



Fall 2017

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The GFWC GLR Communiqué

*"Turning Disabilities
to Abilities One Heartbeat
at a Time"*



Ready for Great Lakes Region Conference!

By GFWC GLR President Lin Wilken (OH)



Congratulations to all of the Great Lakes State Federations for their many successes at GFWC's International Convention in Palm Desert, California. It was heartening to hear the names of your states announced to celebrate the many fantastic volunteer efforts in the Great Lakes Region.

Fall is in the air and the officers of your region have been working hard to make the Annual Region Conference an informative and fun event. Site visits have been on the agenda for both myself and Pat Heitman, GFWC GLR Secretary. When you see the venue, you have a "Chance" of planning the *right* program in the *right* time slot and with the *right* room. If "you" have the opportunity to be the State Conference Chairman, take advantage as it will really teach you negotiation, diplomacy and leadership. I appreciated the Co-Chairman from GFWC Wisconsin in 2016 and the current Illinois Chairman Kathy Koran, is a real gem.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting in Palm Desert, Calif. is now just a memory. We had a fantastic 50+ attendance at the Region Luncheon and were delighted to present our new GLR Treasurer. We put her right to work with a new budget and financial reporting.

"...the officers of your region have been working hard to make the Annual Region Conference an informative and fun event."

California was hot hot hot, a *dry heat* but our Midwest weather has *cooled* us down and we are now looking forward to fun together as well as learning and celebrating Leadership at home in the Region. At the Annual Conference we will introduce you in snippets to the future leaders of our Region as I have asked each incoming State President and Director of Junior Clubs to participate in many ways at the Conference. We are delighted to have the "Great Eight" showcase the 2016-2018 Jennie Nominees from the Region. Elections will be held for your new region officers as well. Our Region will host GFWC International President Sheila Shea and GFWC President Elect Mary Ellen Brock during the Annual Conference.

As your region President, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with so many new and established leaders within our community. I have to thank you for your trust in me to lead GFWC GLR into the future. The Annual Conference is only a few days away and I hope to see a ship full of GFWC GLR members in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Lin

*Turning Disabilities to Abilities One
Heartbeat at a Time*



Inside this Edition:

- ♦ Officer Annual Reports
- ♦ Making Lemonade from Lemons
- ♦ GFWC LEADS Graduates
- ♦ GFWC Credentials Committee
- ♦ Ohio and Illinois Leadership

PLUS!

GFWC Convention Snapshots!



GFWC GLR President's Annual Report

By Lin Wilken (OH)



I have worked non-stop on the Annual Conference since June....except for arranging judges for Jennie Nominee judging, working with Executive Committee members to establish a working relationship with the new Region Treasurer and Bank of Pontiac and chasing after speakers non-stop. I had to stop and figure out how many hours I spent on GFWC GLR activities in fiscal year 2016-2017. Wow I don't see how I worked part time, did the family laundry, canned 41

pints of Salsa, froze green beans and green peppers, drove to Des Moines to meet my newest granddaughter, celebrated my father-in-law's 95th birthday and my mother's 94th birthday and drove to Oak Brook to walk through the Doubletree Hotel "one more time...."

Well, I have been working hard on behalf of the Region and plan on transferring all of my files to our next President to help her plan for the future of the Great Lakes Region, just as my predecessor helped me.



GFWC GLR Vice President's Annual Report

By Paula Schlice (WI)



Since my last report, this officer worked with the region president on plans for the semi-annual meeting in Palm Desert. With her assistance we decided to ask the Great 8 to speak on the topic "When your office handed you lemons, how did you make lemonade?" They responded with wonderful takes on this topic. We have also collaborated on one or two surprises for our annual meeting in September.

In addition to the semi-annual meeting,

this officer attended all business sessions of the GFWC convention, serving as a teller. I also attended workshops on Legislation and Time Management. Both were very informative. As a side note, I should let you know that my luggage did take a side trip and spent several more hours in San Francisco than I did. Alaska Airline promised it would get to me that night and it arrived with 20 minutes to spare.

I hope to see all of you at our Region conference and look forward to many hugs and lots of visits.

GFWC GLR Secretary's Annual Report

By Patricia Heitman (IL)



This officer prepared minutes of the October 2016 and June 2017 Executive Committee meeting, October 2016 Board of Directors meeting, and the 2016 GLR Conference.

In addition, I participated in a conference call for a meeting of the Executive Commit-

tee prior to the June 2017 Semi-Annual meeting held at the GFWC Convention in Desert Spring, California.

Finally, I prepared a list of responsibilities for the Treasurer and emailed same along with prior records for the Treasurer to the newly elected Treasurer Fran Leonard.



GFWC GLR Treasurer's Annual Report

By Fran Leonard (MI)



This newly elected GLR Treasurer has been doing treasurer's homework since returning from the International Convention in California and hopefully, she has learned enough to get her through the upcoming Region Conference in Illinois. Here's a list of her activities:

- Attended the GLR Executive Committee meeting and the GLR Luncheon at International Convention
- Spoke with Michelle at the Bank of Pontiac (IL) regarding deposit pending from Convention luncheon fundraiser; change in Treasurer for GLR; and ordered checks
- Sent deposit from 50/50 fundraiser to Bank of Pontiac per instructions. Deposit was \$182.50. Winner was Tric Heppe who gave \$50 of her winnings back to GLR
- Will process the signature change card upon receipt of same
- Prepared GLR officer meal registration forms and will send check after confirmation of signature change card has been processed
- Prepared for mailing the invoices to state presidents for the annual dues (\$50) for 2018
- Preparing reports for board meeting at Region Conference
- Prepared and sent this report to the GLR Communiqué editor



GFWC GLR Parliamentarian's Annual Report

By Barbara Whitaker (OH)



Since the Annual Meeting of the GFWC Great Lakes Region in October of 2016, this parliamentarian has consulted with the Executive Committee concerning both the Semi-Annual Meeting in Palm Desert, California and the 2017 Annual Meeting (Great Lakes Conference). Such topics included the agenda, workshops, reporting process, the Calls, reviewing scripts and the process of transitioning to a new treasurer following the resignation of Darlene Berent and the election of a secretary pro-tem for the Semi-Annual meeting

due to the absence of Patricia Heitman.

She also researched the process of a teleconference, reviewed the Standing Rules and made suggestions to the committee, and served as teller for necessary email votes and the ratification of same at an Executive Committee meeting held in Palm Desert.

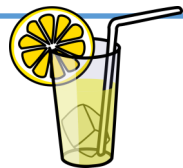
She is preparing a workshop on parliamentary procedure for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Several clubs have also been in contact concerning issues with their bylaws.

It has been a pleasure to serve this last year and she hopes her services have been of benefit to the Region.

**Look Who's
Moved!**

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Making Lemonade...

Lessons Learned Become Teaching Moments

By Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President



Background: In 2016 a District Treasurer became very ill and was in a medical facility receiving treatment. When the District's clubs began paying dues, the Treasurer was too ill to forward them to State. So, an Interim Treasurer took over the responsibilities of the District Treasurer. Tragically, the District Treasurer passed away in the spring of 2017.

Afterward, the Interim Treasurer found more issues than cleaning up a dues mess. There were additional problems that needed to be addressed. Thankfully this Interim Treasurer has been in banking for 30 years, currently serving as the CFO of her bank, and is a past District Treasurer.

"Lessons Learned" was shared by the GFWC Illinois Treasurer during our Annual Convention and at our Summer Seminars based on this situation and another that arose for a club. We thought Districts, Clubs or other organizations need to know the steps to take before issues arise.

The club should have at least 2 persons authorized on bank accounts. If there is only one person authorized, no one else will have the ability to sign checks or in-

quire on the account if the only signer is out of town or if something happens to them. The club will need to work with their financial institution to resolve. Most likely the club will have to provide club minutes documenting who has been appointed or elected to take over the responsibility.

Does your club have its own Tax Identification Number and has it been provided

"The Treasurer took a financial mess involving thousands of dollars, and turned it into a Teaching Moment..."

to the Bank for your account? Today all bank accounts opened are required to have a Tax ID Number. But, in the past, members may have provided their own Social Security Number if they could not find the documentation for the club's Tax ID Number or forgot to bring it with them. *What happens now if the Treasurer dies and that account is under her personal Social Security number and she was the only authorized signer?* This exact scenario occurred and the account was frozen by

the Bank because the account was tied to her Social Security Number and, due to the account titling, it was determined to be a "sole owner" account. It can be corrected but the deceased's family will likely have to be involved. Hopefully, the family was aware their loved one was a Treasurer for GFWC so they know the funds were not personal, and/or the club name is listed somewhere on the account since it was not in the club's name.

Each bank may have slightly different procedures for accounts of deceased persons, but the immediate family will need to get the funds distributed. In this instance, the funds were released to the club following the completion of a Small Estate Affidavit; however, it did take 4 months to resolve!

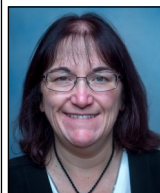
So the lessons learned are to check who is authorized to sign on the accounts of your club and/or District and verify that you have your club's Tax ID Number tied to all your bank accounts.

Our Treasurer took a financial mess involving thousands of dollars, and turned it into a Teaching Moment for other Treasurers at the Club and District level.



Rescuing a Foundering Foundation

By Jeanette T. Wells, GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs



Lemons—I really had a hard time thinking of any lemons this administration. Then I remembered our beloved Children's Research Foundation.

The Illinois Juniors have had Children's Research Foundation as a Special Project for over 35 years. CRF is a non-profit, all volunteer foundation that began over 60 years ago and supports medical research in the diseases of children by granting seed money to physicians.

CRF was in trouble, their board was aging and they couldn't find anyone to chair their annual fundraiser. We received word that they may be folding and immediately reached out by attending some of their board meetings to give them ideas and guidance to get back on track. Frankly, they were tired, and just didn't have the energy or the desire to hold a fundraiser.

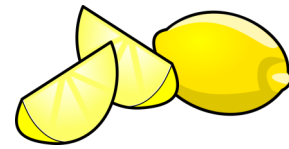
Well, our wonderful Illinois Clubwoman Karyn Charvat, our "club building machine", came up with an idea that would definitely make lemonade. She suggested we form a club that would be the "fundraising arm" of CRF. She invited some key members to an informative meeting and the GFWC Illinois Children's Research Foundation Junior Woman's Club was born.

"CRF was in trouble, their board was aging and they couldn't find anyone to chair their annual fundraiser."

Since inception, the club has doubled in size and we have plans for our first fundraiser! We discussed many options; I'd like to say one was a lemonade stand, but it wasn't. However, I think this club will fill the void for CRF and raise funds, while giving our Illinois members across the state the opportunity to help keep them viable.

So our lemon was a struggling foundation that desperately needed help with their fundraising efforts...our lemonade, a new club with many opportunities for our club members and CRF.

From Lemons!



Make Lemonade—Don't Lose Your Mind!

By Betsey Nielsen, GFWC Indiana President



When someone hands you lemons you do need to make lemonade; the only viable alternative is losing your mind, and I have tried that route. It isn't fun.

The key to a great lemonade is quality ingredients, some simple sugar, then blend with care.

We have quality in Indiana members so when it goes wrong, and it will from the most surprising sources, it is just like a squirt of lemon in the eye; you need to handle the issue with kindness. Listen for the real problem. That problem might even be you.

What I have learned this past year is when something goes wrong, take a deep breath and try to listen to what is really happening. That message "TO LISTEN" was given to a crowded room at a GFWC convention workshop in 2016. Stop thinking about what you are going to say and listen to your club member.

"What I have learned this past year is when something goes wrong, take a deep breath and try to listen to what is really happening."

Of course, some days I am not at my best, I'm not a saint, so you quickly find yourself squeezing that lemon beyond all recognition. You can only recoup your composure by serving the lemonade with a double dose of sugar kindness and maybe some crow.

Yes, frequently I have thought of that famous line "Make life rue the day it thought it could give me lemons." Or my own

version, "What do you mean you don't value my opinion or my solution!" Outrage can only take you so far;

your ire will be recalled as a lemon to your club member. Kindness is the most disarming of all answers.

The three most valuable lessons I have learned and re-learned, particularly this last year are: to *really* listen, *really* read that email, and disarm with kindness especially in the face of adversity. That is how you make lemonade.

Stopping the Defederation Train

By Donna Brown, GFWC Michigan President



As a State President, there are day to day situations that come my way which are interesting and fun, challenging and disappointing. This past May, two clubs in two different districts contacted me wanting to defederate from GFWC. One club thought if they didn't belong to GFWC anymore they would save money that they could put into more

community projects. In addition, they were having trouble finding members to step up as officers, had difficulty in planning new member get-togethers, and couldn't promote themselves in their community.

The other club had tired officers, serving many years in the same positions. They also felt that they were not doing enough as a GFWC club, that they should be doing more projects. But with many seasoned members they could not get enough to work on projects, thus why bother as a GFWC club.

The Districts' Presidents set-up Board meetings for me to attend with the clubs to hear their issues to better understand their points of view. Together we found very similar situations, with similar goals needed to go forward.

~~~The district and club officers needed to work together being kind and straightforward with each other.

~~~These clubs needed to hear how important they are to their communities and how they impact the whole of GFWC; and also be reminded periodically about the benefits of belonging to GFWC through their dis-

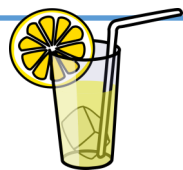
tricts and state federation.

~~~They needed to know that GFWC and Michigan has tools to help clubs and Districts manage their club life through the GFWC Club Manual and the GFWC Michigan Yearbook, that Club and District Presidents must use these resources themselves and share them with their CSP and Advancements Chairmen for reference, especially in the areas of membership and communications and public relations. And, that state officers and chairmen can provide them with further assistance.

We also talked about the possibility of sharing officer positions and mentoring new officers and the importance of members attending District Annual meetings, GFWC Michigan Leadership Day and Advisory Board Meeting Day, Legislative Day, and the GFWC GLR Conference and International Convention. These will help them grow personally, enjoy being a member, and become potential leaders.

By bringing in State and District Leadership to the club presidents and other members, they could ask questions and receive answers immediately, all of which turned into a rejuvenation for the two clubs (as well as for the Districts). At this point, the two clubs are continuing to stay federated. It was worthwhile to do, because together both clubs represent 214 years of GFWC legacy which GFWC Michigan must help continue to go forward.





# Making Lemonade...

## Making Three Pitchers of Lemonade

By Lisa Hedrick, GFWC Ohio President



**H**ow did we make lemonade this past year? I've always thought that leadership is a roller coaster ride. There are a lot of ups and downs, sometimes you close your eyes, sometimes you hold on tight, but there is always excitement on each ride. When an administration begins, the team is ready—or so we think! I believe the pitchers of lemonade we have made hit those bumps but provided thinking out of the box and excitement to our team.

Our first lemon was the decline of our web page and the need for a new webmaster and design. Members were not willing, techy, or able to volunteer for this project. Many avenues were explored in and outside of federation. It was hard to update our 20 years old site so the information was not current. Club reporting was difficult and extra time was spent getting the new information to the clubs and making it easier to use. The sugar part of this pitcher of lemonade came from a past Juniorette, now a col-

lege student who was willing to build and update our site. She added this project to her already busy life. The new site was opened and presented at our April 2017 state convention.

The second pitcher of lemonade happened when our state magazine didn't arrive for me to proof. I spoke to the editor and she assured me she would email it again. Long story short, she didn't do it and I needed to retrieve the past records for the magazine and quickly find a new

**"The havoc caused by the lemons thrown at us made us grow as a federation and as sisters."**

editor. Next is where the sugar for this pitcher of lemonade came in – I had an idea of the perfect member but she was already very busy at the state, district, region and GFWC levels. Another long story made short – I begged and pleaded for about a week (not really....we discussed it) and she accepted. We now have an updated, timely state magazine that is

informative for the members, a tool for membership and full of pictures of projects and club activities around our state.

Our third pitcher of lemonade came with the state convention. Three months before the opening date we had to renegotiate the hotel contract. We also were informed a prom had been booked beside our Saturday night awards banquet. Again a long story short – we moved our banquet to the atrium of the hotel. It is set up with a large open space surrounded by the hotel rooms and balconies. We had singing, some dancing, and lots of fun which ended with a round of applause from the hotel guests. It became the best PR for GFWC Ohio federation.

I believe that everything happens for a reason. The havoc caused by the lemons thrown at us made us grow as a federation and as sisters. Ohio's team of officers, chairmen and members are ready to ride the leadership roller coaster and make lemonade out of whatever is thrown at us. Bring lemonade to your life when lemons are presented and enjoy the ride.

## Make a Lemon Pie!

By Loretta Caron, GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs



**I**'m going to use my 2016-2018 tag line and say "I'm going out on a limb" here because that's where the fruit is...If life gives me lemons, heck with the lemonade I'm going to make a lemon pie! After all, stressed spelled backwards

is desserts!

First I look at the pie's list of ingredients and see if I have them all or need to go to the store. I've faced some issues in the past, whether as a manager at work or with GFWC. I look at the best way to respond to an issue, because I hate conflict – I mean who doesn't? So I will look at the issue and make a list of the pros and cons, bullet point potential responses, or even talk it over with someone – kind of like going to the store for the ingredients.

So when you bake that pie – you make the crust, bake it and

let it cool. I'll look at the conflict, if I get angry about something – I might need to let myself cool off – otherwise I might say something I'll later regret.

Stir up the filling – add some sugar – to tone down the tartness. Now that you are cooled down – evaluate what you are

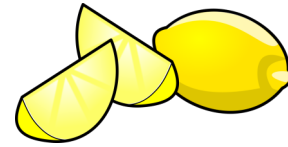
**"If life gives me lemons, heck with the lemonade I'm going to make a lemon pie!"**

going to say – you may need to add your own sweetness to tone things down.

Now bake the pie! Hit that send button on the email, make that phone call, or confront that person.

Lemons can have a bad wrap...there are lemon laws or that pucker face. To me I see something bright, sunny, yellow, and energetic. Just like any issue / conflict faced it may give you that sour pucker face, but after you face it head on – it helps you grow as a person.

## From Lemons!



### Taking Steps for Lemonade

By Sue LaBuda, GFWC Wisconsin President



**W**ell, sometimes that is easier said than done! What I do is look at the situation at hand and look at both sides of the situation, why it was done the way it happened. Once I evaluate the situation, I look to see how

we can change the outcome. I will first go to my bylaws and policies to see if I can resolve the problem by reading and researching information from them. If for some reason there is no answer in the bylaws and policies, I will contact a parliamentarian for clarification to bylaws/policies. Sometimes I call my mentor, a past

state president, for advice on things that happened and may have happened in the past.

And then there are times when I may not use my mentor, but

**"What I do is look at the situation at hand and look at both sides of the situation, why it was done the way it happened."**

I will go to my Executive Committee for answers to problems. I have sat down and worked with my First Vice-president as we resolve some issue that had not occurred in the past or explored new options. When I

work with my EC, I like to think that I am helping train them for their new roles if they should advance in office at GFWC-Wisconsin.



### So I'm a Leader!

By Deidra Devore, GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs



**S**o the topic is how to make lemonade out of lemons-or as I am titling it "So I'm a Leader!"

I tried to remember back to what my first leadership position was. I think my brother would say that I thought I was the leader of our dynamic duo when in reality he was calling me "the one who thinks she's the boss of me". Was it when I was in high school? Or maybe in my college sorority? When I was my junior women's club president? My church committee chairman? It's hard to think back to when I wasn't a leader in some shape or form - and I didn't even know it. When did you become a leader? Try and remember when you weren't a leader...

So what comes with being a leader? I've learned being a leader means that you're "it". Kind of like the game tag. You are the one that whatever group you are leading looks to for all the answers. And guess what? Sometimes we don't have all the answers. But that's OK-we can't know everything about everything all the time. I do believe that as a leader, it is our job to be able to know where and how to find the answers though. And how to deal with situations that would send most people into a full blown tailspin.

Being a leader means being prepared. For anything. Anywhere. Leadership has

prepared ME for just about anything. Anywhere.

One fine example of this just happened to me last month. My dear friend's son, who I love as my own son if I had one, was getting married. I was sitting in the pew before the rehearsal started, visiting with friends and loved ones, enjoying that feeling that comes from watching happy-

**"...it is our job to be able to know where and how to find the answers though. And how to deal with situations that would send most people into a full blown tailspin."**

ness and butterflies all around me, everyone happy. The bride then came up to me and said, "So are you ready?" My reply was, "Yes, I am ready for this to start and celebrate your big day tomorrow." She said, "No, to read the scripture tomorrow?" The look on my face must have answered her question. The poor bride then realized that she hadn't asked me to read, she had it in her mind and checked it off her list of bridal things to do, but in all the hubbub, it didn't happen.

Upon realizing that she hadn't asked me, the panic began to set in. I then calmly told

her that I would be honored to read at their wedding. So I pulled a Bible from the pew, found an appropriate reading and the next day at the wedding I stood in front of 200 people and shared a beautiful scripture.

So what in the world does this have to do with being a leader and making lemonade out of lemons? If I did not have the experience of being a leader and knowing that I could stand in front of 200 people and read, this never would have happened. You see, I was that person who took speech in college because I had to and was a nervous wreck for the entire year. Me—stand in front of a group of people and talk? They'd all be looking at me! You must be kidding. But I didn't panic. I could have been scared to death to read to a crowd but it didn't even enter my mind. Was I a little nervous? I sure was. I think we are all a little nervous when speaking like that. But I didn't panic. How many times have you all been asked to speak at something and had little or no preparation time? Probably at least once. But it's because I followed and listened to GFWC leaders before me that I knew speaking in front of a crowd was something that I could do. So, thank you to all of the leaders in GFWC, Great Lakes Region, GFWC Ohio-to all of you in this room today. I am a leader and know that I can make lemonade out of lemons!

## The GFWC GLR Communiqué

### GFWC LEADS 2017—Reflections

By Elena Lipinski, GFWC LEADS Graduate (IL)



**W**hat beautiful surroundings at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, California – palm trees, five sparkling outdoor pools, two championship golf courses, exotic birds and the San Jacinto mountains in the background! A perfect backdrop for the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention and **Leadership Education And Development Seminar (LEADS)**.

Each of the forty-two participants learned their ABCs at the June 23 seminar: **A** is for the Accomplishments of GFWC through the years, including professional journalist Jane Cunningham Croly being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994 for mobilizing the "previously untapped and unorganized sisterhood of capable American women that would reshape American society" in 1868 when she organized the Sorosis Woman's Club.

**B** is for Body Language, how to read it and considerations of which to be aware.

**C** is for Conflict Resolution Rules and Skills.

In addition, each participant learned much more to put into her toolbox:

**L** is for Leadership Development and how to be a Positive Leader.

**E** is for Education about Legislative Advocacy Dos and Don'ts, increasing Membership, Parliamentary Procedure, Preparing and Giving Presentations, and Protocol. **A**nd

**D** is for Development of the Why, When and How of Reporting, How to Reduce Stress, Why We Volunteer, and the Why or Mission of the WHRC.

**S** is for Seminars or, according to Merriam Webster, "a meeting in which you receive information on and training in a particular subject", something each LEADS graduate will embrace once returning home.

Each LEADS participant was nourished through LEADS in three ways. First, each lady received **physical nourishment** since both a continental breakfast and a lunch were provided. Second, the **mental nourishment** each club woman experienced through eight fifteen minute sessions in addition to another six half-hour sessions was off the charts. This was due to each speaker being extremely well-versed in her topic. Our own Becky Weber was espe-

cially knowledgeable about Legislation and Advocacy as well as Public Education and awareness of members through the GFWC Legislative Action Center. However, she gave us a third type of nourishment, **emotional nourishment**, in addition to the mental nourishment through her **passion** for this cause. So, let's remember the following

**"Let us act from a position of strength, not weakness, as we embrace GFWC..."**

quote from French author François de la Rochefoucauld: *If we resist our passions, it is more through their weakness than from our strength.*

Let us act from a position of strength, not weakness, as we embrace GFWC, an international women's organization that is dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Let's join forces with our federation sisters from near and far as we participate in programs and projects that positively impact the lives of others around us. Let us remember that right now **"It's Our Time to Shine!"**

### GFWC LEADS 2017—Understanding GFWC

By Brenda Underwood, GFWC LEADS Graduate (IN)



**I** was asked to tell what I learned at LEADS and the Convention, so here goes...I had high expectations. I wanted to learn all my mind could soak up about GFWC and what I needed to know about being a good confident leader. So, on June 23, 2017 I attended the LEADS program at Convention in Palm Desert, California.

At LEADS, we were given information on "Why Volunteer", "Being a Positive Leader", "Developing Leaders", and "Body Language". Reading body language can help us understand how people feel, what they mean, and understand ourselves better.

We were given presentations on Parliamentary Procedure, Preparing and Giving a Presentation, Women's Histo-

ry and Resource Center, Creative Ways to Get New Members, and Legislation. We were also given tips on GFWC Protocol, Handling Conflicts, Reporting, & Handling Stress.

I was so impressed when GFWC International Past President (1982-84) Juanita Bryant and daughter Deb Bryant gave a presentation on "What has GFWC Accomplished?"

**"I wanted to learn all my mind could soak up about GFWC and what I needed to know about being a good confident leader."**

By this time, I was loaded down with facts, procedures, and tips, and gained a better understanding of

this organization and what it means to belong to an organization that works for the betterment of our communities through volunteer service. I enjoyed meeting and learning from other GFWC members, from all over the country who attended the convention. And I also had a lot of fun! I was proud to represent GFWC Indiana at Convention.





## The GFWC GLR Communiqué

### GFWC LEADS 2017—Excited to Shine!

By Diane LaBree, GFWC LEADS Graduate (MI)



**M**y name is Diane LaBree and I am the Vice President of GFWC - Flushing Women's Club. I was delighted to have the chance to represent the great state of Michigan at the Annual GFWC International Convention in California in June as the 2017 Michigan LEADS Candidate, and now Graduate! What an honor it is to have been selected to represent such a fine group of strong women.

At our LEADS class day at convention, our Agenda covered many topics including "Why Volunteer", being a "Positive Leader" and "Developing Leaders", "Protocol", resolving "Conflict",

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and the importance of "Reporting". We also discussed "Parliamentary Procedure", "Creative Ways to Get New Members", "Legislation" and our honorable GFWC history. For example, did you know the official GFWC song is "America, the Beautiful"? And, what option did GFWC help get added to the 1930 U.S. Census? (Home-maker). We had the privilege of sharing our ideas, creativity and knowledge with one another under the guidance of some of our organization's strongest leaders. What a wonderful time was had by all! As the 2017 convention theme states "It's Our Time to Shine" and I am excited to do whatever I can to help us do just that!

### GFWC LEADS 2017—Understanding GFWC

By Peggy Bennett GFWC LEADS Graduate (OH)



**L**eadership, Development, and Education. Three very important topics! Four years ago I read all the information on LEADS in both the GFWC and OFWC Manuals and filled out my application with references. Then I submitted it to be reviewed at the winter board meeting. After three tries I was chosen to represent Ohio! What I learned was to set your mind to what you want and

keep going until it happens! I was so excited at the Ohio convention this past April. I was on my way!

The JW Marriott and GFWC staff were wonderful! They treated us like queens. My day started on Friday at 8am at breakfast with fellow LEADS candidates. There were 42 of us that came from all over the United States, Aruba, and Canada.

An ice breaker and a visit from GFWC President Sheila Shea started the seminar. We had sessions including: why volunteer, being a positive leader, developing leaders, body language, protocol, conflict, stress, reporting and award entries.

Also included were talks on giving a presentation, parliamentary procedure, creative ways to get new members, Meeting Meddlers, GFWC accomplishments, Women's History and Resource Center, Legislation and Public Policy, and GFWC Advocacy Dos and Don'ts. I have handouts on all these topics.

The day was exciting, full of knowledge and useful tips. I can't tell everything so here are a few tips and high points.

Make a difference in a person's life. Look on the bright side. Conflict does not belong in any situation. Give honest feedback. Develop friendships within your club and work with their talents.

Everyone is important no matter how small or large their role. All are part of the puzzle. In a meeting, use the gavel once to start the meeting never after that! Introduce younger to older and lowest to highest ranking officer.

Become aware of your body language when speaking to a

group or in normal conversation. Sometimes reactions alone can break the conversation.

Make meetings positive. Secretly set Meeting Meddlers up before a meeting. Be enthusiastic and positive! Praise members twice during a meeting. Smile. Share a memory. During meetings know when to "hold 'em or fold 'em", always positively.

Reporting keeps us going and gives us a chance to compare and share projects. We can partner with others on projects.

Through all of this, breath and have fun. Do not set unreasonable expectations for yourself, your board or your club.

Close to the end of the day we answered GFWC Trivia from member Juanita Bryant who is 89 and very sharp! A super nice woman and very knowledgeable. It was fun to hear the facts. She has been in federation since 1953!

After a packed day and loads of fun we had a wonderful picture taken and an exciting graduation, receiving a certificate of completion. Then, on to the LEADS Graduates breakfast the next day! We made lifelong friends!

I would encourage everyone, rookie or seasoned to apply for your state's next LEADS position. It was truly one of the best times of my life! Thank you Ohio for giving me this honor! Now I can proudly say I am a 2017 LEADS graduate!

Madame President Sheila Shea said, "I truly believe leaders are not born, but created, and with a healthy dose of self-confidence and successful experiences, anyone can become a leader, especially in GFWC." Quoting John Donahue, "Leadership is a journey, not a destination. It is a marathon, not a sprint. It is a process, not an outcome. What is essential for successful leadership is leaders never stop learning."

As a result of the LEADS Seminar I will use every handout and encourage others to move up in GFWC to become a stronger leader. I plan to hold leadership classes to inform new and old members on what to do to help their organization. Thanks for the opportunities and a super experience at LEADS.

**"As a result of the LEADS Seminar I will...encourage others to move up in GFWC to become a stronger leader."**

## The GFWC GLR Communiqué

### GFWC LEADS 2017—Amazing Experience

By Mary Meek, GFWC LEADS Graduate (WI)



**W**hat I learned from attending LEADS and International Convention more than exceeded my expectations! Ever so true was GFWC President Sheila Shea's theme for the 2017 GFWC International Convention. It was literally "Our Time To Shine"!

Beginning with the LEADS session on Friday and continuing throughout the entire convention, the meetings were well organized, well lead and conveyed useful and important information about the GFWC mission and the leadership skills that are needed to support our collective endeavors. How wonderful it was to learn and discuss pertinent information with the Leadership Program team and my fellow classmates during LEADS yet also of value was the opportunity to observe how some of the very skills discussed were modeled throughout the convention. It was impressive to witness first hand the process by which we conduct our business, from the "pomp" of the opening flag

ceremony to the respect given to diverse viewpoints, especially during times of impassioned discussion regarding new or amended bylaws and legislative resolutions. We truly are an impressive group of women, advocating for the common good.

**"How wonderful it was to learn and discuss pertinent information with...my fellow classmates during LEADS yet also of value was the opportunity to observe how some of the very skills discussed were modeled throughout the convention."**

It was a thought provoking experience to learn and obtain insight from our officers, program chairs, partners and other clubwomen about the broad impact we have across the country and throughout the world.

The number of awards presented during convention was phenomenal and the collective accomplishments of our global organization are truly inspiring. Yet while we celebrate these accomplishments, it is resoundingly clear that we continue ever strong, united in diversity, living the volunteer spirit knowing that there is still so much more that we can do and so many more lives that we can touch.

I am very thankful and honored to have had this amazing experience!



2017 GFWC LEADS Graduates

#### Keep Your Thoughts...POSITIVE

By Jon York

Keep your thoughts...POSITIVE because  
Your thoughts become your WORDS  
Keep your words...POSITIVE because  
Your words become your BEHAVIOR  
Keep your behavior...POSITIVE because your behavior  
becomes your HABITS  
Keep your behavior...POSITIVE because your habits  
become your VALUES  
Keep your values ...POSITIVE because  
Your values become your DESTINY"



**IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE  
OTHERS TO DREAM MORE,  
LEARN MORE, DO MORE &  
BECOME MORE  
YOU ARE A LEADER.**

**~JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**



\*Leadership Quotes submitted by 2017 GFWC LEADS Graduate Peggy Bennett (OH)



# The GFWC GLR Communiqué

## Snapshots of GFWC Convention



The Great Ladies of the Great Lakes!



Mary Meek &  
Sue LaBuda (WI)



Dice, Dice Baby Winners!



Hypnotized Kathy Lewis (MI)



Teresa Sanford-Shippelt (IL)  
and CCI dog Vail



Temperature Holding at 124 and Still Looking Good!  
(Dana Jones (IN), Diane Addante (IL), Margie Nilson  
(IL), and Tric Heepe (IN))



Opening Flag Ceremony Featuring the Great Lakes Region

## Credentials with a Smile

By Corky Nosek, GFWC Credentials Committee (OH)



**T**he 2016-18 GFWC Credentials Committee recently completed the credentials check and registration of over 800 attendees at the GFWC Convention in Palm Desert, CA. In the weeks prior to the start of Convention, the Credentials Committee Chairman worked closely

with the GFWC Convention staff. The staff supplied the Committee with spreadsheets and the Credentials Committee members reviewed each registration for accuracy and appropriate voting status and made corrections when necessary. Committee members certified the eligibility of delegates and non-voting members and compiled the list for the daily Credentials report during Convention. Information on Registration and the voting rules are available in the Call to Convention, which is published in the yearly March+April issue of the

**"...as we distribute Convention credentials, badge holders, programs and official tote bags, we always try to greet everyone with a smile and a friendly 'Welcome'."**

GFWC Clubwoman Magazine.

The Credentials Committee also handles daily registration during the Board of Directors meetings for this administration.

We are currently gearing up for the next GFWC Convention in St. Louis, where we will be working closely with the Elections Committee and will provide them with a list of accredited delegates entitled to vote.

The Credentials Committee members are, most likely, the first people attendees see when arriving at a meeting or Convention. So, as we distribute Convention credentials, badge holders, programs and official tote bags, we always try to greet everyone with a smile and a friendly "Welcome".

See you in St. Louis. We'll be waiting for you behind the registration desk!

## GFWC Ohio—Play the Hand You're Dealt

By Yvonne Ford, GLR Correspondent (OH)



**G**FWC Ohio hosted a State Leadership Day on Saturday July 22, 2017. Seventy women from across the state gathered at Enchanted Acres in Columbus Ohio to hear our special guest Rosemary Thomas speak on how to be a more effective and dynamic leader. The fun filled day was jammed packed with information and team building games led by Rosemary who inspired all of us to be better leaders. Nine of OFWC's current and past LEADS graduates also attended to share their leadership experiences with all of us and OFWC State Chairmen passed on information for all attendees to take back and share with their clubs.

OFWC President Lisa Hedrick and Director of Junior Clubs Deidra Devore shared the excitement of the awards that Ohio received at GFWC Convention in Palm Desert. It was a wonderful, inspiring day organized by OFWC First Vice President Linda Crish. Members went home with ideas on how to be a good leader and also how

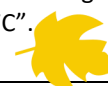
to discover new leaders within their clubs.

OFWC clubwomen continue to support President Lisa Hedrick's and Director of Junior Clubs Deidra Devore's special Emphasis "Ohio United Campaign for the Future" with proceeds being donated to the GFWC Capital Campaign. The clubs are busy selling candy, hosting jewelry parties, garage sales, auctions, 50/50 raffles and many other projects to help Ohio achieve the goal of \$50,000 for naming rights of the Chief Operating Officer's Suite at GFWC Headquarters.

OFWC members are looking forward to setting sail for the GFWC GLR Conference on September 15-17 in Chicago, Illinois led by our wonderful Captain President Lin Wilkin who we are proud to say is from Ohio. Hope to see all of you there. I know Lin has a lot of wonderful things planned. Our GFWC guests, President Sheila Shea, President Elect Mary Ellen Brock and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Deb Strahano-ski, will be on deck to help us celebrate "The Great Lakes Region, The Heartbeat of the GFWC".



Pictured L to R: Dr. Rosemary Thomas and members of the Austintown Junior Women's League Rutly Patterson, Kathy Rusback, and Peggy Bennett



## Illinois Steps Up to LEAD!

By Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, GLR Correspondent (IL)



**G**FWC Illinois has offered a LEADS program to their members since 2002! This leadership and education development program has trained new members as well as seasoned ones to strengthen and enhance their leadership capabilities. The LEADS workshop has traditionally been held just prior to the annual GFWC Illinois State Convention. This year we are offering a repeat of the workshop at our fall board meeting to anyone who was not able to attend the convention in the May.

At GFWC Illinois Convention in May 2018, in an effort to meet the diverse needs of our members, we are stepping it up and taking LEADS to a new level. We will offer two workshops! LEADS 101, "Stepping Up", will focus on newer members and those looking to become a leader in their local club and community. LEADS 201, "Stepping on Board!", will focus on members who have stepped forward to become a district officer or chairman or those who are now ready to become a member of the

State Board of Directors. The expectations for each of these areas differ so this is the opportunity to learn skills appropriate for their focus.

GFWC Illinois wants to help our future leaders..... Move Out, Move Up, and Move On through GFWC Illinois LEADS!



2017 GFWC Illinois LEADS participants



**Save the Dates!**  
**June 22-25, 2018**  
**GFWC Convention in St. Louis, MO**

