

Winter 2016

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# The GFWC GLR Communiqué



## "Sharing the Volunteer Spirit"



### THE DRAGONFLIES ARE FLYING!



February is nearly over! The groundhog did not see his shadow, and Spring is on its way.

Today I saw

some bulbs sprouting. We have the luxury of looking out the window because



REPORTS ARE DONE!!! I hope that as you participated in the process, you were proud of all you and your club accomplished in 2015.



And, as soon as you hit print you thought of this project we did and oh yes, that money we donated. We wrote and re-wrote and finally had to stop. Isn't that wonderful!

Whether your club "only" reads books and reports or you are like one of the many clubs on Facebook who seem to have a HUGE event monthly, everything you do is important. I am so proud to be your Region President.

I assume you receive GFWC News & Notes every Saturday from GFWC and are getting excited about convention in Baltimore. Yes, the rooms are a little pricy, but the more in a room the merrier! Once you work out the bathroom schedule you are set! I am planning to go early so I can go on a tour or two. For so many years, I went only to the conventions and only saw the hostess city from the airport to the hotel and back. No more! I loved the sites in Philadelphia, Memphis, and Phoenix. I want to visit Social Security Administration headquarters in Baltimore. My central office for 35 years and I finally get to see it! I can't wait to see the sights of that great city with its rich history.



By GFWC Great Lakes President Tric Heepe (IN)

**When the hotel registration opens March 1<sup>st</sup> and GFWC registration opens, be certain to register for the GFWC Great Lakes Region Banquet.** We will celebrate the last two years and install Lin Wilken as the 2016-2018 President and her officers! We will not have much business to transact and can then concentrate on fun.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank Patrice Booze, our Communiqué editor. She does much more than editing. Patrice works out the schedule, is in contact with the state reporters and is constantly looking for, asking for, and reminding people about their responsibilities. Just earlier this month I asked if she could help get the word out on how GLR can help Flint, Michigan and she was immediately on it. Patrice, thank you. (Yes, you must print this!)

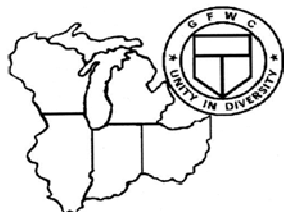
Enjoy your Spring and I will see you in Baltimore!



**2016 GFWC Annual International Convention June 25-29, 2016.** Get ready to make your plans for the 2016 GFWC Annual Convention – we're heading to Charm City: Baltimore, Maryland from June 26th-29th! At the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, you'll easily be able to experience all the "charms" of this vibrant city right at your footsteps.

### Planning a Region Conference

By GFWC GLR President Tric Heepe (IN)



How do you go about planning a Region Conference? It is no mystery. A state in our GFWC Great Lakes Region knows five years in advance when they will host, ten years too. In most states, as soon as their current conference is over, they are starting to plan for the next one. Usually, plans start to rev up as soon as they know who will be the State President in that year and who will be the GFWC and Region President. The state needs to be looking for a suitable city in which to hold the conference, with the approval of the Region President, which is usually granted without question. The location needs to be easily accessible by not only the region members driving but also by air for our GFWC officers and members who choose to fly.

The Region then runs into the same problem as the smaller states, hotels are not willing to make many concessions for a group of between 125 and 175. Few will let us have lunch meals (and prices) for dinner. They have no incentive to lower the room prices or provide free Wi-Fi, coffee pots, etc. And, as we saw in Toledo, when they have a chance to host 400+ for a wedding, we are bumped to another room with less than adequate facilities.

Once a city and the hotel are set the state looks for potential tours. With a couple of years to plan, it is relatively easy to find a tour that would interest a majority of attendees. Of course you can never please everyone; you just need to do your best. I actually had someone complain that we visited an art museum in Toledo because she had a museum in her own town! Cost is always an issue. The hostess states always try to keep the cost down, but of course they need a minimum number of participants to break even. We never want a state to lose money being hostess of a conference.

Usually the hostess State President appoints a Conference Chairman as early as possible. The chairman is in charge of working with her State and the Region Presidents. Meals are planned together, but the state sets the price based on the cost. Attendees should understand that the meal price charged to the region attendees has to cover the meal, tax, gratuity, room rental, etc. So the actual cost to the state is approximately 32% above the hotel's base banquet menu price. Always thinking of our membership this is why we often try to get permission to bring in a dessert. If the hotel allows it a \$100 for a cake versus \$3.50 per person plus is a no-brainer. (Buy-A-Shot luncheon dessert?)

State Night is still a part of the Conference but the theme, food, and entertainment are planned by the state. You will see a double head table with the hostess State President on the upper tier.

The hostess state plans the themes, decorations, favors, door prizes for the conference with approval of the Region President. There is no requirement for elaborate decorations, favors, or even door prizes. Often the decorations are actually displays on GFWC programs or donations for Operation Smile, the USO, a domestic violence shelter, etc.

Someone commented in the evaluations that we needed to have more and better vendors. The Region vice-president sends invitations to over fifty potential vendors. Maybe five will respond. The \$85 fee for a table doesn't sound like a great deal, but you have to add in the vendors' costs of transportation, food, at least one night's hotel room and all this for the potential of only 150 customers. That takes that \$85 cost to at least \$300 with no promise of a profit. So, when your state is a hostess state, it is extremely important to get your vendor list to the GLR vice-president. The invitations usually go out in April, so if you are in Wisconsin and have not already done so please share vendor information with Lin Wilken. Local vendors will have fewer expenses so they are more likely to participate.

How do I know all of this? GFWC provides guidelines to all Region Presidents who in turn share them with all Region officers and all State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs. It is very clear who is responsible for what. It also encourages regions to follow their own traditions. The eight Region Presidents serving this administration have been very close and, under the guidance of GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea, we have shared our fears and joys. Every Region has the same presentations by GFWC Chairmen, and GFWC Officers, but the Region is allowed to arrange the conference in a way that fits that particular region. From all reports, all eight Region Conferences were the same and yet very different. That is what we call Unity in Diversity!

I can also share that in our GREAT Region we have five conference planning books. We used to have one that was passed on from hostess state to hostess state but years ago we voted to have one per state. As soon as the conference is complete the conference chairman writes her report and covers the finer details such as the hotel search, the negotiations with the hotel, how to price the meals, what sub chairmen are needed, approximately how many volunteers are needed, how to do pre-registration, how to do name tags, etc., etc.

I hope this helps everyone to understand a little more about the guidelines and the challenges in hosting a region conference. So when you attend next year and something may not be perfect, please take a minute to remember all the time and planning that went into the entire conference and say thank you.



### Holy Toledo! We had a good time at the 2015 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference By Marjean Sizemore (OH)

Park Inn by Radisson in Toledo, Ohio was the scene of the GFWC Great Lakes Region Annual Conference on October 9-11, 2015. In attendance as our guest from GFWC were: GFWC International President Babs Condon and GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea.

Early arrivals on Thursday were able to enjoy an evening at Tony Packo's Restaurant. It was a glorious site as GFWC members walked the 2 short blocks to the restaurant wearing their GFWC emblematic apparel.

On Friday, members were bringing items for our service project; picking up their registration packets; filling their goody-bags; touring The Museum of the Great Lakes and The Toledo Museum of Art. Vendors began to arrive and were busy setting up.

GFWC Ohio State Night Banquet in Margaritaville was a blast. Each attendee received a flower lei as they entered the ballroom. Following dinner, the Jennie Award Winners were presented by their State Presidents and honored with a rose and a certificate. The evening concluded with entertainment of Jimmy Buffet style music provided by Don Middlebrook.



Workshops were held prior to the Business Session. The Opening ceremony of the Business Session began with the Parade of Great Lakes Region States. GFWC GLR President Tric Heepe called the conference to order. Welcomes were given by Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, and GFWC Ohio President Linda Ross. Reports of the Region Officers were given. Guest Speaker for the morning session was

James Hmurivich, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America; also speaking were two representatives from Canine Companions for Independence along with their dogs, they spoke about the training required; demonstrated specific commands and level of training.



Following the luncheon GFWC Indiana State President Dana Jones spoke on Shot for Life. Our guest speaker was GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea her topic: "We've Only Just Begun". The afternoon session consisted of Nominations and Elections of GFWC



GLR officers for 2016-2018 Administration; Platform workshop on Membership, Leadership and Communications; reports on GFWC fund-raising; GFWC Resolutions/Legislation and GFWC Capital Campaign.

The GFWC Great Lakes Region Banquet was held Saturday evening with GFWC International President Babs Condon as the Keynote Speaker "Inspire and Thrive". Following the dinner the 2015 GFWC LEADS Graduates from our Great Lakes states were honored. Sue Lane, Director of the YWCA Toledo Domestic Violence Shelter was presented with items collected from our Service Project. Entertainment for the evening was a Fashion Show honoring GFWCs 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. GFWC International President Babs Condon and the State Presidents modeled the vintage clothing.

The Conference was concluded Sunday Morning, with Reports of the States and reports of GFWC Chairman & Committee Members. Closing remarks were presented by Babs Condon and Sheila Shea. The flags were retired and closing thoughts were given by GLR President Tric Heepe.



GFWC GLR donated \$5,000 to the GFWC Capital Campaign!!  
GFWC Great Lakes Region President Tric Heepe presents the check.  
Pictured left to right:  
GFWC Secretary Deb Strahanoski (IL)  
GFWC Great Lakes Region President Tric Heepe (IN)  
GFWC International President Babs Condon  
GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea



### Water Issues in Flint, Michigan

By: GFWC Michigan President Fran Leonard (MI)

GFWC Great Lakes Sisters please read the following story about the water issues in Flint, Michigan. This is reprinted from February EYES, the monthly GFWC Michigan President's newsletter, with the permission of President Fran Leonard.

**IF you or your club would like to participate please see instructions at the end of the article.**

#### "Flint Water Fund | United Way of Genesee County"

As you all know the water supply in Flint is contaminated and residents are in dire need of water filters. Countless citizens and organizations across Michigan and the United States are helping. We are concerned and feel the need to help those in our own state.

President-Elect Donna Brown reviewed websites of organizations that are assisting with this situation. We are suggesting you may wish to donate to the "Flint Water Fund | United Way of Genesee County". With your donation, the United Way purchases filters, bottled water, emergency support services and preventive efforts. 100% of the funds received are used for these projects and no administrative fee is assessed. The United Way sources bottled water through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and also supports a dedicated drive for daily distribution in various areas of Flint.

If your &/or your club wish to donate, please do so by Googling "Flint Water Fund | United Way of Genesee County" to access the form. When you complete a donation form we ask you to use the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Michigan with your club name. Keep track of your donation and send the information to President-Elect Donna or President Fran, so we will know that you have taken on this important and urgent project. Thank you.

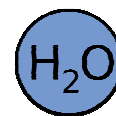
Let me take this opportunity to thank Donna for her research and the completeness of the information above. This is truly a GFWC MI worthy cause we can support.

#### Out-of-state clubwomen

If any clubwomen or clubs around our GREAT Lakes Region would like to participate we know our GFWC Michigan Sisters would appreciate our efforts. REMEMBER the article above was originally written for the GFWC Michigan clubwomen so some of the instructions will not pertain to out-of-state clubwomen.

When you fill out the form and write your check put your General Federation of Women's Clubs State Federation and your club name. Please send the information to GFWC Michigan President-Elect Donna Brown ([donnabrown21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donnabrown21@sbcglobal.net)) or GFWC Michigan President Fran Leonard ([franleonard@charter.net](mailto:franleonard@charter.net)). IF you have any questions please contact either Donna or Fran.

**LINK for the form:** <http://www.unitedwaygenesee.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5>



### Facts and Myths about Dragonflies

- Though dragonflies are essentially harmless to humans, there were many spooky legends about them in the past (some of which still remain). For example, people used to believe that sleeping outside put you at risk of having your eyes sewn shut by the dragonfly or "darning needle."
- Because of their large, multifaceted eyes, the adult dragonfly can see nearly 360 degrees around it at all times.
- Though you can't see them all with the naked eye, the compound eyes of the dragonfly can contain thousands of tiny lenses.
- As far as insects go, dragonflies are among the fastest. Some of the faster species can fly upward of 30 miles per hour. Their four wings also allow them to move sideways, backward, to hover in place, etc. And they can do all of these movements quickly and accurately, which makes them well suited to eat other insects right out of the air.



### **"News From Around Our GREAT Lakes" The Five 2016 GFWC Great Lakes Region's Jennie June Winners**

#### **GFWC Illinois' Jennie June Winner Marge Nelson**

Contributions by GFWC Illinois Jennie June Chairman Candy Godbee, Pat Heitman, and Marge Nelson (IL)



GFWC Illinois is proud to present Marge Nelson the 2015 GFWC Illinois Jennie Award Recipient!

Marge joined her first GFWC club in 1974 and is currently a member of eight clubs. She has served in many chairmanships and committees and has held most offices in both Junior and General Clubs, Junior and General District Boards, and State Boards. Her extensive service led her to serve as the 2002-2004 President of GFWC Illinois. Marge has since held numerous positions on the GFWC Great Lakes Region Board and GFWC Board of Directors.

Since 1966 her most beloved project is the American Indian; she has presented hundreds of programs not only in Illinois but in Wisconsin and Indiana. She has a very large collection of various Indian artifacts, dolls, jewelry and original dresses. During her 2002-2004 state presidency she compiled a 69 page booklet

on American Indian Culture that was given to each District and Club within Illinois because that was her special emphasis. Because of her work with the American Indian Center Chicago she was able to be a part of the parade and dedication ceremony of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. She was also honored by the American Indian Center Chicago on the main floor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. During the two years of her presidency the Illinois clubs were able to donate over \$25,000 and over \$75,000 of in-kind gifts.

Just a **few** of the other highlights of her accomplishments include involvement with: Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, dinner fashion shows, linen sales, flower show, Well Baby Clinic, Trial State ID Program, bingo parties for nursing homes, card and Bunco parties, auctions, blood drives, personally sponsoring several Navajo girls and one Hopi boy. She works to prevent Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Additionally she has volunteered at and donated to Ronald McDonald House, Hines Hospital, and the Fisher House.

Marge has been a Girl Scout Leader and Neighborhood Leadership Chairman, an ESO participant with over 1,500 books read to date. She had been awarded the Junior of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award for GFWC Illinois Juniors and honored as Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women.

Over a period of 10 years Marge worked on behalf of the Village of Westchester and with the Salvation Army in the coordination of Kiwanis, Lions and Westchester Junior WC for Bell Ringers and Tagging, generating over \$75,000.

Marge served a three year stint as a US Army WAC Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class – 424<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Censorship Department member. Her second greatest passion are projects for Veterans; she has done many programs encouraging all to remember the veterans and their service. During her presidency she honored all GFWC Illinois members that had served in any capacity of the armed services; certificates were presented to all. Marge continues to encourage letter writing, MIA bracelets and other military honoring. We can't forget to mention that she is a Sassy Stitcher who crocheted bandages for troops in Afghanistan, lap robes, baby blankets, scarves and more for those in need.

Marge attended college after having been out of school for over 25 years, while she held a full time job and arranged the wedding for two daughters. The day after her graduation she was asked to apply for a position and went on to work in preschools.

Marge is actively involved in the Westchester Community Church, having served 30 years as Sunday School Teacher and/or Assistant Superintendent and 6 years as Superintendent. Her service has included Deaconess, cabinet member, financial secretary, and usher.

Marge has been married to George 54 years and has three daughters and nine Grandchildren. The Nelson's owned and operated Nelson Ice Cream Vending Services, Inc. from 1972 until retiring after 39 ½ years in 2011. George was diagnosed in 1998 with Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's carcinoma and diagnosed with Chronic Leukemia in 2012. Oncologists have called him a blood doctor's dream and a medical miracle, as Hodgkin's is now considered 'gone'.

Leadership and service are two attributes of Marge; she has a commitment to home, community, church, and federation. There is not enough space here to tell you all she has done.

### GFWC Indiana's Jennie June Winner Kay Spurgeon

By Kay Spurgeon (IN)



GFWC Indiana's Jennie June winner is Kay Spurgeon. She has been a GFWC Indiana clubwoman since 1978. Kay has held every office in Kankakee Valley Woman's Club and has served 4 two year terms as her club's president. Currently, she serves as the IFC North West District president. Kay has held offices at the county and district level.

Community service has long been a love of hers. Currently, she is a member of the Fairchild House Board organizing fund raisers and being in charge of maintaining the grounds. She can be found planting flowers, weeding the garden, washing windows, or sanding woodwork.

She is also involved with the American Legion Auxiliary. She currently serves as the Chaplain, Hoosier Girl State chairman, and Education chairman. Kay has served as the unit's treasurer and secretary for several terms. She volunteers in the Bingo Kitchen and Friday night Fish Fry.

Every other Tuesday, you can find her sewing quilts for Binky Patrol. She also enjoys calling Bingo, helping with crafts, or the Hymn Sing at Oak Grove Christian Retirement Home.

Kay was very instrumental in getting the Backpack Program started in two of our area elementary schools. She is responsible for checking in food from Food Finders, the packing of the bags, and seeing to it that they are delivered to the schools. Another project she helped launch was the School Supply Fair. She had to oversee the collection and distribution of pencil boxes and notebooks. Over 700

students received school supplies.

Kay is also very involved with her church having served as a Sunday School, Catechism and DVS teacher. She enjoyed singing in the choir and ladies ensemble. She is a Stephen Minister and Bible Study Group facilitator. Currently, she serves on the nomination team of church leaders.

Kay is a retired school teacher having taught locally for 34 years. One her proudest moments was to be a state finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year.

Her family has always been her greatest supporters. She has been married to her husband Joe for soon to be 45 years. She is very proud of her 2 daughters, Dana and Keri, and her 6 beautiful grandchildren.



1868: GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly (1829-1901), a professional New York journalist who wrote under the pen name of Jennie June, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and, in response, she formed a club for women. She chose the name Sorosis, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."

1890: Jane Croly, founder of Sorosis, extended an invitation to women's clubs throughout the United States to attend a ratification convention in New York City. Sixty-three clubs attended on April 23-25 and took action to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

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GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

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### GFWC Michigan's Jennie June Winner Darlene Berent

By Darlene Berent (MI)

#### **EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN**

Darlene Berent is extraordinary clubwomen "Living the Volunteer Spirit" through mentoring and educating others. As GFWC/MI Junior Director, State President and Girlstown Chair; she fulfilled her personal goal to visit and mentor all clubs within the state. Darlene continues this mentorship, giving back and making herself available to assist in their GFWC growth.

After 59 years of marriage; Darlene and her husband John continue to provide advice and support to their family and friends. She serves as a board member and shareholder for one of their sons and supporting another with business development. Also an organization near and dear to Darlene is the Kasey Foundation, which was created after the loss of their young granddaughter. Time is devoted to this cause requesting support from others. Family is Darlene's #1 Passion.

Darlene truly represents personal excellence worthy of this highest honor.

#### **PASSION AND COMMITMENT TO GFWC**

Darlene has 50+ years as a GFWC member, serving as;

- GFWC/MH Jr. Woman's Club President (1966-1970)
- GFWC/MI Southeastern District President (1970-1972)
- State Junior Director (1974-78)
- National Conservation Chair (1978-1980)
- GFWC/MI President (1980-82)
- National Environmental Action Chair (1982-1984)
- Girlstown Chair (1982-89), 21 year board member
- Co-Chair of the GFWC/MI Fun and Frolic Committee (2010-12)
- State Convention Co-Chair (2012)
- GFWC/MI Legislation Chair (2014-current)



#### **LOYALTY TO GFWC**

Darlene joined the Madison Heights Junior Women's Club in 1961 and is a charter member of GFWC Madison Heights Intermediate Women's Club. Additionally;

- Chairs the annual auction, raising \$12,000+ in 2014. This auction is the key budget contributor supporting our volunteer efforts.
- Organized a club Washington, DC trip, including a visit to GFWC Headquarters.
- Introduced a program to finance (separate from budget) two club members to participate in every GFWC/MI Convention, GFWC MI Legislation Day, District meetings and workshops.
- As GFWC/MI Legislation Chair, organized an event providing awareness to Human Trafficking.
- GFWC/MHIWC Nominating Chair and Installation Master of Ceremonies.

#### **GFWC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

She's received honors;

- Junior Women's Club Woman of the Year,
- GFWC MHIWC Club Woman of the Year,
- GFWC/MI Woman of Achievement,
- GFWC/MI Ms. Federation.

#### **A HEART FOR COMMUNITY**

Darlene displays passion and has devoted time to the following;

- President of her homeowner's association dealing with potential fracking;
- Oakland County Democratic Club Executive Director for 12 years, managed two Michigan presidential campaigns and met six presidents;
- UAW Community Action Assistant;
- Secretary/Treasurer of the John DeWan Memorial Foundation since 1989, they've awarded over 210 scholarships;
- Southeastern Michigan Boys and Girls Club board member raising \$300,000+ annually;
- Gateway Counseling board member for 30 years, chair for 12 years;
- Church volunteer coordinator for 6 years;
- Workers compensation placement facility board member, Governor's appointment, for 28 years;
- Provides cooking lessons to international women;
- Precinct delegate for 42+ years;
- Campaign manager for District Judge Brian MacKenzie;
- Appeared as the Easter Bunny, spreading joy to schools, nursing homes, and hospitals for years



### GFWC Ohio's Jennie June Winner Marjean Sizemore

By Lin Wilken (OH)



Marjean Sizemore is a very caring and outgoing person and has worked to bring notice to GFWC and GFWC Ohio. She has the organization's best interests at heart and goes the extra mile to help clubs with their issues.

She is a dedicated clubwoman and a truly caring person. She and her husband raised three children, all girls, and all college graduates with post graduate degrees. Marjean also assists her mother who is 92. In addition to helping her mother with her finances and medical issues, she has an "extended family" of several people who are alone, taking homemade soup and desserts to them.

A retired Registered Nurse, Marjean not only served as a staff nurse, but advanced to leadership roles as assistant head nurse of a pediatric unit and then charge nurse for a cardiac telemetry unit where she not only implemented doctors' orders, but solved problems, educated family and patients, was responsible for interdepartmental communications and discharge screening.

During her career she was also a clinic supervisor/education coordinator for she was responsible for quarterly chart reviews relating to Joint Commission compliance and education to client companies and staff, including basic life support training, OSHA training and drug and alcohol testing, even on river barges. After retirement she worked as a case manager to develop in-home care plans for clients and monitored for quality of care.

An active member of her church, Marjean has served on many committees including fundraising and evangelistic, parish women's organization president, growth group leader and she helped set up a parish nursing program for a neighboring church.

She was a member of her hospital's TWIG auxiliary until it's disbandment, serves on the executive board of the YWCA of Steubenville, her local senior citizens organization, the Upper Ohio Valley Opera Guild, blood mobile volunteer and cancer dietary food pantry. She also volunteered for the local heart association and diabetic association.

Marjean joined GFWC upon her retirement from employment in 2005. She developed her club's first newsletter, edited the yearbook, served on Public Affairs committee, program planning, fundraising, District Legislation Day chairman and International Outreach as well as being club president. She continues to be active in her club and was named Wintersville Woman's Club clubwoman of the year in 2014.

She has served as district conservation chairman and as district president. She was able to visit all clubs but one (club meeting canceled due to weather – more than once) and now serves as state secretary. She also developed and implemented a Leadership workshop for incoming district presidents and Junior Directors.

GFWC Ohio was delighted to endorse Marjean Sizemore as an outstanding example of volunteer women in GFWC.





### GFWC Wisconsin's Jennie June Winner Elizabeth Davy

By Kia LaBracke (WI)



Elizabeth Davy is a member of the GFWC-Wisconsin Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club and was nominated by fellow club member Kia LaBracke. Below is the nomination letter:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Elizabeth Davy for the GFWC Jennie Award. I have known Elizabeth for over a decade and her commitment, volunteer spirit and giving nature have impressed me time and time again.

When I think of our club and Elizabeth's role in it, I can't think of anyone more devoted to the purpose of our club and her diverse base of involvement. She has chaired complex fundraisers with aplomb, served on committees and worked as a team player respecting other members and, perhaps most impressively, taken what began as an ambitious club program and turned into a statewide phenomenon. I can speak directly to her amazing leadership and drive because we worked together for many years on this and other projects.

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) organization had a booth at a GFWC International Convention some years ago. I and another clubwoman were in attendance and spoke extensively to the EMSC representatives about one of their marquis efforts, providing pediatric medical equipment for ambulances. We were shocked to learn that these supplies were typically not mandated, and as such fire and rescue departments did not appropriate funds for this purpose.

Moreover, in our county (and state), most rigs are run by volunteers who have very little or no training in pediatric emergencies. Calls involving children are only 10-15% of the total responses they see. However, these calls are especially stressful for the responders, parents, and of course for the children involved. In many cases, adult-sized equipment can actually harm the child.

Elizabeth was a leader in taking this information and springing immediately into action to raise awareness and make a difference in our community. The decision was made to raise \$65K to equip all the ambulances in our county with the equipment. Never in our club's history had a project of this magnitude – financially or geographically - been adopted. Where to begin?

Elizabeth took the charge heading up how all the numerous team members would help. From data gathering on the number of ambulances, to researching all contact information and costs of equipment, she built a committee that was on fire. She also dealt deftly in reassuring and persuading some club members who were uncomfortable with the change in focus. This is no small feat, and typical of her thoughtful, kind and understated approach to managing conflict within member opinions. Club dynamics can be complicated. Elizabeth included everyone in every step of the way to ensure that our club was unified in its support of the ambitious project.

The club had to add more fundraising, which the committee took on itself. Ultimately, the committee of around seven people completed the task, forming lasting community friendships and collaborations, giving life-saving equipment to children and their families and showcasing the power of the GFWC as an organization. Our project was recognized with local, statewide and national awards from both the EMSC organization and the GFWC.

Guess what? That wasn't the end. While many committee members moved on to other work, Elizabeth decided she wasn't done. Why stop at our county? How could we extend the experience and drive of this work statewide? By working through our Wisconsin Federation, of course!

Through her passion and enthusiasm, she engaged administration leaders to embrace her vision. Never a meeting or newsletter went by without a full update to our state federation members. Tirelessly, she would present at nearly every district and state meeting about how regional clubs could engage in the work to help GFWC Wisconsin clubwomen work together to meet this goal. She made many trips to other parts of the state to present at clubs, community meetings, EMS conferences, and other key partner venues to share her own experience and encourage and educate them on why the project was important and how they could become a part of this.

I should mention that, all along, Elizabeth was a role model not only for her community and club, but as a caring and devoted mother to her two sons as well. During the time our club was spearheading this effort, they accompanied her to visits to fire departments (what child wouldn't want to see the inside of an ambulance?), where they witnessed first-hand the way that you can make a difference if you are willing to set goals and work hard toward them. It should come as no surprise that this power-house woman was able to build the momentum, drive and enthusiasm among her clubwomen peers to accomplish what arguably is the most far-reaching and impactful effort we have ever seen. It would be impossible to gauge how many hours of preparation, planning, presentation and follow up she has devoted to this vision.

We can all look in awe toward her accomplishments, not just as an individual, but as a loyal clubwoman, committee leader, "worker bee," mother and friend. She is most deserving of the recognition of the Jennie Award.



## "Halloween in the Great Lakes...Can't wait to join in the fun!"

By GFWC Great Lakes Region President-elect Lin Wilken

GFWC Great Lakes Region will be gathering to celebrate the season at the Historic Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. Mark your Calendars and get ready to "Howl at the Moon" with your GFWC Sisters in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The fun begins Thursday Night October 27, 2016 and goes on till Sunday October 30, 2016. Plan on a little costume fun and lot of information from our International Officers and of course a girls weekend together. Now I have your attention, you have marked your calendar; how about making that room reservation now! The Grand Geneva Resort and Spa is accepting reservations now and will until September 17, 2016. Rooms are available for \$129.00 plus taxes for a double double. You can upgrade your room for a fee if you desire.

Check out the link below: GFWC Wisconsin Federation is planning a great time for you so check out the great facilities.

<https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=13972&nights=1&checkin=10/27/2016&group=76D3Z2>



Mark your calendar NOW for Thursday, October 27th thru Sunday, October 30th.

Make your room reservation EARLY so you don't forget!



Pack a costume!

