



GFWC Illinois

# Key Notes

**GFWC Illinois is a philanthropic organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.**

## Region Meeting Recap

We had three excellent Region Meetings last week. Kudos to our Region Vice Presidents: Alice Betlach, Southern; Judy Sochor, Central and Elena Lipinski, Northern, for their outstanding organization of our days! We appreciate those who attended and ask that you make use of the information acquired.

**Southern** – We were at Rend Lake and heard from Dawn Kovarik, Natural Resource Specialist of the US Army Corps of Engineers, about how Rend Lake came to be and the multitude of activities to preserve and improve the lake and surroundings. After the meeting, some of the travel team stopped by the Visitor's Center and toured the facility with Ms. Kovarik. She showed us an endangered little hog-nose snake and in response to our incredulity that such a small snake could eat a mouse, actually gave us a demonstration. You never know where you will end up or what you will see when you're part of the travel team! And it's not every day you hear "I'll be right back, I have to microwave the mouse"...



*Southern Region meeting attendees women painted one nail purple and "Put A Nail In It" for Domestic Violence Awareness.*

**Central** – In Bloomington, we had an excellent speaker, Val Hawkins from Country Financial. She spoke on "How to Engage Millennials". Millennials are individuals 15-30 years old. In a nutshell: 1. Be on social media since that's where they are; 2. Make it fun (and a key point – they like flexible commitment); 3. Show value by being clear about who you help and to what extent, and 4. Build a culture of respect. Millennials want to be heard and valued, so don't hesitate to put young people on your board and then listen to them. Survey members and share those results and offer encouragement and feedback. This works not only with millennials, but everyone.



*Val Hawkins, Country Financial, spoke on "Reaching Out to Millennials".*

**Northern** – We met at the Trickster Native American Art Gallery in Schaumburg and heard from their CEO, Joe Podlasek, whom many of you know from the American Indian Center in Chicago. It was a wonderful facility. Joe stated that while the focus of the Gallery was on Native American culture, they encourage sharing information about all cultures. If you get a chance, it is worth a visit. We learned of an upcoming event: A Day to Celebrate and Remember the Untold Story of American Indian People's Contribution to the Military, August 29 (11-8) & 30 (9 – noon) at Cantigny Park, Wheaton. Admission is free.



*Joe Podlasek described his passion for educating visitors to Trickster Gallery.*

In all regions, we collected over 330 books for the Stateville Prison Intake area. Great job ladies, especially on short notice! Please see the information on page 3 There are prisons all across Illinois and with funding cuts, prison libraries and librarians took a real hit. If you subscribe to the theory that "Reading Reduces Recidivism", perhaps the books you are done with could serve a higher purpose.



# NEW! GFWC Illinois Education Project: Reading Reduces Recidivism - 3R's Project

The 3R's Project ([3rsproject.org](http://3rsproject.org)) is a statewide effort to build the library resources available to adult prisoners in the 26 prisons in the state of Illinois. Our goal is to have prison libraries "adopted" by small groups in nearby population centers. In coordination with the librarian at each prison, these local groups will collect targeted books for donation to the prisons.

The 3R's Project arose in recognition of how the crisis in Illinois state funding has affected crucial programs and libraries in state prisons. Since 2002, when the budget line item for library materials was removed, many prisons have lost their librarians; in addition, circulation materials have stagnated, leaving the libraries with few up-to-date books and little recourse for replenishing them.

The 3R's Project further developed through our understanding that reading really does reduce recidivism, which is currently at 51% in Illinois. Books, magazines, and other materials not only make sense economically, but also in terms of prisoners' mental health and ability to connect with the world when they return to our communities. It is fiscally sound and it is humane.

Not sure what kind of books to donate? Here are some ideas:

<u>Mystery/Thriller/Horror</u>	<u>African American Authors</u>	<u>Urban Fiction Authors</u>	<u>Topics</u>
John Grisham	James Baldwin	Eric Jerome Dickey	Addiction
Stephen King	Walter Mosley	Donald Goines	Biographies
Dean Koontz	Alice Walker	Mary Monroe	Books into Movies
James Patterson	Richard Wright	Sister Souljah	Books in Series
	Malcolm X	Nikki Turner	Drawing
		Carl Weber	Health/Exercise/Fitness
		Teri Woods	How-To
		Zane	Self Help
			Trades
			True Stories



**Darrell Jones, GFWC Program Director, reported that last week, they had 62 people sign up for the Legislative Action Center. Interestingly, 41 of them were from Illinois. He reached out to Becky Weber, GFWC & GFWC Illinois Legislation & Public Policy Chairman, not only to tell her about the 62 people, but to ask how Illinois got 41 members to sign up, doubling Illinois' total. She reported back that we had a laptop and helped members sign up at our 3 Region Meetings. Maybe this will give other states an idea. Great job Becky!! Thanks to Karen Meyer for signing ladies up in Northern Region! The more members who get updates from the Legislative Action Center, the bigger impact we can make on issues that matter. Great job!!**



### **3R's Project Regional Contacts**

Northwestern Region: Collections in Savanna

Prisons: Dixon, East Moline and Hill

Contact: Carol Gloor at [cgloor@mediacombb.net](mailto:cgloor@mediacombb.net)

Northeastern Region: Collections in Crystal Lake and Oak Park

Prisons: Stateville Northern Reception Center, Sheridan and Pontiac

Contact: Liz Abraham at [townie7890@hotmail.com](mailto:townie7890@hotmail.com)

Central Western Region: Collections in Macomb

Prisons: Illinois River, Western, Rushville Treatment and Detention Facility

Contact: Stephanie Pierson at [spierso2@illinois.edu](mailto:spierso2@illinois.edu)

Eastern and Central Illinois Region: Collections in Urbana

Prisons: Lawrence, Robinson, Danville, Decatur, Logan and Lincoln

Contact: Esther Portnoy at [eportnoy@illinois.edu](mailto:eportnoy@illinois.edu)



Southern Region: Collections in Carbondale

Prisons: Vandalia, Centralia, Big Muddy, Pinckneyville, Menard, Shawnee and Vienna

Contact: Maurine Pyle at [metanoia.maurine@gmail.com](mailto:metanoia.maurine@gmail.com)

Currently Unserved

Prisons: Jacksonville, Taylorville, Graham, Southwestern

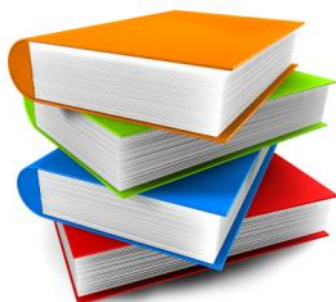
Contact: Ryan Latvaitis at [ryan.latvaitis@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.latvaitis@gmail.com)

Other Organizations:

Chicago Books to Women in Prison (<http://chicagobwp.org/>)

Urbana Champaign Books to Prisoners (<http://www.books2prisoners.org/>)

Most Requested Books – Paperback



If interested, please contact your local liaison and start collecting books today!

Then, report it under Education!



## Harris Directory Postcards

By now, you have probably received the yellow postcard or an email from Harris Directory on behalf of GFWC. This is for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Directory for our organization. Please call the number and 1) confirm the accuracy or your contact information or 2) tell them you do not want to be included in the book. If you confirm your info, you will be asked if you want to buy a book. The book is \$100, there is a paperback version and also discs available. If you don't want the book, just say NO. There is no obligation to buy anything. GFWC doesn't receive any money from the sale, but they do receive a database of members, which is something they haven't had before.

If you feel pressured or you receive a multitude (more than 4) of contacts from Harris, please contact Diane Addante or email GFWC IL HQ at [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net).

## Reporting Packets

We are in the process of updating the State Yearbook and making any other adjustments needed to the materials that make up this packet. To that end, please contact Deana immediately at [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net) or (815) 724-0195 if you need to update club or district contact info. Our goal is to have these packets in the hands of the District Presidents before September 1.

## Great Lakes Region Conference

This year's Conference will be October 9-11, 2015 in Toledo, Ohio.

Deadline to register is September 14, 2015

[GLR Conference & Hotel Registration forms](#)



If the link above is broken, go to [www.gfwcillinois.org](http://www.gfwcillinois.org) & click on Great Lakes Region icon.

Park Inn by Radisson Toledo, Ohio

101 North Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

P: 419-241-3000 F: 419-321-2009

Group: GFWC/Great Lakes Region

Group Code: **1510GFWCCN**

Rate: \$95.00 per night plus tax

Parking: \$10.00 per day NOT included on hotel bill.

**NOTE: Hotel registration deadline is September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**



**The key is not to prioritize  
what's on your schedule,  
but to schedule your  
priorities.**

***Stephen Covey***