



# GFWC IL 121st Annual Convention



## RESOLUTIONS

The GFWC Illinois Resolution Committee reviewed 7 resolutions: 4 proposed to be amended; 3 proposed to rescind; 3 proposed new amendments. ALL CAPS IN BODY + GREEN (except WHEREAS & RESOLVED) = to be omitted. **Bold + italics + red** = proposed new language.

### PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED

#### EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

##### ENGLISH, OFFICIAL U.S. LANGUAGE

**Adopted 1989 – Revised 1995**

WHEREAS, The United States has been enriched by the cultural contributions of immigrants from many traditions, and blessed with one common language (English) which has united a diverse nation and fostered harmony among its people; and

WHEREAS, English is a world language which we share with many other nations and is the most widely used medium of international communications; and

WHEREAS, The public schools of the nation have a special obligation to transmit the common culture and civic values of the United States, and to accelerate the assimilation of immigrant students to American society; and

WHEREAS, English is our national language by custom only, enjoying no official protection, and is subject to erosion with increased use of other languages and slang which could be a divisive force within our nation; therefore

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs promote the passage of a bill at both the state and national levels making U.S. English the official language of the United States; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enforcement of the English language requirement for naturalization; and further

RESOLVED, **THAT THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION BE LIMITED TO A TRANSITIONAL ROLE FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE, AND FURTHER** That language(s) other than English **IS (are)** taught in our school systems only secondary to the study of English.

Rationale: To clarify

### PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED

#### HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

##### FAMILY CAREGIVERS

**Adopted 2009**

WHEREAS, Meeting the demands of multiple family responsibilities, as well as the added pressures of employment and outside commitments, creates great stress for family caregivers; **THEREFORE (and)**

***WHEREAS, There is a possible financial advantage and opportunity for more individualized care options in community-based programs; therefore***

**RESOLVED, THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGES ITS MEMBER CLUBS TO WORK WITH THEIR STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO FORMULATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME HEALTH CARE WORKERS THAT WOULD INCLUDE BACKGROUND CHECKS AND MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TRAINING; AND FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support legislation providing for flexible employment policies and programs to aid family caregivers, and legislation to provide minimum licensing and training requirements for home health care workers (**; and further**)

***RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to work with appropriate agencies in their communities to support the development and maintenance of creative community-based support services for those with a terminal or debilitating illness, elderly, people with disabilities, and family caregivers, such as adult day care centers, respite care, transportation services, nutrition services, home health and homemaker services, congregate or alternative housing arrangements and support groups for family caregivers.***

RATIONALE: To update and expand

#### PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### PROPOSED TO BE RESCINDED

##### ABOLISHMENT OF PORNOGRAPHY

**ADOPTED 1994 – REVISED 2002**

WHEREAS, THE AMERICAN MORAL SYSTEM IS BEING BESIEGED BY THE SPREAD OF OBSCENE MATERIAL IN VARIOUS FORMS OF MEDIA; AND

WHEREAS, PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS ARE READILY AVAILABLE; AND

WHEREAS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE AVAILABLE WHICH WHEN CALLED GIVE EXPLICITLY PORNOGRAPHIC RESPONSES; THEREFORE

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS STRONGLY URGES ITS MEMBER CLUBS TO USE EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS TO COMBAT OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY THROUGH PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY ACTION BASED ON:



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EDUCATING ITS MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF PORNOGRAPHY AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIETY;  
 PARTICIPATING IN THE UNITED STATES POSTMASTER GENERAL'S ACTION PROGRAM BY PROMPTLY RETURNING ANY OBJECTIONABLE OR PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL RECEIVED THROUGH THE MAIL INCLUDING THE COVERING ENVELOPE TO THE LOCAL POSTMASTER;  
 ENCOURAGING COOPERATION AMONG AND BETWEEN LAW ENFORCERS AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO COMBAT THE DISTRIBUTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY;  
 SUPPORTING THE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LAWS AND THE CREATION OF NEW LAWS WHERE NEEDED;  
 STRONGLY SUPPORTING AND COOPERATING IN THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE WHO VIOLATE PORNOGRAPHY LAWS, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH CHILDREN.

## **PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION to replace ABOLISHMENT OF PORNOGRAPHY**

### **ABOLISHMENT OF PORNOGRAPHY**

*Convention 2016*

***WHEREAS, Pornography is known to be addictive and progressive and has been associated with damaged marriages, violence against women, and the exploitation of children; and***

***WHEREAS, Pornographic materials are so readily available, especially on the Internet; therefore***

***RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to use every available legal means to combat pornography by:***

***Educating its members, teenagers, parents, and the public about the current pornography laws and the problems of easy access to pornographic materials in all forms of media and communication and its destructive effects on society;***

***Encouraging cooperation of law enforcers and communication technology providers to combat the electronic distribution and possession of child pornography;***

***Supporting the strict enforcement of existing laws, especially those dealing with children, and the creation of new laws where needed.***

Rationale: To expand and update

## **PROPOSED TO BE RESCINDED**

### **ABUSED PERSONS**

ADOPTED 2004- REVISED 2008

WHEREAS, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE CONTINUES TO INCREASE WITHIN OUR SOCIETY CUTTING ACROSS AGE, ETHNIC, RACIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC LINES AND CAN CAUSE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, PHYSICAL INJURY AND DEATH TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS; AND

WHEREAS, PERSONS WHO WITNESS VIOLENCE, OR ARE DIRECTLY VICTIMIZED BY IT, ENDURE VARIOUS EMOTIONAL RAMIFICATIONS, AND ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK OF PERPETUATING VIOLENCE IN THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIPS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY STATE HAVE EFFECTIVE LAWS ON ONLY CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS OF ABUSED PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY STATE LAWS AND LEGAL REMEDIES DESIGNED TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF ABUSE ARE APPLIED INCONSISTENTLY; AND

WHEREAS, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A NEED FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR ALL VICTIMS OF ABUSE; THEREFORE

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS SUPPORTS LEGISLATION AND ACTIVELY PROMOTES PROGRAMS THAT:

- IDENTIFY AT-RISK FAMILIES AND SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD, SPOUSAL AND ELDER ABUSE,
- PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID AND SHELTER FOR THOSE WHO ARE FORCED TO LEAVE VIOLENT FAMILY SETTINGS,
- PROVIDE TREATMENT, SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS AND REHABILITATION FOR PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE,
- PROVIDE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING PREVENTION OF ABUSE, AND FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGES CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGE ITS MEMBER CLUBS TO ENLIST THE HELP OF HOSPITALS, DOCTORS, EDUCATORS, LAWYERS, POLICE, CHURCHES, COUNSELING SERVICES, SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND PROGRAMS, AND CLINICS IN A UNITED EFFORT FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ABUSED PERSONS.



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## **PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION to replace ABUSED PERSONS**

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

**Convention 2016**

**WHEREAS, Domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society cutting across race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age educational, and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury, and death to children and adults; and**

**WHEREAS, Many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations because they are deliberately placed into financial dependence by their abuser; and**

**WHEREAS, Lack of dating experience subjects teens to situations where they are less likely to recognize signs and/or symptoms of abuse; and**

**WHEREAS, Young people who witness violence, or are directly victimized by it, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and**

**WHEREAS, Many state laws and legal remedies only deal with certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support legislation and actively promote programs that:**

- Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal, partner and elder abuse;**
- Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;**
- Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings;**
- Provide treatment, support, legal aid, and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse;**
- Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle/junior high and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to fully fund legislation that supports all victims of domestic violence without discrimination; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, lawyers, law enforcement, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.**

Rationale: To expand, update and to be in accordance with GFWC.

## **PROPOSED TO BE RESCINDED**

### **ILLINOIS CRIMINAL CODE ON SEX CRIME**

**ADOPTED 1978 – REVISED 1996**

**WHEREAS, THERE IS AN ALARMING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SEX OFFENDERS AND MANY COMMUNITIES LACK ADEQUATE LAWS, PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES TO COPE WITH THIS MENACING SITUATION; THEREFORE**

**RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ADVOCATES THE ENACTMENT OF ADEQUATE STATE STATUTES PROVIDING LONGER SENTENCES FOR SEX OFFENDERS WITHOUT EARLY RELEASE AND STRENGTHENED MEDICAL PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT FOR BOTH ADULT AND YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY MIGHT SAFELY BE RETURNED TO SOCIETY; AND FURTHER**

**RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS IS AN ADVOCATE FOR BRINGING THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEX CRIMES TO THE VICTIMS, TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COURT, BEFORE PLEA BARGAINS ARE ACCEPTED, SENTENCES ARE IMPOSED, OR AT IN-DEPTH REVIEWS AND CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO GRANTING PAROLE TO SEX OFFENDERS, AND FURTHER**

**RESOLVED, THAT EMPLOYERS BE URGED TO CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE REGISTRATIONS OF CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS BEFORE HIRING APPLICANTS WHO WILL BE WORKING WITH CHILDREN; AND FURTHER**

**RESOLVED, THAT SEX OFFENDERS FOUND INCURABLE OR A DANGER TO SOCIETY BE PERMANENTLY INCARCERATED.**

## **PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION to replace ILLINOIS CRIMINAL CODE ON SEX CRIME**

### **SEX OFFENDERS**

**Convention 2016**

**WHEREAS, There are an alarming number of sex offenses and many communities/counties lack adequate laws, personnel, and facilities to cope with this menacing situation; and**

**WHEREAS, Technology provides opportunities for sexual predators to target victims; and**

**WHEREAS, The crime's impact upon the victim is not always taken into consideration by the criminal justice system; and**



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**WHEREAS, A loophole exists in the current Sex Offender Registration Act, which allows a person charged with sexually motivated battery, a misdemeanor, to avoid registration as a sex offender and prevents this crime from showing up on background checks for those who work with children; therefore**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to promote educational campaigns about sexual crimes, sex offenders, and their impact on the victims and their families; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges:**

- The enactment of statutes providing for minimum mandatory incarceration;**
- That the severity of the crime and its impact to the victim and the family be brought to the attention of the court before plea bargains are accepted and sentences are imposed;**
- Strengthening requirements for medical and psychiatric treatment for both adult and youthful offenders;**
- An in-depth review of the crime be considered prior to granting parole to sex offenders;**
- That the victims and/or families be notified prior to a parole hearing and before release of sex offenders;**
- Public access to sex offenders release and registration information, including the nature and date of the offense; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports enactment of legislation that defendants convicted of a sexual offense against children, be prohibited for life, from participating in any occupation or volunteer activity involving children; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation which imposes penalties for crimes of a sexual nature committed using technology to create or distribute child pornography or solicit; and further**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support measures to provide for registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act of a person convicted of battery when the court: 1) finds that the battery was sexually motivated, as defined in the Sex Offender Management Board Act and 2) in its discretion, requires the person to register under the Act.**

Rationale: To update and strengthen

## **PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED**

### **INTERNET SAFETY FOR (EXPLOITATION OF) CHILDREN**

**Adopted 2003**

WHEREAS, The GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs has worked tirelessly for the prevention of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Internet safety has been increasingly eroded by sexual predators with the intent **TO MEET AND SEXUALLY ABUSE (exploit, solicit, and bully)** children and youth, often by posing as someone else; and

**WHEREAS, In many cases, children are not capable of protecting themselves from exploitation and can suffer lifelong sexual, physical, and emotional damage; and**

**WHEREAS, Education is vital to preventing exploitation of children by empowering them with ways to protect themselves and avoid high risk situations; therefore**

**WHEREAS, POLICE DEPARTMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN TRYING TO PREVENT THESE HORRIBLE CRIMES WHICH PREY ON OUR CHILDREN; THEREFORE**

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges **OUR (its)** members and the public at large to regulate more closely the use of computers in our schools, homes, and other places **SO THAT THE ARRANGING OF CLANDESTINE MEETINGS BY SEXUAL PREDATORS WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH VIA INTERNET WILL BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND HOPEFULLY IMPOSSIBLE;** and further

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs shall encourage and support educational and awareness programs designed for children to increase their understanding of exploitation and encourage communication of any problem with a responsible adult; and further**

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges that stronger action be taken in our state and communities to assure that those sexual predators preying on our children and youth via the internet be apprehended and punished to the fullest extent of the law; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and its members urge our legislators to strengthen the statutes governing internet safety for children, and the penalties for violating those statutes.

Rationale: To broaden and strengthen



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## PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED

### MOVE TO PUBLIC ISSUES

#### MISSING CHILDREN'S ACT

**Adopted 2001**

WHEREAS, Millions of children are missing from their homes; and

WHEREAS, **THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN ARE (Far too many children continue to be)** abducted each year by strangers as well as parents or other individuals known to the child and are placed in grave danger; and

WHEREAS, Neither parents nor local law enforcement agencies have the resources to mount large **(-scale, extended)** search efforts; and

WHEREAS, The misuse of modern technology, including internet access, contributes to the abduction of children; **THEREFORE (and)**

**WHEREAS, The American Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER Alert) is highly effective for locating missing children; therefore**

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation to increase federal support for local efforts to find missing children; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member**(s) CLUBS** to work within their communities to:

- Mount an FBI-approved campaign to fingerprint children;
- Create immediate community awareness of those children who are reported as missing by having in place current technology such as digital photo fingerprinting cards;
- Work with public and private agencies to educate parents and children about safety measures to safeguard against abduction;
- Establish designated neighborhood safe houses;
- Encourage parents and/or guardians to monitor their children's activities**(; and further)**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports funding for and utilization of AMBER Alerts.**

Rationale: To broaden and strengthen

## PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Proposed Convention 2016*

**WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of State and UNICEF, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual and labor exploitations; and**

**WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global crime and second largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drug trafficking. Annually:**

**1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide;**

**800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders;**

**At least 20.9 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide; therefore**

**RESOLVED, That the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:**

**Educate members and the public about the seriousness of human trafficking;**

**Advocate for the support and protection of victims and the prosecution of exploiters;**

**Support law enforcement coordination within the United States and among countries;**

**Encourage mandatory enforcement of existing laws in the United States.**

PROPOSED BY THE GFWC ILLINOIS RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

*GFWC IL Resolutions Committee, 2014-2016:*

*Becky Weber, Chairman*

*Members: Sue Koch, Gerri Eck, Trisha Schafer, Phyllis Skubic, Karyn Charvat and Diane Addante*



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## PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES

1. The Convention shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting
2. A credential badge, signifying Delegate or Non-Voting status is required to be worn by all persons at all business sessions, programs, and Federation sponsored activities.
3. Delegates shall be seated in the section reserved for their Districts on the Convention floor. Non-Voting Members with badges shall be seated in the sections reserved for them, seating to be based on pre-registration numbers.
4. Delegates with badges, who are members of the Junior Clubs, shall be seated in the section reserved for them during the Junior Business Meeting.
5. There shall be a reserved section for State Board Members on the Convention floor.
6. Delegates shall be in their seats at the opening of the Convention, be seated at all sessions and stay for the full Convention until the close.
7. Those who are appearing on the program shall report to the Platform Hostess one-half hour before their time to appear on the program, unless otherwise noted.
8. All motions made from the floor shall be presented to the presiding officer in writing
9. A Delegate shall speak only once to a question. Debate shall be limited to two minutes per person. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment/motion.
10. A motion shall be carried by an affirmative vote of the Delegates present and voting.
11. Printed copies of resolutions recommended by the Resolutions Committee, not included in the Call to Convention, must be in the hands of the Delegates at least six (6) hours before they are voted upon by the Convention body.
12. No materials shall be placed on the chairs at any time except those approved by the Executive Committee prior to Convention opening.
13. Hats are not to be worn on the Convention floor except for medical reasons/procedures or at the discretion of the presiding officer.
14. No food or drink, other than that provided by the Convention, will be permitted on the Convention floor.
15. Cellular phones are not to be used on the Convention floor, in programs or during food functions. Audible ringers on cellular phones and beepers are to be turned off.
16. Doors will be closed at the direction of the presiding officer during business meetings. When doors are opened periodically, be seated as promptly as possible in your designated area.
17. No recording devices, including cell phone cameras, may be used on the Convention floor or in programs without the approval of the President and Executive Committee.
18. A credentials badge and meal ticket are required for admittance into the room to all food functions. Meal tickets will be collected at the tables.
19. There will be reserved banquet seating for all ticket holders. Table numbers will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
20. Written messages may be left with the Convention Chairman.
21. All official Assistants as well as the Convention Chairman and Vice Chairman will be permitted to enter and exit all Sessions as needed.