



GFWC Illinois

Key Notes

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

Upcoming Meetings

GFWC IL Region Meetings

Meetings this summer will be:

- July 16 at Rend Lake Conference Center
- July 17 at Parke Regency in Bloomington
- July 18 at Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg

Presentations from Officers, WHRC, Legislation, State Project, Fundraising and more are planned. We will have a raffle for a set of GFWC Bicentennial Plates, and we have pinwheels available for purchase – you won't have to order them later! The registration form is available at www.gfwcillinois.org under Region Meeting. Cost to attend is \$25 and includes lunch and the meeting booklet. Deadline to register is July 7. Hope to see you there!



Rend Lake Conference Center



Parke Regency Center



Trickster Gallery

Great Lakes Region Meeting

This meeting will take place in Toledo, Ohio at the Park Inn by Radisson on October 9-11, 2015. The registration form is available at gfwcillinois.org. Deadline for hotel registration is September 8; event deadline is September 14. Registration is \$25. These Region Meetings are a nice way to branch out and meet other federated ladies close to home. Looking forward to having a nice turnout from Illinois!



GFWC Illinois Leadership Issues Two Challenges

2016 marks the 40th year of our association with Children's Research Foundation (CRF). As you probably know, CRF provides "seed money" to help research doctors begin their work in hopes of acquiring larger grants to accomplish their research. Interestingly, we have donated nearly \$400,000 in support of the crucial work they do. So, Director McCarthy is issuing a challenge: All clubs/individuals who donate \$250 or more to CRF via the GFWC Illinois Project Contribution Form between now and April 15, 2016 will have their club/individual name placed on a plaque which will be given to Pat Broggi, CRF Liaison, at the 2016 Convention in Springfield. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of all children.



Also, I am issuing a similar challenge with respect to our State Project: "Our Promise...A Safe Place for Every Child". All clubs/individuals who donate \$100 to Prevent Child Abuse Illinois through GFWC Illinois between now and April 15, 2016 will be included on a banner which will be displayed at our 2016 State Convention in Springfield. PCA Illinois does remarkable work, and with our own Annette Andretich Gross as their Board Director, what better time to step up big for them?



These two partnerships are longstanding in Illinois, and during this administration we would like to see increased focus on them. Karyn and I thank you in advance for your consideration.



GFWC Convention

Pre-Convention



Graceland

With tours of Graceland, the Civil Rights Museum, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Riverboat Rides, Convention was fun even before we officially started. Many Illinois members participated in these tours and enjoyed them immensely.



Civil Rights Museum

Thursday evening, GFWC President Babs Condon was the Duck Parade Master at the Peabody Hotel and a few short hours later, threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the Memphis Redbirds.



Friday

It was terrific to have Amy Vicioso, 11th District Director of Junior Clubs, with us as LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar) Representative! You'll hear more about her experience soon, but we are very proud of her and know that she came away inspired!



Top—Trisha Schafer, Middle—Amy Vicioso, Bottom—Karyn McCarthy

At Tennessee State Night on Friday evening, GFWC presented a check for \$30,000 to our newest partner – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital! This partnership will be reported under Junior Special Projects and all are encouraged to participate.



Above, the beautiful women of GFWC Illinois representing you at GFWC Convention



Saturday



Saturday morning started off with the Processionals. As home state of a GFWC Officer, Karyn and I were fortunate to escort Debbie Strahanoski, GFWC Secretary. The display of flags, once complete, was glorious!

The excitement continued as GFWC Illinois received 1st Place in Leadership!! As Karyn said, "You would've thought Oprah just gave us a NEW CAR!!" Elena Lipinski, NRVP and Leadership Chairman, did a great job representing the work of our organization in her reporting and the work of our organization was pretty great! Thanks ladies!!



Karyn McCarthy, left, with GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs, Carole Weaver



Saturday evening was Junior Night, and what a wonderful evening. Illinois received a Junior Membership Award for increasing membership by 128 members! Karyn was named the Outstanding Director in our Category and while she was surprised – the rest of us were not! Great job Karyn and GFWC Illinois Juniors!!

Sunday



Sunday, we met with Great Lakes Region and had an evening banquet sponsored by Shot@Life. The GFWC Partnerships are very much a two-way street. We donate to them, of course, but they provide materials and underwrite events for our organization. We have some of the best partners. In addition to Shot@Life, we have USO, UNICEF, Canine Companions for Independence, March of Dimes, Easter Seals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) America, Operation Smile, Heifer International, and more. At this convention, we acquired a new partner in the Conservation CSP – The Nature Generation. Focused on conveying the importance of environmental issues to children and young adults, they offer us a wonderful opportunity to help in this outreach. Proud of GFWC Conservation Chairman, Teresa Sanford Shipplet! Learn more at www.natgen.org



Monday

Monday was a late start after workshops. At these sessions, GFWC Illinois received 1st Place in Signature Project – Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness! What an honor! Illinois does so much work in this area, which includes Child Abuse Prevention, and it was great to see it recognized. Joliet Juniors were awarded for their work in the areas of WHRC and Fundraising. These ladies did some creative things to support WHRC and raise funds for their club, and we were so proud of them as we accepted the award on their behalf, with Debbie Strahanoski.





Monday Evening

Monday Night was a rollercoaster. First, and foremost, it was the grand finale of Convention – the 125th Anniversary Celebration Gala. We presented a monetary gift to GFWC from GFWC Illinois and received recognition for participating in GFWC’s 125th Anniversary activities. There were excellent speeches from President Condon and Director Canterbury. Karyn and Becky were asked to help sing a special song for us. There was a Champagne Toast sponsored by Easter Seals to end the evening, followed by a massive confetti explosion. The rollercoaster was that this occurred during the Stanley Cup Final. No doubt, I needed to be there for this most historic closing ceremony. No doubt, I was desperate to watch the game. But I am glad I stayed – it was wonderful! And I got to watch the game, in its entirety (without commercials) at home the next evening.



Thinking Ahead

Summer time and things tend to slow down a bit. How about using this time to complete those club project reports from January - May? This prevents a mad scramble during the holiday season as you try to remember what you did back in February.

If your club has a Resolution or Bylaws recommendation, please remember that the deadline is October 1. Send Resolutions to Becky Weber and Bylaws to Helen Crause.

Considering a run for GFWC Illinois office? Great!! Eligibility and endorsement information is on Page 28 of the current State Yearbook. Deadline for paperwork is due to Elections Chairman Diana Taylor and GFWC Illinois Headquarters by December 1st. A "Declaration of Candidate" form can be obtained from Diana or Deana at HQ.

Most clubs have projects that qualify for the Community Improvement Program Award, but very few apply. If the project addresses a need in your community, involves partnerships within the community and will remain an ongoing community effort as long as the need remains, you have a qualifying program. The project needs to be completed by December 31, 2015 and the report submitted to Chairman Evelyn Dill by March 1, 2016.



One more photo before we close . . .

Go to www.gfwcillinois.org for
GFWC Illinois Region meeting registration forms
AND
Great Lakes Region registrations forms