



The GFWC GLR Communiqué

“Turning Disabilities to Abilities One Heartbeat at a Time”



Spring 2017

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Region Conference a Success!

By GFWC Great Lakes President Lin Wilken (OH)



Wow! I can't say enough how wonderful the hostesses from GFWC Wisconsin were at the GFWC Great Lakes Region Annual Conference. If you missed the event, I surely hope you will plan to join your sisters of the Lakes September 14 - 17, 2017 in Oak Brook, Illinois.

“...note to self...
Partners on the
agenda in 2017.”

Lake Geneva was beautiful and we had a fantastic attendance with officially 144 members. The evaluations confirmed that many of you were happy to see the GFWC Partners and would be happy to see more partners in the future...note to self...Partners on the agenda in 2017. Evaluations also complimented the tour and the fun of our Saturday night banquet. Also, the recommendations for improvement will be incorporated in 2017. We will plan for a full agenda in 2017 with fun and fellowship as well as information you can use in your local clubs. There will be an optional Thursday night activity and service project ideas throughout the weekend. We plan to finish up by

noon on Sunday to allow the Bears, Packers, Colts, Lions, Browns, Cubs, Tigers, Brewers, Sox, Reds, Bengals, and Indians fans to cheer on their favorite home team and arrive home before dinner... well most of you before dinner. We also look forward to the information and inspiration provided by our GFWC International President Sheila Shea and GFWC President – elect Mary Ellen Brock.

Thank you all for your generosity for the Autism Society of America donations, for the Unicef Trick or Treat donation and of course the support you all have for our Great Lakes Region.

Hope you all have a wonderful spring with your families, club friends and communities. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing many of you at the GFWC Great Lakes Luncheon in California.

Lin



Turning Disabilities to Abilities One
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Inside this Edition:

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- ♦ Headquarters Happenings
- ♦ Resolutions, Arts, Writing Contest, and More!

PLUS!

GFWC Annual Convention Preview!



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GFWC Illinois Convention

By Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President & Jeanette T. Wells, Director of Junior Clubs



Anchors Aweigh!
It's time to Set Sail for the 122nd GFWC Illinois Annual Convention, held May 18, 19 and 20 at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. We are extremely honored to have two special guests with us for the convention: GFWC 2nd Vice President Deb Strahanoski and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth. We are happy and proud to share Deb, who is leaving early Friday morning to join GFWC Wisconsin's Sue LaBuda and Loretta Caron for their annual convention.

Convention kicks off on Wednesday, May 17th with our 8th Annual LEADS, "Oh! The Places You Will Go". Members from around the state will spend the day hearing from some of our best leaders, both in Illinois and GFWC. Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, Central Region Vice President / Leadership Chairman has planned a phenomenal agenda, including presentations by both Deb and Jolie and six of Illinois' past GFWC LEADS Graduates! Illinois is blessed to have 10 of our 15 past GFWC graduates serving in leadership roles on our Board of Directors, both at the General and Junior level!

Thursday's Keynote speaker is Deb Strahanoski, whom we always look forward to hearing. Her energy and passion light up the room. We are so excited to be a part of her journey.

Thursday evening's Federation Banquet celebrates our 23 year partnership with PCA IL. Roy Harley, Executive Director is the Keynote speaker and will share his 40 years of experience with child abuse prevention, including his

"Roy Harley, Executive Director [of PCA IL]...will share his 40 years of experience with child abuse prevention, including his past 19 years with PCA IL."

past 19 years with PCA IL. We have a special celebration planned to bid him 'Bon Voyage' as he retires in June.

Friday, we "Help Design Better Lives" with Jeanette T. Wells as she presides at the Unity Luncheon. The Juniors are excited to host this event and to welcome Jolie Frankfurth as our Keynote Speaker. Additionally, special members are honored as we present the Junior of the Year, Outstanding Junior Service, and

Spark Plug Awards.

Friday afternoon, we participate in a Service Project that includes assembling "T-shirt bags" containing a t-shirt and toiletries to be given to homeless veterans in Chicago. Friday evening is party time with our fun night, "Sailing to Fun In the Sun". We know fun will be had by all!

The convention wraps up Saturday at our Partners Luncheon. The four organizations highlighted as the President's Special Emphasis this administration will speak. For this "Let's Make Change Project", every member of GFWC IL was asked to donate \$4, little more than a penny a day in support of The Illinois Leadership Seminar, Easterseals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Children's Research Foundation. This event caps off a phenomenal week of festivities, designed to motivate and celebrate!



2017 GLR Conference



Mark your calendars now to attend the 2017 Great Lakes Region Conference, Sept. 14—17, 2017. Your destination for this event is the DoubleTree by Marriott in Oak Brook, Illinois, where you can find wonderful shopping, dining, and recreational activities. Don't miss out!

Indiana Federation of Clubs 127th Annual Convention

By Betsey Nielsen, GFWC Indiana President



April 21 and 22 are the dates for our Indiana State Convention with GFWC's First Vice President Marian St. Clair as our honored guest at the Hilton Garden Inn in Merrillville.

Friday night will feature a Pajama Party featuring our Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Speaker from St. Jude's House. Then it is on to Saturday as we review IFC business and host a speaker from Fauntleroy Home in New Harmony Indiana, the site of an early IFC Clubhouse. She will help Indiana "Celebrate Our Volunteers" as we try to pack in the fun all weekend.

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GFWC Michigan 122nd Annual Convention

By Donna Brown, GFWC Michigan President



GFWC Michigan is eagerly awaiting its 122nd Annual State Convention, May 5, 6 & 7, in the very beautiful Upper Peninsula, on Lake Michigan's Little Bay de Noc, in the charming town of Gladstone. The convention committee represents the five clubs of District V with 384 members who have been working nonstop since last year. And now the time is near for "GFWC LIGHTS UP MICHIGAN!"

Our very special guest for the weekend is GFWC International President Sheila Shea. It is her first visit to the UP of Michigan and we are excited to show her a wonderful time!

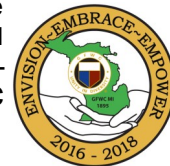
Because most of our clubwomen have a six to nine hour trip, they've been asked to take photos with a cutout "Diva Donna" along the way. We want them to have an interesting trip and then show everyone at convention. Once we arrive in Gladstone we will have a poolside party to meet new friends and renew old friendships.

Our convention days will be busy with awards in the Community Service Programs, Special Programs, and Advancements. Our Friday luncheon will be hosted by our own GFWC Michigan Education Foundation that focuses on continuing education for our members, and assists with grants for District and State educational programs. They will co-host the luncheon with Guiding Harbor, which offers a therapeutic residential program for teen girls, a foster care program and a supervised Independent Living Program. Later in the day we will have an update on Bay Cliff Health Camp which is

located in the Upper Peninsula and works to improve the lives of children with physical disabilities in a summer residential program. Finally, a report on the MyLead Program, a 3-day seminar facilitated through Michigan State University for high school sophomores to develop their skills to be understanding and effective leaders for tomorrow.

Friday evening we honor our clubs' selected Ms. Federations with a formal program for those selected and their families. Saturday has more awards, an author who will talk about road trips in and around Michigan plus the mysteries of the Upper Peninsula, leadership workshops, a question and answer time, and entertainment featuring the Menominee River Chorus with their musical presentation of "Yoopers in New York." We meet on Sunday morning with a memorial service, a few more awards, and a nice send off with breakfast to top-off the weekend.

The enthusiasm and cooperation of all the Upper Peninsula District Clubs has been exceptional. We are all excited to take the road trip that will take us to where we need to be - in an exceptional part of Michigan, all together for GFWC Michigan, as GFWC Lights UP Michigan!



Ohio State Convention

By Lisa Hedrick, GFWC Ohio President



The GFWC Ohio Annual convention is April 21-22 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin. The members have asked for a shorter convention so we are packing all of the fun, education, awards, and business into 2 full days. The theme is "The Beauty of Ohio" where we will celebrate all that Ohio has to offer.

Before the opening of the meeting we are touring the Ohioana Library which is celebrating its 70th year and credit's GFWC Ohio with its beginnings and continuous support. A fun evening of painting "Ohio Style" will serve as a fundraiser for the state project.

GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Jolie Frankfurth will join the Ohio members for the weekend giving the keynote address and leading a workshop with our

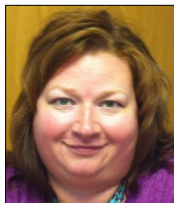
state membership chairman. Each club president will give a short presentation on a club project giving all members the chance to spread new projects to their communities.

"Members will be labeling 2000 bars of soap with the trafficking hotline for distribution in hotels."

Six workshops will be offered from revealing a new state website to how to "tie one on" for the animal shelters. The Saturday luncheon will present Theresa L. Flores, Human Trafficking Survivor, Best Selling Author, Victim's Advocate, and Founder of S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution). Members will be labeling 2000 bars of soap with the trafficking hotline for distribution in hotels. The Saturday banquet will culminate the year of club projects and celebrate the friendships of silver and gold that we gain through our GFWC Ohio membership.

GFWC Ohio Convention

By Deidra Devore, GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs



Hello Great Lakes Region Ladies! On this cold, snowy, icy winter morning, I'm looking out my window and am amazed at the beauty and the quiet—I love it! Now, I know that we all have a favorite season and time of year, and winter may not be everyone's favorite as it is mine, but I think that we all have to agree that we live in a wonderful place—OHIO in the Great Lakes Region. But what's that saying? Only in Ohio can you have the furnace running in the morning and the air conditioner in the evening. (Just a little winter humor—haha!)

So as we all know, we've just finished reporting time! I'm sure that many of you shudder when you hear the word "reporting", but it's not such a terrible word. If your club doesn't report what it does, no one knows of all the great things being done in the community. So I thank you for reporting. I love reading reports. Truly, I do! The number of projects and programs and monies raised and donated to your communities is nothing short of amazing to me. Congratulations to each of you for your time, dedication, and commitment to

GFWC. Be proud of your accomplishments!

GFWC Ohio Convention will be held April 21-22 in Dublin, Ohio. We are planning many great things for the event. Our special convention guest is GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth. Jolie is so much fun and has many great ideas to share with us. She lives in Florida, but has a special connection to Ohio. We are looking forward to a great weekend with her.

" 'After Hours'...is held after the Junior Banquet for relaxing, visiting old friends, making new ones, sipping a tasty beverage, eating a snack, and just enjoying fellow Ohio clubwomen."

The Junior Banquet is Friday night of Convention. The theme is "Celebrate Ohio". We are awarding not only junior accomplishments, but Community Service Program awards too—be there as we celebrate.

"After Hours" (formerly known as Junior Fun Night), sponsored by the Ohio

Juniors, is held after the Junior Banquet for relaxing, visiting old friends, making new ones, sipping a tasty beverage, eating a snack, and just enjoying fellow Ohio clubwomen. What a perfect way to end day one of the 2017 Ohio convention!

Ladies, I thank you for your dedication to your clubs, your communities, and GFWC. Please continue to live the Volunteer Spirit and Ohio United.

GFWC Wisconsin Convention

By Sue LaBuda, GFWC Wisconsin President



In Wisconsin, the ladies have finished reports. And now the fun begins, reading all those wonderful reports and hearing what the members did to better their communities. Besides reading, I've been working with the convention chairman planning our convention in Eau Claire on May 18—20 at the Holiday Inn South.

What convention does not start out with a few committee meetings? But fun is also planned for those ladies arriving early. They can tour the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts. This beautiful, historic center is a wonder. It has charm and a lot of history. Thanks to the Menomonie Woman's Club for their efforts in keeping the center from being torn down and turned in to a parking lot. It is truly a gem worth seeing.

The fun does not end there. Club members can try different restaurants in Eau Claire and Menomonie. The convention chairman and her husband picked their favorite restaurants for members to try and are making copies of the menus available. After dinner, members can register Helen Mears artwork and member art pieces and play Bingo. During Bingo, we'll have fundraisers. The first is a cork pull where a member

"Thanks to the Menomonie Woman's Club for their efforts in keeping the center from being torn down and turned in to a parking lot."

pays \$10 to pull a numbered cork out of box, receiving the corresponding bottle of wine. Additionally, we are selling Terri Lynn snacks and Fannie Mae chocolate bars. So ladies can enjoy wine, snacks and chocolate while playing Bingo! These can all be purchased throughout the convention. We also have jewelry pertaining to Autism and Cancer and 2016-18 logo fleece vests to order.

The fun continues with the interesting and informative speakers planned. We'll hear from our state Morgan Stanley specialist Dan Geigler; Nina Jonson from MN Life College on Autism Awareness in Young Adults; Lindsey Rundle on Cancer Fitness; and a Dietitian on nutrition for cancer patients. GFWC 2nd Vice President Deb Strahanoski is joining us to give greetings from headquarters and talk about Easterseals. Also speaking is a representative from the Fierce Freedom on Human Trafficking and Ann Legge from the March of Dimes. And finally, I can not forget the most important—giving out awards to clubs and individual members such as JOY, Woman of Achievement, LEADS, and Theodora Youmans. The ladies in Northern Lights district, GFWC Wisconsin Executive Committee and myself look forward to seeing all of ladies in Wisconsin there!

GFWC Wisconsin Convention

By Loretta Caron, GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs



GFWC Wisconsin Juniors have a busy spring convention ahead of us. We kick off the evening of May 18th with a Bingo Fundraiser. Everyone had so much fun last fall playing Bingo they asked to do it again!

All clubs are asked to bring 2 things to convention to support the Juniors—pillows and bras. The pillows are to be made by clubwomen and will be used for a "pillow fight" – not your typical fight but a silent auction. The districts will compete to see whose pillows raise the most money. The district that wins will hold bragging rights and will have money donated in their name to a teenage runaway / homeless shelter in their district. I can't wait to see all the pillows.

Bras you ask?? New and gently used bras are being collected for "Free The Girls", a non-profit organization for women who are survivors of human trafficking in Mozambique, Uganda and El Salvador. They are entrepreneurs and

sell the collected bras to gain control of their lives. Why bras?? They are a great market item that sells for a good price and provides a safe income to the women who are selling.

At convention we will announce the winners to our 3rd walking challenge ("Ta Ta to Winter") at convention. This 6 week challenge starts the end of March and concludes right before convention. Members across the state will report their steps from their pedometer/Fitbit weekly. 50% of the money raised goes to

prizes for the most steps averaged/person, club, and district and the other 50% goes to a cause. This spring it is "Free the Girls"; it will help pay for shipping the bras with the remaining being given as a donation.

Convention will conclude Saturday, May 20th with the Junior Luncheon. During the meal we will announce the winners of the Junior Special Program award and Junior of the Year award. We are also working on something special—honoring clubs with milestone anniversaries. Finally, we will have a speaker from GFWC Junior Special Program partner, March of Dimes.

I'm looking forward to seeing all GFWC-Wisconsin clubwomen in Eau Claire!

"New and gently used bras are being collected for "Free The Girls", a non-profit organization for women who are survivors of human trafficking in Mozambique, Uganda and El Salvador."



GLR President's Special Emphasis—Autism Awareness

By Darlene Berent, Chairman



The Autism Society has been working for those affected by autism since 1965, and at every level and in every aspect of their organization, they keep the integrity of the individual with autism at the center of all they do. Autism Society embraces an overall philosophy that chooses to empower individuals with autism and their parents or caregivers to make choices best suited to the needs of the person with autism.

The Autism Society believes that each person with autism is a unique individual; they and their family should have the right to learn about and then select the options that they feel are most appropriate for them. To the maximum extent possible, they believe that the decisions should be made by the individual with autism in collaboration with family, guardians and caregivers. Providing information and education to help in an informed decision is more highly regarded at the Autism Society than advocating for one particular theory or philosophy.

Building inclusive communities that are welcoming for individuals with autism is the Autism Society's vision for all affected by autism. To that end, the national office of Autism Society has continued to partner with AMC Theatres to create monthly Sensory Friendly Film events as well as an employment outreach

program for hiring those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Since 2005, the Autism Society has implemented the Sale and Sound TM program. This on-going program provides training to first responders throughout the nation along with much-needed resources on topics such as general safety, emergency preparedness and prevention, and risk management

Currently, to widen their outreach of the under-served communities impacted by autism, they are working on a faith initiative to empower religious organizations to be inclusive of individuals with autism at their services. While the national office spearheads these efforts, local affiliates collaborate at local levels with added publicity which permits for the success of these endeavors.

The Autism Society founded National Autism Week and introduced the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon to signify the diversity of autism and hope for the future. April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month.

For free, comprehensive, bilingual information and/or referral services, call the Autism Society's contact center, Autism Source, open Monday through Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm at 800-3-AUTISM (800-328-8476).



GFWC Headquarter Happenings

By Debbie Strahanoski, GFWC 2nd Vice President



Prepare for Women's History Month

Women's History Month in March gives GFWC a platform to share our nearly 127-year history of volunteer service. In addition to attending the Women's History Month Reception on March 9 (see invite below), you can get involved in a number of ways on GFWC social media.

Because of the efforts of clubwomen such as Jane Cunningham Croly, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Lilly Ledbetter, women enjoy more equality and freedom today than many of our fore sisters. Starting March 1, GFWC will be sharing posts highlighting the accomplishments of clubwomen throughout history using the hashtag #BecauseofHer. We encourage you to use this hashtag in your posts as well. A hashtag is simply a word or phrase—in this case, Because of Her—preceded by a pound sign (#). Putting a pound sign before a phrase turns it into a link. Using the hashtag #BecauseofHer will group all posts using this hashtag together, so if you search #BecauseofHer on Facebook or Twitter or click on the link created by the hashtag, you will see all of the posts that have used this hashtag. You can turn any phrase into a hashtag, but some common ones that GFWC uses include: #WisdomWednesday, #ThrowbackThursday, and #OnThisDay. Send any questions to pr@gfwc.org.

Submit stories of local clubwomen for the GFWC Pinterest Page

Do you know a clubwoman whose accomplishments have made your town a better place? We would like to showcase these stories on the GFWC Pinterest page as part of Women's History Month. Send a photo and caption describing the work of notable clubwomen in your town, past or present, to pr@gfwc.org.

You're Invited!!!

On March 9 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, GFWC will host its annual Women's History Month Reception at Headquarters. Page Harrington, Executive Director of the National Women's Party (NWP), will speak about the illustrious history of the organization, and its current endeavors to educate the public on the women's rights movement. Founded in 1917, the National Women's Party was host to women wanting to advocate for suffrage. The NWP engaged Congress and the country through the organization with nonviolent protests, such as marches, pickets, speaking tours, and hunger strikes. Their determination and grit captured the attention of the nation and garnered public support for the women's suffrage movement. After the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920, Alice Paul, founder of the NWP, knew their work was just beginning. In

1923, Paul wrote the Equal Rights Amendment, which the NWP advocated for throughout the remainder of the 20th century.

The Reception is open to all clubwomen as well as the public. Light refreshments will be served. Join us for what is sure to be a truly historic and enlightening event! Please RSVP to the WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad at: aconstad@gfwc.org.

GFWC 2017 Annual Convention - June 23-26, 2017

GFWC California will host the 2017 Annual Convention from June 23-26, 2017 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, California. A location and property not to be missed, the JW Marriott holds a luxury spa, world-class golfing and tennis, and dozens of on-site shops and eateries just minutes from your room. You never have to leave the grounds...but if you do, Palm Springs has fabulous shopping, celebrity home tours, and hiking trails.

The GFWC Room Block at the JW Marriott will open March 1. The best way to reserve a room is online at <https://aws.passkey.com/e/15882702>. You may also call for reservations at 760-341-2211.

The Call to Convention will be in the March+April Issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*, which is scheduled for distribution the second week of March. It contains detailed information regarding travel/accommodations, agenda, tours, projects, awards, and more. Online registration officially opens on March 1 and can be accessed using this link <http://www.cvent.com/d/2vqg5g/4W>, but you may want to first read the Call for a complete understanding of Convention activities.

We are very excited about the venue, the activities, and the speakers we have scheduled. We hope you make plans to attend! (See Communiqué page 11 for agenda highlights.)



*Information contained
in this article
is material from
GFWC News & Notes*

Legislation / Resolutions Committee Highlights

By Becky Weber, GFWC Legislation & Public Policy Chairman



As GFWC Legislation/Public Policy chairman, I also serve on the GFWC Resolutions Committee. The committee meets at each board of directors meeting and once a year at GFWC Headquarters. GFWC funds the travel for the committee to the yearly meeting and the GFWC International President's assistants provide delicious meals, each with a different theme.

In the 2014-2016 administration, the offices in 1738 N St. were converted into sleeping rooms. So, the committee now stays at headquarters, instead of the Topaz hotel across the street. This arrangement is a huge financial saving to GFWC.

Each resolution is reviewed every 4 years. At the first board of directors meeting, the resolutions chairman assigns each committee member with specific resolutions to review. The committee members check to make sure the resolution is still relevant and has not been completed. If not, they determine if the resolution is up-to-date and decide if changes should be made to the resolution.

The committee as a whole looks at each resolution. Every resolution up for review is read and discussed. Many resolutions are reviewed with no change. The resolutions to be updated or expanded are discussed, information pertinent to the resolution is researched and investigated, and a final decision is made by the entire committee. Recently, the committee has been looking at combining some of the resolutions, to make them stronger.

Each afternoon that the committee meets, they present the proposed changes to the GFWC Executive Committee for recommendation to present at GFWC Convention. Once the amended, rescinded or proposed new resolutions have been approved by the Executive Committee, they are prepared for the Call to the GFWC Annual Convention.

Resolutions may be presented only by the following: the Executive Committee, the Resolutions Committee, a State Federation by convention action, or a Community Service Program Chairman, a Standing or Special Committee chairman (these chairmen can review current resolutions and/or initiate new ones, in accordance with their programs of work). Or an International Club, paying per capita dues, may present resolutions to the International Liaisons Chairman for consideration by the Resolutions Committee.



RESOLUTIONS & ADVOCACY

Only with a resolution on the books can GFWC advocate for or against an issue. Resolutions are an integral part of the policies of GFWC. They are germane to the interests of the work of GFWC and of national and international scope. Resolutions are our belief system, the causes we support, it's who we are. GFWC resolutions can be used as tools for advocating important issues at the local, state and national levels. If a particular subject is not addressed by a resolution, members CANNOT use GFWC's name to advocate for or against the issue, BUT may advocate as concerned individuals.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD WITH THE GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

The goal of the Legislative Action Center is to provide GFWC members with everything they need to be an effective advocate. Members can use the LAC to contact elected representatives, and take action on issues relevant to GFWC Resolutions. Unite with your Federation sisters to impact proposed legislation on issues key to GFWC such as, domestic violence awareness and prevention, citizenship, veterans, emergency and disaster preparedness, and crime prevention. When we join together, we are powerful!! Legislators pay close attention to grassroots points of view expressed by their constituents, and take those views into account when the final votes are cast. That is why WE, as an informed and active constituency, can play a significant role in shaping legislation.

Choose to make a difference by learning about the issues and subscribe to the GFWC Legislative Action Center mailing list.



GFWC Resolutions Committee members with
GFWC President Sheila Shea (center).

Leadership Pearls

By Karyn Charvat, GFWC Leadership Committee



Greetings, my Great Lakes Friends! The GFWC Leadership Committee is busy preparing for the GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) which will take place on Friday, June 23, 2017 in Palm Springs, CA! This popular annual program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. It is a full day of interactive workshops and presentations and includes breakfast and lunch. The January/February issue of GFWC Clubwoman Magazine featured an in-depth look at the LEADS program and if you haven't yet had a chance to check it out, I highly recommend it! **Deadline for your state's candidate submission to GFWC Headquarters is April 1, 2017, so don't delay!**

I also want to remind you that our committee has plenty of LEADERSHIP information on the GFWC website for you to share and distribute within your clubs. Once on the site, select **GFWC Resources**, and click "L". Here you will find a wealth

of Leadership information, including the 2016-2018 Leadership Advancement Guide, all information pertaining to LEADS including the Application Form, and several helpful PowerPoint presentations, including "Stepping Up to Leadership", which outlines the steps one must take to assume leadership within your clubs, districts, states and beyond. We are also working on a LEADS template which will outline all steps needed to plan, coordinate and execute your own statewide LEADS program.

KC's Leadership Pearls of Wisdom

MENTOR YOUR NEW CLUB LEADERS. INVITE THEM TO TRAVEL WITH YOU TO DISTRICT AND STATE MEETINGS. SEND THEM ENCOURAGING NOTES PERIODICALLY. SEND THEM ARTICLES ON LEADERSHIP. BE A RESOURCE FOR THEM AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH IN THEIR NEW ROLE AND BEYOND!

Membership—The Real Deal

By Dana Jones, GFWC Membership Committee



The Real Deal Membership Playing Cards - \$5.00 Available at the GFWC Marketplace

The GFWC "Real Deal Membership" playing cards were introduced at our GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference. Thank you to all of you that participated in the fun! The cards feature clubwomen from all over the world and their description of what GFWC means to them. A deck of the playing cards may be purchased through the GFWC marketplace. Use them at your card parties or other social events to generate and promote conversation about the benefits of being a GFWC member. Utilize them as a tool during your membership orientations.

Idea for a club activity

Consider creating your club's own personalized deck of playing cards. Give each member a blank card. Have them draw or glue a picture of them-

selves on the card. Then ask your members to write their own description of what GFWC means to them. Or you may have members write on the card a response that can be shared with the other members, such as how they were introduced to GFWC and their years of membership or their favorite club activity/program.

Please share how you utilized the "member playing cards" within your club with the GFWC Membership Committee. You can find new ideas posted for membership recruitment from around the country on our Facebook page—GFWC Membership—The Real Deal. Join us there!

Remember to report all of your new members. The upcoming GFWC'S "IT'S THE REAL DEAL" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN begins on March 1 and goes through the end of May. This quarter's theme is "52 PICK UP—A MEMBERSHIP TOOL." Your report is due June 1 to GFWC to be recognized in the next issue of the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine.



Communications & Public Relations (CPR)

By Diane Addante, GFWC Communications & Public Relations Committee



Are You CPR-Ready?

CPR is not just an article in the newspaper. All contact with GFWC, other members, the public, even the government puts the club name out there in some way. Always be mindful of the power of first impressions!

Photographs

We've all heard "a picture is worth a thousand words." How true. If lucky enough to have local press publish photos of club events, be sure the photos represent your club in the best way. Photos of active, happy and engaged members will help recruit for you. Look at club photos with the eyes of an outsider. People who don't know you will base their first impression on the info immediately available to them. Would you want to be a part of it? It's crucial to your success that you learn to do this. I had first-hand experience with someone making a judgment about GFWC based on photos. It was a valuable lesson.

Websites

We live in a searcher's paradise. If someone is interested in volunteering, they will google local opportunities. Good scenario, your club's website will pop up for them to view. Even better, your website is current, user friendly and professional with contact info readily available. It should become second nature to keep this info up to date. It is how many women will find your club and it will make an impression one way or the other.

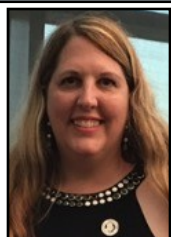
Contests

The CPR Committee has two contests: Website and Newsletter. Both deadlines are **March 15, 2017**. There are detailed instructions for each contest in the Club Manual under "Awards, Contests and Grants." It would be GREAT to see Great Lakes Clubs walking away with some of these awards at GFWC Convention in California!!

If I can help in any way, don't hesitate to contact me, dinaper@cs.com is best.

Arts—March is Youth Art Month

By Kristina Higbee, GFWC Arts Program Chairman



Our Federation has a long history of supporting the Arts. In 1906 our GFWC art committee assembled its first traveling art gallery of original works by American Artists. Loaned to GFWC clubs nationwide for only the cost of postage, the exhibits expanded the appreciation and collection of American Art. Every year since, our clubwomen have continued the support of the arts within their clubs, schools, and communities. It is the goal of the Arts Community Service Program to continue to inspire each clubwoman. As Pablo Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist, the problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

March is Youth Art Month. Since 1961 when it was first started, volunteers across the nation use this as an opportunity to volunteer and promote the arts to our youth. I would like to inspire all of our clubwomen to support and promote arts to our youth. This could be visual, literary or performance art. There are countless ways to do this. Below are just a few suggestions:

- ⇒ Sponsor a concert or play at your area school
- ⇒ Hold a fundraiser to purchase a large piece of equipment for your school's art, music or drama department.
- ⇒ Sponsor an author visit to your local school

- ⇒ Donate to your state's Arts Education Association
- ⇒ Provide funding for printing of programs for student productions
- ⇒ "Hire" student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events
- ⇒ Use student art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- ⇒ Attend public student art displays, plays, and concerts as part of a social event for your club.
- ⇒ Purchase student art if it is offered for sale.

It is important that we invest in our youth. Steve Jobs once said, "Technology alone is not enough—it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sing."

I want to leave you with this thought—the arts are all encompassing. They touch every part of our lives. It is my hope that you will take this message to your clubs to affect your local youth and improve the arts in your community.



GFWC Writing Contest

By Mary Kaye Ernest, GFWC Writing Contest Chairman



As you are reading this issue of the Communiqué, I am asking each GFWC GLR member to help promote the GFWC Writing Contest in your clubs. It is an easy contest to participate in. This contest is for you if you like writing short stories or poetry.

Read the contest rules in the GFWC Manual. Watch the deadlines and please make sure to include the GFWC Waiver with your submissions. If the waiver does not come with your submission it will be re-

turned to you. If it is returned asking for the waiver you must return it before or on the deadline.

Promote the GFWC Youth Writing Contest within all your schools or school districts. Youth writers also follow the same rules as the GFWC clubwomen except that the "6 Traits of Writing" is used in the judging of the winners.

I am looking forward to seeing more entries from the GFWC Great Lakes Region. This is a wonderful opportunity for all GFWC members and the youth within our communities.



GFWC Candidacy Requirements

By Debbie Bach, GFWC Elections Committee



So, you are thinking about running for a GFWC office, or you have already made up your mind to do so. Now what?

First of all let me congratulate you on your decision to seek a GFWC office. I know this has not been an easy decision for most. But now you need to make sure you follow all the rules set down in the GFWC Bylaws and Standing Rules.

By now each GFWC State President has received a letter from the GFWC Elections Committee Chairman, Susan B. Martin. This very important letter includes the three steps involved in the process:

1. Determining a candidate's eligibility for office,
2. Endorsing a candidate for office, and
3. Submitting the required documentation to GFWC via the GFWC Elections Committee Chairman postmarked no later than October 1, 2017.*

*(**Please Note:** The Bylaws currently read **October 1, 2017**. The Bylaws Committee is proposing an amendment to change the date to **August 1, 2017**, as per Standing Rules 9.b, at the 2017 Annual Convention to become effective at the close of the GFWC Convention.)

Every candidate and State President should carefully read the following Bylaws: Article VI, Officers, Section 6.2 Eligibility; Article VII, Nominations and Elections, Section 7.1, Nominations, Section 7.2 Endorsements, Section 7.3 Nominations from the Floor, and Section 7.4 Elections.

They also need to review the GFWC Standing Rules #8 Candidates for Office and #9 Rules Governing Elections.



Also please remember that no candidate may announce via social media her intention to run for GFWC office or the fact that she has received an endorsement from her state prior to the close of the GFWC Fall Board

Meeting in the odd-numbered year. Social media includes Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and similar public or semi-public forms of communication.

If you have any questions after reading all of this, please feel free to contact the Elections Committee Chairman Susan Martin, or any of the committee members Mary Ann Arnold, Bev Lassiter, or myself. Our contact information is in the GFWC 2016-2018 Administration Directory. Please know we wish you all the best!



GFWC Convention Registration Now Open!

By Shelli Fehr, GLR Correspondents Chairman



GLR Luncheon June 25

The 2017 GFWC Annual Convention will be held at the beautiful JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, California. The GFWC Group Rate is \$145 per night. The agenda is set and tours are scheduled so get ready for an informative and motivational event.

Tours are planned for Thursday, June 22 with an AM and PM Aerial Tramway and Celebrity Home Tour, called "Soaring Heights and Celebrity Sites." GFWC California hosts State Night on Friday, June 23 during their "Evening at the Oasis" program. After the Opening Ceremony on Saturday, June 24, prepare to be educated during the Partner Luncheon and Workshops. And then, you might get lucky that evening at the "Dice, Dice Baby" Casino Fun Night.



have a good time!

Monday, June 26 continues to bring information with additional workshops, the Awards Brunch, and the Grand Finale event, "Puttin' on the Ritz" Gala Banquet. The entire Convention proves to be an event to remember!

The most important event is, of course, the **Great Lakes Region Luncheon**, which will take place on Sunday, June 25. Don't forget to register for it as GLR President Lin Wilken has promised a fun time for all in attendance.

This Region is the only one with the word "Great" in its name so you know you'll



Hoosier Happenings

By Joan Wesolowski, GLR Correspondents Committee



What a winter. Or is it really winter in the Midwest Great Lakes Region when there is a lot of rain and a little snow and temperatures in the 60's and 70's?! Indiana is still doing many projects and hopefully all clubs have turned in their reports.

Congratulations to the Lowell's Woman's Club who celebrated their 100th year anniversary! One of their projects is working with the Parks Department. They co-sponsored an Earth Day event with them, planted flowers, and painted a bike rack and basketball poles at Reservation Park. They are continuing to work on improvements



for this park and plan to beautify it every year. We wish them many more volunteer years.

The GFWC Women's Club St. John held its annual Bunco fundraiser making over \$3,000 that is donated to women who have

been diagnosed with cancer.

The GFWC Progress Club of South Bend teamed up with the YWCA during Domestic Violence Awareness



Month to chalk the streets of Downtown South Bend. In November they provided pizza and conversation at the Homeless Center for Veterans.

The GFWC Munster Junior Woman's Club participated in their annual Christmas Tree Decorating for charity at the Festival of Trees held at the Performing Arts Center in Munster, Indiana. This year the charity they selected was the Police Department who had a great time with the tree of red and blue lights and of course snacks!

Michigan's Pride of State

By Diane Follis, GLR Correspondents Committee

GFWC Michigan's Pride of State— Guiding Harbor Home



Wow! It's a program! It's a project! It's a whole facility! GFWC Michigan members from

all over the state gathered in Livonia's Holiday Inn Laura's Park on November 5th, to hold their Annual Guiding Harbor Auction. The facility (formerly known as Girlstown Foundation) was founded by our GFWC Michigan members back in 1958. Each year GFWC clubs send donations, gift baskets, and many worker bees to coordinate, implement and spend loads of money on this annual auction to fund the Home.

No rest for the GFWC MI Board on this one, as President Donna Brown and her two sidekicks, 1st Vice President Susan Johnson and 2nd Vice President Ruth Ann Norton



Ruth Ann Norton working the silent auction.

rush to dress in costume before the bidding begins. Treasurer Connie Hopkins has her hands full on this project as the money rolls in, while Fundraising Chairman Jody Dean creates excitement



Guiding Harbor facility

ment over all the loot. Meanwhile, members enjoy a fine dining experience before the live auction and tip a few glasses of red or white. Excitement boils over as hundreds are bid on many items way into the evening. Lines of cash-out customers fill the room.

"Yes!" remarks Guiding Harbor President Terese Whitten as thousands roll in. She seems very pleased with the day's event. It's a labor of love for all GFWC Michigan members, and a sense of pride for our whole state as we move forward providing the continued support to keep the facility open for yet another year.



Guiding Harbor is a private, non-profit organization founded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Michigan (GFWC-MI), that provides child caring and child placement services for abused and neglected children. Their services include: Foster Care, Supervised Independent Living and a Residential Program. Guiding Harbor is licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS).



Garden Stone in front of home.