



Illinois | Indiana | Michigan | Ohio | Wisconsin

# GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION COMMUNIQUE

Editor/Graphic Designer: Jodi Hanson | [jshdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:jshdesign@hotmail.com)

December 2022

It has been a great start to the 2022 club year, and I hope your club is planning some great projects this year. It is feeling a bit more normal this year for sure even though we know that Covid is still around, and precautions should be taken.

We had a wonderful time at the GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference in Brookfield, WI. We had 150 gather to learn so much about the GFWC programs as well as what each state in our Region is working towards in the coming year. Along with all the learning, we certainly had some fun as well. From singing famous Neil Diamond tunes, to wearing all our sparkle and shine – it was a success all around.

We are pleased to distribute the *GLR Communiqué* to all our Region state members and hope that you'll be sure that your fellow club members receive it passed on to them.

Let us know if you'd like to include something in the next edition with a **deadline of March 15th**. Let's shine our light so others will want to join in the work (and fun!).

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Since being installed as President in New Orleans there have been many things to accomplish. The first was to ensure that we had a terrific Region Conference planned for the end of September. I worked very closely with the Wisconsin team to make sure all the I's were dotted and T's were crossed. I supplied requested materials to our GFWC President-Elect Suellen Brazil to ensure that our Region was up to date on all needed information. I attended the GFWC Board of Directors meeting at the end of Convention in New Orleans and then in Washington, D.C. I was fortunate to receive a preview of all programs and participate in learning about affiliates for this administration.

Our Region conference went very well, and all attendees seemed to have learned many new things and also had fun spending time with other Region members. It is an honor to serve GFWC Great Lakes Region.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU TO  
2020–2022 GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION  
PRESIDENT **PATRICIA HEITMAN**  
FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!**

GFWC Illinois is creating their own version of the Wizard of Oz, reminding members that home is where their heart is (GFWC) and encouraging them to follow their own path down the Yellow Brick Road of Leadership! GFWC Illinois members do have the brains, heart and courage to enhance the lives of others through their volunteer spirit!

With our magical ruby red slippers and our search to find a rainbow with every challenge, Illinois is a dedicated group of clubwomen who have traveled together to stay connected and keep the flying monkeys at bay! GFWC Illinois enhances the power of our clubwomen as we value our differences in thought, style, culture, ethnicity and experiences.

Our special emphasis is reducing food insecurity and advocating for children. The GFWC Illinois chairmen have embraced this emphasis by creatively suggesting how this can be achieved in each of the CSP's and Special Programs – the dialog has been energizing and amazing!

The accomplishments are many...Illinois Clubwomen outdid themselves with the GFWC Installation of Deb Strahanoski and after party; held a virtual Summer Seminar with 90 members from across the state; held a Rock 'n Roll Down the Yellow Brick Road all-member conference in September; and have continued our virtual monthly chat with the President and Director of Junior Clubs for all members.

And, we are in the process of starting three new clubs, have reactivated three clubs, signed a new lease to move our Headquarters location, renamed our electronic newsletter to "GFWC Illinois Connections" and have streamlined our dues process! Plus, we have a Wizard of Oz membership skit and an installation – so much fun to be had with those during this administration. We have instituted an "I spotted" campaign for clubs to share what they have done on our public Facebook page – which has been embraced by the clubs of Illinois and very successful – what an easy way to share and brag about your accomplishments!

Last, but not least, we have begun our planning and fundraising efforts for the GFWC 2024 Convention, which will be held in Chicago, Illinois.

We had a wonderful time at the Great Lakes Region Conference in Wisconsin – it's so fun to be called "The Great 8"!

LeeAnn Conlon  
GFWC Illinois President 2022–2024





**GFWC Illinois Clubwomen Sparkled at the Great Lakes Region Banquet**  
GFWC Annual Convention | June 26, 2022 | New Orleans, LA



# INDIANA



*Evelyn Adams and Marianne McCombs*

The Southern Districts are really excited about attending the 2023 GLR Conference. The State President visited each of our southern regions and spread the word about the Conference. They are very excited about all the wonderful things that we are planning for our sister states!

IFC President Marianne McCombs has been touring Indiana, enjoying our splendid varied hues of fall foliage. At the South West District Convention in historic West Baden, she sampled the cuisine at a local Mexican restaurant. District President Evelyn Adams welcomed Marianne to IFC Vice President Christy Finecy's home district. Money from the Country Store and live Auction, which both featured baked goods, beautiful dishes, craft items and fresh basil, was donated to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Christy Finecy, newly elected GFWC IFC Lincoln Club president, reported on the ways just a few members could make a big impact, as her club has just four truly active members presently. They are focusing on partnering with other groups to help at a local food pantry and weekly community meal.

The West Baden Research Club members present talked about how their award-winning coloring book continues to be used in area schools. The coloring book features the

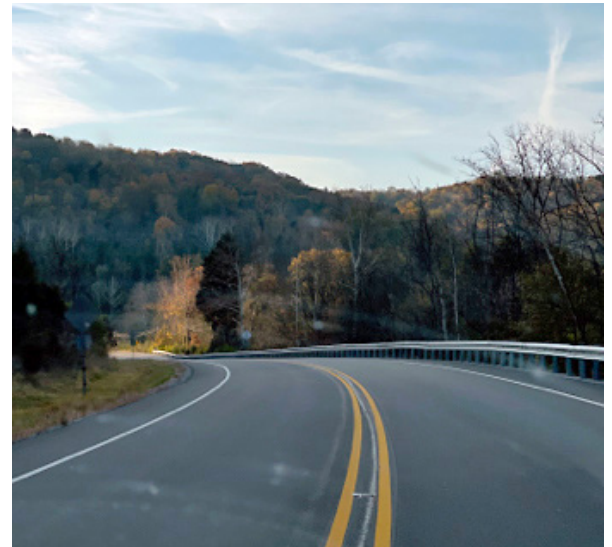
history of Orange County, Indiana, where the club is based. It has inspired other groups to create similar projects for their own areas.

Marianne's trip to West Baden wasn't all work. She had time to peruse a local farmer's market and antique store before heading back up north.

Later in the month, Marianne hit the highways again, this time for extreme southeastern Indiana to attend the South East District meeting held in Vevay.

She was very warmly greeted by the SE District ladies and participated in their "Best Fried Chicken" contest. Of course her vote was for the winning choice!

Our Northern Clubs have been busy as well. Our Munster Jr's held a Quarter Auction that was so much fun, and we were able to get rid of all those loose quarters we had hiding in the cushions of our couches.



*On the road to Vevay*



*The SE District*

## INDIANA – CONT.

GFWC IFC St. John's Womans Club changed their name to reflect their feelings of inclusion. Their new name is GFWC IFC Northwest Indiana Woman's Club. That's going to be fun filling out their Certificates! They hosted a very successful BUNCO. Food, fun and lots of laughs.

Our clubs have been busy making mats, teddy bears, breast cancer hearts (for seat belts), reading books and enjoying spending time with each other and actually being able to see each other's faces.

Christmas is just around the corner, the stores are trying to rush the season along. By the time you read this Halloween and Thanksgiving will be long over. That means GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers will be baking cookies, nut rolls and strudels.



Indiana LEADS representative, Sharron Steward, spoke at the 2022 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference



Indiana attendees at the 2022 Great Lakes Region Conference

**GFWC Michigan has been busy since the new administration started July 1st!**

**GOAL #1 | CREATE A MICHIGAN LEADS PROGRAM**

New Michigan President, Kathy Lewis, along with 1st Vice President, Rae Lynn Hicks, and 2nd Vice President, Diane LaBree, have combined forces and are committed to a 6-year joint President Project! Our state Leadership chair, Nancy Norton, came on board and the work began. The agenda has been created, speakers secured (including past GFWC LEADS graduates Tamara Parenteau, Lisa Belisle, Diane LaBree and Laurie Gerald), and the venue booked. On Saturday, November 5, 2022, GFWC Michigan held our very first Michigan LEADS! We promoted team building, conflict resolution, GFWC protocol including how to run a meeting, leadership skills/styles, and much, much more. GFWC Michigan believes we need to both train and encourage new leadership in our state. We want to appeal to all levels – club, district, state, and beyond!

**GOAL #2 | CREATE A NEW GFWC MICHIGAN WEBSITE**

After asking throughout our membership for assistance with our website, two amazing women stepped forward to see that it is recreated! Teresa Cannon, Co-President of our Swartz Creek Club, along with 2nd Vice President, Diane LaBree, got to work. Although our site is currently “under construction,” it is coming along quite well. When complete, members will have access to all GFWC information including member information, forms, bi-monthly newsletters, registering for conventions, and even purchasing merchandise online! The site will be easy to navigate and will be an important tool for all club members.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Michigan has more miles of freshwater shoreline than any other state in the nation. About 3,000 miles, to be exact.

**GOAL #3 | SUPPORT GFWC MICHIGAN’S OWN GUIDING HARBOR/GIRLSTOWN**

In 1958, the women of GFWC Michigan created “Girlstown,” a safe home for girls that were wards of the state. It was determined that the girls would attend the local school district and be taught the life skills necessary to live a productive life in adulthood. The Board of Directors must consist of more than 50 percent GFWC clubwomen.

Today, Girlstown has expanded to “Guiding Harbor” and includes foster care, adoption, and college scholarship opportunities. Guiding Harbor is very dependent on the support of all GFWC Michigan clubs. Therefore, for the 2022–2024 administration, Guiding Harbor is our President’s Project!

All clubs in Michigan are encouraged to help “their” Guiding Harbor organization. If they haven’t supported them in the past, they are challenged to start. If they have been involved, they are asked to take it one step further. Many opportunities have been created for options to help:

- **Giving From the Heart** – a monthly monetary commitment
- **Guiding Harbor Party/Auction** – buy/sell tickets to the event, donate items for auction, or bid on items in auction
- **Have a Porch Party** – invite guests over to learn about GH and become involved with supporting the organization
- **Pennies-A-Day** – collect pennies (or nickels or dimes) from members to donate
- **Wish List** – an Amazon wish list was created for individuals or clubs to order items needed by Guiding Harbor and they are delivered directly

**GOAL #4 | IMPROVE MEMBERSHIP**

Diane LaBree, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair writes:

“What does a new member look like to you? All clubs want new members. We want that fresh energy and enthusiasm, creativity, and dependability. Since joining GFWC in 2014, and especially post-COVID, our culture has

## MICHIGAN – CONT.

changed a lot. Think again about our GFWC motto, “Unity in Diversity.” We must keep an open mind as to the concept of what our new members may or may not “look” like. They may be of another ethnicity. They may have other cultural opinions or belong to a rival political party. Some, like me, may have colored hair, a piercing, or visible tattoos. They may be a college student or a retired person. The fact is, there is no “typical” member. However, what we DO share, is a common goal and the “volunteer spirit.” Regardless of all other factors, we share the ideal of making a difference in this world, helping those who are in need, and making our communities a better place. When we put aside our personal assessments and seek the value of a person’s heart and character, we can truly enjoy the experience of the sisterhood that is found in being a GFWC member. GFWC is moving forward with the times, boldly and with hope. Let us embrace the opportunities that new members give us and the talents that they share with us.”

Kathy Lewis  
GFWC Michigan President

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*Michigan is the second-most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.*

*With a variety of seasons, rich farming regions and proximity to the Great Lakes, Michigan grows and distributes hundreds of different crops each year and is the top producer of tart cherries in the country.*



*Michigan attendees at the 2022 Great Lakes Region Conference*



## “BEE THE ONE BEE THE CHANGE”

The Ohio President’s Special Emphasis is “Bee The One Bee The Change”.

The focus for this Administration will be on Conservation and Membership.

There is a saying, that **“nothing is consistent but change.”**

In all of our lives, I believe we have found this to be true. Changes will always happen, both planned and unexpected.

For the President’s Special Emphasis, I am asking all club members to step outside the box, go outside of their comfort zone and try something new and exciting to increase their membership or improve the environment. Plant pollinator gardens to help the bees, plant vegetable gardens and give away the fruit of their labors to a homeless shelter, plant a cutting garden and take the flowers to a nursing home.

Clean up our roadways, plan recycling events, participate in Earth Day in April or National Clean-up Day for the month of September.

Think of ways to increase their membership, make them fun and make their club the one everyone wants to join.

Yes, change is challenging, but look at the challenges we experienced during the last two years, Many of us didn’t even know what Zoom was. Even making a conference call was kind of foreign to me. Doing Zoom meetings has now become a very routine and cost-efficient way for our organizations to meet and will be utilized more in the future. I have encouraged members to attend the workshops offered by GFWC and hope to see more of these in the future.

In today’s fast-paced life, younger women are not looking at going to long drawn-out meetings – they want things fast. So in Ohio, we will be trying our first Zoom Fall Conference where all five of our districts will hold their conferences together.

In following the example of GFWC with putting *The Clubwomen* on the GFWC website, Ohio voted on also sending our state newsletter the “Buckeye” electronically. Not only does this make it more accessible to all members, but it also saves our state approximately \$6,000.

With the challenges we all face coming back from Covid, a slight dip in membership and not being together or able to fund-raise, Ohio is looking forward to the future, building our membership and coming back even stronger!

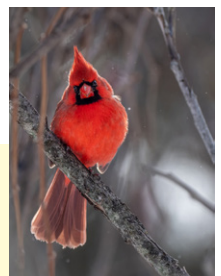
GFWC Ohio clubwomen are encouraged to fully use all of the benefits of being a part of GFWC.

GFWC Ohio State and District Chairmen have utilized all of the helpful information offered by GFWC Chairmen and appreciated the newsletters and Facebook postings to keep them informed. All of the Ohio Chairmen prepare a page for our state directory and all of this information has been very helpful to them to inform our club members as they prepare their upcoming projects and programs for the new year.

Clubwomen are encouraged to go onto the GFWC website and utilize all of the Invaluable information on how to organize your clubs and about being a part of legislation by signing on to the Legislation center. All members are encouraged to sign up for *News & Notes* and take a look once a week for new information. This information is shared in the state newsletter the “Buckeye,” in our state directory and on our GFWC Ohio state website.

GFWC Ohio is a group of strong, talented, creative women who do amazing work throughout their communities. I am so very proud to represent each of them and honored that they have put this trust in me. Together we will “Bee” change and do amazing things!

Yvonne Ford  
President  
GFWC Ohio Federation  
of Women’s Clubs



**DID YOU KNOW?** Ohio’s state bird is the cardinal, which is also Illinois and Indiana’s state bird. The robin is Michigan and Wisconsin’s.



## OHIO – CONT.

### GFWC OHIO DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS: SPECIAL PROJECT

For the 2022–2024 Junior Special Project, we will have an opportunity to give back to one of the most important groups of people I know, our United States military. The project is called “Bundles of Love” and we will be working through the USO. This program helps to provide military families in Ohio who have just welcomed a new baby into their lives with a special package consisting of necessary baby items. The items include baby wash, lotions, shampoo, wipes, baby nail clippers, bottle brushes, socks, bibs, blankets and onesies.

Knowing how difficult it must be when you don't have family close by to help at such an exciting yet overwhelming time, we hope that these “Bundles of Love” filled with baby essentials lets them know that we are thinking about them and that we appreciate all they do for us.

Thank you so much for your help with this worthwhile project and for all your dedication and hard work that you give to the great state of Ohio.

In Federation Friendship and Sisterhood,  
Karen Margala  
GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs

*\*Items can be given to your District Junior Director.*

### GFWC-OHIO LAKE ERIE DISTRICT

Some of Lake Erie District clubs are just getting restarted after a pandemic-imposed hiatus; others managed to keep at least some level of activity going during that time and are now moving ahead full-throttle. Here is what some of our clubs are up to this club year:

**Eastlake Women's Club** is engaging in the following projects:

- The club adopted a foster family of 4 children and a house with 3 residents who have graduated out of the foster care.
- They ran a raffle at the Vendors Market on Sunday, October 30th. Proceeds to go to support Miracle League here in Eastlake
- The club conducted a Walk for the Children to benefit St Jude's Research Center in October and raised approximately \$2,000. This is the tenth year they have held this walk.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The state of Ohio has been nicknamed “Mother of Modern Presidents,” as Ohio is the birthplace of seven U.S. presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William H. Taft and Warren G. Harding.

- On November 21, 22, 23 and 24, club members volunteered at a local church to provide Thanksgiving meals for people in need. The 21st, 22nd, 23rd were spent on prep, and delivery took place on the 24th. They anticipated making 800 meals.
- The club is running an Eastlake Evening with Santa and lighting city lights at City Hall – free gifts, books and snacks. Girl Scouts will help do crafts.
- Members will distribute free hot chocolate and warm cider at the city's Weihnachtsmarkt event, which features vendors set up at city hall, December 4th.
- A Christmas party will be held at the home of the club president sometime later in the month.

### Strongsville Women's League

- We are collecting socks for the homeless to be given to the City Mission.
- We are collecting baked goods for the Transplant House to wrap up and give to their nurses.
- We are hosting a cleanup in the Strongsville Women's League backyard preserve.
- We are collecting Walmart and Target gift cards for the families of the Strongsville Food Bank.
- We are completing the Nicole Washington “Let Your Words Be Your Voice” Essay Contest” in conjunction with National Anti-Bullying Month. It includes 7–12 grade school kids in the public schools. The presentation of awards will be held on December 7.
- We are holding a one night fundraiser at TGI Friday's in December per the restaurant's request.
- We supported a local female-owned business by sponsoring a club night at Maggie and Ellie's on November 10.
- We are working with the local high school to sponsor a student for the HOBY Leadership Conference.
- We have introduced Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) to our club and have encouraged this as a way for snowbird members to stay active.

## DIAMONDS IN DAIRYLAND

The 2022 Great Lakes Region Conference met at the Brookfield Conference Center and Hilton Garden Inn in Brookfield, Wisconsin, from September 29 to October 2. A spectacular time was had by all. The gathering began with an evening of Trivia in the Garden Room hosted by the Wisconsin Junior Clubs. There were sweet treats, salty treats, trick questions and most of all lots of fun and social time.

On Friday, 50 women boarded a bus for the “Bikes, Brats and Beer” tour of the Milwaukee area. Great food, fellowship and interesting history filled the day. Who wouldn’t have a good time with beer for dessert? Cocktail hour on Friday evening began with group pictures of each state’s attendees and was followed by a sparkling array of dresses, diamonds, and sequins. After dinner, the gals enjoyed entertainment by a Neil Diamond impersonator, and those GFWC arms and legs were exercised as dancing popped up all around the room.

The business meeting on Saturday began with many welcomes and introductions, and a speaker from Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin who explained the importance of legislative initiatives in children’s health. She took back a full van of generous donations from the GLR sisters. Suellen Brazil, GFWC President-Elect warmed the group with her luncheon remarks. Ladies of the GFWC GLR spent their money in the vendor room, and many also found bargains at Divine Consign in the next ballroom over. The group heard about fundraising, Friendsgiving, and from our future leaders as they reported on their LEADS 2022 experiences. Skits, bouncing beach balls, and sparkle tosses about the room were highlights of the meeting. “Denim and Diamonds” was the theme for Saturday and candles reflecting GLR President Dana Jones’ theme abounded. GFWC President Deb Strahanoski enlightened and entertained us with her kind words. There was fundraising and more “fun” raising with an ice breaker BINGO game.

The Sunday business meeting featured a memorial service for our lost sisters, a humorous report from the Executive Committee, reports from the Great Eight, and an invitation to GLR in Indiana in 2023!

Nancy Niedziela, GFWC-Wisconsin

## A MESSAGE FROM CHILDREN’S WISCONSIN, LAUREN JAMES

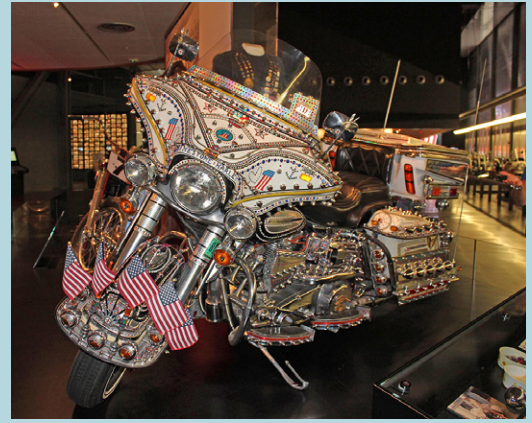
Thank you again for the opportunity to speak at the Great Lakes Region Conference earlier this year. We appreciate the partnership and the generosity of all the attendees. Our teams were blown away! Below is a summary of the items, as well as a photo of some of our Midtown Clinic staff with the supplies – I couldn’t get it all in one photo!

- Cash donations
- 85+ bottles of soap, shampoo & lotion
- 100 hygiene and safety items
- 90+ bottles, cups & utensils
- 30+ toys, coloring books & crayons
- 90+ bath towels, blankets, burp cloths & bibs
- 70 clothing items
- 60 packs of wipes
- 1,800 diapers
- 80+ tissue packs
- 40+ food items
- 80+ hand sanitizers

Please extend our sincere gratitude to your fellow GFWC Great Lakes members.



Children’s Wisconsin with some of the donations



**2022 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference**  
Bikes, Brats & Beer | September 30 | Milwaukee, WI



# BITS ABOUT BYLAWS

By Barbara D. Whitaker PRP

2022–2024 GFWC GLR Parliamentarian | 2022–2024 GFWC Bylaws Chairman

Bylaws are the foundation on which a club or state federation is built. When was the last time you actually read them? They tend to be regarded as a necessary evil, like taxes. Once done, they are never looked at again – unless there’s a problem. Every organization should have a committee of one or more people to review the bylaws and standing rules every year, review them with the membership annually, and update them as needed. Every member should have a copy of the current edition of these documents.

Here’s a brief list of things that may need to be amended in your bylaws – especially if they have been collecting dust for a while.

1. Are the committees listed correctly, along with their duties? GFWC now has five Community Service Programs, not six.
2. Do the bylaws allow for electronic or hybrid meetings and electronic voting? More clubs in our northern climate are allowing for such events in case of poor weather and allowing snowbirds to attend the meetings while sunning themselves in the south. Yes, even snowbirds can participate in many projects from a distance.
3. Are the meeting dates correct? Maybe the club began meeting on Thursday afternoons instead of Tuesday evenings several years ago.
4. Is a vote still required to admit a new member? This is pretty much a thing of the past. If they want to join, welcome them with open arms.
5. Is membership limited in number? This may still apply if you meet in members’ homes. However, many groups now meet at public places, churches, libraries, restaurants with event space, and even fast-food restaurants, and membership numbers can be larger.
6. What about publications? Are your newsletter and club updates now sent electronically? Do the bylaws reflect this?
7. Is your parliamentary authority the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*? It’s now the 12th edition, by the way.
8. Are the officers listed correctly, along with the current duties? Maybe Secretary and Treasurer have been combined for several years. Maybe the duties of the Vice President have changed from publicity to membership.

These are but a few of the things to consider when reviewing bylaws. Each month in *News & Notes*, there is a short publication about the basic Articles that should be found in all bylaws. The GFWC Bylaws Committee has taken on the task of broadening the duties of the committee this administration to include education for the clubs. We hope this is useful.

## GFWC LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

Thank you to the wonderful Great Eight from GLR for participating in the Legislation and Public Policy Skit at our Conference in Wisconsin. You can all experience the fun with our **Scavenger Hunt** by participating in those informative opportunities. Check out the information in the **Members Portal, under “L” for Legislation Public Policy Toolkit**. You will find many useful items.

Just a little reminder, please sign up for the **Legislative Action Center**. If you are already signed up and are not receiving the GFWC alerts, check and make sure your information is current and correct. The 2022–2024 Legislation and Public Policy committee intends to continue to grow the membership in the Legislative Action Center. We need your help to do this! Please sign up through the Members Portal and begin advocating today! We want to make our voices heard! Together we advocate for those in need.



# MEMBERSHIP

By Lisa Hedrick, GFWC Membership Committee Member | jrval@frontier.com

The “Gems” are out there and our members need to be inviting them into the GFWC family. Recruiting new members is vital to GFWC success, so it is important we invite and encourage women to join our clubs. Recruitment is a year-round process, and the campaigns and reporting of new members reflect this fact. A club that recruits three new members during each season will end the year with twelve (12) new members! The **MEMBERSHIP “SPARKLE AND SHINE” RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN** is going on now. Which gem will be your sparkling success?

## **September, October & November RECRUITMENT**

“Ruby – Share Your Passion!”  
Report due December 1

## **December, January & February MENTORING**

“Emerald – Harmonious Connections”  
Report due March 1

## **March, April & May RECOGNITION**

“Diamond – Shine Bright”  
Report due June 1

## **June, July & August RETENTION**

“Pearls – Strengthening Relationships”  
Report due September 1

The new fillable Membership Recruitment Form has been updated and is located in the **Member Portal under “M”** These reports are sent to GFWC for recognition in *The Clubwoman* magazine.

Contact your GLR Committee Member for questions or more information.

# LEADERSHIP

## HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR STATE LEADS

by Deb Brossard

Great Lakes Region Representative | GFWC Leadership Committee

The excitement is in the air! It is the start of a new GFWC administration, and time for YOU to consider applying for the opportunity to be your state’s LEADS representative at the 2023 LEADS session in Louisville, Kentucky, on June 9, 2023. The application process varies from state to state, so it is essential that you investigate how your state determines who will be the LEADS nominee. If this process is not already promoted on your state’s website, begin by contacting your state’s Leadership Chairman or your State President, who can surely guide you through the process. Or contact your Region’s Leadership Committee Representative, who can also help you navigate the system.

Many states have adapted the GFWC LEADS Application (available in the Leadership Toolkit) to fit their needs and process. It might behoove you to look at that so you are prepared to provide the necessary information. You will likely need to provide two letters of support from active GFWC club members. State’s application deadlines also vary, but each state is to submit its candidate to Susan Gettys, GFWC Leadership Committee Chairman, by March 15, 2023. Good luck!



It is with great sadness that we announce **Lou Brown, GFWC Illinois President 1984-1986**, passed away on October 17th in Indianapolis. She was 95.



**More Photos from the Great Lakes Region Banquet**  
GFWC Annual Convention | June 26, 2022 | New Orleans, LA



# OFFICER REPORTS

## **GLR VICE PRESIDENT**

Rose Logston, GFWC GLR Vice President 2022–2024

Since being elected to the office of vice president, this officer started preparing for the Great Lakes Region Conference in Wisconsin by making contact with the Conference Chairman and received information needed to prepare invitations for commercial and mini-mart vendors.

- Prepared the invitations and presented them to state presidents and state directors of junior clubs to help them prepare for their fundraising efforts.
- Was installed as vice president at the GLR semi-annual meeting in New Orleans.
- Attended a post-convention meeting with GFWC President-Elect Suellen Brazil and Region presidents as an invited guest.
- Prepared the minutes of the Region semi-annual meeting and had them approved by committee as per my responsibilities as secretary.
- Gathered contact information of 60+ potential commercial vendors and sent them all invitations.
- Shared emails and phone calls with Wisconsin conference chairman regarding accommodations for the vendors.
- Answered questions from the commercial and mini-mart participants.
- Arranged and rearranged tables for the vendor room. Originally allotted twelve tables now we have twenty-two. Conference chairman has been very accommodating and helpful.
- Prepared table signs for vendors.
- Shared information with the Great 8 regarding their presentations during the conference.
- Attended our Executive Committee meeting via Zoom.
- Prepared the final notebook and flash drive regarding the position of secretary to be given to my successor.
- Prepared for conference as vice president.

This officer has enjoyed the learning experience of the first few months of the office and working with the other executive officers and the “Great 8.”

Thank you for this opportunity.

## **GLR SECRETARY**

Loretta Caron, GFWC GLR Secretary 2022–2024

This officer has prepared the minutes of the GFWC GLR Executive Committee Zoom meeting from September 15th and has typed up the minutes for September 30th GFWC GLR Board Meeting and the October 2022 GFWC GLR Fall Conference. Also, a letter was sent to have the signers on the GLR Bank of Pontiac checking account changed to the current GFWC GLR President and Treasurer.

## **GLR TREASURER**

Candy Godbee, GFWC GLR Treasurer 2022–2024

As Treasurer, I have performed all the tasks assigned to the position to the best of my ability. It has been an educational experience and I am honored to serve. It has been a pleasure beginning to work with the Executive Committee members and I look forward to working with the rest of the board of directors.

As Treasurer, I have completed the following tasks:

- Obtained forms to change the signatures on the account at Bank of Pontiac, working with President Jones to have her signature added as well.
- Prepared the financial reports for members for this meeting.
- Made deposits and paid bills with verification and proper documentation, then made proper entries in the checkbook ledger and the computerized general ledger.
- Reconciled all the bank statements on a monthly basis.

I am delighted to continue to learn and work with this great board of directors serving GFWC.

# GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

By Trisha Schafer, GFWC Signature Program Chairman

Since Domestic Violence Awareness Month is past, it is a good time to remember other ways we can help and advocate for survivors and their families!

- As part of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, the **GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship** was created in 2012 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by intimate partner violence who wish to or are pursuing higher education. The scholarship aims to provide survivors with a means to achieve both financial and personal independence. Since its inception, GFWC has awarded more than \$127,500 in scholarship funds.

## Important 2023 Success for Survivors Scholarship Application Dates

October 13, 2022	GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Application Opened
February 10, 2023	GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Application Deadline
May 2023–June 2023	Recipients Notified
July 2023	Monetary Awards Sent to Recipients upon Receipt of Enrollment Verification

- Clubs, remember to send in award entries and statistics to your state chairmen so that we can all celebrate what we do collectively in one year to make a difference for victims of domestic and sexual violence!
- Then, plan for the new year.

## FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH #TDVAM

How can GFWC take action? As adults, we can support the youth in our lives. We can model healthy relationship behavior, have discussions with young people in our life and help them identify behaviors they should look for in a partner and how to recognize unhealthy behaviors and warning signs of dating abuse.

### Ways to Observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month – Every February

- **Announce Respect** – The idea behind the respect announcement is that you deserve respect from partners. Everyone has the right to set boundaries in a relationship.
- **Wear Orange** – Orange is the official color for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. So, wear orange and challenge your friends to do the same (even if it's just accessories) to show support for teens and young adults in your community!
- **Participate in the Respect Challenge** – Tag any person who shows you respect, then share that you appreciate them respecting you, letting them know how much it matters to you. Use #TDVAM23 on all of your social media posts.



- I hope your clubs are considering a project for the Signature Program's **Community Connection Initiative** by bringing awareness on Human Trafficking and distributing the Trafficking Hotline number in rest areas, truck stops, restaurants, and many other areas. I have packs of 500–1,000 stickers and also other resources where you can order supplies on your own – and they are all free of charge!

Please contact me with any ideas or questions.



## 5 IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

- **Long-Term Effects** – Teens who suffer from dating abuse often end up being victims of long-term problems like alcoholism, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts, violent bouts, and so on.
- **Widely Affected** – In the U.S., about 33% of male and female adolescents are victims of sexual, physical, or emotional dating abuse.
- **S.T.D. Scares** – Teen girls subject to abuse are six times more likely to become pregnant or contract an S.T.D. or S.T.I.
- **Suicidal Scares** – A shocking 50% of young adults who experience physical or sexual abuse (including rape) attempt to commit suicide.
- **Can't Confide** – Only a third of teens in an abusive relationship confide in someone about the abuse and hesitate to seek help since they don't want to expose themselves.



# GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC. NATIONAL EVENT



## WHY GFWC FRIENDSGIVING?

**Friendsgiving** is the blend of the words **Friends** and **Thanksgiving**, and it refers to a large meal shared with friends either near or on Thanksgiving. But why should we make this concept of a meal with friends just for Thanksgiving time?

**The GFWC National Event: GFWC Friendsgiving** will help build the GFWC brand in your community: gather and thank leaders, individuals, and businesses who have participated in some way in club projects by their donations of items, time, gift cards, and/or sponsorship; and enlighten potential members to the vast reach of club philanthropy and grassroots volunteer dedication.

Reach out to organizations that have benefited from your hands-on community service and/or in-kind donations and invite them. Think of your local organization contacts your club works with, such as the humane society, domestic violence shelters, after-school programs, food kitchens and pantries, and the list goes on.

**Who else to invite?** Town/city leaders, local business owners, past club members, co-workers, friends, members from other social groups you belong to, ladies who have attended club events or meetings but never joined, and even the micro-volunteers who assisted your club over the past few years. Pretty much, **EVERYONE** your club members are in contact with could be invited.

The goal is to get together for fun and fellowship. It can be scheduled around any holiday, such as:

- **GFWC Friendsgiving** – Ringing in the New Year with Friends (New Year's)
- **GFWC Friendsgiving** – Show the Love (Valentine's Day)
- **GFWC Friendsgiving** – Join us for a "Hoppy" Celebration (Easter)
- **GFWC Friendsgiving** – It's A Federation Day Friendsgiving
- **GFWC Friendsgiving** – Let the Summer Warm Your Heart (summer months)

The possibilities are endless. GFWC clubs are creative – we encourage you to create your own **GFWC Friendsgiving** event.

All the facets needed to plan a successful event are located in the **GFWC Friendsgiving – Box of Gems** located in the **"F" Resources Folder** in the **Member Portal**

**GFWC Friendsgiving** – a wonderful opportunity to be **Thankful** for the community's support and to **BRAG** about the good GFWC grassroots volunteering your members participate in while gaining a few new members in the process!

Guided by the GFWC Strategic Plan, the GFWC committees of Communications & Public Relations, Leadership, and Membership have organized a **NEW** National Project encouraging **ALL** clubs to participate called **"GFWC Friendsgiving."** Please check out the **"Why."** Then go to the **Member Portal at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org)**. Log in and click on **"My Digital Library"** (the circle icon in the upper right corner). Click on the **"Resources"** folder. Go to the **letter "F"** and find the **"Friendsgiving National Event."** It is a folder with everything you need to plan your own **Friendsgiving** event in your community. Let's make some new Friends!

Lisa Hedrick, Loretta Caron & Deb Brossard



**2022 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference**  
Diamonds in Dairyland Banquet | September 30 | Milwaukee, WI



# SAVE THE DATE

## GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE 2023

Save the Date for the Great Lakes Region Conference, which is scheduled for October 5–8, 2023, in Noblesville, Indiana. We will have a fun tour planned and also an opportunity for a service project. This will be held at the Embassy Suites, which includes a full free breakfast and an evening happy hour with snacks. So get out your calendar now and mark the date for a weekend of fun and learning!



# NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA



Ohio attendees at the 2022 Great Lakes Region Conference