

GFWC Illinois

Clubwoman

Volume 87, Summer 2016



SET SAIL...
EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!



**HELPING DESIGN
BETTER LIVES**



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...



IN MEMORIAM :

Marie McNabb, GFWC Illinois Past President 1988-90

Marcia Markwalter, District 16 Past President

Barb Gray, member of Antioch Woman's Club, Dist. 10

Cindie Hagen, member of Darien Woman's Club, Dist. 5

SYMPATHY & SUPPORT EXTENDED TO:

Lou Brown, on the passing of her husband Paul.

Cheryl Maguire, on the passing of her mother Lorene.

Norene Bassett, on the passing of her husband Merle.

June LaMantia, on the passing of her daughter Lisa.

Margo Vermeland, on the passing of her husband Mark.

Shelli Fehr, on the passing of her aunt.

From the desk of Diane Addante, Past President

I am grateful to have served as your President; it was a privilege.

With an excellent Executive Committee and Board, we accomplished much. We donated books to prisons, held a pet fashion show and added new communications – Key Notes and Federation Fridays. A Finance Committee was established to monitor investments and ensure continuity for the Treasurer. We continued support for Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and Children's Research Foundation and manned the phones for Easter Seals. Your generosity made a real difference.

This President wrote letters on behalf of members trying to right wrongs and when speaking as representative of 5,000 women, people listen. This is one reason membership numbers matter. There is true power in our collective voice. Travelling to Clubs/Districts was exhilarating! I loved our conventions. Our board meetings were informative and fun and the EC retreat to Marco Island was a dream.

Lombard Juniors and 5th District have been constant supporters. My family sacrificed much, but they are used to it. How blessed I am. Working with Karyn was wonderful! Her enormous enthusiasm and passion for our organization is such a gift.

If It Needs To Be, Volunteers Are The Key!! Thanks for all you do for others!

"Greatness is not where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must set sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it— but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

MAGAZINE CREW

Editor in Chief: Phyllis Skubic

Managing Editor: Natalie Kuchar Garling

Please send your articles, photos, and suggestions to:
nrkuchar@yahoo.com

GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Phyllis Skubic

Director of Junior Clubs: Jeanette T. Wells

President Elect: Shelli Fehr

Vice President Northern Region: Carol Jablonski

Vice President Central Region: Teresa Sanford-Shipplett

Vice President Southern Region: Alice Betlach

Secretary: LeeAnn Conlon

Treasurer: Michelle Schultz

Parliamentarian: Jacquelyn Pierce, RP

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

SET SAIL... EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!

Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President



It is with pride and humility that I serve this organization as President. The theme for this administration is “Set Sail . . . Explore the Possibilities” using a sailboat and anchor as symbols. The colors will be red, white and blue.

It is my hope and wish that each of you **explore** everything GFWC has to offer. If you allow yourself to step off the pier of what you know and what is comfortable, and let yourself ‘Set Sail’ . . . you will find the **possibilities** are endless. **Explore** a new chairmanship. **Explore** the possibility of serving as an officer for your club. **Explore** serving at the District level as a chairman or as an officer. **Explore** a new program offered by one of the GFWC Partners to bring awareness to your members and to your community. **Explore** all that you can be and all that you can do . . . the **possibilities** within GFWC are endless!

My special monetary project is called “Let’s Make Change” and will challenge every member of every club to donate little more than a penny-a-day . . . \$4.00 to be exact. You will find complete details on the “Let’s Make Change” project in this issue of the Clubwoman Magazine and in the Treasurer’s Packet,

which will be included in the annual report packet this fall.

I’m excited to be on this voyage with you, the *GFWC Illinois Crew*. As we Set Sail together, we will explore all the possibilities that await us. Mark Twain once said “Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do, than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. . . . Explore . . . Dream . . . Discover” Here’s to Smooth Sailing!



HELPING DESIGN BETTER LIVES

Jeanette T. Wells, GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs



I am excited to start the 2016-2018 Junior Administration as together we will be **GFWC Illinois Juniors....Helping Design Better Lives**. Along with the GFWC Illinois Administration, we will **Set Sail....Explore the Possibilities**.

The **Possibilities** of what?

Think of all the **possibilities** there are to **help design better lives** in your communities, state and all over the world. The **possibility** of feeding the hungry, with hands-on work at a soup kitchen or food pantry, or donating money to help improve a shelter. The **possibility** of educating children or our youth by working or donating to a library or funding a scholarship. The **possibility** of putting a smile on a Senior Citizen’s face by just visiting for a while. The **possibility** of bettering your community by sponsoring a recycling day or picking up garbage on a highway or park. The **possibility** of helping our children by supporting Illinois Prevent Child Abuse. The **possibility** of honoring our military by laying a wreath on a grave, supporting deployed troops or volunteering at an honor flight. The **possibility** of noticing that member that seems interested and just

needs some encouragement; the **possibility** of then stepping up to help mentor her and help her explore the **possibility** of leadership.

The GFWC ILLINOIS Juniors....Helping Design Better Lives...it is Possible!



The 3 C’s in life: CHOICE, CHANCE, CHANGE

You must make the CHOICE to take the CHANCE , if you want anything in life to CHANGE.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

EXPLORE REPORTING

Shelli R. Fehr, President Elect/Dean of Chairmen & Loretta Revesz, Junior Dean of Chairmen

Remember when you performed your first solo, scored the winning run or got an A on your spelling test? You couldn't wait to tell someone so everyone would know and you could do a happy dance to celebrate! Want that same result from GFWC? Then tell us what your club did! We know you "design better lives for your community" so brag about it and let us all celebrate your "winning run!"

Information on how and what to tell us will be delivered to club presidents this fall in the club report packet. These packets are goldmines of information! So Presidents, check it out! Read the enclosed information and note any deadlines immediately to get the most out of the information given you. One packet for the next two years is printed for each club so keep it safe. If needed, updates will be distributed in Fall 2017.

Questions about the packets or reporting in general should be directed to the Deans of Chairmen, who are also available for a reporting workshop. Reporting updates will be communicated in future *Clubwoman Magazine* articles.

There is one change for the 2016 report year. Reports for the Illinois State Project "Our Promise...a Safe Place for Every Child" and the Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children are being combined into one. This will make it easier for clubs and chairmen alike.

So, do a happy dance! Record your club's activities and send them to the state this year. "Set sail and explore the possibilities" that reporting can bring!



Loretta Revesz (left)
Shelli R. Fehr (right)

HELPING DESIGN BETTER LIVES

Cherie Sieger
Director Elect of Junior Clubs

"Helping Design Better Lives"—I love the theme of the GFWC Illinois Juniors for this administration. It opens up so many possibilities and opportunities for club members. I am excited to work closely with Jeanette in making this an administration that will indeed "Design Better Lives".

My main objective is to help build stronger communication with the District Directors of Junior Clubs, helping to make them more comfortable reaching out to the clubs, club presidents and members. I truly believe that stronger communication between the District Directors and the club Presidents will bring them closer together and in the end, tap into potential leaders for the district and state. Please feel comfortable contacting me with your ideas or issues at cheriegfwc@gmail.com.



The next two years will be an exciting and an adventurous journey and I am excited to be a part of it.

PIERCE'S PARLIAMENTARY POINTERS!

Jackie Pierce, RP
Parliamentarian

The basic procedure to follow for the scripted agenda is as follows:

Call to Order

Invocation (God before Country)

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Thought for the Day

Welcome (given by the President)

Introductions (begin with lower and move up to top office)

Establish Quorum

Appointment of Committee to Approve the Minutes (appoint three)

Reports:

Committee that Approved Prior Meeting

Treasurer (Report is "Filed" not "Filed for Audit")

Officers (as printed in the Directory)

Standing Committee Chairmen

Special Committee Chairmen

Unfinished Business (not "Old Business")

New Business

Announcements

Adjournment



LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP

Carol Jablonski, Northern Region Vice President COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

As your Communications and Public Relations chairman, I think about my message, how I will communicate my message, and how it will be heard by the recipient. One of my goals is to improve and expand the range of tools that GFWC Illinois uses to reach you, the member, using the Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 as my guide. The Executive Committee will be reviewing our website information and making changes appropriately, in addition to creating a teaching tool to educate our members on how to navigate through the website. Key Notes will continue to be published electronically and Federation Fridays will also continue to be published to our Google Group. Please stop by our website at www.gfwcillinois.org to sign up and receive these resources. I'm also investigating the use of conference calling and how it could benefit GFWC Illinois—stay tuned!

While composing this article, I highlighted 'public relations' and looked at my thesaurus, I saw several terms that you are probably familiar with: image management, spin doctor, media management, self-promotion, publicity, public image, and impact. Does your club have a public relations chairman/committee, and does that woman/committee use every possible communications tool to get your club's name/activity out in your community? Does your club or even your committee use all communications tools to 'talk' to each other? Not sure? Would you like some help in developing new strategies to communicate or even retooling your current modes of communication? Please contact me (630-989-4771 / carolajablonski@att.net), and I will be delighted to assist you in getting your message out to your community and/or club members.



Alice Betlach (left),
Carol Jablonski (center),
Teresa Sanford-Shiplett (right)

Teresa Sanford-Shiplett, Central Region Vice President LEADERSHIP

Sail Away.....Oh the Places You'll Go! Let me begin with the places I've been able to go. With the help of my teaching career and GFWC I've been able to go so many places and make oodles of friends. These friends are located not only in Illinois but on the east coast, west coast, way down south and all those places in between! I took on jobs that made me ask myself, "What were you thinking?" I'm not sure members understand that when they are volunteering for their community, they are also learning many, many leadership skills. You learn to take a risk by trying something new, organizing, managing your time, delegating responsibilities, talking to people you never dreamed you would and commitment. Honestly, sometimes you win and sometimes it doesn't turn out like you thought it would. There is no "FAIL" in my vocabulary. As Abdul Kalam says: "Fail just means, First Atttempt In Learning. The only one who fails is one who quits. Leadership builds a better you. Our GFWC LEADS program can help you do this. Check us our LEADS Program and see the Places You'll Go!

Alice Betlach, Southern Region Vice President MEMBERSHIP

BEFORE we step off the dock to board our "Sailboat", let's be certain to plan our direction and set the course! One of the duties of this Region Vice President is to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee, and to work with the Executive Committee to implement the newly adopted Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020. Membership is at the top of our sails while planning this 2016-2018 Adventure. My goal for this administration is to increase our catch of new members in our existing clubs, while fishing the waters to find opportunities to form new clubs! We must take into consideration the changes that are occurring in the generations of our members. We need to be efficient and effective with our meetings and our projects so members who are busy professionals and moms do not become burned out and feel that they don't have time to volunteer. On a secondary plan, it is the duty of a Region Vice President to work closely with District Presidents in her region offering her support. Visiting district meetings and club meetings is on my agenda for Southern Region. Sails are set....let's begin the voyage!

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

KEEPER OF THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

*LeeAnn Conlon, Secretary
& Joanne Meyer, Junior Secretary*



Joanne Meyer (left)
LeeAnn Conlon (right)

The Secretary's main objective is to accurately record club and district business meetings by including all actions taken and the order in which those actions occurred. It is important to pay attention to detail, recording the exact words of the actions, who it was presented by and the result.

Meeting minutes are presented for review and approval at the next business meeting, and is one of the first items on the agenda. All corrections are made in the margins of the meeting minutes, then marked as approved.

By recording meeting minutes, the secretary acts as your club historian, capturing important events, elections and activities for your club or district. She also ensures that all items on meeting agendas are appropriately addressed, and is always ready when "agenda subject to change" occurs!

SAFEGUARD THE TREASURE CHEST

*Michelle Schultz, Treasurer (top left)
Erika Dobrotka, Junior Treasurer (bottom right)*



Welcome from the "numbers" ladies. In addition to working with numbers for our respective Treasurer positions, we both work with numbers as part of our careers. Erika is a CPA, and I (Michelle) am a Bank Chief Financial Officer.

Deadlines are an important component of our jobs and as our position as your Treasurers. We are here to encourage you to adhere to all deadlines from dues to registration. Think of these items similar to a paycheck. If you did not get your paycheck timely, you may be unable to pay your mortgage or buy food. The club, District, State and International organizations all rely on dues and registration to pay bills and provide services to our members. So please meet those deadlines for "Smooth Sailing" this administration.

My LEADS Experience

Loretta Revesz



John F. Kennedy said "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other" and the topics we learned during the LEADS seminar will guide and empower us to be better leaders in GFWC, our careers and even our daily lives.

Our day started with learning more about our GFWC history. I was awed and amazed by what the leaders of our past have accomplished. Did you know that GFWC started the PTA in 1924, bought 431 bomber planes during World War II, and established 75% of U.S. libraries? We also learned about generational differences, how to write a great speech, conflict resolution, public speaking, legislation and public policy, and improving our social media presence. One topic that was eye opening was Leadership Methods. We took a test to determine our behavioral index which showed how our personality affects our leadership style. It's interesting to note that how we interact and lead others continues to change as we learn and grow.

Thank you to GFWC Illinois for selecting me to be the 2016 LEADS candidate. It was an honor and a truly remarkable experience. **I encourage all Illinois members to attend the 2017 Illinois LEADS Seminar on Wednesday, May 17. You surely will be inspired!**

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Mary Jo Murphy, Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS!

YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT** in GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention for the second year in a row! Your VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE are being heard in communities throughout Illinois and our nation! This award also includes our wonderful state project "Our Promise...A Safe Place for Every Child", your Pinwheel gardens and the awesome Blue Ribbon Fashion show.

Clubs and districts have risen to the challenge and are taking steps within their communities to raise awareness and support local domestic violence shelters. By opening your minds and hearts, promoting healing for victims, collecting and delivering goods of all sorts, donating hours and dollars, you have given caring love and support for those caught in the downward spiral created by violence. The challenge continues. C'mon aboard as we "Set Sail and Explore the Possibilities".



GFWC ILLINOIS STATE PROJECT: OUR PROMISE/ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Karen Meyer, Chairman

Allison Meyer, Junior Chairman

As a parent, grandparent, aunt, or just a member of our community, we all have an obligation to make the world a safe place for all children. We need to understand the importance of child protection factors and how we can support families and children in our communities.

What can you do to support the mission of PCA IL? Donate, order PCA IL materials and share them at your local schools, libraries, and churches. Sponsor a child abuse prevention training at work, or again even at your local schools, libraries and churches. The more people that are aware and knowledgeable, the more people that are watching over our children. Raise money to buy Pinwheels and plant multiple Pinwheel Gardens in April – in front of schools, libraries, and along the main streets in or into town. Hold an event the day of the planting and get families and community leaders involved. Raise awareness regarding water safety for children, as this is the second-leading cause of death in Illinois children under five years old. Reach out to your local library, day care centers, community pools and share the facts regarding water safety for children. You can also download and print copies of the PCA IL Safe Water Coloring books that can be used to teach children and parents the importance of water safety.

The 22nd Annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Conference will be held October 20-21, 2016. GFWC Illinois will again provide gift baskets for this event. Please contact me if you or your club would like to donate a basket.

The Illinois Juniors will continue to support the Children's Research Hospital, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Advocates for Children, March of Dimes and St. Jude. In addition, Director Jeanette would like Junior club's across the state to support deserving organizations in their communities.



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

SET SAIL IN HELPING DESIGN BETTER LIVES THROUGH PUBLIC ISSUES

Gerri Eck, Public Issues Chairman

Cyndi Fulco, Junior Public Issues Chairman

During this administration we are going to explore new possibilities and explore ways to help our members. There are so many endless projects and programs in the Public Issues spectrum and our goal is to educate our members so that they can become more involved in the cause.

- **Citizenship:** celebrate patriotism, educate members in flag etiquette and proper disposal of tattered flags. Explore historic sites and monuments in your area. Encourage members to exercise their 19th amendment and get out and vote in the upcoming elections.
- **Veterans Affairs:** Promote legislation in support of veterans issues. Participate in Honor Flight which pays tribute to the 53,000 Chicago area World War II and Korean War Veterans. We will be seeking volunteers to attend and participate in opportunities that become available at community veterans facilities. You can also support the **USO** (United Service Organization), **Sew Much comfort and Canine Companions for Independence for Wounded Warriors.**
- **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness:** Educate communities on the need for emergency provisions such as severe weather and other related disasters. Develop community programs and coalitions to address disaster recovery and relief.
- **Safety and Crime Prevention:** Educate members and local communities on home, and transportation safety, including bikes, rail, and air. We are also going to focus on **Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Camp "I am Me"** This is a special and unforgettable one-week camp experience for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns.
- We will also be concentrating on the **American Indian Center in Chicago.** Clubs are encouraged to support the center through monetary donations or donations of clothing school supplies and food items.



Gerri Eck (left)
Cyndi Fulco (right)

HOIST THE SAILS AND EMBARK ON AN INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH JOURNEY

Ruth Sloom, International Outreach Chairman

Beth Magoon, Junior International Outreach Chairman

Ahoy mates!

It is time to hoist the sails and embark on an International Outreach journey. Wouldn't you like to travel to Morocco, Honduras, Mexico, Ethiopia or Swaziland? In fact, GFWC Partner **Operation Smile** has missions this fall to each one of these countries to perform safe, effective cleft lip and palate surgery.

Every three minutes a child is born with a cleft issue and has twice the odds of dying before their first birthday, and in too many cases, their parents can't afford the surgeries they need to live a productive life.

Every child deserves access to safe, quality surgical care and a future filled with hope. A \$240, forty-five minute procedure will provide that hope. Won't your club send a monetary donation to GFWC Illinois and become part of **The Campaign for Children's Smiles** which is GFWC's effort to raise \$150,000 to sponsor a medical mission? Other ways to support Operation Smile may be found at operationsmile.org.

As we set sail around the world, if you need more information about our ports of call such as Shot@Life, UNICEF, Helping Babies Breathe or Heifer International, please contact Ruth Sloom (sloomruth@comcast.net (217)737-0156) or Beth Magoon (staringbeth@aol.com (847) 736-2117) .



Ruth Sloom (left)
Beth Magoon (right)

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

EXPLORE THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN HOME LIFE

Mary Jane Koester, Home Life Chairman
Ruby Feeley, Junior Home Life Chairman



Mary Jane Koester (left)
Ruby Feeley (right)

Home Life includes a wide spectrum of projects and programs that your club can participate in throughout the year. Here are some ideas that clubs reported on last year that may give you a *jump start* for your club this year: Assisted and sponsored a dog for the "Mutt Strutt" fashion show to benefit Canine Companions, donated blankets to Project Linus, collected diapers and bottles for Safe Haven, made and served a meal for families at the Ronald McDonald House, adopted families and purchased presents through the village Christmas Sharing program, assembled lunch packs for low-income kids through the Blessings in a Backpack program, donated new or gently used luggage, duffle bags, back packs for children in the foster care system, volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, just to name a few.

Home Life focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle: increasing awareness, prevention, research, and treatment of disease; target personal development; addresses the issues of hunger, inadequate housing, and homelessness; and/or prevent or correct financial difficulties. Together, we are working to improve our communities and better our world. Home Life is all about "*helping design better lives*" and we can do this as we "*Set Sail....Explore the Possibilities*" that are endless.



YOU'RE AMAZING! DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!

Also, do you want more information regarding any
Community Service Program opportunities??

Head to the GFWC Illinois website (www.gfwcillinois.org) for their
full report from Summer Seminar 2016 and email the chairman!

They'd love to help you!

SAILING INTO CONSERVATION

Wanda Burklow, Conservation Chairman (top left)
Sara Gilbert, Junior Conservation Chairman (bottom right)



Small changes can make a big impact on our environment and GFWC Illinois Clubs are encouraged to *Inspire their Community to "Go Green."* Choosing items such as cloth napkins, reusable lunch and snack containers, and cloth shopping bags will significantly decrease the amount of trash thrown away in local households. Reducing waste in school lunch programs by providing opportunities to recycle milk cartons and eliminate disposable plates would teach children about conservation and help decrease waste. Encouraging local businesses, community centers, and families to use green household cleaners will help to reduce air pollution. Donating unused items to others not only helps the recipient, but also helps reduce waste in landfills. There are endless options to consider when planning your next Conservation project. Each small change will make a great difference in the quality of life of individuals for generations to come. Inspire your community to "go green" today.

Also, have you ever heard of "Kind News?" Remember Weekly Reader?? Well, this paper is better! Go to www.kindnews.org and check it out. And we also hope to teach you about one of GFWC Illinois' oldest Partnerships: The Shawnee National Forrest. Stay tuned!

If you cannot do great things, do small things in a GREAT way!

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

DESIGNING THE POSSIBILITIES THROUGH ART

Betty Koran, Art Chairman

Sue Bielenda, Junior Art Chairman

As we begin this new administration, one project I would really like to see our club Art Chairmen participate in is the "Pennies for Art" fundraising campaign. Decorate a Piggy Bank to reflect your inner artisan. It then gets passed around at your meetings for in-kind donations with the funds going towards Art contest winners. At the end of the club year the money is sent to headquarters and your piggy gets to go on a trip to convention were she or he will model at the "Piggies on Parade" event. Please consider participating in this project. It is a lot of fun and I look forward to the many entrants at this year's convention.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the various art categories at our State Convention. Congratulations to all of our winners:

Crochet-Joan Marchese, 18' doll nightgown / **Knitted**-Wanda Burklow, Baby afghan / **Counted Cross Stitch**-Shelli Fehr, Beautiful Bird / **Sewing**-Joan Marchese, Doll chef set / **Weaving**-Deb Rosburg, Fire Engine with horse / **Holiday Decoration**-Wanda Burklow, Halloween Wreath / **Scrap Art**-Sue Koch, Recycled Water Bottle Wreaths / **Ceramics**-Irene Macke, Black sculpture / **Stamped Cards**-Linda Bowlby / **Wall Décor**-Susan Shove, Welcome plaque / **Table Decoration**-Wanda Burklow, High Heel Shoe w/ Roses / **Photograph**-Elena Lipinski, Lily Pad / **Press Book**-Princeton Junior Woman's Club.

Have fun and more importantly PLEASE don't forget to report even the smallest project; you never know what project will come out a winner!



Betty Koran (left)
Sue Bielenda (right)

ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION

Phyllis Nightlinger, Education Chairman

Kim Kalafut, Junior Education Chairman

Education provides so many opportunities for people of all ages. Our clubs are the perfect vehicle to deliver such opportunities through our Education Community Service Program. Here are just a few ideas that you can implement within your own clubs and within your communities to help others improve through education. (And please utilize us as a resource to assist your clubs! We're happy to help in any way!)

- The Illinois Leadership Seminars (ILS) – At Summer Seminar we heard from 4 very poised young ladies who are all alumni from ILS. This 3-day seminar helps high school sophomores to "grow as a person, a leader and most importantly as themselves." This seminar is open to 1 individual from each high school in Illinois. ILS fundraises during the year to be able to provide this wonderful leadership seminar free of charge to these students. Your club can help by donating funds to ILS. Feel free to visit their website at www.illinoisleadershipseminars.org. Or email their board president at ils.board.president@gmail.com. In addition, please make your local high schools aware of this wonderful opportunity!
- Provide a scholarship in any amount to a young woman starting her college career or to a woman returning to school to improve her current situation. Model your scholarship after GFWC and use volunteering as your top criteria.
- Start a Book Club within your club.
- Provide school supplies to children in need. Contact your local school districts and homeless shelters to determine where the need is and organize a backpack/school supply drive to kick off your club year. If there isn't a need in your local community, feel free to contact these larger organizations: "Schools on Wheels" www.schoolonwheels.org, "Room to Read" www.roomtoread.org, "City Year" www.cityyear.org and "Cradles to Crayons" www.cradlestocrayons.org would be more than happy to receive your donations.
- Support your local library by promoting a library card sign-up month. You could also host an event at the library and possibly bring in a speaker or provide crafts or story time for the kids.
- Apply for a GFWC Focus on Literacy Grant – up to \$200 is available to individual clubs to improve literacy in our local communities.
- Or consider Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO), the honorary educational society open to GFWC members. It provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is educational and promotes a desire for self-improvement. Additional information can be found at www.GFWC.org/ESO.

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

THE JENNIE AWARD

Janice Perkins, Jennie Award Chairman

The Jennie Award is a very special award presented to a clubwoman who exemplifies the great volunteer spirit we see all around us in GFWC, GFWC Illinois and our district and local clubs. This woman will display a **genuine commitment to her club, community, and family**. What is necessary is for you to identify your “hero”, to fill out an application nominating her, and then go through the additional processes necessary to complete the nomination for the GFWC Illinois Jennie Award. The clubwoman chosen to be the GFWC Illinois Jennie Award representative will then have her papers forwarded to the Great Lakes Region to represent Illinois. Along with the other states Jennie Award winners in the Great Lakes Region, our Illinois representative will be considered for the honor of representing this region on the national level.

Please be aware that the nomination requirements and forms will be in the reporting packet received by your District and Club Presidents. You may also check out the gfwc.org website if you want the information quicker or to check for any additional requirements. The completed nomination information will need to be sent to me by June 1, 2017. If you have any questions concerning the process, please call me, Janice Perkins, at 815-347-0280 or e-mail me at jyperkins@juno.com.



And the WINNER is...

MARGE NELSON
GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION
JENNIE AWARD RECIPIENT

After completing a three year stint as a US Army WAC Specialist 4th Class, 424th Military Intelligence Censorship Department, Marge married George in 1961. They have three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Marge taught preschool, eventually supervising 10 schools. She and George owned Nelson Ice Cream Vending Services, retiring in 2011 after nearly 40 years in the business. She was a Brownie and Junior Girl Scout leader, advancing to the position of Chicago Neighborhood Leadership Chairman.

Marge volunteers at her church, Westchester Community Church, and has been a Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent, Usher and Deaconess and she is presently Financial Secretary. She was the first female President of the “Doers and Goers” group at church and expanded it from a social group to include charitable works. She is a member of the Sassy Stitchers, a group that crochets items for Veterans and women’s shelters. She has visited preschools and nursing homes for nearly 30 years, additionally performing as the Easter Bunny for Park District activities. She is also actively involved in her community, Westchester, by coordinating collections for area women’s shelters and Salvation Army fundraisers.

With her love of all things American Indian, she has presented hundreds of programs on the topic. During her 2002-2004 state presidency, she compiled a 69-page book on American Indian Culture which was given to all clubs in the state. Because of her work with the American Indian Center Chicago, she was selected to participate in the parade and dedication ceremony of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC. During her presidency, members donated \$25,000 to the American Indian Center and in kind gifts of over \$75,000. Also during her presidency, all members who served in the military were honored for their service.

In 2007, Marge was Great Lakes Region Conference Chairman and she was President of Judy’s Gems, a GFWC National Club, from 2010-2014. Leadership and service are two attributes of Marge. Her commitment to home, community, church and federation is impressive and an example to us all.

There’s something in YOU that the world needs.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...



LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

SET SAIL & CELEBRATE...

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF AURORA

The GFWC Woman's Club of Aurora is just like a star!

It was born in the past in 1891.
It illuminates the present in 2016.
It will shine far into the future!

Members will culminate this year-long celebration of **125 YEARS** of continuous community service and fellowship at a special banquet on October 11, 2016 in Aurora, IL.

Congratulations to the members of the Woman's Club of Aurora on such a wonderful accomplishment!



OUR NEW JOURNEY WITH GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORETTE!

Karyn M. Charvat, Juniorette Chairman

Ahoy, GFWC Illinois!

I'm most excited to be serving on Madam President's maiden voyage as the first GFWC Illinois Juniorette Chairman. It is my intention to "gather the crew" this administration to form an unsinkable bond between our Juniorette clubs and GFWC Illinois. For far too long, Juniorettes have been on their own, set adrift with no real navigation and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as captain of the ship!

My focus is to serve as a resource for all Juniorette Club Advisors as well as the clubs themselves. I will be available to assist with officer and new member installations for existing clubs and will remain committed to my quest to charter new Juniorette clubs. And remember – both General AND Junior clubs can sponsor a Juniorette Club! You just need one or two committed club members to serve as Juniorette Advisor and you'll be off and running! If your club is already interested in sponsoring a Juniorette Club, please contact me (DrakeU92@aol.com / (815) 814-5209) and I will be more than happy to come out and help get you started!



Exciting things to watch for this administration – the launch of a GFWC Illinois Juniorette Facebook page, featured Juniorette clubs in the Clubwoman Magazine; a special Juniorette Summit Meeting this fall and Juniorette Awards at Convention, including Juniorette Project of the Year and Juniorette of the Year.

GFWC Illinois Juniorettes are truly the future of GFWC Illinois and I cannot wait to see where our journey will take us!

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

WHRC/1734 SOCIETY

Diane Addante, WHRC Chairman

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of GFWC and women volunteers. The WHRC documents social and political contributions of clubwomen from 1890 to today.

The purpose of 1734 Society is to ensure the preservation of GFWC Headquarters, a National Historic Landmark. By joining 1734 Society, you maintain the structural integrity of this historic building at 1734 N Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Ways you can support these programs coming soon!

To learn about WHRC, visit <http://www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/whrc/>

For 1734 Society, visit <http://www.gfwc.org/support-gfwc/1734-society/>



LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Becky Weber, Legislation & Public Policy Chairman

The GFWC **LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER** is an incredible tool to educate our members on important issues. Not only can we send legislative alerts, we can also send updates to keep our members informed. **We are now able to send STATE legislative alerts!!**

To sign up go to the GFWC website – What We Do – Public Policy – Subscribe to our mailing list – make sure to click on Email Opt In.

RESOLUTIONS

The GFWC Illinois Resolutions are an integral part of the policies of GFWC Illinois and are germane to the interests of the work of our organization. Our Resolutions are our belief system – the causes we support – it's who we are. **Club presidents, please share the resolutions booklet with your club members.**



Isabella Candee Foundation

Patricia Heitman, Chairman

It's time to celebrate! The Isabella Candee Foundation will be celebrating it's 30th Anniversary on November 19, 2017! In 1990, GFWC Illinois combined the Endowment Fund with the Isabella Candee Foundation. The foundation was created to earn interest or investment growth that could be used to offset any budget deficits. This growth could be transferred yearly to the Working Cash Fund of GFWC Illinois. Due to the generosity of our members, that account presently has over \$160,000 in it!

At this time and in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Foundation, we are asking that each club consider contributing \$30 during the next year. If each club would donate, that could increase the base by another \$6,000.

Individuals may also make a \$30 personal donation, in memory/recognition/honor of a special member or special person. All donations will be recognized at the 2017 and 2018 GFWC Illinois Convention. Please consider helping to anchor our organization by making this donation when planning your budget for 2016-2017.

ISABELLA CANDEE FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

Name/Club: _____ District _____

Address: _____

Mark One: Personal [☐] In Memory [☐] In Honor [☐] In Recognition [☐]

Amount \$ _____ (Make check payable to GFWC Illinois)

Acknowledgement to be sent to: _____ Address: _____

Please mail to: ATTN: ICF, GFWC ILLINOIS, 5 E Van Buren St., Joliet, IL 60432-4224

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY THE NATIONAL DAY TO HELP OTHERS

Linda Valentino, Chairman

In 1992 USA Weekend Magazine challenged Americans to make a difference in the lives of others. It was leap year and the 29th of February fell on a Saturday. Since that time MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY has been designated on the fourth Saturday in October. This year it is October 22nd. I believe GFWC Illinois makes a difference in someone's life every day, but can we all try to participate in this special project on the 22nd?

It's as easy as:

1. Choose your project. Look around your community. There are needs everywhere.
2. Sign up your volunteers.
3. Report back.

There are GFWC awards available, and I will enter GFWC Illinois in a nation-wide contest. Please consider participating. More information will follow!



GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President

"LET'S MAKE CHANGE"

2016-2017

My challenge is a donation of little more than a 'penny-a-day' ... \$4.00 to be exact. If **Every Member of Every Club** donates \$4.00, it would generate approximately a \$4,800 donation to each of these four organizations:

EASTER SEALS
ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP SEMINARS (ILS)
CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CRF)
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

All funds received by April 1, 2017 will be distributed evenly to these organizations at the GFWC Illinois 122nd Annual Convention in May. The donation form will be included in the Treasurer's Packet this fall and will also be available on the GFWC Illinois website. Thank you for helping to make change in the lives of others !!



BEVERLY HILLS JWC

EARN \$10,000 FOR THEIR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY PROJECT

The GFWC Beverly Hills JWC was recently honored with a \$10,000 award from the Newman's Own Make a Difference Day Committee for their project.

They set out to collect luggage and back packs for children in foster care. Many of these children carry their personal belongings in trash bags. Little did Beverly Hills JWC know how successful their efforts would be. The Project was suggested by Maureen Noble, a clubwoman since 1980, who thought they would be lucky to collect 100 pieces. Carla Herr, a Junior of the Year recipient and 4 year member, researched foster care in Illinois. Diane Atkinson and member since 1992, reported that many churches in the Beverly Hills Area all put out the call for luggage and backpacks and served as a drop off points for it. The Juniors sorted and cleaned the luggage on Oct. 24. Mary Dennis, Club President, DeAnne Morgan and Kahty Flisk also contributed significant time to this project. Husbands lent helping hands. Their efforts resulted in 800 pieces. Special thanks goes to Alexander Movers, which donated a truck and three employees to deliver the luggage to the Chicago Housing Authorities, residential facility in Evanston.

Carla Herr registered the project with Make a Difference Day and the result was an incredible award of \$10,000 which was given to Vera Junge, CHA Volunteer/ Internship coordinator. Carla Herr and her husband, Terry, were on hand in Washington, DC to accept the award which was later presented to Vera Junge. Ms. Junge stated, "Thanks again so much-your group of **11 MEMBERS** is going to make the trauma of moving from home to home much easier and give our foster kids some dignity and self-worth. We are so thankful."

Yes, a small club can accomplish BIG THINGS!



Carla Herr, Beverly Hills JWC member
(third from the left)

Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire!

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS...

GFWC Illinois Deb's Diamond Divas

Patricia Heitman, President

We are very fortunate in GFWC Illinois that we have many great leaders; there are currently 9 members of GFWC Illinois serving on GFWC Board of Directors. What a wonderful honor for GFWC Illinois. We have cause to celebrate! Deb Strahanoski was installed as GFWC Second Vice President at the recent GFWC Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

This means that this administration is the halfway point for her on her journey to GFWC International President. A total of ten years before she is installed as GFWC International President. She has served as GFWC Treasurer whereby she oversaw the GFWC Finance Department. As GFWC Secretary she did actually take the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, Board of Directors meetings, and two GFWC Conventions. Congratulations to her but we knew that she could do it. As Second Vice President she will be in charge of the Committee Chairmen; Dean of Chairmen more or less.

How does this impact you and I? GFWC Illinois has submitted Deb's name for nomination for the last three administrations and will do so this administration at the next GFWC Illinois Convention for the position of First Vice President. GFWC Illinois, in doing so, has pledged their support for Deb.

GFWC Illinois Deb's Diamond Divas was established to create that support system that will generate the needed revenue to underwrite the Installation of Officers in 2022. We've done this before ladies, when Jackie Pierce was 'in line' for GFWC International President we, the members of GFWC Illinois, raised over \$60,000 that was used to underwrite the Installation of Officers and part of the 2008 GFWC Convention in Chicago.

We have a good start in raising those funds; we have raised over \$8,500 that has been placed in an investment account to earn further income. Each one of us can do our share. The opportunity for you is that you can make a donation to help reach our goal.

Be one of the 'Diamond' contributors - \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25 or more. Each donation will be recognized at the 2017 and 2018 GFWC Convention. You as a donor will also receive a symbolic diamond - \$5-Chocolate; \$10-Blue; \$15-Pink; \$20-Yellow; \$25 or more-White.

Use this form to make your contributions. Ask your Club to also make a contribution. Ask your District to make a contribution.

GFWC ILLINOIS DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

Amount \$ _____ Make check payable to Deb's Diamond Divas

Send to Patricia Heitman, 24959 S Gougar Rd, Manhattan IL 60442-9311

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

GFWC.ORG

TWO CLICKS AWAY FROM EVERYTHING YOU NEED

Having trouble finding the event, form, partner information or marketplace item you were searching for on the GFWC website?

In many cases, the desired item is only two clicks away. Here are some helpful hints on where to find the most sought after information.

THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

1. Click the **What We Do** tab which appears on the top of every page.
2. Click on the word **"Legislative Action Center"** from the drop down menu.

The Legislative Action Center is a powerful tool for GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. From the Center you can track proposed bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues relevant to GFWC resolutions.

GFWC MARKETPLACE

1. Click the blue **GFWC Marketplace** button.
2. Click the **shopping cart icon** to connect to available products.

The Marketplace offers a wide variety of merchandise, program guidelines, and training materials to help your club fulfill their mission.

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

1. Click the **Resource** tab.
2. Click the **letter** in the alphabetical list that corresponds to the item for which you are searching.

The resources page contains forms and documents for GFWC members including contest rules, advancement guides, the bylaws, and the 10 top projects listing.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONVENTION

1. Click the word **"Events"** or the **calendar icon** in the lower right corner of the homepage.
2. Click the **name of the event** you would like to learn more about.

CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Click the **Who We Are** tab.
2. Click on the word **"Executive Committee"** from the drop down menu.

The Executive Committee page features phone numbers, email, and mailing addresses for each member. You can also access a biography with just one more click.

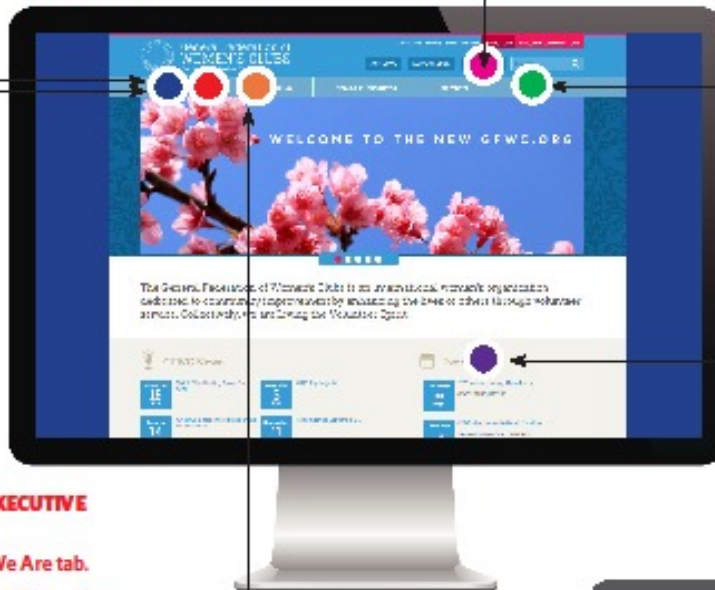
PARTNER INFORMATION

1. Click the **What We Do** tab.
2. Click on the word **"Partnership"** from the drop down menu.

The Partnership page lists organizations selected for their ability to improve our communities. By selecting the name of a partner you will find materials created specifically for GFWC clubs.

While the redesign of GFWC.org launched last March, the website continues to grow and change to meet club members' needs.

If you would like to suggest a change, please contact GFWC Communications Department at pr@gfwc.org





GFWC Illinois
5 East Van Buren St.
Suite 208
Joliet, IL 60432

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CAROL STREAM, IL
PERMIT 191

NEW ON THE GFWC WEBSITE:

GFWC 2016-2018 CLUB MANUAL & TOP 10 PROJECTS

Has your club or your committee been looking for something new to do for your community? Are you new to your position in your club? Want some helpful hints on maximizing your experience? Be sure to go to the GFWC website for the 2016-2018 Club Manual at <http://www.gfwc.org/membership/club-manual/>. You can download any and all sections of the manual and read the useful information found there!

How about finding some inspiration in the Top 10 Projects recognized at the 2016 GFWC Convention?? Go to <http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc-resources/> and click on the tab labeled "T" for Top 10 Projects!



UPCOMING EVENTS

GFWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 25-28 ~ ARLINGTON, VA

"HAUTE DOG"- GREATER CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER OF
CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRITY DOGGIE FASHION SHOW
SEPTEMBER 8 ~ PENINSULA HOTEL, CHICAGO
www.cci.org/hautedogchicago

REGION MEETING BETWEEN
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS/DISTRICT PRESIDENTS/
DIRECTORS OF JR. CLUBS
SEPTEMBER 17

ST. JUDE WALK/RUN TO END CHILDHOOD CANCER
SEPTEMBER 24 ~ NORMAL/PEORIA/CHICAGO, IL
PHYSICAL OR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE WELCOME!
MORE INFO @ www.gfwcillinois.org

DEADLINE FOR GFWC ILLINOIS NOVEMBER BOARD
MEETING HOTEL AND MEAL RESERVATIONS
OCTOBER 1

GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 27-30, 2016
GRAND GENEVA RESORT AND SPA ~ LAKE GENEVA, IL

GFWC ILLINOIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 4-5 ~ PRINCETON, IL