attention, then it is imperative that GFWC take action. Once a position on an issue has been taken, the GFWC legislation team is mobilized. The Public Policy Director, in cooperation with the Legislation/Public Policy Chairman, provides information to state leaders and clubs through the GFWC Legislative newsletter, Legislative Alerts and the “Watching Washington” column in the GFWC Clubwoman magazine – all of which will provide information on legislation, congressional proceedings, club action and more.

Jennie Award 2012-2014

Lois Farber Chairman



The GFWC Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC’s founder Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for a national newspaper under the pseudonym of Jennie June. Each club in the state may nominate a volunteer in good standing who has been a member for at least a minimum of five (5) years. Each state will then chose a club member from their state organization, who will represent them in their Region. The top two (2) winners from each region will then be judged on GFWC level and one (1) from each region will be honored and recognized at the GFWC Annual Convention in 2014.

Judging Criteria for this award must include the following:

COMMITMENT TO CLUB; COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY; AND COMMITMENT TO FAMILY.

I will have information at the Fall Board Meeting for all District Presidents to give out so that all clubs have an opportunity to nominate someone for this special honor

gifts of history & order...

WHRC Women's History and Resource Center Mary Truitt, GFWC Illinois Chairman

We have told for ever and ever - Your Minutes are your history!!! Is that enough? No.

The Women's History and Resource Center of the GFWC officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington DC on May 1, 1984. The goals of the WHRC are to educate and inspire our members, potential members, the scholarly research community, and the general public about the historical role of women volunteers. This is provided by opening the GFWC files, reports, references, and the partnerships, including the preservation of historic records, buildings, and artifacts.

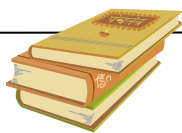
How can this help your local club?

- Help you in preparing club programs, help in illustrating a power point presentation
- To assist you in planning membership recruitment programs that include activities of the past of our GFWC
- Gain inspiration for fund raising and community out reach by reviewing past GFWC Community Improvement Program award winners
- Develop a proactive public affairs program by offering GFWC history stories to you local news media for Women's History Month (March), Federation Day (April 24), and Archives Month (October)

To access the catalog through the GFWC website: Have fun. If you need help call 1-800-443-gfwc(4392).

1. Go to www.GFWC.org/WHRC

2. Click on the WHRC tab to bring you to the Women's History and Resource Center home page.



ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Maryanne De Giacomo, GFWC Illinois Chairman

The goals envisioned by the Epsilon Sigma Omicron division of GFWC Education Program are to stretch our imaginations, increase our knowledge, and broadened our viewpoints by choosing to read books on subjects ranging from the arts to historical figures to politics. Subjects you thought you didn't like in school, at another point in life become fascinating. Of course, book lovers will always find time to read the latest book by their favorite fiction authors. How many times have you succumb to buying the hard cover instead of going on the library waiting list? If you read a book that you especially like, double your enjoyment by discussing it with someone and report on it. We are always on the lookout for interesting books, so please share your recommendations. Applications, requirements, reporting forms and lists of categories will be available at summer seminars.

Bylaws Diana Taylor, GFWC Illinois Chairman



While you are preparing for the new Club year, take time to review your Club/District Bylaws. Make sure the rules and regulations are **new member friendly** and in keeping with the pace many women live today. It is important that new members become aware of the basic articles under which the Club operates.

CHANGES TO GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS: Should any two Clubs or a District vote to propose amendments to the Bylaws of the GFWC ILLINOIS or changes to GFWC ILLINOIS Resolutions, the proposal shall be sent in writing to the Bylaws Chairman prior to October 1.

New Headquarters Address

GFWC Illinois
5 East Van Buren St., Suites 206-208
Joliet, Illinois 60432-4395

(815) 724-0195
gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net
Deana Justak, Executive Secretary

...gifts of history & order

The Gift of Fund Raising **Terry Lahue, GFWC Illinois Fund Raising Chairman**

GFWC updates its list of endorsed fundraisers on a regular basis. You can see more information about the companies listed below and others at www.GFWC.org/GFWCMembers. Look for additional information in *News & Notes* and *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

It Takes Two, 100 Minnesota Avenue, Le Sueur, MN 56058

This is NEW. It Takes Two offers high-quality stationery, gift wrap, scrap booking kits, and a unique line of volunteer appreciation and recognition greeting cards, note cards, and gifts. No minimums, no pre-payment, prompt turn-around, and free shipping in the Continental U.S. A customized catalog is sent to club presidents annually. 800-331-9843 4Info@ItTakesTwo.com www.ItTakesTwo.com

Uncle Al's Pecans, 1616 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807 800-877-4208

Offers a variety of quality nuts for baking, snacking, and gift giving. Place your order; pay in 35 days. Clubs receive approximately 25% on gross sales. Catalogs are mailed at the end of summer to all club presidents.

Women's Bean Project, 3201 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80205

NEW. This project is dedicated to helping women break the cycle of poverty and unemployment through providing employment training in the areas of food production and jewelry making. You can participate in this worthwhile project and raise money for your club at the same time. The Women's Bean Project will provide talking points to introduce this fundraising campaign to your club, a DVD to help you better understand their program and mission, and marketing tips and literature, including brochures and order forms. 888-292-3001 BeanSprouts@WomensBeanProject.com www.WomensBeanProject.com/GFWC.html

Be on the lookout for the Fund Raising information being distributed at Summer Seminar July 2012.

Terry Lahue, Chairman 312-758-4918 terrylahue@gmail.com



The Gift of Scholarships **Darla Weltmer, GFWC Illinois Scholarships Chairman**

Club Presidents, please make a note to yourself when you take the Scholarship forms to your local schools include neighboring towns where they don't have a Woman's Club. This would be appreciated by those students and especially me. Include a cover letter with your information to have them contact you after they have completed the form. I had 20+ students apply for a scholarship and their form was incomplete due to **NO PRESIDENTS SIGNATURE**.

You will be receiving the forms for all funded Scholarships this fall so be sure and include your cover letter. Recognize the students you sponsor at one of your spring club meetings or next summer before they go off to college. I know some schools allowed them to present the FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP at their awards night. Great recognition for the club and the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. This would be a great assignment for a new member to give her something to do while still learning about your club.

gifts of giving...

GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE
October 12-13, 2012
CHICAGO MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Club Name _____

Registration Fee \$15.00 _____

Friday Banquet – Opening Ceremony 50.00 _____

Saturday Luncheon 32.00 _____

Saturday Banquet – Illinois State Night 56.00 _____

Friday Tour – Chicago Botanical Garden 48.00 _____

Mini Mart Space \$10.00 _____

(For states, clubs, member's fundraising)

Total Enclosed _____

If you are arriving Thursday evening before 6:00 p.m. and would like to be included in a dinner reservation, please check here _____

Will you require transportation? _____

Please indicate any dietary restrictions, please provide acceptable substitutes:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 23, 2012

Make Checks payable to: GFWC Illinois

Send Registration to: Karen Meyer, GLR Registration Chairman
10011 S Claremont Ave, Chicago IL 60643

GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE
October 12-13, 2012
CHICAGO MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois
(630) 850-8555

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR RESERVATIONS: 1-800-228-9290

RESERVATION DEADLINE: September 20, 2012
(Room rates may not be available after this date)

Group Name: GFWC Illinois

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of Nights _____ Number of Persons in Room _____

Group Rate: \$114.00 plus applicable taxes (Approximately 24%)

Type of Room Requested King _____ Two Bed _____

Guest Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Credit Card to Guarantee Room:

Type of Card _____ (MC, Visa, etc.)

Credit Card Number _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature Authorizing use of card _____

gifts of giving...

GFWC 121ST ANNUAL CONVENTION CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA “SHAPING REALITY TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD”

There were twenty-three (23) GFWC Illinois members present for the 121st Annual Convention: Nancy Willis, Candy Godbee, Pat Heitman, Diane Addante, Karen Meyer, Trisha Schafer, Jackie Pierce, Becky Weber, Debbie Bach, Deb Strahanoski, Carol Rich, Teresa Sanford, Marge Nelson, Lou Brown, Lois Farber, Agnes Simms, Barb Potter, Karel Volpert, Kerlene Bushaw, Karyn McCarthy, Dot Beldon, Cecilia Cooper, and Donna Cross.

Barb Potter attended the LEADS Seminar and will be sharing her experience to us in the next *GFWC Illinois Club-woman* magazine. Congratulations Barb!

North Carolina's Governor, the Honorable Bev Perdue, welcomed all at the opening of the Convention. Also welcoming and inspiring the members was Cynthia Marshall, AT&T North Carolina President. Jennie June also paid an unexpected visit to the Convention.

Two (2) other inspiring speakers were John O'Leary who overcame great adversity in his life and challenged us “to move past their comfort zones, dream big, plan smart, take action, and soar in life.” Secondly was Jeanne Robertson, 1963 Miss North Carolina, who shared “advice using funny and original stories based on life experiences”.

Awards were presented throughout the meeting; GFWC Illinois received the following awards: Legislaton/Public Policy; Communications and Identity; ESO; and Canine Companions for Independence. Elaine Spencer, Mt. Carmel WC, won a 2nd place for Member Poetry. Effingham Women of Today's Donna K. Zerrusen won in photography for “Little Leo's Legacy”. In Category I which also includes New Jersey, California, Florida and Virginia, our Illinois club Fairmount WC placed in the Sales Award for Uncle Al's Pecans.

Six (6) International affiliates were represented by fourteen (14) delegates: CreSer, Brazil; Grand Bahama American Women's Club; National Council of Women of Taiwan; Taipei International Women's Club; Women's Club of Aruba; and Women's Club of Nenkejan (Crimea, Ukraine). The six (6) members from Aruba did dress in their native costumes for the International Luncheon. Club activities were highlighted at the luncheon.

Two (2) new endorsed fundraisers were present for questions: “Flower Power” whereby your club may take orders and submit to company; company ships direct to customers and clubs retains 50% of sale price. “It Takes Two” – greeting cards, gifts, and scrapbooking products. Club may earn 40% profit; check website for more information – www.shopittakestwo.com/gfwc-fundraising. More information at Summer Seminar.

Two (2) new programs were also introduced: “Women's Bean Project” whereby clubs may purchase gourmet gift baskets and jewelry with the proceeds being used by the “Women's Bean Project” to help women of Colorado train to help raise themselves above the poverty level and create better living for their families.

The second program was “Shot @ Life” whereby donations are used to provide vaccines for polio, diarrhea, pneumonia, and measles. Every 20 minutes a child dies from not being vaccinated. More information will be available at Summer Seminar.

The highlight of the convention was the election of Deb Strahanoski as GFWC Treasurer. Deb was installed on Sunday evening along with Becky Weber GFWC Director of Junior Clubs. Congratulations to them both! GFWC Illinois is very proud!

...gifts of giving

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUB (GFWC) WASHINGTON WELCOMES TWO GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS

The Gift of Giving is the purpose of these two GFWC members at all levels of leadership. Both of these ladies have exemplified their actions over the years in moving ideas forward and rallying the troops. We are grateful to have such spirited leadership among us that inspires and awakens our own passions of giving.

GFWC Illinois is proud to present the new GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Becky Weber and the new GFWC Treasurer, Deb Strahanoski. Congratulations are in order - your leadership will again inspire us to reach for the stars and accomplish the goals we set for ourselves.

Our very own Pat Heitman will also be part of this Board of Directors in Washington by virtue of her position as President of GFWC Illinois. All of these ladies will represent Illinois and our membership to the best of their abilities.



Becky Weber



Pat Heitman



Deb Strahanoski



The Gift of the Future - Isabella Candee Foundation Eleanor Ramsey, GFWC Illinois Chairman 2010-2012

Thank you for all your many donations to Isabella Candee Foundation! The Contest for the Isabella Candee design coin collection was held at the GFWC Illinois State Convention 2012 in Decatur, IL. We had three entries. District 13, District 15, and District 17. The winner was District 17 with its Red, White and Blue design coin box. They received a special Certificate Award. District 13 was second with an embroidered velvet box with Isabella Candee. District 15 presented a lovely pink design collection box. Thank you for taking the time to design and to make a collection Isabella Candee box. Keep filling your Isabella Candee collection boxes, remember much of the moneys donated goes toward the future of GFWC ILLINOIS



THE GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE MEMBERS HONOR ISABELLA CANDEE

GFWC Illinois Nancy's Bluebirds visited the gravesite of GFWC Illinois' first President, Isabella Candee, left flowers and recited the Club Collect in her memory. Mrs. Candee is buried in Chicago's Mount Greenwood Cemetery. A plaque recognizing her as GFWC Illinois' first President was dedicated at the gravesite on the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation, established in her name, to create an investment structure for the future of GFWC Illinois. After visiting the gravesite, members went to Joliet to visit the new GFWC Illinois Headquarters.



Nancy's Bluebirds



gifts of giving...

Summer Seminars - Sharing The Gifts of GFWC

July 12 - 13 - 14, 2012

Registration 8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Seminar 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Southern Region - Thursday, July 12, 2012

Hostess - Nancy F. Lee

Thelma Keller Convention Center
1202 North Keller Drive, Effingham, IL
Junction of I-70& I-57, Exit 160
Turn North, Center on right side.

Central Region - Friday, July 13, 2012

Hostess - Donna Cross

Parke Hotel & Conference Center
1413 Leslie Drive, Bloomington, IL
Leslie Drive is North off of Route 9 on
Barnes-Towanda Road (county Road 1500 North)

Northern Region - Saturday July 14, 2012

Hostess - Marge Nelson

Chicago Marriott Naperville
1801 N. Naper Blvd., Naperville, IL
I-88 take Naperville Road Exit turn right on Freedom Drive,
right on Warrenville Road, right on North Naper Blvd/Naperville Road.
From South you may take Weber Road which will
turn into Naper Blvd., turning left on Diehl Road



Complete this RESERVATION FORM and mail to GFWC Illinois, 5 East Van Buren Street, Suite 208, Joliet, Illinois 60432-4224. Please include the names of each person (on the reverse side of form) for whom reservations are being paid. REMEMBER the fee includes the Summer Seminar booklet and lunch.

COST: \$20.00 per person - make check payable to GFWC Illinois. Deadline July 3, 2012

Please circle attending: July 12th July 13th July 14th

Name _____ Club _____

District _____ Number of Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

EASTER SEALS PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Easter Seals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for nearly 90 years. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities, Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.

Tragedy Leads to Inspiration

In 1907, Ohio-businessman Edgar Allen lost his son in a streetcar accident. The lack of adequate medical services available to save his son prompted Allen to sell his business and begin a fund-raising campaign to build a hospital in his hometown of Elyria, Ohio. Through this new hospital, Allen was surprised to learn that children with disabilities were often hidden from public view. Inspired by this discovery, in 1919 Allen founded what became known as the National Society for Crippled Children, the first organization of its kind.

The Birth of the Seal

In the spring of 1934, the organization launched its first Easter "seals" campaign to raise money for its services. To show their support, donors placed the seals on envelopes and letters. Cleveland Plain Dealer cartoonist J.H. Donahey designed the first seal. Donahey based the design on a concept of simplicity because those served by the charity asked "simply for the right to live a normal life."

The lily -- a symbol of spring -- was officially incorporated as Easter Seals' logo in 1952 for its association with resurrection and new life and has appeared on each seal since.

Easter Seals Emerges

The overwhelming public support for the Easter "seals" campaign triggered a nationwide expansion of the organization and a swell of grassroots efforts on behalf of people with disabilities. By 1967, the Easter "seal" was so well recognized, the organization formally adopted the name "Easter Seals."

Easter Seals Today

Easter Seals offers help, hope and answers to more than a million children and adults living with autism and other disabilities or special needs and their families each year. Services and support are provided through a network of more than 550 sites in the U.S. and through Ability First Australia. Each center provides exceptional services that are individualized, innovative, family-focused and tailored to meet specific needs of the particular community served.

FROM THE EDITOR...



Thanks for the vote of confidence as I enter into another term as your Editor. I look at this job as a continuing learning experience and have greatly enjoyed the challenge. I am here to help YOU or EWE to let the members know of your accomplishment whether big or small. I urge every club to submit an article and pictures. If I am unable to publish your article in the magazine on a given date, I will always try to add it to the next addition.

I took the liberty of gleaning some copy from Easter Seals to let you know a little more about this organization. We all have heard of Easter Seals but we sometimes are not aware of new services they provide children and the disabled. It is surely a noble cause that our President has chosen this organization as her special emphasis.

gifts from GFWC Illinois Clubs...

YOUTH WRITING 2011

Category 1 Short Story

1st Place Kenzie Jo Delinski District 17 Metamora WC *"The Little Girl Who Went to Kindergarten"*
 2nd Place Karli Schaffer District 17 Metamora WC *"Fuzzy and Jumper's Adventure"*

Category 1 Poetry

1st place Joslyn Smith District 3 Olympia Fields WC *"Spring"*
 2nd Place Bria Johnson District 3 Olympia Fields WC *"Rodriguez"*
 3rd Place Carli Merritt District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"My Family"*

Category 2 Short Story

1st place Vivian Walter District 17 Fairbury WC *"Memories"*
 2nd Place Lindsey Hari District 17 Fairbury WC *"Sammy"*

Category 2 Poetry

1st Place Faith Rodriguez District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"Flag"*

Category 3 Short Story

1st Place Camryn Hari District 17 Fairbury WC *"The Summer I Found Myself"*
 2nd Place Raeanne Horton District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"A Basket of Sweets"*
 3rd Place Max Cooksey District 17 Metamora WC *"My Life as a Family Car"*

Category 3 Poetry

1st Place Felicia Mathis District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"Watching Me Walk Away"*
 2nd Place Anna Shallat District 17 Metamora WC *"A Day in the Life of a Telephone"*
 3rd Place Jacob Whetstone District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"The Cow Punch"*

Category 4 Short Story

1st Place Brianne Edelman District 17 Fairbury WC *"Through the Dust"*
 2nd Place Alyssa Hendrix District 19 Cerro Gordo WC *"Why is Veteran's Day Important"*
 3rd Place Brittany Hari District 17 Fairbury WC *"Unassailable: A Short Story"*

Category 4 Poetry

1st Place Sierra Danielle Allen District 17 Fairbury WC *"In Memory of Ronald Barry Probus"*
 2nd Place Brittany Hari District 17 Fairbury WC *"Triumph"*
 3rd Place Pennie Marie Botticello District 25 Marion WC *"Taking a Deep Breath"*



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBER WRITINGS 2011

Poetry

1st Place Elaine Spencer District 23 Mt. Carmel WC *"God's Rainbow"*
 2nd Place Kathleen Nichols District 23 Newton WC *"Tears"*
 3rd Place Janice G. Meiss District 17 Fairbury WC *"My Mother—95 Years Young"*

Musical Theater/Drama

1st Place Rebecca Morton District 3 Glenwood Jr. WC *"The Littlest Christmas Tree"*

ILLINOIS PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS 2012 A WORLD IN PICTURES

FEATURES

1st PLACE Donna Kern Zerrusen District 23 GFWC IL Effingham Women of Today
"LITTLE LEO'S LEGACY"

NATURAL HISTORY

1st PLACE Leona Elena Lipinski District 11 GFWC IL Elgin Junior WC
"DOMINICAN FLAMINGO KISSING THE WATER"

SCENIC

1st PLACE Rebecca Buttrum District 12 GFWC IL Somonauk Junior WC
"UNDER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE"



...gifts from GFWC Illinois Clubs

District 13 - Franklin Grove Woman's Club



At the Franklin Grove WC Christmas dinner, club members donated 36 jars of peanut butter to Project Concern. The peanut butter was placed in local food baskets.

Pictured from left to right: Ruth Newcomer, Kathy Yocum and Beth Schumacher, Woman's Club Members and Church Council Volunteers



Franklin Grove WC members, Ruth Newcomer, Beth Schumacher, and Dolores Dillon, fill food baskets for local families. The Franklin Grove WC donated 37 \$5.00 McDonald gift certificates to be placed in these food baskets



Franklin Grove WC collected 89 pairs of adult & children's socks at their December Christmas program that were donated to H.O.P.E. of Rochelle (family violence center) in January.

Seated at the table: Joyce Gittleson, Financial Secretary and Dolores Dillon and Reva Brierton, co-presidents of FGWC.

District 21 - Nokomis Woman's Club Celebrates 100 Years

The Nokomis Woman's Club celebrated their 100th anniversary on November 4, 2011. Year long activities included assembling an anniversary cake float for the Nokomis Homecoming Celebration. Members wore special made 100 anniversary shirts and walked along side and passed out pennies attached to Woman's Club embossed cards. We decorated the Public Library window with a display of everything the club sponsors, and an article & picture with the history of woman's club was put in the local & county newspapers. An open house was held for invited guests and the community.



Left to Right: Nelda Brackenhoff, Elaine Goodwin, President Brenda Tooley, Kathy Moore, Terry Brinkman, Shirley Lemanski, GFWC IL Dist. 21 President Judy Hampson, Ann Nash, Cynthia Crowe, Nancy Sperry, Lou Ann Bolte, Patty Burris, Martha Beaman, Sally Sides, Susan Kimbro, Jan Foster, Margie, Eisenbarth, Cathy Pavolko, Ellen Crowe, Judy Beaman and GFWC IL President Nancy Willis.



GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs
5 East Van Buren St., Suites 206-208
Joliet, IL 60432-4395

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Deb Hazlett; President Nancy H. Willis;
Vickie Smith; Gerri Eck; Diane Addante

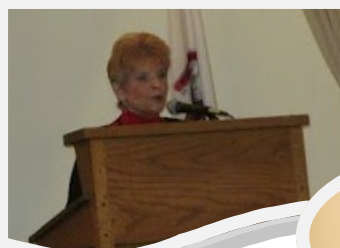


From left to right:
Director of Jr Clubs 2010-2012
Candy Godbee;
Legislation Chairman
Gerri Eck;
GFWC IL President 2010-2012
Nancy H. Willis

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)



Women with Voices



Guest Speakers:
Judy Barr Topinka;
Christine Feller,
Illinois Internet
Crimes Against
Children Division;
and Vickie Smith
being introduced by
Gerri Eck Legisla-
tion Chairman

