



GFWC ILLINOIS

Volume 93, Fall 2018

CLUBWOMAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR FOR GFWC IL, BECAUSE OF YOU...

BY PHYLLIS SKUBIC, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2016-2018

It was because of you, the members of GFWC Illinois, that Jeanette T. Wells and I had the honor and privilege of collecting, on your behalf, awards and recognition during the GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

GFWC Illinois received **First Place Awards** for: Membership, GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention, International Outreach, Fundraising & Development, ESO, and the Shelby P. Hamlett Award for dedication and service to Easterseals.

It was solely due to your efforts, hard work and bottomless generosity during the 2016-2018 administration that the following combined statistics for 2016 and 2017 were reported:

PROJECTS COMPLETED:	13,009
HOURS VOLUNTEERED:	543,277
MONEY DONATED:	\$924,933
MONEY RAISED:	\$1,560,202
IN-KIND DONATIONS:	\$487,044

It is humbling and astounding to see how far-reaching and how big an impact GFWC Illinois members are making in our communities and in the world!!!

It was because of you...we were able to **donate over \$50,000** during the past two years to five very special GFWC Illinois Partners: **\$32,780** to Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and

\$18,000 split between Children's Research Foundation (CRF), Easterseals, Illinois Leadership Seminars (ILS) and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



It was because of you...we welcomed **SEVEN new clubs** into GFWC Illinois: four Juniorette clubs, two Junior Woman's Clubs and one Woman's Club!

It was for you...we held **four LEADS Workshops** with 71 members attending.

It was for you...we completely revamped and modernized the **GFWC Illinois website** into one website for all members. It's bright, it's functional, it's easy to navigate and it will continue to expand to better serve you, the member.

It was for you...the **'Top Ten Projects'** are summarized and compiled into a book each May. These books can be found on the GFWC Illinois website in the 'Members Center'. Look no further for great ideas for future club projects.

Because of you...**GFWC Illinois will continue to serve** our members, our communities, our state and our world. "Trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist." ■



A NEW ADMINISTRATION BEGINS

The 2018-2020 administration began at the GFWC Illinois Convention in May with the installation of officers. The Executive Committee Officers, from left: Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, President Elect; Barb Potter, Vice President Central Region; Helen Crause, Vice President Southern Region; Cherie Sieger, Director of Junior Clubs; Shelli Fehr, President; Karen Meyer, Secretary; Annette Andretich-Gross, Treasurer & Karyn Charvat, Vice President Northern Region. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful two years! Our state is in good hands with these ladies! ■



CONNECTING WITH SHELLI

BY SHELLI FEHR, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2018-2020

Welcome to the 2018-2020 Administration! “Reach Out...Connect” is the theme for the next two years. We’ll start by Connecting to this President’s Special Project, Living Lands and Waters. This Illinois-based organization grew from one man’s driving passion for clean rivers. Please see the article detailing it at right. It is an organization worthy of our support so I hope you’ll jump on the bandwagon!

Next, there are three goals that will challenge the membership to Reach Out...Connect. First, members will recognize their “connection” to GFWC when state leaders Reach Out to them with club visits at the grassroots level. They are also encouraged to visit other clubs and districts to learn new ideas and meet new people. We are the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. Stay connected!

Goal #1—Reconnect membership to GFWC

Next, members are challenged to step outside their comfort zone, take a risk, and say yes when asked to hold a leadership position. There is never a perfect time but now is the right time. Do it! Say yes! You won’t regret it!

Goal #2—Members take on leadership positions

Finally, clubs will use the GFWC name and emblem within their communities. We must brand ourselves as a member of this international organization to promote credibility. Put the GFWC name and emblem on every piece of correspondence, news release, newsletter, poster, flyer, banner, t-shirt, pin, etc., and tell your community who you are. Be a proud member of GFWC!

Goal #3—Use the GFWC Name and Emblem

Membership, Leadership, and Communications & Public Relations are interconnected. Each is needed to grow as a club and as individuals. Reach Out...Connect to all three and succeed! ■



INTRODUCING



Headquartered in East Moline, Illinois, Living Lands & Waters (LLW) is a 501(c)(3) environmental organization that was established by Chad Pregracke in 1998. Since the organization was founded, Living Lands & Waters has grown to be the only “industrial strength” river cleanup organization like it in the world.

Spending up to 9 months a year living and traveling on the barge, the Living Lands & Waters’ crew hosts river cleanups, watershed conservation initiatives, workshops, tree plantings and other key conservation efforts.

Since 1998, LLW has worked on 24 rivers, in 21 states and, with the help of more than **100,000 volunteers**, removed **9.8 million pounds** of debris from U.S. waterways.

Their program stats include:

- **Educational Workshops** | Since 2011, they’ve hosted 382 educational events and over 11,000 educators and students aboard their barge.
- **MillionTrees Project** | They recently announced that they gave away their 1 millionth tree in May of 2016 and are still going strong!
- **Adopt-A-River Mile** | Last year, the project expanded to cover all U.S. waterways and they currently have over 244 adopted rivers along the 12 U.S. river options.
- **Community Cleanups** | They’ve hosted 1,091 cleanups in 21 different states.

For more information about Living Lands & Water and to find out how you can get involved, please visit livinglandsandwater.org. ■

HELP...I CAN'T FIND THE REPORT PACKET!

BY TERESA SANFORD-SHIPPLETT, DEAN OF CHAIRMAN

Take a deep breath and relax. You have not nor will you receive a “Report Packet” like you were given in the past. This year we are trying something different. First of all you can work on reports just like you have always done. The format has not changed. You will receive the routing sheet, the stats sheet, and all you need to send in your clubs activities when you need them, probably in November. The deadline for reports (aka Award entries) is still February 1st. All the information you usually get in September: scholarship forms, contest deadlines, Make

a Difference Day forms, etc., can be found online or in emails that will be sent directly to you. To receive hard copies instead, please notify GFWC Illinois Headquarters. Our hope is that this will solve the problem of keeping the report packet in “a safe place” never to be found again, having the forms to you when you need them, and saving money for our organization. We want to Reach Out and Connect with You! ■



NEWS FROM THE LILY PAD

BY CHERIE SIEGER, GFWC ILLINOIS DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS 2018-2020



I am so honored to be the GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs for 2018-2020. The theme for this Junior Administration is “**GFWC IL UnFROGettable Juniors**”, using a **frog** as my symbol. Why a frog? A frog does not start out as a frog, it starts out as a tadpole. Our new members and our new clubs are the tadpoles, if you will, the tadpole while swimming along develops its legs, so think of a new member or club just starting out. The new clubs develop their projects for their community and they grow their “legs” within the community to make it stronger. The new member is very much like a tadpole because they are developing their “legs” in their club by becoming strong and confident in themselves. They then develop into our future leaders of GFWC Illinois. When new clubs and members become full-grown frogs they will have their own voice and be “ribbiting” throughout their community.

My color is **blue**, to represent my emphasis on helping children. My vision includes raising money for the GFWC partners of St. Jude’s, Easterseals and March of Dimes and supporting local agencies that help children. In Illinois, we have Children’s Research Foundation as the Junior Special Project. My vision includes clubs planting pinwheel gardens in their communities. I would love to see everyone wearing blue and wearing an ugly tie for Child Abuse Prevention. Other ways clubs can get involved with children is working with the schools to fingerprint the children, commit to reading at the local library, or hold an art contest that can be judged and awarded. In what way will you help children in your community or state? I would love to hear from you!

Working with Shelli Fehr, GFWC Illinois President, to keep the unity of General and Junior members going, is part of my goal.

The past administrations have worked so hard to keep them united, I fully supported it and will continue to support the unity of Generals and Juniors, since we are out to accomplish one thing – making a difference in our communities!

Shelli’s theme of connecting had me thinking about what I can do to help. When asking past Directors for advice, I was given the idea of connecting with the clubs on a regular basis. So, I am in the process of sending a letter to ALL of the Junior Club Presidents in my state. I will be sending them a weekly/ biweekly email. Some emails will be updates on GFWC happenings, what GFWC Illinois is doing, give reporting tips, and sometimes just to say hi! My objective is to have them feel like those of us in office are “regular people” and that we care about the clubs and the members. I want them to feel like they really and truly belong to the greatest woman’s volunteer organization – the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. I believe this will retain members who in turn will invite their friends to join them in their club and club work. And knowing that the state officers truly care about the members, can only accomplish one thing, and that is they will not be intimidated to move up to the offices for their club, district, state and region.

I have put a lot on my plate, but I am ready for the challenge of accomplishing all I have aspired to do. I believe if I accomplish everything I set out to do, GFWC Illinois Juniors will go into the books as being toadally UnFrogettable! ■



MEET THE NEW www.gfwcillinois.org

BY KARYN CHARVAT, NORTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

After a year of meetings and many hours of conversation, I am beyond excited to introduce you all to our new state website! You’ll first note we have indeed merged into ONE SITE so our dedicated Junior site now pushes to this one. The reason for that was to reduce redundancy and to truly use our state website to promote the state federation and its three levels of membership: General Clubs, Junior Clubs, and Juniorette Clubs.

The site offers a tremendous amount of information for the user, who more than likely will not know very much about GFWC IL or GFWC at all! Everything about this site is meant to inform and attract new members, as well as

serve as a resource and a tool for our current members.

Our **Members Center** hosts many forms and our private information, such as the state yearbook and reporting information. To access the Members Center, simply select from the footer and then enter the password: **gfwc-member**

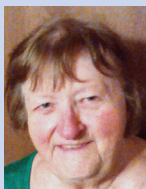
Over the next few months, even MORE changes will be happening so STAY TUNED and keep checking to see the latest additions and improvements! ■



GREAT PROJECTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

CONSERVATION | **Park Benches from Recycled Plastic Lids**

**By Wanda Burklow, President,
GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club
District 25**



GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club has a great Conservation community service project going. We have been collecting plastic lids — lots and lots of lids — that are recycled into park benches, and we are now branching out with an order for a picnic table. We started this project in March of 2017 and were amazed at the response that we received. We have seven businesses that have drop-off baskets and they are full every time I go to pick them up. People from all over collect lids for us. We even have two churches and two other organizations that help us collect.

Our first order consisted of two benches that we placed in front of city hall (they are to be moved soon to a small park area in the middle of town). It took us four months and hundreds of people helping collect lids to get the required 800 pounds needed for the two benches. We also paid \$250 per bench. The program requires children to be involved, so we contacted the Middle School Beta Club to help sort and clean the lids. The city was also involved by storing the lids, taking them to the recycling center and picking up the benches for us. We now have two more benches on order that will be donated — one to the Middle School and one to a local hospital where some of our members work. They collected many lids for us there. We have also ordered a picnic table to place in the small downtown park. This order required 950 pounds of lids and \$1050. THAT IS A LOT OF LIDS!

There is a waiting list to get the benches. We will not pick up this order until September 4th. This is an easy and very successful project that any club can do. It only requires storage space and kids of any age to help. If you have questions please contact the president of the club, Wanda Burklow, at burklow45@yahoo.com. ■



Got LOGOS?

We do! If you need the GFWC Illinois (state), GFWC Illinois (Shelli's logo), GFWC Illinois Juniors (Cherie's logo), GFWC Illinois Juniors or the GFWC Illinois 125th Anniversary Logo, please visit gfwcillinois.org and select "GFWC IL LOGOS" from the "COMMUNICATIONS" tab at the top menu bar. Here you will find many different file formats for each logo along with a brief explanation of which file type is suitable for each usage. Please use the logos on all of your publications to promote GFWC! ■



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GFWC?

LeeAnn Conlon, GFWC IL Strategic Planning Committee Chairman, sent this photo with an e-mail to the Executive Committee and C&PR Committee.



■ **LeeAnn Conlon**

When Carol Jablonski suggested that we bring back "Where in the World is GFWC?", Shelli Fehr responded that when she was GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs, this was a project she started. So, in honor of Shelli, we offer our C&PR "retro-project". Please send us photos of **YOU** wearing your **GFWC apparel and pins** (even club T's) when you are out and about. Did you have a successful encounter when you wore your GFWC gear? E-mail a short paragraph and a photo to gfwcicpr@gmail.com. We will make every effort to showcase these submissions in one of our communications. ■

CONGRATULATIONS 25- & 50-YEAR MEMBERS!

25-YEAR MEMBERS

DISTRICT 3

Morgan Park Woman's Club

Carolyn Herzog
Pat McGrail

Palos Heights Woman's Club

Barbara Dahl

DISTRICT 5

Carol Stream Woman's Club

Lori Miller

Darien Woman's Club

Natalie Blachowicz
Carol Jablonski
Marian Krupicka
Barb Sparks

Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club

Joanna Seebeck

Lombard Junior Woman's Club

Carrie Kotilinek

Naperville Woman's Club

Barbara Crockett

Woodridge Junior Woman's Club

Andrea Mitre

DISTRICT 7

Franklin Park Woman's Club

Patricia Maggio

Mount Prospect Woman's Club

Janice Farley
Janet Hanson
Pat Piper

DISTRICT 10

Antioch Junior Woman's Club

Margaret Cole

Antioch Woman's Club

Margaret Estle
Eunice Rawson
Marjorie Marcysiak

Gurnee Woman's Club

Arlene Echtenacher
Virginia Elsbury
Peggy Finkel
Dolores Shaw
Rea Anne Yost

Waukegan Woman's Club

Patricia Foley
Patricia Jones
Katherine Rothwell-Francis

Zion Woman's Club

Doris Wedekink

DISTRICT 12

Morris Woman's Club

Lynn Shearin

DISTRICT 14/15

Annawan-Alba Woman's Club

Carol Lu Cole
Shirley Foerder
Venita Pritchard
Odetta Thompson

DISTRICT 16

Princeville Woman's Club

Toni Bateman
Helen Oertly

DISTRICT 17

Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club

Deanne Eytalis
Gina Fritz

DISTRICT 18

Georgetown Ladies Community Club

Linda Davidson
Lori Starwalt

Woman's Club of Bismarck

Kathy Swank

DISTRICT 19

Cerro Gordo Woman's Club

Edith Jackson
Gloria Johnson
Pat McClellan
Doris Morganthaler
Evelyn Proctor
Donna Shorage
Charlene Smith
Judy Sochor

Decatur Woman's Club

Sandra Hunter
Alice Wiedrich

Tuscola Woman's Club

Donna Lamb
Marie Owen

DISTRICT 22

Columbia Woman's Club

Marge Drexler
JoAnn Odem

Freeburg Woman's Club

Julia Pierpoint

Highland Woman's Club

Shirley Bastilla
Shirley Beck
Martha Bellm
Elva Tucker
Pat Switzer

Mascoutah Tuesday Woman's Club

Carol Bandre
JoAnn Downing
Kathryn Schneider

DISTRICT 23

Newton Woman's Club

Vera Hetzer
Patricia Hildebrand
Rowena Hudson
Dot Stephenson
Freda Weddell

50-YEAR MEMBERS

DISTRICT 5

Carol Stream Woman's Club

Mary Lawrence

DISTRICT 10

Morton Grove Woman's Club

Barbara Duffy

Zion Woman's Club

Carol Ruesch

DISTRICT 14/15

Annawan-Alba Woman's Club

Dorothy Wildermuth
Dolores Nanninga

DISTRICT 16

Princeville Woman's Club

Lois Hammitt

DISTRICT 17

Fairbury Woman's Club

Janice Meiss

Gilman Woman's Club

Barbara Ann Potter

DISTRICT 22

Mascoutah Tuesday Woman's Club

Marie Dawson

ILLINOIS SHINING STARS



DEBRA STRAHANOSKI |
Joliet Junior Woman's Club
Installed GFWC 1st Vice
President for 2018-2020

TRISHA SCHAFFER |
Princeton Junior Woman's Club
Installed GFWC Director of
Junior Clubs for 2018-2020



PATRICIA HEITMAN |
Manhattan Woman's Club
Installed Vice President
of the Great Lakes Region
for 2018-2020



A FEW WORDS FROM GFWC JENNIE AWARD WINNER MARTHA BEIN

By Martha Bein, 2018 GFWC Jennie Award Winner and 2004–2006 GFWC Illinois President



GFWC is brimming with Jennies – those “extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize purpose and commitment through their roles as volunteers in their clubs, communities and families. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for lifetime personal excellence. In fact, it is the highest honor bestowed by GFWC.”

— GFWC Club Manual

It has been an honor to represent my club, state, region and GFWC as a Jennie Award Winner. Thank you for the flowers, cards, emails, texts and for the kindnesses and courtesies extended to this Jennie from everyone. It was with respect for every clubwoman that I accepted the first Jennie Award Pin along with the GFWC Medallion at the 2018 International Convention in St. Louis. Thank you for that opportunity.

It is my sincere hope that clubs will select one of their “Jennies” by submitting the Nomination Form and supporting materials to our state by June 1, 2019. By the time I agreed, we had one week to pull it together. Yikes! Don’t do that! In order to do it properly, may I suggest that you start thinking now about an eligible Jennie candidate. This award is presented once each two-year administration.



GFWC Club Manual 2018–2020 has the form, judging criteria and rules. Remember the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. I hope you are thinking of someone right now! ■

The next Jennie Award will be presented in 2020 at the Annual GFWC Convention in Atlanta, GA.

For more information contact:

2018–2020 Jennie Award Chairman, Anne Redlus
(843) 705-6373
anneredlus@gmail.com



The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym “Jennie June.”

— GFWC Club Manual



■ **Longtime friends of Martha’s pose for a photo, from left: Michael Weber; Becky Weber, GFWC Signature Project Chair, Domestic Violence; Martha Bein; Deb Strahanoski, GFWC 1st Vice President, and Pat Heitman, Great Lakes Region Vice President.**



■ **At the GFWC Convention in St. Louis, GFWC IL President Phyllis Skubic (left) was awarded the Charlotte Emerson Brown Award, which recognizes the exemplary service of State Presidents to their State Federations and the GFWC. In addition, GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs, Jeanette T. Wells (right), was awarded the 2017 Millie Crom Platinum Award for Excellence in Junior State Leadership, the highest recognition given to a Junior Director. Congratulations!**

GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Shelli Fehr
Director of Junior Clubs: Cherie Sieger
President Elect: Teresa Sanford-Shipplett
VP Northern Region: Karyn Charvat
VP Central Region: Barb Potter
VP Southern Region: Helen Crause
Secretary: Karen Meyer
Treasurer: Annette Andretich-Gross
Parliamentarian: Jackie Pierce, RP

THE CLUBWOMAN CREW

Editor in Chief: Shelli Fehr
Managing Editor/Graphic Designer: Jodi Hanson
Contributing Editor: Carol Jablonski

Please send stories, photos and comments to: gfwciclpr@gmail.com

**THE DEADLINE FOR STORIES & PHOTOS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE CLUBWOMAN IS OCTOBER 1, 2018**

Back to SCHOOL

FALL 2018

WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STAYING CONNECTED WITH GFWC ILLINOIS IS AS EASY AS A, B, C!

The C&PR Committee has been hard at work over the summer updating all of our resources so that you, our members, can stay connected with GFWC Illinois. With the new year upon us, you and your fellow club members might be wondering how you can stay informed about all of the latest news from GFWC Illinois. This is a multiple-choice question because we have many answers!

- ✓ **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.** We have almost daily posts on the **GFWC Illinois** page including photos from conventions and events, stories from our members, snippets of GFWC history and more. We're easy to find. Just type in **GFWC Illinois** in the search field and look for Shelli's logo  next to the name. That's us! Then just click "Like" and you will see posts from us in your daily news feed. Throughout the next year, we will be featuring the stories and photos of our GFWC Illinois Presidents, Directors of Junior Clubs and Great Lakes Region Presidents, as well as our GFWC Presidents and Directors hailing from Illinois, as part of the **GFWC Illinois 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Each Monday (and other days as the anniversary year progresses) we will tell the story of a different leader from our state. Talk about overcoming obstacles! These ladies were champs!

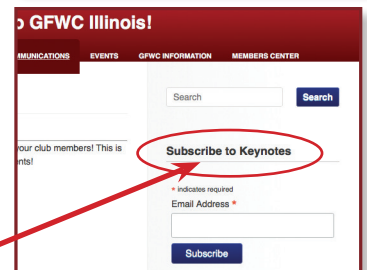


- ✓ **VISIT OUR WEBSITE.** The GFWC Illinois website continues to develop. If you are not on Facebook but would like to read the stories of our past leaders, you can also find them on our website. Go to **www.gfwcillinois.org**, scroll down to the 125th Anniversary logos  at the very bottom, and click on the link for the post you wish to read. You will find other important stuff on our website too including logos, forms, events, projects, reporting information, the GFWC manual, and much more. Don't forget the log-in for the website's **Member's Center** is **gfwc-member**.



- ✓ **SIGN UP FOR E-MAILS.** We now have an account with MailChimp, which will allow us to deliver e-mail communications to you, provided we have your e-mail address. If you haven't signed up for MailChimp yet, please go to **http://eepurl.com/dBCFrL** and complete the sign-up form. You can also

go to **www.gfwcillinois.org** and select **"Communications"** from the main menu bar. Once there, look for **"Subscribe to Keynotes"** on the right side of the screen. Enter your email address and click **"Subscribe."** It's that easy!



As always, we would love to hear feedback about what we are doing and if you have any new ideas. We can be reached at **gfwcilcpr@gmail.com**.

**Your GFWC Illinois C&PR Team,
Carol Jablonski, Jodi Hanson & Sherena Smith**

HOW CAN I STAY CONNECTED WITH GFWC IL? (check all that apply)

- ✓ Follow on Facebook
- ✓ Visit gfwcillinois.org
- ✓ Sign up for e-mails



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IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE! GFWC ILLINOIS TURNS 125 IN 2019

BY PHYLLIS SKUBIC, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2016–2018
 AND GFWC ILLINOIS 125TH ANNIVERSARY CHAIRMAN



GFWC Illinois was organized on October 11 & 12, 1894... 125 years ago. One year later GFWC Illinois became the sixth state federation to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs – GFWC.

There will be two very special celebrations in 2019 to commemorate this historic occasion. The first will be the 125th Gala Celebration held during our Annual Convention in May at Jumer's, in Rock Island. A second celebration will be held on the actual anniversary dates: October 11 & 12, 2019, at the site of our very 1st Annual Meeting...the clubhouse of the Peoria Woman's Club. Complete details will be announced as plans are finalized for both events. **SAVE THE DATES**—you won't want to miss this once in a lifetime celebration.

Celebrating our History

During the week of August 12, 2018, we began highlighting our history and past leaders of GFWC Illinois. The articles and photos are being posted on the GFWC Illinois website and Facebook page, with specific days for specific levels of leadership, in chronological order.

We began with Isabella Candee (Cairo Woman's Club) on Monday, August 13th followed by GFWC 2nd International President and Illinois member, Ellen M. Henrotin (Chicago Woman's Club) on Tuesday, August 14th. Both served 1894–1896. Each week will feature new GFWC Illinois leadership and history.

125 Acts of Service

During 2019, January–December, we are asking clubs to perform "125 Acts of Service". There will be special awards presented for the "125 Acts of Service" projects completed between January 1–December 31, 2019. All projects can be dual reported under their corresponding Community Service Program or Advancement Area. Each project completed can be submitted individually as an entry.

Report/award entry deadline: February 1, 2020. Awards will be presented during the 125th Annual Convention in May 2020. Start planning your club projects now! You can do one project or many. More information and ideas for "125 Acts of Service" will follow as 2019 gets closer. ■