



GFWC Illinois

# Key Notes

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

## Highlights from Recent GFWC Meeting

As your representative on the GFWC Board of Directors, I recently attended a board meeting in Chantilly, VA. Forty seven State Presidents were among the attendees. If you are on Facebook, you probably noticed a slew of pictures detailing our activities. It was memorable, to say the least.

### GFWC – A Day in DC

Thanks to connections made by Debby Bryant, DC lobbyist and daughter of Past International President Juanita Bryant, and excellent GFWC staff work, we were able to receive a White House Briefing at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Headlining this briefing was Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President and Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls. We also had speakers on Elder Justice, Veterans and Military Families, Violence Against Women and Let Girls Learn (62 million girls worldwide are not in school). All speakers learned about GFWC prior to our visit and every single one thanked US for making a difference in our communities. So here are these remarkable people, doing amazing things every day and they are thanking us. It drove home to me why we do what we do. "You don't have to be in the Military to serve." Remember that.



*At the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.*

After our briefing, we went to the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. There, we met Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, Ret, who has been instrumental in expanding the content and reach of the Memorial. If you are a women veteran and have not registered with WIMSA, please contact them. Gen. Vaught's military decorations and awards include the [Distinguished Service Medal](#), [Legion of Merit](#), [Bronze Star Medal](#), [Meritorious Service Medal](#), [Joint Service Commendation Medal](#), [Air Force Commendation Medal](#) with oak leaf cluster, [Air Force Outstanding Unit Award](#) Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, [National Defense Service Medal](#), [Vietnam Service Medal](#) with four service stars, [Armed Forces Reserve Medal](#), [Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon](#), [Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross](#) with palm, and [Vietnam Campaign Medal](#). We heard from Sandra Latta and Commander Tamara Lawrence from the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. Each woman praised GFWC for its continued support of WIMSA-GFWC clubwomen have donated \$482,187 to date-and its passion for community service. Lawrence specifically stated, "Your efforts are felt deep down by those who serve. You don't realize the example you set." We then viewed the remarkable Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and had a tour of the cemetery.

Our last stop was at the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. We were there briefly, but most of us made it to the First Ladies Exhibit, which was outstanding.

This all happened before our meeting officially began! It was a day none of us will forget. I am sending thank you notes to those who arranged the day and those who participated as speakers. I am grateful to have had this opportunity.



*From the First Ladies Exhibit*



## GFWC Board Meeting

A Candidates' Meeting was held. We were given instructions for Pre-Election, Election and Installation. Proudly, I sat with Debbie Strahanoski, candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Trisha Schafer, candidate for Director Elect of Junior Clubs. The candidates were all presented to the assembly Saturday evening. It will be such a privilege to speak to Debbie's credentials and support Karyn as she presents Trisha. What wonderful, dedicated clubwomen these two are – I'm so proud of them!

The "hat" was passed at the meeting and enough money was collected from the board to purchase a permanent set of state flags, to avoid having to rent them in the future.

We attended a party on Saturday night in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and freewill donations generated over \$1,600 to donate to the hospital!

An initiative, begun in 2010, is in full swing to end homelessness for Veterans by the end of 2015. It's a huge effort, but significant progress has been made in Houston, New Orleans and Salt Lake City. Last year the First Lady issued the "Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness" bringing it to the local level and it has had a big impact. If you have a problem with this in your community, engage your local officials and encourage them to sign on to find solutions to this travesty.

A mission trip to South America is being planned for Operation Smile – stay tuned!

We know you love your grandchildren, and we know many of you are involved with GFWC's Signature Program Partner **Prevent Child Abuse America's Pinwheels for Prevention**<sup>®</sup> campaign.

Throughout September, (National Grandparents Month) and until October 9, you can purchase pinwheels from Prevent Child Abuse America as a part of the *GRANDParents for GREAT Childhoods* effort. For just \$10 or three for \$25, you can dedicate a pinwheel to your grandchildren or your grandparents, to be planted in a special pinwheel garden! To honor your grandchildren this year, visit [www.preventchildabuse.org/grandparents2015](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/grandparents2015).



We all play a role  
when it comes to  
the healthy development  
of our nation's children.



*At the tomb of the unknown soldier*



*GFWC Board of Directors at Arlington National Cemetery*



*Members of Great Lakes Region posed for a photo op*

## Photos from GFWC Board Meeting



Who says GFWC IL ladies are all work, work, work?



*Congratulations to the Joliet Junior Woman's Club. Amy Vicioso of the GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club presented a generous gift of \$1,000 to the WHRC (Women's History & Resource Center) from money raised selling a reissued version of a historic cookbook, Gems From Juniors, a 1956 publication that was found in their club's records. Amy contacted sponsors from the original publication and new sponsors who underwrote much of the cost to reprint. What a creative fundraiser for a wonderful cause!*



*Becky Weber met a new friend who has the same great taste in dresses! Nicole Malachowski is an active duty Colonel fighter pilot serving in the United States Air Force. Part of her job at the White House is working on ending veterans' homelessness.*



## Reporting Packets

Reporting Packets: most are in the hands of the District Presidents for club distribution. Phyllis Skubic or Cherie Sieger are glad to answer any questions that may arise. If your packet is missing a form, please contact Deana at 815-724-0195 or email her at [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net) right away.



### Legislative Action Center

It's never too late for you to sign up to receive the latest news about legislative matters that matter to GFWC. Copy this and paste in your web browser to sign up:

<http://cqrcengage.com/gfwc/app/register?1&m=42271>

## Upcoming Events

September - National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month – Go Teal!

October 1 – Proposed Amendments to the GFWC Illinois Bylaws due to Helen Crause, Chairman

October 8-11 - Great Lakes Region Conference, Toledo, OH

October 18-24 - GFWC Junior Advocates for Children Week

October 25 - Proposed Resolutions due to Becky Weber, Chairman, and HQ

November 7&8 - GFWC Illinois Board of Directors Meeting in Bloomington

November 15 - "Mutt Strutt...Paws on Parade" Pet Fashion Show for Canine Companions for Independence in Oak Brook. Contact Amy Vicioso for details ([avicioso@comcast.net](mailto:avicioso@comcast.net))

November 16-20 - American Education Week

December 1 – Endorsements for GFWC Illinois Officer Candidates due to Diana Taylor, Elections Chairman, and HQ

December 9 – Holiday Open House @ GFWC Headquarters, Washington DC