

GFWC Illinois
Clubwoman
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FROM,



JEANETTE

&



A publication of the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!



IN MEMORIAM :

Janice Rowe, Lombard Service League, District 5

Mary Rada, Lombard Service League, District 5

Muriel Luehr, Lombard Service League, District 5

SYMPATHY & SUPPORT EXTENDED TO:

Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President, on the passing of her nephew David Michael.

Kim Kalafut, GFWC Illinois Junior Education Chairman, on the passing of her father.

Malinda Valeu, District 17 President, on the passing of her mother Shelby.

Cherie Sieger, Director-Elect of Junior Clubs, on the passing of her mother Carida.

Donna Edwards, Danville-Illiana Women's Club, on the passing of her father.

SUPPORT & GET WELL WISHES EXTENDED TO:

Terry Lahue, GFWC Illinois Convention Treasurer



GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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

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nrkuchar@yahoo.com

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

FROM THE DESK OF THE CAPTAIN

Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Illinois President

Happy Holidays GFWC Illinois! I find it incredibly hard to fathom that six months of this administration have already passed. Time really does fly when you are busy and having fun!

Reporting time quickly follows the fast approaching holiday season. If your club submits annual reports each year, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Due to your efforts, we can identify which programs and projects appeal to our members and to the communities our clubs service. GFWC takes the information provided by each State Chairman, President and Director of Junior Clubs to other organizations in support of their program of work. Your club's annual reports are the key to providing quantitative proof, that we, GFWC and GFWC Illinois, share the same interests and goals with organizations like: Canine Companions for Independence, Easterseals, Prevent Child Abuse – America, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, The Nature Generation, USO, Heifer International, etc. . . . the list of partners is never complete. GFWC is very close to releasing information on the newest partner for the Arts program.

If your club hasn't sent annual reports in the past, please start by telling us about just one of your club projects completed in 2016. I know that you did something to enhance the lives of others within your community. It doesn't have to be the biggest project, pick the project that your members enjoy the most and tell us what you did and who benefitted. Many clubs think that a small project that wasn't well attended shouldn't be reported. You couldn't be more wrong . . . work was done, planning took place, money may have been spent and members volunteered their time to put on the project, all things that should be reported, regardless of the final outcome. The fact that the community didn't support it doesn't lessen the work done by the members and club.

Reporting your club activities gives us the complete history of GFWC Illinois – 2016. Be a part of that history by telling the State and Junior Chairmen about the many programs and projects completed in Illinois in 2016. If you need help or guidance in starting, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Officers or Chairmen. We are all ready and eager to help you.

As we head into the craziest, busiest month of the year, I hope that each of you enjoy the season for all the special events it brings, most importantly the opportunity to spend time with the most special people in your life. In the hustle and bustle to get things done, we often forget to savor the special moments of the holiday season: time spent with friends and family, helping out at the food pantry or depository, serving meals to those in need in your community, visiting the residence in an assisted care facilities, or enjoying a school Christmas program, even if you don't have a child or grandchild performing.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with moments to savor!



FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST MATE

Jeanette T. Wells, GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs

We have had quite a couple of weeks full of GFWC meetings and it has been fantastic. It really re-energized me and I am really looking forward to reading reports and hearing all the things our clubs are doing. **Reports? Yes, reports!** The time is just around the corner. My wish is that that we will receive a report from every club. That is right, that each club would send in at least one report. Pick out your favorite project or program, figure out where it fits and report on it.

I know each and every club does wonderful things across our state and around the world. Why keep it a secret? Tell us! Tell everyone! Along with reporting, the Junior Clubs can send in Junior of the Year, Junior Service and Spark Plug Award Application. I am sure there is a special member in your club that would be eligible and deserving of one of these special awards. Please give this careful consideration.

We are introducing new awards for Juniorettes and Advisors: Juniette of the Year, Juniette Advisor of the Year and Juniette Project of the Year. It would be great to see all of our Juniorettes send in these special award applications. Lastly for your consideration, remember LEADS. Please consider attending the GFWC IL LEADS (Leadership Education And Development Seminar). This event is the day before our state Convention, Wednesday, May 17th. I have attended more than one of these and it is definitely a day full of great information and more than worth your time. The Reporting Packet should be in your President's hands by now and all this information can be found there. Let us know you have any questions or need any help with reporting.



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

IT'S REPORTING TIME!

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

Reporting is a wonderful way to document club activities and share that information with others. It is valuable for recognition and history and can be an easy activity if advance planning is done. We want to know what your club does and we want to celebrate your successes with you! We are so grateful to the clubs who always report – your efforts are truly appreciated! If your club doesn't report, please consider picking an event your club really enjoys and report on that. If the narrative seems overwhelming, report your statistics. Start simple. Pick one project and tell us what you did. Your community work is valuable and we would love to hear about it!

Remember that there will be one Reporting Packet sent to each club for 2016-2018. Please retain all materials and keep a copy of all forms for your use again next year.



From a report writing standpoint, there is one notable change:

The Advocates for Children and “Our Promise...a Safe Place for Every Child” reports are combined into one report beginning this year.

When you review the Statistical Form (on page 6 & 7), you will see the GFWC partnership organizations listed separately under their Community Service Program. If you have worked with these organizations, the stats must be separated on the lines provided. All other activity goes on the line for “Community Service Projects”. Club activities are either **Partnerships or Community Service Projects**.



The reporting period includes club activities from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Deadline for submitting reports is 11:59pm on February 1, 2017.

Reports may be sent electronically to the appropriate chairman.



REPORTING TIPS– DOs AND DON'Ts:

- **Do** Designate a Club Reporting Chairman – this member can keep track of club projects, encourage chairmen to submit project reports, separate the reports into the proper reporting category and organize a report-writing team.
- **Do** Establish a Report-Writing Team – one person writing all the reports is no fun. Been there, done that. **Together Everyone Accomplishes More** – in the case of writing reports, it is absolutely true.
- **Don't** wait until January to review the Reporting Packet. Get a head start by reading it now.
- **Don't** Dual Report - You can break projects down into components if you must, but there should not be any doubling up of statistics anywhere.
- **Do** Keep Thorough Club Records – if you have agendas for meetings, Treasurer's Reports, Minutes and written motions, you have all the tools you need to gather data for reporting. We enjoy going through these documents to find hidden gems to report.
- **Do** Start Early – Encourage club project chairmen to submit reports on a timely basis and keep current. It is much easier to write a project report right after it happens than to wait until January 15 and try to remember everything you did the previous year. Reporting is pretty easy if you have all the information you need at hand when you sit down to write.
- **Do** remember you can't report more members than you have in your club – The figure your club should use is based on the number of members listed in the 2016-2017 GFWC Illinois Yearbook.
- **Do Have Fun!!!**

Reports can be written in bullet form, narrative form, or both. Flip to the next page for an example of a well-written report....

And don't forget— we would love to attend your club or district meeting and present a reporting workshop! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have ANY questions!

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

SAMPLE REPORTSAMPLE REPORT***SAMPLE REPORT***

Our Promise /Advocates for Children
GFWC Illinois Special Projects 2016
XYZ Woman's Club, District 1
10 members

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Children's Research Foundation—Our club donated \$100.00 to this organization. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$100.00 Donated)

Christian Friendliness Association—a donation of \$100.00 was made to this association that provides after school activities to at risk children. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$100.00 Donated)

NEW! Closet2Closet—This organization was introduced to us by a new member at a meeting. It provides clothing to foster children. (8 Members, 1 Hour)

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Prevent Child Abuse America/Illinois—the following projects were completed for these organizations:

Pinwheels for Prevention

- \$25.00 was given to District 3 towards a pinwheel garden for the district convention. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$25.00 Donated)
- We planted our own pinwheel garden during the week of Federation Day at our meeting place with pinwheels purchased the year before. We prepared a small presentation and gave each attendee a pinwheel to plant in buckets outside our event building. We also posted the Pinwheels for Prevention sign. As an aside, when we went outside to plant the pinwheels, there were two one-dollar bills in the buckets, presumably deposited there by golfers that were attending the golf tournament that day. What a nice surprise! (7 Members, 3.5 Hours, \$2.00 Donated)
- We purchased another \$100.00 worth of pinwheels for next year. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$100.00 In Kind)

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

- A donation of \$100.00 was given to this organization. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$100.00 Donated)
- NEW! PCA Illinois Conference Raffle Baskets—Our club donated 5 baskets to this conference. (7 Members, 5 Hours, \$250.00 In Kind)
- Three members attended the Blue Ribbon Fashion Show. (3 Members, 16.5 Hours)

NEW! St. Jude Children's Research Hospital—Two members participated in the St. Jude Walk, raising \$300.00 for the organization. (2 Members, 7 Hours, \$300.00 Donated)

March of Dimes--\$100.00 was donated. (10 Members, .5 Hours, \$100.00 Donated)

11 Projects 10 Members 36 Hours \$727.00 Donated \$350.00 In Kind

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS REPORTING/STATISTICAL FORM January 1 through December 31

20_____

Club Name _____ District _____

Completed by:
Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Number of Members (Per the current GFWC Illinois Yearbook) _____

SPECIAL PROJECTS	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Donated	In-Kind Donations	Narrative Included?
GFWC Signature Project:						
Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention						
Community Service Projects						
GFWC Illinois Special Projects:						
Our Promise / Advocates for Children						
Community Service Projects						
Partnership Projects						
Prevent Child Abuse-America/Illinois						
St. Jude Children's Research Hosp						
March of Dimes						
TOTAL GFWC IL SPECIAL PROJECTS						

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Donated	In-Kind Donations	Narrative Included?
ARTS						
Community Service Projects						
Partnership Projects						
N/A at this time						
Total Arts						
CONSERVATION						
Community Service Projects						
Partnership Projects						
The Nature Generation						
Total Conservation						
EDUCATION						
Community Service Projects						
Partnership Projects:						
Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership						
Illinois Leadership Seminar						
Total Education						
EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)				# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	# Books Read

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

Club Name _____ District _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Donated	In-Kind Donations	Narrative Included?
HOME LIFE						
<i>Community Service Projects</i>						
<i>Partnership Projects</i>						
Canine Companions						
Easterseals						
Total Home Life						
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH						
<i>Community Service Projects</i>						
<i>Partnership Projects</i>						
Heifer International						
Operation Smile International						
UN Foundation-Shot@Life						
U.S. Fund for UNICEF						
Total International						
PUBLIC ISSUES						
<i>Community Service Projects</i>						
<i>Partnership Projects</i>						
Sew Much Comfort						
USO						
Total Public Issues						

GFWC ADVANCEMENTS	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Spent	Narrative Included?
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS					
LEADERSHIP					
LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY					
MEMBERSHIP					

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Raised	Narrative Included?
<i>Club Fundraisers</i>					
<i>GFWC Endorsed Fundraisers:</i>					
Flower Power					
Terri Lynn Foods					
Total Fundraising					

WOMEN'S HISTORY & RESOURCE CENTER (WHRC)	# of Projects	# of Members Participating	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Donated	In-Kind Donations	Narrative Included?

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

RECOGNIZING, REWARDING AND RECRUITING MEMBERS

Alice Betlach, Southern Region Vice President, MEMBERSHIP (pictured right)

Cally Larson Irvine, GFWC Illinois Junior Chairman (pictured left)



How do we RECOGNIZE, REWARD AND RECRUIT MEMBERS??

Be Positive. Members are more likely to remain in a club that has a positive and fun atmosphere. Members do not join to be recognized, but it is always nice to have your efforts appreciated. Connect with your members to let them know just how much they are valued. Positive encouragement and appreciation can mean a lot to members, such as:

- “Your efforts are really making a difference.”
- “Great job; you made us all look good!”
- “Your contribution to this project helped to make it happen!”

Recognize Years of Service. While you are praising your members for a project well done, remember to tabulate and **recognize** their years of service as a member of your club. Don't forget about the beautiful selection of pins that members can proudly wear! Starting with your newest members, there are 5-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 30-year, and 40-year membership pins available for purchase directly through GFWC Marketplace, and Award Certificates are suggested. GFWC Silver membership pins, which recognize 25-year members, may be purchased at www.GFWC.org/membership/marketplace. GFWC Gold Pins are awarded to 50-year GFWC members. The member's club president requests the Gold Pin, which is free of charge, by filling out the request form that is available at www.GFWC.org. Plan a Membership Appreciation event annually to **reward** your members with their pins and certificates.

Celebrate Club Anniversaries. Each year provides an opportunity to celebrate your club's anniversary. Whether it is 5, 10, 15, or 20 years since your founding or federation with GFWC, consider honoring one member every year with a “GFWC Clubwoman of the Year” award. Include this presentation at your Membership Appreciation event.

Participate in GFWC's Recruitment Campaign – “It's the Real Deal!” Recruiting is a year-round process and the campaigns and reporting forms reflect this fact. A club that recruits three members during each campaign will end the year with 12 new members! The emphasis for September through November is “Bridge the Gap!” Lessen the generation gap in your members. Fill in the years of your members to maintain communication and harmony in your membership roster. The recruiting emphasis for December through February is “Game of Hearts”.

The possibilities in obtaining new members are as diverse as your organization. **Our reporting tells us that clubs MOST successful at attracting new members are clubs that plan relevant, stimulating, and meaningful programs which contribute to the positive growth of the individual and the community.**

Wherever you go, you are bound to meet someone with whom you can share information about your woman's club. Invite a co-worker who has expressed an interest in a project you are working on. Invite a neighbor, friend, or friend of a friend. At local schools invite a teacher, administrator, or a mom! In addition to personal contacts, you can market your club “all over town”. Unleash your imagination through a club website, social media, news articles, brochures and flyers. Always include Federation facts, food and fun with your recruitment activities. Clubs achieving and reporting three new members as a result of their recruiting efforts will be recognized in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. Reporting for this campaign is due December 1st. Go to <http://www.gfwc.org/membership/recruitment-campaigns/> to obtain the GWC Recruitment Campaign Report form. Please submit a report form even if your club recruited one or two new members – ***Every Member Counts!***

News to Share?

Send your club/district news or project details and photos to Carol Jablonski for mention in KEY NOTES!

carolajablonski@att.net

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTESTS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

Carol Jablonski, Northern Region Vice President, COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS (pictured)

Sherena Smith, GFWC Illinois Junior Chairman

Your club is a dynamic, powerful force in your community. You work to affect change every day. While recognition is not something you expect for the work you do, it serves an important purpose: getting the word out. Publicizing your club's projects and initiatives lets your community know you exist and that you're doing important things.

There are numerous ways in which you can communicate your club's activities and accomplishments to both internal and external audiences. The list below is not meant to be all inclusive, but instead is here to provide a reminder of the various communications and public relations tools your club may have used throughout the club year. You will want to ensure all opportunities are included in your club's 2016 reporting in February!



- **NEWSLETTERS** - Club newsletters are one of the most effective and efficient methods of informing members about projects, programs, events, partnerships, and issues.
- **WEBSITES** - Clear-cut, well-organized, and frequently-updated websites convey credibility, enthusiasm, and effectiveness.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** - Social media includes the various online technology tools that enable people to easily communicate and share information and resources – Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Flickr, Instagram, and Pinterest.
- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** - Use GFWC as part of your club name. Use the GFWC Logo in communication materials. Wear GFWC or club t-shirts when completing service projects in the community or have a GFWC road sign at entrance(s) to your town.
- **CELEBRATIONS** - Celebrate Federation Day on April 24 and Volunteers in Action Week (the week that includes April 24) with a publicity activity. Celebrate Junior Week or carry out a project for Make a Difference Day. Celebrate a milestone anniversary of your club charter.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS** - Holiday receptions, candidate forums, art shows, book signings, lectures, and discussions are just a few examples of events in which clubs can participate.
- **SPONSORSHIPS** - If your club doesn't have the resources to host or plan a special event, sponsor a relevant event that someone else is organizing. Sponsor a kids' sports team, a 5k run, or clean up a stretch of road through IL. Adopt a Highway and your club name will be on the road sign.
- **STRENGTHEN GFWC PRESENCE** – Represent your club or GFWC on the boards of other local organizations and associations (i.e., chambers of commerce, beautification committee, and library board).
- **MEDIA COMMUNICATION** – Press releases are not the only way to communicate with the media. Other mediums include media advisories, photo releases, opinion letters, letters to the editor and public service announcements.

GFWC CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

The GFWC Communication and Public Relations Committee oversees three contests: Newsletter, Website, and Media Campaign. For the Newsletter and Website Contests - first, second and third place certificates are awarded annually at the GFWC Convention to the top three clubs in the nation. For the Media Campaign Contest, a \$50 award is given at the GFWC Annual Convention to the top club in the nation to recognize outstanding achievement in the following areas: Advocacy, Fundraising, Membership Recruitment and Special Event.

For details including contest rules, judging criteria, deadlines and entry information, please refer to the awards, contest, and grants section of the GFWC Club Manual for further information. Information is also found on the GFWC Illinois Website - 2016-2018 Communications and Public Relations PDF.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

ALL ABOARD FOR ILLINOIS LEADS WORKSHOP IN MAY

Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, Central Region Vice President, LEADERSHIP (pictured)
Debbie Monteith, GFWC Illinois Junior Chairman

Central Region Captain (Teresa Sanford-Shipplett) and First Mate (Debbie Monteith) are encouraging all club presidents, district officers and general and Junior members to attend Illinois LEADS this May. The workshop is open to all members who want to improve their leadership skills! Illinois LEADS will be held on May 17th just one day prior to the opening of GFWC IL Convention. This one day workshop is packed with tips and skills needed to become better leaders in local clubs, communities, and our country.



Our Illinois LEADS will showcase experienced leaders that will help members build skills and sharpen leadership talents. Attendees will learn more about GFWC and its mission of community service. Information will be provided on organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, and flexibility. Learn more about leadership styles and how to improve communication among others. Registration will be due at the same time as your convention registration in April.

One of our Illinois LEADS graduates will have the opportunity to move forward as the Illinois LEADS representative to attend International LEADS at the GFWC Convention in June. Remember to fill out the separate GFWC Candidate form to express your interest in attending this seminar.

Save The Date!

Illinois LEADS Workshop

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 @ State Convention

\$30 Registration includes LEADS Workshop and Lunch

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Debbie Monteith, GFWC Illinois Junior Chairman, LEADERSHIP

We know there are Illinois Juniors who have been **“helping design better lives”** for others through their participation in club service projects, programs, fundraisers and leadership positions. We encourage your club to nominate your special Junior for one of the Junior Awards that are presented at Convention May 2017. The nomination forms are in the reporting packets.

- **Junior of the Year Award:** this recognition award is designed to stimulate and reinforce the quality of club work, as well as recognize the dedicated, hard work of a special Junior in your club for her efforts and accomplishments for the 2016 calendar year.
- **Outstanding Junior Service Award:** is an award for a special Junior in your club that recognizes her entire service in her junior career.
- **Spark Plug Award:** recognizes a special Junior who has given her service to your club for less than two years.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

SET YOUR SAILS FOR 2017 GFWC ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS

Judy Radar, GFWC Illinois Scholarship Chairman

By now every club should have received a packet of scholarship applications from their District President to distribute in our local communities. Let's work together to spread the word about these educational opportunities for students!

GFWC Illinois Scholarships available this administration include:

- Arthur Grant Smith Scholarship - Drama (\$500)
- GFWC Illinois Centennial Library Science Scholarship (\$300)
- Hamilton Ridge Scholarship – Music (\$1000)
- Illinois Cottage Park Ridge Vocational Scholarship for Girls (2@\$1000)
- Lincoln Lodge Vocational Scholarship for Boys (2@\$1000)
- Lorado Taft Scholarship - Art (\$1000)
- 2017 Vina Miller Memorial Scholarship (\$1000)

With an emphasis on International Outreach ~ Ex: International Business, Foreign Languages, Missions, International Healthcare, etc.

*These scholarships are open to all students - current high school graduates, existing college student or adults returning to school. Scholarships will be sent directly to the winner's college, university or trade school which **MUST** be located in Illinois and will be applied to educational expenses for the Fall Semester 2017. (Exception: Online out-of-state courses will be accepted for the GFWC Illinois Centennial Library Science Scholarship)

*Please emphasize to your local club that each scholarship application **MUST** be signed by the club president before an application will be considered. It is highly recommended that local club presidents **SIGN THE APPLICATIONS BEFORE DISTRIBUTING TO THE PUBLIC**. Applications need not have original signatures. Schools & others may make additional copies of the forms as needed, but all must have the president's signature!

*Scholarship applications are available (a) online at gfwcillinois.org under the "Members' Area" Tab, (b) from your District President or (c) from me at judyraider51@gmail.com

ARTS CONTESTS @ CONVENTION

Betty Koran, Chairman, Community Service, ARTS

This Art Chairman would like to challenge ALL the clubwomen of Illinois. As this holiday season approaches, I would like you to make a piece of holiday art and after the holidays don't pack it up and put it away. Instead, bring or send it to the Art Room at the GFWC Illinois 122nd Convention, May 17 – 20th at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. Who knows; you could end up with a First Place Blue Ribbon!

Not Artsy Craftsyy?? Then why not try your hand at photography? Snap a shot of your fellow clubwoman as they work on a holiday project. Or maybe take a picture of a beautiful fall or winter scene. Submit them at convention and your photo could end up in the GFWC Calendar. Another idea is to jot down your thoughts and feelings in the form of a poem while you are snuggled under the covers on a chilly evening. Have a funny story to tell? Put it down on paper and submit it in the short story category.

So you have heard the challenge; now I hope you will rev up those artistic juices and fill the Art Room to capacity. Contest information at the state level can be found in your Reporting Packet. But if you have any other questions or want to read the GFWC International contest requirements, don't hesitate to contact me or go directly to the GFWC website at www.gfwc.org. Go to Membership Services and click on Awards, Contests and Grants for the full contest information.

And finally to all the clubs who sponsored and submitted Youth Short Stories and Poetry contests-- keep up the good work! Last year's entries were amazing and I so look forward to reading all the entries this year. I hope everyone considers this project for the upcoming club year--- it's not too late!

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

JENNIE AWARD

Janice Perkins, Jennie Award Chairman

Details to keep in mind when nominating your club's "Jennie" nominee are that she must have been a GFWC club member for at least 5 years and not be a current or past member of the GFWC Executive Committee. An official application must be completed with no more than a 500 word narrative explaining the nominee's club and community activities as well as her commitment to her family. There are requirements covering other materials which must be put together as supporting materials for a presentation to be judged on the State, Regional, and National level. Included in these materials are such items as a photograph, newspaper clippings, endorsement letters, etc. For more detailed information visit www.GFWC.org/ClubManual and click your way to the Jennie Award.

All the packet materials must be gathered and put together in a manner that will present well to the people who will be viewing, reading and judging the entries. The "Jennie" candidate has done her job of serving her club, community and family in a way that has caught your eye. Now it is time for you, her club and friends, to do your best to put the information you've gathered on her accomplishments together in such a manner that it will make her "shine" to the best extent possible.

When all information on your "Jennie" is in order and completed for others to view, it is time to send the entire packet off to me. This must be done by June 1, 2017. From this point on it will be my duty to have outside sources judge and pick a winner for the state of Illinois. The Illinois winner will then go to Phyllis Skubic, our State President, for her to submit to the Great Lakes Region for further judging to pick the top two in our region. From the Region these last two will move on to GFWC Headquarters where the final candidate will be picked for each region. Regional winners go to the 2018 GFWC Convention to receive their award.

Please send your Jennie packet to: Janice Perkins, 19910 Collins Road, Marengo, IL 60152, postmarked no later than June 1, 2017.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Gerri Eck, Public Relations Chairman

A boyhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery left a big impression on Morrill Worcester-one he never forgot. Decades later, in 1992, his surplus of 5,000 wreaths and his desire to have them placed at Arlington kicked off an annual tribute that went on quietly for over ten years. With national interest in the project having grown so greatly, in 2007 a dedicated group of volunteers formed "Wreaths Across America" as a non-profit 501-(c) to continue and expand the mission to:

Remember our fallen U.S veterans.

Honor those who serve.

Teach your children the value of freedom.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S states, at sea and abroad.

We encourage every volunteer who places a wreath on veteran's grave to say that veteran's name aloud and take a moment to thank him/her for their service to our country. It's a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive. We are not here to "decorate graves". We're here to remember not their deaths, but their lives.- Karen Worcester, Executive of Wreaths Across America, (Source: <http://www.wreathsassamerica.org/>)

**We hope you and your clubs consider joining us on
National Wreaths Across America Day on December 17, 2016.**

Local Veteran Cemeteries participating in the event are:
Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery ~ Elwood, IL
Camp Butler National Cemetery ~ Springfield, IL
Danville National Cemetery ~ Danville, IL



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

1734 SOCIETY DONATION CHALLENGE

Diane Addante, Chairman (pictured)

Donna Cross, Junior Chairman

1734 N Street NW was established as our headquarters in 1922. As we approach the 100th anniversary of this brilliant acquisition, we encourage each of you to participate in the maintenance of this structure. We are lucky to have this beautiful building which serves us so well in the heart of Our Nation's Capital.

The 1734 Society was developed to provide funds for ongoing maintenance of our beautiful, historical headquarters at 1734 N Street NW, Washington, D.C. It is an annual fund, in hopes that members will donate each year, and the funds are held for the specific purpose of repair and maintenance to the building. Recently, funds from 1734 Society were used to help with roof repairs and to bolster the stability of the gorgeous staircase. Having been there for a board meeting in August and seeing many GFWC Illinois members up and down those stairs, I am grateful for the stability!!



GFWC Illinois donated over \$1,734 each of the last two years to the fund, thanks to generous support of our members and diligence of Trisha Schafer, WHRC/1734 Chairman 2014-2016. Great job, ladies!!

We want to get more clubs/members involved this year. To that end we are issuing a challenge for each club and any interested member to **donate \$17.34 to the fund.**

There are multiple ways to make this donation. Easiest is to send it in with other contributions on the GFWC Illinois Project Contribution Form as there is a line for it. You can also send it directly to GFWC with "GFWC 1734 Society" in the memo section. Donation forms for this were given to District Presidents at the November Board meeting. If you have not received that form and want to go this route, please contact your District President. Lastly, though it takes a little more effort, go to gfwcillinois.org, then "What We Do". Scroll down and open Women's History and Resource Center link. Scroll down a bit and right click over the form. Select "Copy", then paste it onto a new word document and print the form. Lots of options; whatever works for you!

Making this donation and reporting it to GFWC Illinois Headquarters, Donna Cross or Diane Addante will result in recognition in a booklet at Convention in May. Also, you will be invited to participate in a group photo with the visiting GFWC Officer there.

THE KEY to recognition is to communicate the donation to one of the above. If the donation is made directly to GFWC, the only way we will know about it is if you tell us.

This is a one-year program and the deadline to donate and communicate it to us is April 1, 2017.

Checks sent directly to Washington should be made payable to GFWC 1734 Society and sent to GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2990.

Thank you!!



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

TREASURER REPORT

Michelle Schultz, Treasurer (pictured top right)

Erika Dobrotka, Junior Treasurer (pictured bottom left)

By the time you are reading this article, your dues should have already been paid. The word “Dues” may cause negative feelings among some members. Many of the members who have these negative feelings probably don’t realize the value they receive from those dues to the District, State and International organization; they only see the physical outlay of the money. So let’s concentrate on the positive-the value of those dues. Value can be the monetary worth of an item, but it can also be the importance, usefulness and benefit of an item.

What value (benefits or useful items) do you get from your dues?

- GFWC Illinois Clubwoman magazine
- GFWC Club Manual
- Access to GFWC and GFWC Illinois websites loaded with information
- Women’s History and Resource Center (WHRC) in Washington, DC
- Additional materials provided by State and/or District Chairman
- GFWC and GFWC Illinois personnel to answer questions and provide guidance
- Federation Friday emails
- GFWC News and Notes
- Legislative Action Center
- Educational opportunities
- Leadership development
- Enhancement of communication skills
- Networking opportunities
- Personal growth
- Community Involvement
- Making a Difference in the lives of others
- Form new friendships



Now let’s look at the monetary value of your dues. The average annual dues for a club in Illinois is approximately \$40 to \$60. Dues for other service organizations can be that same amount for just a quarter.

How does the monetary value of dues compare to items that many of us purchase routinely? A coffee at Starbucks is approximately \$4-\$5 each. On average, you could eliminate 1 coffee a month to pay for your dues. Your favorite pair of shoes or jeans could easily cost anywhere from \$40 to \$80. How often do you wear either one of those items as compared to being a member of your GFWC club for a whole calendar year?

What is the monetary value of those benefits listed above? While you can place a monetary value on some of the items, many of them it would be very difficult to do so. The monetary value of your GFWC and GFWC Illinois dues are “priceless.”

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:

EASTERSEALS
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 !!



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

GFWC ILLINOIS SPECIAL PROJECTS

Karen Meyer, Chairman (pictured)

Allison Meyer Hale, Junior Chairman



JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECT – Advocates for Children

As President John F. Kennedy said “children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future”. The GFWC Juniors’ Special Program, Advocates for Children, was adopted to give all clubs an opportunity to participate in projects that benefit children of all ages.

Illinois Director of Junior Clubs, Jeanette T. Wells, has given the Illinois Juniors’ a unique and special opportunity during her administration. She has asked each club choose a worthy organization or area of need in their community to support.

It can be easy to fall into the habit of supporting your community philanthropically. However, for some organizations, the gift of time can be just, if not more valuable. Many clubs across the state have been giving time, talents, and money in creative ways! Look to GFWC’s Club Manual: Junior Special Programs Section or network with other clubs for ideas!

In addition to our unique challenge, Illinois Juniors’ are called to continue their support for Children’s Research Foundation (CRF), who provide seed monies for childhood illness medical research. Consider including CRF as a beneficiary of a fundraising activity. This beautiful partnership as impacted the lives of many children and CRF continues to strive to meet their mission!

The GFWC Partnerships are:

- March of Dimes works to end premature birth and other problems that threaten babies. They help moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. If something goes wrong, they offer information and comfort to families. Join the March of Dimes Advocacy Network. <http://www.MarchofDimes.org>.

Each year in the United States, the first home for 380,000 premature babies is the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). For their families, this is a time of uncertainty and fear. Thanks to committed people like you, we have surpassed the 173,000 mark in our campaign to take 380,000 actions to fight for every one of those babies! Share this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEb5jbAHNIo&feature=youtu.be> to get others excited about helping families whose babies are fighting the biggest battle of their lives.

- St Jude Children’s Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. And families never receive a bill from St. Jude. Treatment, travel, housing and food is all paid for because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

GFWC ILLINOIS STATE PROJECT— Our Promise ... A Safe Place for Every Child - PCA Illinois (<http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org/>)

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois envisions an Illinois where all children grow in healthy, nurturing homes and communities free of abuse, neglect, violence, or endangerment of any kind. Let’s do everything we can as Clubwomen and citizens to help make this vision come true.

Visit their website for information about all programs and training they have available. Here is a small sampling of what is available:

- Stewards of Children (2-hour video) teaches adults how to recognize, react, and prevent child sexual abuse.
- The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Child Abuse Prevention 101 – training provides information on how to recognize and responds to signs and symptoms associated with child abuse and neglect

Child neglect deaths are going up in Illinois. What can you do to help? Many job roles (nurses, doctors, school personnel, etc.) are mandated to report child abuse or neglect. All of us, however, should report suspected abuse or neglect. Calls should be made immediately to the State Central DCFS Register via its toll-free number [1-800-25A-BUSE] at any time, day or night, or on any day of the week. When you call, be sure to request the #intake number. This number that is issued on every call, can be referenced if you or anyone else you know calls in on what they have observed. This assists DCFS in tying multiple call records together which allows them to see patterns not just one time observances.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

LOOKING AHEAD... CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH— APRIL 2017

Allison Meyer Hale, Junior Chairman

As we move into the coming months and gear up for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, remember the Illinois Juniors' have the "POWER" to make a difference! **Prepare, Organize, Work, Evaluate, and Report!** Consider supporting the partnerships that are established and participate by bringing awareness or a program to your community.

In the winter months, many children and families are in need of cold weather clothing . Many communities have mitten trees and coat drives. A nice new or gently used coat, pair of boots or mittens makes it possible for children to continue to be active in the winter. Consider hosting a Boot/Coat/Mitten Drive in your local community!

When winter has ended and spring has sprung, it will be time to spin into Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Many clubs across the state have participated in Planting Pinwheel Gardens and raising awareness in their local communities to support the mission on Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois. This year, challenge your club to make their project **bigger, better, and bluer!** If you are new to participating, there are many resources online which include Pinterest and both PCA-Illinois and PCA- America Websites. A simple Google inquiry of "Pinwheel Garden" will flood you with results of communities across the country to provide many ideas to replicate!

Children are our future!

GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORETTE— WE ARE THE FUTURE

Karyn M. Charvat, GFWC Illinois Juniorette Chairman

Our ship has left the dock and we are well on our way! GFWC IL Junioresses have adopted a new tagline and that is "We Are the Future"! These young ladies are our future workforce, our future donors, AND our future volunteers! It is high time they step out of the shadows and into the light!

GFWC IL has recently chartered a new Juniorette club – the Naperville Junioresses - who already have 12 new members! And I know of at least 4 other GFWC IL Junior clubs strongly considering chartering a Juniorette Club!

In October 2016, we held the first ever GFWC IL Juniorette Summit, where we hosted 4 of our 8 State Juniorette Advisors at Easterseals in Joliet to discuss club issues and concerns. It was incredibly eye-opening and further solidified my resolve to open up the lines of communication between our Juniorette clubs and state leadership.

I'd like to ask all District Presidents to please reach out to the Juniorette Clubs in your districts to let them know that we now have a state chairman **exclusively assigned to help them!** Additionally, please invite them to your meetings so that they can bond with other clubs in the district. If you already do this – GREAT! THANK YOU! But if you haven't, let's start including them so that we can serve as an efficient resource to them.

Please encourage your Juniorette Clubs to follow our newly established GFWC IL Juniorette Organization FaceBook page and to submit their website to our GFWC IL websites.

Other exciting developments - At the 2017 GFWC IL Annual Convention, we will be announcing our very first state Juniorette Awards, including Outstanding Juniorette Project of the Year, Outstanding Juniorette Advisor of the Year, and Outstanding Juniorette of the Year. All nomination forms are in your Reporting Packets! And our Junioresses will once again be modeling in the 2017 GFWC IL Blue Ribbon Fashion Show after a 5-year hiatus!

These impressive young ladies are truly the future of GFWC IL and now that we have set sail, I'm very excited to see where the wind will take us!



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

SET SAIL & CELEBRATE...

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today Celebrates 25 Years

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today celebrated its 25th anniversary at their monthly meeting on November 3 at the Effingham Area Chamber of Commerce Building. Charter members present at the celebration were: (first row) Pat Copple and Carol Sheehan, (second row) Janet Henry and Barb Tull. Charter members unable to attend were Darlene Moriearty and Normal Lansing.

GFWC Effingham Women of Today, received its charter in November of 1991. Members have actively participated in projects to provide scholarships for both high school students and adults for technical schools, various arts/music camps, college, and continuing education programs. Other projects include sponsoring the Special Kids Rodeo, helping with Blessings in a Backpack, providing meals for Habitat for Humanity, volunteering and donating funds to Catholic Charities, serving refreshments for the annual Veteran's Day Service, fundraising for adult and teen scholarships, providing school supplies, health care supplies, pajamas and blankets to the needy, and many more.



New members are always welcome. For more information, contact President Vanessa Caton at bvcaton@consolidated.net or Facebook at Effingham Women of Today.

Save the Date



GFWC ILLINOIS LEGISLATION DAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

**COMPLETE DETAILS AND
RESERVATION INFORMATION
WILL BE RELEASED SOON!**



GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!



*Great Lakes Region Conference
October 27-30, 2016
Lake Geneva, WI*

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!



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GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

20TH ANNUAL GFWC ILLINOIS BLUE RIBBON FASHION SHOW

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND TICKETS: \$40.00 ADULT / \$18.00 12 OR YOUNGER

DOORS OPEN @ 11AM / LUNCHEON @ 12PM / FASHION SHOW @ 1PM

BOLINGBROOK GOLF CLUB- 2001 RODEO DRIVE, BOLINGBROOK, IL

Plans are underway for another wonderful GFWC Illinois Blue Ribbon Fashion Show...our 20th Annual! Can you even believe it!? Let's make sure we honor our commitment to Prevent Child Abuse Illinois by making this year's show bigger and better than ever before!

How can your club help? Make reservations for yourself, fellow club members and guests! AND we've got an incentive for you:

Every club that makes 10 reservations or more will be entered into a prize drawing for a cash prize of \$100.00 for your club! You can use this cash to stock up on items needed to carry out club business or to subsidize a club project.

STREET OF DREAM ITEMS

If you can assist the committee in obtaining unique items (trips, jewelry, and tickets for concerts/events, restaurants, etc...) that can be used in our Street of Dreams Raffle Baskets, please let us know ASAP! Or if you'd like to just send a monetary donation and have us create a basket on your club's behalf, just indicate that on the form below. PCA ILLINOIS depends on our annual support through funds raised at our Blue Ribbon Fashion Show and we want to continue to help assist them in their commitment to the prevention of child abuse.

RAFFLE BASKETS

We are once again requesting that each club donate a themed basket worth a minimum of \$50.00. It can be worth more, but it needs to be at least \$50.00 in value. If your club cannot support this request, we would like to ask the clubs to please make a monetary donation (made payable to GFWC ILLINOIS) and the committee will use the donation toward building baskets.

DEADLINE: Please bring your completed raffle basket to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting, March 3 & 4, 2017 at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. OR if you do not plan to or cannot attend the Spring Meeting, please deliver your club's basket and the completed Raffle Basket Form to your District President prior to the dates noted above, or ship to Raffle Chairman Gerri Eck no later than March 10, 2017. (Gerri Eck, 1608 Campbell St., Unit C, Joliet, IL 60435).

Please adhere to these deadlines so that the committee receives the baskets in time to prepare them for the show. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need to make other arrangements, and we will work through any challenges. Thank you for all of your efforts and the efforts of your club members over these past 20 years!

Karyn M. Charvat
2016-2018 GFWC IL Blue Ribbon Fashion Show Chairman
DrakeU92@aol.com

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH RAFFLE BASKET

Club: _____ District: _____

Raffle Basket Theme: _____ Value: _____

Donors Who Contributed to the Basket: _____

Basket Delivered to: _____ Submitted By: _____ Date _____

☐ We would like you to create a basket for our club*. Please accept this monetary donation: \$ _____

*Make checks payable to GFWC ILLINOIS and list "2017 BRFS BASKET" in the memo section.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBERS- LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

TICKET RESERVATION FORM

GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs
in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Proudly Presents the 20th Annual

GFWC IL Blue Ribbon Fashion Show: **Project Catwalk**



Sunday, April 2, 2017
Bolingbrook Golf Club
2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, IL

\$40.00 Adult/\$18.00 Child 12 years or younger

Doors Open	11:00am
Luncheon	12:00pm
Fashion Show	1:00pm



Club Name: _____ District: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please Reserve _____ Tickets at \$40.00 per adult = \$ _____

Please Reserve _____ Tickets at \$18.00 per child under 12 = \$ _____

I am not able to attend; please accept this monetary donation = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to GFWC Illinois

Complete and mail by March 24, 2017 to: Amy Vicioso, 3402 Wells Way, Joliet, IL 60431



GFWC Illinois

5 East Van Buren St.

Suite 208

Joliet, IL 60432

gfwcillinois.org

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GFWC Illinois Clubwoman Print Edition Opt-Out

To print and mail the GFWC Illinois Clubwoman Magazine, our budget limits us to two printed issues each year. In a cost saving measure, we are asking members to consider receiving ONLY an electronic version of the Clubwoman Magazine. The savings realized will allow us to print at least one additional issue each year, for members that don't use technology or have access to an electronic version.

If you would like to be removed from the printed mailing list, please email the information listed below to: Carol Jablonski, Northern Region Vice President / Communications & Public Relations
Chairman: carolajablonski@att.net.

- Member Name
- Email address
- Mailing address
- List all GFWC Illinois clubs you are a member of – beginning with your HOME club

Changes will go into effect after the GFWC Illinois Convention in May 2017.

GFWC ILLINOIS BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

MARCH 3 & 4, 2017

HILTON LISLE / NAPERVILLE
3003 CORPORATE WEST DRIVE
LISLE, IL 60532

HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE MARCH BOARD OF
DIRECTOR'S MEETING CAN BE MADE
NOW UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

GFWC ILLINOIS GROUP CODE: CGFW
ROOM RATE IS \$103.00 PLUS APPLICABLE TAX
ROOMS ARE DOUBLE/DOUBLE OR KING BEDS

FOR RESERVATIONS:
(630) 505-0900
WWW.HILTONLISLENAPERVILLE.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

**GFWC ILLINOIS CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE-
CONVENTION ISSUE DEADLINE**
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

CLUB ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

GFWC ILLINOIS BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 3 & SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017

LEGISLATION DAY IN SPRINGFIELD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

**ANNUAL REPORTS- CONVENTION BOOKLET DEADLINE
25 & 50 YEAR MEMBER'S NAMES DUE TO HQ**
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

BLUE RIBBON FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

EASTERSEALS TELETHON- JOLIET REGION
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

CONVENTION & LEADS REGISTRATION DUE
SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017

FEDERATION DAY
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017