



GFWC ILLINOIS

Volume 96, Spring 2020

# CLUBWOMAN

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

***"Reaching for and  
Connecting with GFWC!"***

at the

## 125th ANNUAL GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION

**May 1-2, 2020**

**DoubleTree by Hilton**

10 Brickyard Drive  
Bloomington, IL 61701

**Reservation Deadline:  
April 1, 2020!**



**SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE**



# CONNECTING WITH SHELLI

BY SHELLI FEHR, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2018-2020

Are you like me right now? Are you getting so excited that you can hardly contain yourself?!!! Or are you wondering if your state president has completely lost her mind? Well, I think I still have all my wits, because I know my excitement is because state convention is once again upon us!

This will be the 125th Annual Convention for Illinois, a milestone to be sure. Seems like just yesterday that we had the 125th Anniversary celebration of the formation of GFWC Illinois. And now, here we are recognizing club accomplishments once again like our foremothers did just as many years ago.

This year's convention will be as successful as last year. I guarantee it! Besides completing the business of GFWC

Illinois, we will hear from clubwomen who want to lead the organization into the next two years when the candidates for office present their goals on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, members have the option of attending two workshops or the Junior Business Session before attending the Unity Luncheon, where all clubwomen reach out and connect with each other. Saturday afternoon will also be the time when we will remember our dear Jackie Pierce, who passed away in November. It will be a celebration of the life that was...and a celebration of what we still have.



Join me and your fellow members in May when we Reach Out and Connect at the GFWC Illinois Annual Convention! You won't want to miss it! ■

## NEWS FROM THE LILY PAD

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



Dear Illinois Junior Clubwomen & Federation Friends,

What an honor it has been to represent Illinois as your Director of Junior Clubs! It has been an UnFROGettable two years!!!

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you and to be able to visit your club's meetings and events. You are all to be commended for the wonderful projects that you do year after year to make your communities and world a better place!

I am so excited and looking forward to seeing you all at Convention this year, so that once again we can celebrate your accomplishments, reunite with friends from across the state and also make new friends in Federation!

For the 2020-2022 administration, I will be serving as GFWC Illinois WHRC Junior Representative. This is very exciting, as we celebrate women winning the right to vote this year.

Speaking of voting, this year is an election year at Convention, so please come and experience GFWC Illinois as leaders take on new roles to make this organization the best it can be!

I am excited that I have had the honor of visiting over half of the Junior Clubs in Illinois in 2019 and I will continue my goal of visiting clubs and districts. There are three new Junior Clubs in Illinois and I expect one or two more to be added before Convention. Isn't that exciting?!!!

Thank you so much for leaping at the chance to work so hard in your community! You are truly UNFROGETTABLE!!! See you at Convention! ■

In Federation Friendship & Love,  
Cherie



### 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, PRP

### 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: [gfwcillcpr@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcillcpr@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
THE MARCH 2020 BUS TRIP  
TO **SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST** HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED.

# CONVENTION 2020 | IT'S IN SIGHT!

The 125th GFWC Illinois Annual Convention is in sight! Once again we offer a new location in Central Illinois that we hope will be convenient for all. Our hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton, will welcome you with a warm cookie and a warm greeting. This hotel offers many conveniences with an attached TGI Fridays Restaurant, a Panera Bread across the street, free parking, the popular Brickyard Bar, indoor pool, exercise room and no steps! All of our meetings are in one large area with very little walking and lots of places to sit and visit. Our chef is very well known and has a wonderful reputation for outstanding meals, having been chef in 5-star hotels!

LEADS will again begin our Convention on Thursday morning, April 30. New this year will be a tour out of the hotel to the David Davis Mansion, leaving the hotel at 9:45 a.m. for those of you who wish to come in early. Cost of the tour is \$20 and includes transportation from the hotel to the Mansion, cost of the video and tour, transportation to Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano and from Biaggi's back to the hotel. The cost of lunch is on your own; the food is excellent, with salads, soups, sandwiches, pasta, pizza and more available. Lunches range from \$10 on up plus tax and tip. My favorite is the "Half & Half" including soup and salad or 1/2 a sandwich or 1/2 a pizza.

Thursday evening we will have appetizers and a cash bar where we will be entertained by the Happy Keenagers Kitchen Band from Tuscola. You may find out who the real housewives of GFWC Illinois are too! You won't want to miss this Fun Night!

Friday morning, May 1, we start off with the Past State Board Members Breakfast, followed by opening ceremonies, business, opening luncheon, more business, speeches by the candidates for office and the candidate "Meet & Greet." We conclude Friday with our Federation Banquet highlighted by GFWC 2nd Vice President Suellen Brazil giving our keynote address. We will also be honoring PCA Illinois for their 30 years.

Saturday, May 2, begins with Deb's Diamond Diva's Breakfast and the Junior Board Meeting. After the Diamond Diva's Breakfast, those not attending the Junior Business Session can attend two workshops: "Pollinator Gardening" and "Taking Great Vacation Photos." After those two events conclude, we have the Unity Luncheon, followed by a special Memorial Service for Past GFWC International and Past Illinois State President Jackie Pierce.

Another change for this year is that the Installation of Officers for 2020-2022 will be in the early evening on Saturday followed by dinner. A dessert reception for the new officers will follow dinner.

Sunday morning there will be a Post-Convention Breakfast and the first meeting of the 2020-2022 Board of Directors.

President Shelli, President Elect Teresa and I hope you will like the changes to the agenda and location of this lovely hotel. We will have outstanding vendors and wonderful art to view in the Art Room. Please reach out to connect with your friends and plan to meet new ones. We can't wait to welcome you to the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois. And be sure to start your stay with a warm cookie! ■

Carol Rich, Convention Chairman

## CONVENTION 2020 | HOTEL INFORMATION



### DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701

#### ROOM RATES:

**\$105.00 plus tax** (King or 2 Queens)

#### RESERVATIONS:

Call the hotel at **1-309-664-6446** and say you are attending a convention. **Use group code GFW.**

**BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 7, 2020, TO GUARANTEE RATES AND AVAILABILITY.**

Check-in is at 3:00 p.m. | Check-out is at 12:00 noon

**SEE YOU IN BLOOMINGTON!**



# GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

## 125th ANNUAL CONVENTION

### DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, BLOOMINGTON | MAY 1-2, 2020

## “Reaching for and Connecting with GFWC!”

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### CREENTIALS | Prefunction Area

Thursday, April 30 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
 Friday, May 1 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, May 2 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

#### EXHIBITORS | Brickyard 4

Thursday, April 30 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
 Friday, May 1 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, May 2 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.



#### INFORMATION DESK | Prefunction Area

Thursday, April 30 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
 Friday, May 1 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, May 2 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

#### ARTS & CRAFTS | Brickyard 4

Friday, May 1 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, May 2 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.



#### PRECONVENTION ACTIVITIES | Thursday, April 30

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	David Davis Mansion Tour	Off-site
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	LEADS	Brookridge
3:30–5:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Brickyard 1
6:30–7:00 p.m.	Board Photographs	Prefunction
7:00–9:00 p.m.	Fun Night: “ <i>The Real Housewives of GFWC IL</i> ”	Outside Courtyard

#### TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Friday, May 1

7:00–8:30 a.m.	Past & Present State Board Members Breakfast	Brookridge
9:00–11:00 a.m.	<b>General Session I</b> — Convention Opening Memorial Service, Northern Region Vice President Karyn Charvat	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
12:30–2:00 p.m.	<b>General Session II</b> — Opening Luncheon, “ <i>Reaching to Connect</i> ”	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
3:00–5:00 p.m.	<b>General Session III</b> — Business / Candidates for Office Speeches	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
5:15–6:15 p.m.	Candidate Meet & Greet	Prefunction Area
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Social Hour	Prefunction Area
7:00–10:00 p.m.	<b>General Session IV</b> — Federation Banquet, “ <i>Honoring Our Connections</i> ” Keynote by GFWC 2nd Vice President Suellen Brazil	Brickyard 1, 2, 3

#### TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Saturday, May 2

7:00–8:30 a.m.	Deb’s Diamond Divas Breakfast	Brickyard 6
7:30–8:45 a.m.	Junior Board of Directors Meeting	Brookridge
9:00–10:30 a.m.	Junior Business Session	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
9:00–9:45 a.m.	Workshop: “Pollinator Gardening”	Ironwood
9:45–10:30 a.m.	Workshop: “Taking Great Vacation Photos”	Ironwood
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>General Session V</b> — Unity Luncheon, “ <i>Reach Out...Connect! Be Unforgettable!</i> ” Memorial Service for past GFWC Illinois & GFWC International President Jackie Pierce	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
3:30–5:30 p.m.	2020–2022 Executive Committee Meeting	Northbridge
6:30–8:30 p.m.	Installation Banquet	Brickyard 1, 2, 3
8:30–9:30 p.m.	2020–2022 Officers Reception	Prefunction

#### POST-CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Sunday, May 3

9:00–11:00 a.m.	Post-Convention Breakfast & 2020–2022 Board of Directors Meeting	Brickyard 5
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# CONVENTION 2020 | REGISTRATION FORM



## GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 125th ANNUAL CONVENTION

**May 1-2, 2020 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, Illinois**

Mail this registration form by **APRIL 1, 2020** with your payment (checks payable to **GFWC Illinois**) to:  
**Michelle Schultz, GFWC Illinois Convention Treasurer | 828 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac, IL 61764**

### MEMBER/CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name	Badge Name
Club Name	District Check here if you belong to a Junior Club <input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address	City, State, ZIP
E-Mail Address	Best Phone Number to Call

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Registration must be postmarked on or before APRIL 1, 2020 to avoid a late fee.** Meal functions are first-come first-served.
- **ALL** attendees must pay a registration fee of \$25. Late registrations pay \$40 if postmarked after April 1, 2020.
- Registration fee for GFWC Illinois Past State Presidents and Past State Directors of Junior Clubs is waived.

### PLEASE INDICATE IN WHAT CAPACITY YOU ARE ATTENDING (select only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest
<input type="checkbox"/> Past GFWC Illinois State President	<input type="checkbox"/> GFWC International Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Past GFWC Illinois State Director of Junior Clubs	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018-20 GFWC IL Executive Committee	Office _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018-20 GFWC IL Board of Directors	District President/Committee _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018-20 GFWC IL Junior Executive Committee	Office _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018-20 GFWC IL Junior Board of Directors	District DJC/Committee _____

### SELECT REGISTRATION & MEALS

<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE (if BEFORE April 1, 2020)</b>	\$25.00 (required)	\$ _____
<b>DAVID DAVIS MANSION TOUR</b>   Thursday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (lunch on your own)	\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>LEADS WORKSHOP</b>   Thursday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (No Convention Registration Fee required if <b>ONLY</b> attending LEADS)	\$30.00	\$ _____
<b>FUN NIGHT</b>   Thursday, April 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m.	\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>PAST &amp; PRESENT STATE BOARD MEMBERS BREAKFAST</b>   Friday, May 1, 7:00-8:30 a.m.	\$21.00	\$ _____
<b>OPENING LUNCHEON</b>   Friday, May 1, 12:30-2:00 p.m.	\$29.00	\$ _____
<b>FEDERATION BANQUET</b>   Friday, May 1, 6:30-10:00 p.m.	\$35.00	\$ _____
<b>DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS BREAKFAST</b>   Saturday, May 2, 7:00-8:30 a.m.	\$15.00	\$ _____
<b>UNITY LUNCHEON</b>   Saturday, May 2, 12:00-3:00 p.m.	\$29.00	\$ _____
<b>INSTALLATION BANQUET</b>   Saturday, May 2, 6:00-8:30 p.m.	\$35.00	\$ _____
<b>POST-CONVENTION BREAKFAST</b>   Sunday, May 3, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	\$21.00	\$ _____
<b>LATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE</b>   Required AFTER APRIL 1, 2020	\$40.00	\$ _____
<b>LATE MEAL REGISTRATION FEE</b>   Required AFTER APRIL 1, 2020	\$10.00/meal	\$ _____
<b>FELLOWSHIP 125</b>   <b>SUPPORTING</b> - Donation of \$125 or more; <b>CONTRIBUTING</b> - less than \$125		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		\$ _____

### DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (please inform us of any medical or food allergies or restrictions)

Vegetarian  
 Gluten Free  
 Chicken for Beef  
 Diabetic  
 No Dairy  
 List Food Allergies/Medical \_\_\_\_\_

**\*There are absolutely no food or meal substitutions during convention if no restrictions are checked.\***

# GFWC ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR BE A SUPER HERO! REACH OUT...CONNECT WITH LEADS!



**Thursday, April 30, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, IL 61701

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$30**

(Register for LEADS on the Convention Registration Form on page 5, **due April 1, 2020**)



Is your club looking for LEADERSHIP SUPER POWERS? LEADS is specifically designed to build and expand leadership skills and is open to everyone!

**'L'** in LEADS represents what attendees will **LEARN** including effective ways to conduct meetings, organize events, avoid conflicts and inspire others like a *super hero*.

**'E'** stands for **EDUCATION**, which is the key to becoming a better leader and gaining confidence. Participants will discover important information about GFWC, its history, its mission, its goals and the program & project resources available.

**'A'** represents the **"A" TEAM**, the GFWC IL *super power* members/officers who will provide awesome **"pearls of wisdom"** in their areas of expertise.

**'D'** is for **DEVELOPMENT**. This seminar will give participants a chance to discover the *super powers* within. This seminar is for YOU if you would like to improve speaking skills, time management and self-confidence.

**'S'** is for the **SENSATIONAL super power** suggestions you will receive from the proven leaders of our state organization as well as GFWC International *super heroes*. (A **SUPER** lunch is also included in the \$30 registration fee.)

This leadership training seminar will help ensure and continue the legacy of our great GFWC Illinois. The Leadership Committee, Dee Lenzi, Deb Strahanoski and Dione McIntyre, encourages all members and especially club and district presidents, officers and chairmen, and new club members to participate in this informative and entertaining experience. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30th. **SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE NOW! REACH OUT** and **CONNECT** with **LEADS** to become a GFWC Illinois Leadership **SUPER HERO!** ■

**QUESTIONS? Contact Dee Lenzi, GFWC IL Leadership Chairman | [deelenzi@yahoo.com](mailto:deelenzi@yahoo.com) | (217) 621-8167**

## CONVENTION 2020 | SUGGESTED DRESS

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

**David Davis Mansion Tour** | GFWC Emblematic Wear and Comfortable Shoes

**LEADS** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Board of Directors Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Fun Night** | Your interpretation of what a "Real Housewife" wears!

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

**Business Sessions** | Red or Business Casual

**Opening Luncheon** | Red or Business Casual

**Federation Banquet** | Cocktail Dress

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

**Business Sessions** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Unity Luncheon** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Installation Banquet** | Cocktail Dress

### SUNDAY, MAY 3

**Post-Convention Breakfast** | GFWC Emblematic Wear or Travel Clothes



## CONVENTION 2020 | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**SUELLEN BRAZIL** | GFWC 2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 P.M.

With a rich background and 43 years of experience, GFWC Second Vice President Suellen Brazil is a dynamic leader whose dedication and passion are unwavering.

From 1980–1984, Suellen served first as GFWC Alabama Director of Junior Clubs and later as GFWC Junior Education Chairman. In 1985, Suellen became HOBY International Leadership Seminar National Volunteer Chairman and then Region Director. These roles led to 12 years of national service to—accompanied by extensive growth within—the Hugh O’Brian Youth Foundation.

During 40 years on the GFWC Alabama Board, Suellen has served in all appointed/elected offices including GFWC Alabama State President (1998–2000) where policy improvements she championed continue to impact Alabama today. She has organized exceptional training opportunities as State Leadership Chairman, including seminars at the State Capitol.

After serving as state president, Suellen successfully led the GFWC Safety program, Credentials Committee, and GFWC Southern Region as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. As president, she visited the Woman’s Club of Aruba to welcome them to Southern Region. As chair of the GFWC Leadership Committee in 2012–2014, she oversaw a 73% increase in GFWC State LEADS programs.

A native Alabamian, she and husband Billy have two sons. In 2014, Suellen retired from Baldwin County Schools after 44 years—her final position being Executive Elementary Administrator supervising 28 elementary schools and 18,000 students. Working with domestic violence prevention, Honor Flight Alabama, and GFWC local keeps her closely connected to grassroots service. ■



## CONVENTION 2020 | WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

**ROXANNE GREEN** | POLLINATOR GARDENING  
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 9:00–9:45 A.M.

Roxanne Green graduated with a BA from Monmouth College and a Masters degree from St. Xavier University. She taught public education for 35 years in Illinois.

Since retirement, she has been teaching for the Knox County Farm Bureau as the Ag in the Classroom coordinator for grades K-2. She also has a passion for monarch butterflies having traveled the migration route from Canada to Mexico. She also participated in the creation of the Illinois Monarch Project and has been involved in creating pollinator/ butterfly gardens across Knox County. ■

**DALE FEHR** | TAKING GREAT VACATION PHOTOS  
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 9:45–10:30 A.M.

Dale Fehr has been an amateur photographer for five years, finding much success in those years as he learned the craft. In this presentation, Dale will share techniques he discovered that helped him take the best images possible, no matter what kind of camera he used. Learn from the stories behind some of his best photos to take a vacation photo from snapshot to awesome! Join him for this photo-filled, informative and fun presentation. ■



## CONVENTION 2020 | FUN NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

We are the Happy Keenager Kitchen Band, or, as I like to say, the “Kitchen Cuties.” This band originated 35 years ago in a church basement with only a handful of ladies. There have been many ups and downs, but we are going strong as we continue our long mission of love.

This mission still exists today. The band is a non-profit group that schedules performances at various senior living facilities. It goes without saying that the band members derive much pleasure entertaining the residents... and I think the feeling is mutual.



Our hope is that our performance is fun, energizing, entertaining and memorable. We have the same goal no matter what facility...KEEP THE RESIDENTS AWAKE!!!

In spite of the fact that we are the “right price,” we are booked months in advance. We try to reach as many facilities as possible and also perform for many organizations, seasonal events and festivals. We can’t wait to perform at State Convention. See you there! ■

Darla Gardner, Director

# PAST STATE BOARD MEMBERS BREAKFAST MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020 | 7:00-8:30 a.m.

## Brookridge Room

Join us to meet up with old friends and make new friends. This club meets only once a year and only at the annual State Convention. Anyone who has served on or is currently serving on the GFWC Illinois Board of Directors is eligible for membership. Dues remain a very friendly \$3.00. We look forward to seeing you at the 125th Annual State Convention!

A plated breakfast of Cinnamon French Toast will be served as a cost of \$21.00. Please sign up for the Breakfast/Annual Meeting on the Convention Registration Meal Form.

**Questions?** Please contact Debbie Bach, President, at [debbiegfwcil@aol.com](mailto:debbiegfwcil@aol.com) or (708) 542-2390. ■

# CONVENTION 2020 | IN MEMORIAM | 25- & 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Club presidents, please submit the names of your members who passed (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020). They will be honored at a memorial service during Convention on Friday, May 1.

Please e-mail names to GFWC IL Headquarters, [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net), or mail to 5 E. Van Buren St., Suite 208, Joliet, IL 60432-4224 by April 1, 2020.

Club presidents, please also send the names of your members who celebrated their 25th or 50th anniversary as a member of GFWC during 2019.

This information should also be e-mailed to GFWC IL Headquarters, [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net), or mailed to 5 E. Van Buren St., Suite 208, Joliet, IL 60432-4224 by April 1, 2020. ■



# DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020 | 7:00-8:30 a.m. | Brickyard 6

The GFWC Illinois Deb's Diamond Divas will hold their 8th Annual Meeting at the GFWC Illinois Convention on Saturday morning, May 2, 2020, from 7:00-8:30 a.m. The Breakfast is open to all, as everyone is welcome to attend and join the club as we take the next step toward Deb Strahanoski being installed as GFWC President in 2022. You will want to be there as we make future plans.

There will be a plated breakfast consisting of scrambled eggs with chives, breakfast potatoes, bacon, sausage, a fruit kabob, and muffins, plus coffee, tea and juice. The cost per person will be \$15.00 and the breakfast is listed with the other meals on the Convention Registration Meal Form. Dues for 2020-2021 are payable in advance per the form below or will be collected at the meeting by Treasurer Michelle Schultz.

The **Diamond Diva Patron's Pin** will be sold at the GFWC Illinois Convention and during our meeting for \$50 each. Please purchase a pin and support our own Deb Strahanoski. All Diamond Patrons will be acknowledged in the GFWC Installation Program in June 2022. In addition, there will be a special fundraiser held with a \$100 Amazon gift card as one of the prizes. ■

## DUES FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable for \$35 to **Deb's Diamond Divas** | Mail to **Michelle Schultz, 828 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac, IL 61764**



# CONVENTION 2020 | DAVID DAVIS MANSION TOUR & LUNCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 | **10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

The David Davis Mansion in Bloomington at 1000 Monroe Street is the beautifully restored home of former Supreme Court and U.S. Senator from Illinois David Davis and his wife Sarah. The home was completed in 1872 and had what was then the most amazing modern conveniences of that time. This three-story house design is Italianate and Second Empire. The house is yellow brick with 36 rooms, surrounded by over 4 acres of lawn and beautifully restored gardens with a number of outbuildings. After arriving at the house called “Clover Lawn” by the Davis’s, we will view a short video and tour the house and gardens. Please be aware that a number of steps are involved, even getting into the house.

After viewing the mansion, we will go to Biaggi’s Ristorante Italiano for lunch on your own and then back to the DoubleTree in plenty of time for the Board Meeting...or to shop at the convention vendors! ■



# SAVE THE DATES! FROM PRESIDENT ELECT TERESA SANFORD-SHIPPLETT

**T**HANK YOU for saying yes! Whether it was for accepting an office in your club, your district, or on the State or Junior Board. We can’t do it without your willingness to say yes. Are you ready? I know it’s a little daunting but we are here for you.



MARCH 7 | **Holiday Inn, Bloomington**

**MARCH 7th** will be the orientation for our incoming State Board members. It is important if you are assuming a board position that you attend this orientation, even if you have had a position before. We need to have you there. Some new information could be invaluable as you take this important step forward. It will be held in Bloomington. A registration form will be coming to you; when it does please respond quickly. It will be an all-in-a-day forum.

JUNE 6 | **DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington**

**JUNE 6th** will be training for all club and/or district officers. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. This opportunity will have day-long sessions for new officers. Any club member is welcome to attend. When the registration form is available, please respond quickly so we can plan the event to assist you in becoming a confident leader in your new position.

Do consider attending the **LEADS workshop** at the State Convention in the spring...it is a **Leadership, Education And Development Seminar** tailor-made for you! ■

Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, President Elect

## GFWC ILLINOIS FELLOWSHIP 125 CONTRIBUTION FORM

AMOUNT OF DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT ONE:  Personal  Club  District

DONOR \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE SENT TO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois** with **Fellowship 125** on the note/memo line.  
Mail to **GFWC Illinois, 5 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 208, Joliet, IL 60432**



# CONVENTION 2020 | GFWC ILLINOIS PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS



## As recommended by the Bylaws Committee

Chairman Lois Farber, Director of Junior Clubs Cherie Sieger, President Elect Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, Central Region Vice President Barb Potter, 12th District President Mary Lee Howard, Parliamentarian Jackie Pierce, PRP, and President Shelli Fehr, ex-officio

### PAGE 27

#### ARTICLE IV DUES AND FINANCE, Section 2. ANNUAL DUES, B

In the first sentence, strike “five dollars (§5.00)” and insert “ten dollars (§10.00).” Strike the second sentence to read:

“B. Each member of a club shall pay annual GFWC Illinois dues of ten dollars (§10.00). The GFWC Illinois dues structure shall be reviewed every four years beginning with the year 2024.”

**Rationale:** Recommendation by the Finance Committee. At the 2017 GFWC Illinois Convention, delegates passed an increase in dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00, by \$1.00/year. Increasing to the \$10.00 in one year will lessen confusion from members.

### PAGE 28

#### ARTICLE IV DUES AND FINANCE, Section 5. AUDITING AND BONDING

Strike A. and insert a new A., to read:

“A. At the close of the fiscal year, a Review of the books shall be made of the first year of an administration and a full Audit shall be made at the close of an administration. Both will include the records of the Treasurer, Headquarters Executive Secretary, Meetings and Convention Treasurer, Fund Raising Chairmen, and Treasurer of the Junior Organization.”

**Rationale:** It is not necessary to have a full audit performed every year as a review will provide the necessary documentation to file the proper tax documents. Additionally, a C.P.A. is not necessary if the person or business performing the review or audit has the correct credentials. Both can save GFWC Illinois money.

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS, Section 2. CANDIDACY, A. Eligibility, 2. b.

Strike “as an officer of”, “GFWC Illinois”, and “Organization” and insert “Board” after “Organization”, to read:

“b. Have served an additional two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors or Junior Board.”

**Rationale:** More eligibility for both Boards.



### PAGE 30

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS, Section 4. VACANCY

Insert a new D., to read:

“D. An officer may be removed from office with cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.”

**Rationale:** This is not currently addressed in the Bylaws and aligns with GFWC Bylaws.

### PAGE 33

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS, Section 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, B. Duties, 5.

Insert “or a qualified third party” after “auditor, to read:

“5. Retain an auditor or a qualified third party by spring of each year, subject to approval of the Board of Directors at the Spring Meeting.”

**Rationale:** Allows for more flexibility and could save GFWC Illinois money.

### PAGE 34

#### ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 5. DUTIES, I., 4.

Strike “annual” and insert “review or” to read:

“I. 4. Approve the Review or Audit.”

**Rationale:** Consistency with the previous Bylaw amendment.

### PAGE 36

#### ARTICLE VII CONVENTIONS, Section 1. ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Strike “May” and Insert “the spring” in the first sentence, to read:

“GFWC Illinois shall hold an annual convention in the spring.”

**Rationale:** Allows more flexibility in scheduling.

#### ARTICLE VII CONVENTIONS, Section 2. REPRESENTATION, A.

In 1., Delete “Club Delegates” and “may attend Convention as a delegate”, Delete 2., 3., and 4., renumber 5. and 6., to read:

“A. The voting body of GFWC Illinois shall consist of:

1. Any member in good standing.
2. GFWC Illinois Past Presidents.
3. GFWC Illinois Past Directors of Junior Clubs.”

**Rationale:** All members in good standing who attend Convention can vote.

# CONVENTION 2020 | GFWC ILLINOIS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AMENDMENTS



## As recommended by the Legislation Committee

Chairman Nancy H. Willis, Committee Member Becky Weber, District President Ruth Sloom, Board Member Karyn Charvat, President Elect Teresa Sanford-Shippelt, Director of Junior Clubs Cherie Sieger, Parliamentarian Jackie Pierce, PRP, and President Shelli Fehr, ex-officio

### RESOLUTION REVIEWED

#### SUPPORT OF ART IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Adopted 2010 – Reviewed 2020 without changes

### RESOLUTION PROPOSED REVISION

#### WATER SAFETY

Adopted 2007 – Revised 2010 – Proposed Revision 2020

**WHEREAS**, Drowning remains one of the second leading causes of unintentional injury related death in children ages 14 and under and the leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children ages 1 to 4; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe water practices save lives and prevent injuries; therefore

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports the enactment and enforcement of laws promoting water, boating and aquatic thrill craft safety; and further

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to educate and promote water safety guidelines including:

1. Learning to swim
2. Never swimming alone
3. Swimming in areas supervised by a life guard
4. Utilizing Coast Guard-approved life jackets when boating and fishing
5. Swimming and boating only when weather conditions are safe
6. Using backyard swimming pools and wading pools, and further

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs members become leaders in their own neighborhoods by creating awareness, education and promotion of multiple protective measures for backyard swimming pools such as Be Wise Supervise.

### PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION

#### YOUTH VAPING

**WHEREAS**, vaping by the use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) has become widely popular with our youth and is recognized as a growing epidemic, with 3.6 million middle and high school students using ENDS more than 30 days in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Research has strongly indicated that underage users of ENDS are more likely to move onto the use of combustible cigarettes; and

**WHEREAS**, It has been found that among youth and young adult users, less than half know ENDS frequently contain nicotine, which causes addiction; therefore

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports actions by the FDA and local, county, state and federal lawmakers (evidenced by legislation); and

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs supports:

1. Advocating for the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal levels regulating ENDS
2. Advocating for initiatives preventing access to flavored tobacco products, curbing marketing aimed at youth, and educating youth about the dangers and risks of vaping; and further

**RESOLVED**, That GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to promote public awareness of the hazards and risks associated with youth vaping by use of ENDS.

## SAVE THE DATE | UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUMMER REGIONAL SEMINARS** will be held this year on July 23–25. Here is the schedule:

- **Southern Region** | July 23 | TBA
- **Central Region** | July 24 | Bloomington
- **Northern Region** | July 25 | Warrenville (tentative)

#### GFWC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 25–30 | Atlanta, Georgia

#### GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE

October 22–25 | Cleveland, Ohio



## MEET THE 2020–2022 GFWC ILLINOIS LEADERS!

### GFWC IL PRESIDENT TERESA SANFORD-SHIPPLETT

#### Can We Do it in 2020–2022?

“Sometimes we just have to seize the moment, jump in, and learn to swim on the way up! We need to be all in and fully commit...” That’s what Suzy Toronto says. THAT is just what I did in one spontaneous moment and look where it has led me!

May 2, 2020, is when our adventure begins. Yes, it is OUR adventure since you are a part of this journey too. I am not alone, you are an integral piece of our GFWC Illinois puzzle.

But let me tell you a little bit of what I’ve done to prepare for this position. I have been very active in my club and also my district. On the state level, I was Illinois Director of Junior Clubs and have filled positions as a Chairman on the Junior and General boards. Serving as a District President and as Dean of Chairmen has prepared me for working with many people. These offices included participation on a variety of committees. I’ve had the opportunity to serve on the Great Lakes board and the GFWC International board as Chairman for Education and Conservation plus as a Committee Member for Membership and the Signature Committee.

So can we do it? I BEELIEVE WE CAN! ■



### GFWC IL DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS AMY VICIOSO

“You’re off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!” – Dr. Seuss

I love this quote, looking at where you’ve been and looking forward to where you are going. My GFWC adventure started in 2010 when I joined the Joliet Junior Woman’s Club and quickly moved up, being installed as President in 2012. In 2014, I served District 11 as the Director of Junior Clubs (2014–2016). I was then installed as the President Elect/Dean of Chairmen (2016–2018) and I am currently serving District 11 as the District President. In 2014, I helped Charter the GFWC Joliet Encore Woman’s Club and in 2015 I was chosen as the GFWC Illinois LEADS Candidate in Memphis, TN. At the State level, I served as a District Director (2014–2016) and the State Fundraising Chairmen (2016–2018). In 2018, I was installed as Junior Treasurer and was then voted in as Director Elect of Junior Clubs in 2019. I’ve been to great places indeed and look forward to the future ahead. Our future is bright and I’m so excited to be working with all of you as we continue the good work and awesome legacy of GFWC Illinois! ■



## CANDIDATES FOR 2020–2022 GFWC ILLINOIS OFFICERS

### GFWC IL PRESIDENT ELECT LEEANN CONLON

LeeAnn is currently serving as the GFWC Illinois Strategic Planning Chairman, and has served in numerous capacities at the club, district and state level on both the Junior and General Boards of Directors. She recently retired, and her 40 years of “corporate America” experience will serve her and the GFWC Illinois Federation well as she embraces the leadership responsibilities of GFWC Illinois President Elect and then President.

LeeAnn has the distinct honor of being the first GFWC Illinois LEADS candidate in 2002, and was strongly encouraged to continue her leadership journey, and that she did! She was invited to present at the first GFWC Illinois LEADS seminar, and did so many times throughout the years, sharing her experiences related to leadership, time management, delegation and how to address the needs of clubs that are having difficulties with their purpose, leadership or membership.

LeeAnn is excited to serve the chairmen and committee members throughout the state, assisting them to be the best that they can be when supporting GFWC Illinois clubwomen across the state. And, she is just as excited to support the 2020–2022 GFWC Illinois President, learning the ropes to leverage the experience and knowledge that has come before her. ■



### GFWC IL CENTRAL REGION VP CATHY MARSOUN

Cathy Marsoun joined the Woman’s Club of Rock Island in the fall of 1988. She jumped right in, participating in all club activities that year. She took on her first chairmanship as the Arts Chairman for the club the following year. She was club president, for the first time, in 1995–1996.

Cathy began district work in 1996, serving as Health Chairman for the GFWC Illinois 13/14/15 Junior District. She was Junior District Secretary in 2000–2003. She was Junior Director for the 2004–2006 administration. She served as 14th District Secretary in 2008–2010, and District President in 2010–2012. She was elected President Elect for the 2018–2020 term. She moved into District President position when the District President moved out of state in December 2018. She is currently completing the term.

Cathy went to her first GFWC Illinois convention in 1989. She has attended regularly ever since. She was on the state board in 2006–2008 as the Veterans Affairs and Native American Chair. In 2018–2020, she began on the Public Issues committee, then moved to the District 14/15 President role to complete her work for this current administration. ■



## GFWC IL NORTHERN REGION VP ANNETTE ANDRETICH-GROSS

Third District proudly endorses Annette Andretich-Gross as a candidate for GFWC Illinois Northern Region VP. As a 47-year member and staunch supporter of GFWC, she served in many offices/chairmanships. Club Level: Public Affairs, Community Improvement, International Affairs, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President – Glenwood JWC; President – Potpourri WC (2 terms); President – Past State Junior Board Organization (2 terms). District Level: President (3 terms), Treasurer (2 terms), 1st VP – Leadership, 2nd VP – Membership, Fundraising, Junior Director. Served GFWC IL Jr. Board: Secretary/Treasurer; Great Lakes Region Board (2 terms). GFWC IL State Board of Directors: Convention Chairman (4 years), *Clubwoman* Editor (4 years), President's Special Emphasis: "Our Promise", Education, Community Improvement, District President (3 terms). Currently serves as GFWC IL Treasurer.



Representing GFWC IL, Annette as President of the Board of Directors for PCA IL (three years); member of the Board (8 years); Development Committee Chairman, member of Education/Program Development Committee and Secretary.

Annette spent 30 years as Administrative Assistant, Special Education Department, Crete-Monee School district 201U. Her responsibilities included reporting and tracking a \$1,500,000 reimbursement budget annually.

Annette has the resources and experienced needed to successfully fulfill the obligations of Northern Region VP and her dedication to cause, time available and energies would be an asset to Federation. ■

## GFWC IL SECRETARY BARBARA A. POTTER

17th District proudly endorses Barbara A. Potter for GFWC Illinois 2020-2022 Secretary. Barbara has been a member of GFWC for 52 years. As a member of the GFWC IL Gilman Woman's Club, she has held many chairmanships and every office, including President several times. As an active member of 8th District she served as chairman of committees and as President for two terms. Now a member of the 17th District, she currently serves as Education Chairman.



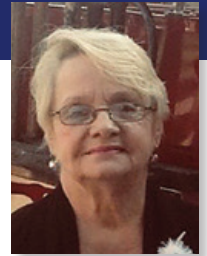
On the state level, Barbara has served as International Outreach Chairman, ESO Chairman, and is currently the Central Region Vice President. Barbara was selected as the Illinois LEADS candidate in 2012.

Barbara is also an active volunteer in her community. She was an active Girl Scout and served as a Girl Scout Leader. Barbara was City Clerk for the City of Gilman. She has been active in her church, serving as a Sunday School Teacher and Youth Group Sponsor and currently serves Granite Creek Hunger Mission.

Barbara graduated from Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Eureka College and also studied at Southern Illinois University and Governors State University. Mrs. Potter began teaching elementary school in 1966 and retired in 2006 as a special education teacher. ■

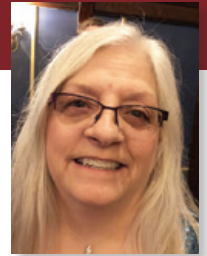
## GFWC IL SOUTHERN REGION VP HELEN CRAUSE

I will be continuing on as Southern Region Vice President for years 2020-2022. I look forward to representing all of you in the coming years. ■



## GFWC IL TREASURER DEB HAZLETT

Deb's volunteer career in GFWC IL began in September of 1988 when she joined the Coal City Junior Woman's Club. She started to co-chair and chair projects, and attend State Convention, and held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, 1st Vice President/Dean of Chairman and President. Deb helped organize and became a mentor for the Coal City Juniorette Club.



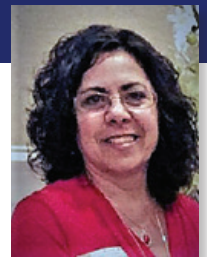
In 12th District Junior organization Deb held positions as Treasurer, 1st Vice President/Dean of Chairman and Junior Director. As Junior Director, she attended all meetings and conventions. On the Junior State Board she continued to hold Department Chairman positions.

In 1999, she became a charter member of the GFWC IL Prairie State Woman's Club, and held all elected positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President, as well as chairing and co-chairing projects. In 12th District, Deb held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President and President.

As a member of State Board, she served in different positions in community service programs, as a Special Chairman and Fundraising & Development. Deb is currently the Credentials Chairman and looks forward to serving as the 2020-2022 GFWC IL State Treasurer. ■

## GFWC IL JUNIOR TREASURER MARIA F. URIBE

Maria F. Uribe, wife of 12 years to Freddy Uribe, is a mother of two and grandmother to two beautiful girls. I have worked for DuPage County Health Department for 14 years. I have been a member of Lombard Junior Women's Club since 1997, am currently President, and have been President twice before. I have also held offices in the club such as Membership Chair, TLC Assistant Director, TLC Corresponding Secretary, TLC Camp Co-Director, Publications – Jottings Chair. I have been an active participant in GFWC IL 5th District meetings, GFWC IL conventions and the GFWC International conventions. I have also served as the 5th District Legislation Chair in 2002, Director of Junior Club in 2012-2014, and GFWC IL Junior Special Projects Chair 2015-2016. I am proud to be a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. ■



ALL OTHER JUNIOR CANDIDATES WILL BE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

# 23rd ANNUAL GFWC ILLINOIS BLUE RIBBON FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020 | BOLINGBROOK GOLF CLUB**  
2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490

## TICKETS

\$50 | Adults

\$20 | Children 12 or under

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11:00 a.m. | Doors open
- 12:00 p.m. | Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. | Fashion Show



The 23rd Annual Blue Ribbon Fashion Show & Luncheon returns to the emerald green fairways of **Bolingbrook Golf Club**. You don't want to miss this fun afternoon of friendship, food and fashion as we join together to raise funds for our longtime partner **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE, ILLINOIS**. Fashions will be presented by **Mary Ann Shop** and **Karisma Boutique**. Groups reserving tables of ten will be entered into a special prize drawing. Our Promise? A Safe Place for Every Child... AND a wonderful feeling of enjoyment for you and your guests! ■

## RESERVATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$50 EACH (Adult) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$20 EACH (Children 12 and under) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MONETARY DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois** | Mail to **Mary Jo Murphy, 30W025 Laurel Court, Warrenville, IL 60555**  
or pay online at [www.gfwcillinois.org/events](http://www.gfwcillinois.org/events)

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2020**

Please include preferred seating requests with this form and the committee will do its best to accommodate.



# 23rd ANNUAL GFWC ILLINOIS BLUE RIBBON FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020 | BOLINGBROOK GOLF CLUB**

2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490

## RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS

All clubs are encouraged to donate a themed basket with a suggested value of \$50. Clubmembers can donate too! If you and/or your club cannot support this request, please consider a monetary donation (made payable to **GFWC Illinois**) that the committee will use toward building baskets.

If possible, please deliver the basket and the completed Raffle Basket Donation Form to your District President who can bring it to the GFWC IL Spring Board of Directors Meeting, February 21-22, 2020, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington (see Karen Wrzesinski). Please contact Gerri (815) 641-1285 or Karen (630) 881-7105 as soon as possible if you need to make other arrangements and we will work together to get it to the fashion show.

Our deadline for baskets is **March 14, 2020**. If you are going to bring the baskets the day of the show, please e-mail us the form so we know what will be coming that day. PCA Illinois depends on our annual support through funds raised at our GFWC Illinois Blue Ribbon Fashion Show, and we want to continue to assist them in their commitment to the prevention of child abuse. With your support, this event will be a success. Thank you. ■

Sincerely,

Gerri Eck | gerriECK@gmail.com | (815) 641-1285

Karen Wrzesinski | karenwrzesinski29@gmail.com | (630) 881-7105

Raffle Basket Co-Chairmen

## RAFFLE BASKET DONATION FORM

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

RAFFLE BASKET THEME \_\_\_\_\_ VALUE \_\_\_\_\_

DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO BASKET \_\_\_\_\_

BASKET DELIVERED TO \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CREATE A BASKET FOR OUR CLUB. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MONETARY DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois** and list **"2020 BRFS Basket"** in the memo section. | Send all checks and baskets to: **Gerri Eck, 1608 Campbell St. Unit C, Joliet, IL 60435** | gerriECK@gmail.com | (815) 641-1285

**DEADLINE: MARCH 14, 2020**



# 23rd ANNUAL GFWC ILLINOIS BLUE RIBBON FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020 | BOLINGBROOK GOLF CLUB**

2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490

## GOLDEN RAFFLE DONATIONS

Your contributions are very much appreciated as we prepare for our **GOLDEN RAFFLE** again this year, with prizes valued at \$350 or more. Your club or individual monetary contribution will be greatly appreciated for the following items:

- Jewelry
- Chicago Broadway Experience
- Spa Package
- Golf Package

An iPad will be included in the **GOLDEN RAFFLE** and several clubs have already donated funds to cover the cost!

Please complete the attached form and mail it with your check to LeeAnn Conlon at 631 Kromray Road, Lemont, IL 60439 by **March 1, 2020**. Make checks payable to **GFWC Illinois**.

Thank you for your continued support of PCA Illinois, a long-time partner of GFWC Illinois.

LeeAnn Conlon  
Golden Raffle Chairman, GFWC Illinois Blue Ribbon Fashion Show

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### GOLDEN RAFFLE CONTRIBUTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL OR CLUB DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Send all checks and baskets to: **LeeAnn Conlon, 631 Kromray Road, Lemont, IL 60439**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2020**

## CONVENTION 2020 | ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBIT

**E**xciting times are on the horizon for the 2020 State Arts & Crafts Exhibit. This exhibit is open to all club members in good standing who are amateurs, defined as artisans who receive no more than \$500 annually from their art or craft. Each entry should include two 3" x 5" cards with the following: On one side – name, mailing address, phone number, club name and district, category

and title of entry. On the reverse side – category (indicate if item is a kit or original design) plus a brief description. Please have

these cards ready when submitting your entry to the Arts & Crafts area. Items will be accepted from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1 and do not have to win at the district level to be entered.

Entries should be picked up by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. Any items left will be sent home with the entrant's district president. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. All entries will be on display at the Convention. If you have further questions please contact Darla Gardner, Arts Chairman, (217) 246-2248. Let's make this the best show yet! ■





# CONVENTION 2020 | GFWC PURSE PROJECT

**P**–Purses **U**–Uniting **R**–Resources to **S**–Successfully **E**–End Violence Against Women, Men & Children!

**G**FWC Illinois clubwomen are encouraged to participate in the GFWC Purse Project again this year. Clubs may choose to fill purses for women and teenage girls living in shelters. New this year, members may wish to place games, toys, puzzles, crafts, books, and the like in backpacks or colorful bags that will be given to children affected by domestic violence. In addition, toiletry bags filled with personal care items for men and older boys are welcomed by many shelters. Another worthy project is to make crisis kits for senior citizens who are forced to leave their homes because of elder abuse. These kits could contain shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, and more.

Members may choose to create “theme purses, bags, or kits” which are filled with items needed by survivors. It is always good to contact your local shelter or senior center to get a list of needed items. Clubs are invited to enter their creations in the purse/bag/kit contest at the 2020 GFWC Illinois State Convention. Special recognition will be given to clubs or members in these categories: purses for women and teenage girls; bags or backpacks for children; toiletry bags for men and older boys; and crisis kits for senior citizens. Following the convention, club members may take their purses, bags, or kits to shelters or senior centers in their own area or the entries will be donated to shelters or centers in Bloomington. ■



2019 GFWC Purse Project entries



Bag for children



Toiletry kit for men or older boys



Crisis kit for elder abuse

Questions? Please contact Karel Volpert at [karelvolpert@gmail.com](mailto:karelvolpert@gmail.com) or (217) 497-7616.

## CONVENTION 2020 | UPCYCLED ART CONTEST | OFFICIAL RULES

- Creation Period:** August 1, 2019 to Convention 2020.
- Eligibility:** Contest is open to all members.
- Qualifications:** Projects must be made mostly (75%) of materials that would otherwise be destined for the recycle bin or landfill.
- Restrictions:** Size: just be reasonable. 24” wide x 24” deep and 30” high maximum is requested. Weight: No more than 25 pounds. No more than three entries per person.
- How to Enter:** Bring (or send with a friend) your art piece to the Art Room at Convention. Each piece must have an entry form securely attached with details, including the title of the work, category (see below), artist’s name, district, address and phone number.
- Winner Selection:** Winners will be selected by attendee votes. The categories are: Home Décor, Jewelry, Sculpture, Garden and Miscellaneous.
- Winners** will be announced before the close of Convention. There will be a cash prize for the winner in each category.
- All materials and winnings must be picked up by the close of Convention. Nothing will be mailed and no further notices will be sent regarding items left behind.
- Questions?** Contact Diane Addante, Conservation Chairman, at (630) 416-0756, [dinaper@cs.com](mailto:dinaper@cs.com) or Darla Gardner, Art Chairman, at (217) 246-2248, [drlgardner@gmail.com](mailto:drlgardner@gmail.com).



### UPCYCLED ART ENTRY FORM

ARTIST’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF WORK \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)  HOME DÉCOR  JEWELRY  SCULPTURE  GARDEN  MISC.

MATERIALS \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED % FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a copy of this form with each entry (maximum 3 per person)

# APHRODITE OF GEDNEY ISLAND

by Lauren Tetrick  
Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club



***This story — the 2018 GFWC Short Story Contest winner by Lauren Tetrick, president of the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club — originally appeared in the Fall 2019 online issue of "The Clubwoman." It is reprinted here just in case you missed it the first time around. Enjoy!***



## **After**

The constellations are out in full force again tonight; it's been two weeks of clear skies and calm seas. There are more stars now, in the after; and the night sky is overwhelming. Cassiopeia twinkles, and Lena imagines the goddess laughing. From the deck of the Elusive Destiny, Lena pretends for a moment, that the world hasn't changed. Perhaps if she wills it strongly enough, humanity could return.

The water is absolutely still for a moment, which puts Lena on edge—her new life includes a reassuring rocking provided by the water. The stillness reminds her of when everything started going to Hades.

## **Before**

Lena poked her head out of the second story window. She wanted to see for herself what kind of mood Gedney Island and the Pacific Northwest were in today. The bright day matched her own mood perfectly. The contents of her fridge, however, did not. Lena was long overdue for a trip to the mainland for a grocery and supply run. After a quick breakfast of orange juice and a fried egg, Lena was on her way, outfitted in work jeans and rubber boots. She wandered towards the docks, waved to a few of the local eagles perched nearby, and breathed in the energy of the island. The population in the summer time was ten times that of the winter, and you could feel the liveliness on the breeze.

Jax met her on the back of his boat, the Elusive Destiny, with a quick kiss. They'd developed an odd semi-relationship over the years. A few nights a month they'd see each other, get their fill of human contact, and then Jax would disappear to his Pacific route along Puget Sound and on up the coast. Lena had accompanied him a few times, but they both had solitary personalities and didn't like too much time together.

She took a cooler full of Jax's crabs and started her delivery route. Along the way, she readied and tidied a few of the island's rental cabins along the way, as the weekenders would be arriving tomorrow. On a small island, one survived off of a series of small jobs, and Lena enjoyed the quiet monotony of hers. It was only 2PM and Lena had run out of tasks and so opted for a chapter from her latest post-apocalyptic novel and an afternoon nap.

When she woke the light was draining from the sky, in an ugly way—an odd scene for this picturesque little island. Lena showered, popped on some makeup and fussed with her hair for a bit, before wandering down towards the nearly empty docks. She boarded the Elusive Destiny with an attention-seeking whistle and was rewarded with the vision of Jax for the second time that day: hair unkempt, unshaven

and smiling—exactly how she liked to picture him. They sat on the dock in two old camping chairs and dined on fruit, fresh steamed crab loaded with butter and too much wine.

Jax recounted his last couple of weeks. He described people in a way that left Lena wanting to meet each one, while in reality she didn't care much to be around others at all. Jax was the first person she'd encountered that she always enjoyed being around. She contemplated what a life full of Jax would be like, as she pointed out constellations and recounted mythology for him. On this night, she told him the myths of the arrows of Apollon and Artemis, the bringers of plague and sickness.

Their evening ended as it always did, lying below together in his cabin, sticky and tangled in salted sheets, the sweet sway of Jax's ship rocking them to sleep.

Lena awoke to an empty bed and an unsettling stillness on the water. There was something annoying and repetitive blaring from Jax's onboard radio on the deck above. Jax returned with a weak cup of coffee and a warning on his face.

"They evacuatin' the island and advisin' boats to anchor. A lot of strong earthquakes out near Asia and Australia. Could mean a series of tsunamis headed towards the coast."

"Better safe than sorry sort of thing, though, right? Usually they level off before they hit here." Lena hated the idea of being among the general population on the mainland almost more than the thought of her little home underwater.

"Here's hopin', but it sounds like it could get serious—lots of eight or nine mag earthquakes. Cities out west don't seem to be there anymore."

Jax had Lena's attention. "What do you mean? Where will you go?"

"I need to radio around and figure that out. Down with his ship and all that. I'll meet you here next week to check in?" She could tell in his tone that he was swallowing some kind of emotion with his question but couldn't tell if it was worry for Lena or fear for his boat. She settled on both and kissed him goodbye.

Lena headed home. A neighbor wandered by with the news again: the island ferry would be departing within the hour to take residents to the mainland, save for a few who had a serious flu that some of the weekenders had brought over. Lena plugged in her little emergency radio: Jakarta, Manila, Osaka, and Tokyo, in short, all ceased to exist. Smaller rumblings had also begun in Los Angeles and San Francisco and along less active fault lines in Tennessee and New York. Even the experts didn't elaborate much on what this series of violent tectonic activity could mean. Lena suspected these experts didn't want to send the remaining world into a chaos from which it couldn't recover.

It was hard for Lena to wrap her head around the idea of a hugely populated city like Tokyo wiped out. She glanced down at the post apocalyptic novel on her bedside table and goosebumps ran up the back of her arms.

Lena packed a bag full of practical items: snacks, clean clothes, extra underwear, a toothbrush and a few other standard toiletries. She left the house, but a feeling in her stomach made her come back in to grab an old family photo album, a few favorite novels, her journal and a framed picture of herself and Jax on the back of his boat. She was afraid that by grabbing the nostalgic items, she was setting the world up to end.

She headed over to the docks and sat in her car for a few minutes while the islanders boarded the ferry. She looked at herself in the rearview, sighed and put her car in reverse to head back towards her house. She'd rather be on the island, if something bad was going to happen. Down with my ship and all that, she thought.

At home she unpacked and plugged in the emergency radio, learning that the tsunamis were scheduled to hit the West Coast in about four more hours. There was also a serious flu spreading among some major cities, and those that were ill were advised to stay in their homes, to hydrate as much as possible and to limit their interactions with others. Lena turned off the radio and climbed into bed. It was quiet outside—the familiar sounds of sea birds were gone, and the rhythmic sounds of the ocean were absent. She hid under her covers like she was a girl again, hiding from two angry parents who liked to scream and fight. She poked a little tunnel through the covers near her mouth, to let some cool air in. The coping mechanism she'd learned in her youth was at work now, and Lena fell asleep.

When she finally awoke, the sounds of the birds chattering and some angry waves seemed promising. Her clock said 4PM—long after a tsunami should have hit. She wandered outside, and while there was clear evidence that the tide had risen significantly, there wasn't much damage. The island birds were in a feeding frenzy with all of the sea life that had washed ashore.

Lena immediately turned on the radio. The tsunamis had hit and were devastating, from South America up through San Francisco. And there'd been other global tsunamis, too. The death counts that were coming in from the earthquakes, in combination with the devastating waves, were hard for Lena to process. Guesstimates ranged from several hundred million to nearly a billion people, as so many large coastal cities had been affected. On the liberal end that was about one in seven people. Lena wasn't ready to think about what this meant, not yet. She was in shock and denial.

And the disasters weren't stopping. The flu was spreading quicker than the government agencies could keep up with, especially with so many people in relocation centers and emergency camps. Even more worrisome, this strain of flu was resulting in death, and not in just the young or elderly. Everyone seemed to be at risk.

She couldn't listen to the radio by herself anymore so she ran down towards the docks. She was relieved to find Jax's boat still anchored there. She found him below deck. He was feverish, disoriented and covered in vomit. Cleaning him up wasn't easy or pleasant, but she did her best and encouraged him to drink as much water as he could. There

was no way she could lift him to get him back to her house. In a moment of clarity, Jax ordered her off the boat. After a brief negotiation, Lena left him in bed with two liters of water and a promise to return in the morning.

She ran with big sobbing gasps, back to her house where she climbed into a cold shower, shivering and alone. Lena had always treasured her solitude in a world full of so much noise and so many people, but she never wanted to actually be all alone in it all. She couldn't bare the thought of a world without Jax's smiles and his descriptions of all the lovely people in it. Cold and wet, Lena climbed under a mountain of covers, and tried to ignore the image of the frail and fading Jax she saw when she closed her eyes.



### After

It has been months since the last radio report, which came with the devastating news of the flu murdering everyone it touched. The rumblings in the Earth that Lena had felt on and off for weeks in the beginning have subsided.

Instead of imagining what the world outside of Gedney Island looks like, Lena is focusing all of her energy on the eagle constellation of Aquila, imagining the powerful bird transforming back into Aphrodite. She imagines the goddess transforming each of the stars into human forms and repopulating the Earth. Lena's meditation is interrupted by a pod of whales surfacing out at sea, but Lena can't quite make them out, even under the brilliant stars.

In addition to the magnificent night sky, unobstructed by man's light pollution, there are other noticeable changes since the natural disasters took back the planet from humankind. Lena is still in awe at how quickly the Earth recovered without the interference of people. Gedney Island looks even more beautiful with no one here to groom it, and the wildlife numbers have soared.

One of the changes is subtler: a tiny, rhythmic flutter in Lena's belly, which seems to wave in time with the sea, a gift from Aphrodite. Lena rubs at the small movement and marvels at the little bit of peace this baby's new life provides. There's a creak on the deck behind her, and Lena glances back to see Jax, hair unruly and smiling. His stubble has since grown into a beard, and she pulls on it for a kiss. They are both fairly certain that somewhere in the world there are others left. But, for now, it's just the two of them, much as it's always been.





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**INTRODUCING “FELLOWSHIP 125”**

*Established in memory of past GFWC Illinois and past GFWC International President Jacquelyn Pierce, a staunch supporter of GFWC Illinois.*

**NEW!** Become a charter member of **Fellowship 125**. Why **Fellowship 125**? The purpose of this new initiative is not only to honor GFWC Illinois’ 125th anniversary, but also to offer an opportunity for GFWC Illinois districts, clubs and members to contribute directly to the operating expenses of GFWC Illinois and thereby ensure its financial stability. **Sustaining Membership** is a donation of \$125 or more, and a donation under \$125 is a **Contributing Membership**. **Fellowship 125** donations are strictly for operational expenses and must be given yearly to retain your membership.

The monies donated will be deposited directly into the Working Cash fund and be used to pay expenses incurred

by the organization. These include rent, printing, phone, website, etc. The GFWC Illinois Headquarters Secretary will track all donations.

Donations received by April 1, 2020, will be recognized at the upcoming Convention with a ribbon for your Convention badge as either **Fellowship 125 Sustaining** or **Contributing** and your name will appear in the Convention program. There is a line for donations to **Fellowship 125** on the Convention Registration Form found in this Spring *Clubwoman* (page 5). All donations received after April 1, 2020, will be recognized at the 2021 GFWC Illinois Convention. For members not attending State Convention, a form for contribution of monies to **Fellowship 125** is included in this issue of *The Clubwoman* (page 9). Checks should be made out to **GFWC Illinois** with **Fellowship 125** on the note/memo line. ■

*“Together we can accomplish much!”*