



GF WC ILLINOIS

Volume 102, Winter 2023

CLUBWOMAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE GF WC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Happy New Year!

“Enter this new year
with a gratitude for
this new chance to
create your dreams.”

AVINA CELESTE

2023 · 2023 · 2023 · 2023 · 2023



COURAGE & PASSION

BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

I can't believe that it is the new year already, and the first six months of this administration are complete! This President certainly has been busy, and I know that all of you have been too! Thank you for embracing the special emphasis of reducing or easing food insecurity in your communities.

Together, we have accomplished a lot! We threw one heck of a party in New Orleans to install our very own Deb Strahanoski as GFWC International President; held a virtual summer seminar with engaging presentations from our Chairman; chartered two new clubs (Gifford Woman's Club and Palatine Impact Makers); renamed our electronic newsletter *GFWC Illinois Connections*; re-introduced "speed dating" at our Rock 'n' Roll Down the Yellow Brick Road Fall Conference; continued with the Wisdom from the Wizard Zoom calls (formerly known as Hotline to the Hive); streamlined our dues remittance process, and our Dean of Chairmen presented the Club Award Entry workshop in early November. And, we are moving our headquarters office down the hall to a smaller, more economical space!



To everyone behind the scenes – thank you for your dedication and teamwork to accomplish this work in such a short period of time. As I said in my installation speech, we are survivors and innovators, and you continue to “awe” me with what you do and how you do it!

Planning has begun for the 2023 GFWC LEADS on March 4, 2023, and the GFWC Illinois annual convention April 20-22, 2023.

The Power Does Lie Within You and remember as you follow your own yellow brick road...

Watch your thoughts for they become words.

Choose your words, as they become actions.

Understand your actions, for they become habits.

Study your habits for they will become your character.

Develop your character for it becomes your Destiny. ■

AWARD ENTRY PROCESS WHAT'S NEW FOR 2022!

BY TRISHA SCHAFFER, GFWC IL PRESIDENT ELECT &
KAREN HILL-DAVIS, JUNIOR DEAN OF CHAIRMEN

All Woman's Clubs, Junior Clubs and Juniorette Clubs will send their 2022 award entries and statistical forms to the same place **by 11:59 p.m., February 1, 2023:**

Send All Award Entry Statistical and Narrative Award Entries and Contest Forms to:

E-MAIL: awardentry@gfwcillinois.org

MAIL: GFWC HQ – Awards, 5 E. Van Buren St., Suite 208, Joliet, IL 60432-4224

There will no longer be a Chairman Grid – Don't forget your District and/or Junior District! They may give awards and you will need to send to your District's chairmen separately for those award entries. ■

GFWC ILLINOIS 2022-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: LeeAnn Conlon

Director of Junior Clubs: Patti Kuchar

President Elect: Trisha Schaffer

VP Northern Region: Sandy Christofanelli

VP Central/Southern Region: Gina Fritz

Secretary: Mary Jane Koester

Treasurer: Carol Jablonski

Parliamentarian: Diane Addante

CLUBWOMAN CREW

Editor in Chief: LeeAnn Conlon

Managing Editor/Graphic Designer:
Jodi Hanson

Please send stories, photos and comments to: jshdesign@hotmail.com

DON'T MISS WISDOM FROM THE WIZARD!

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

March 6 | May 1 | July 10

THE DEADLINE FOR
STORIES & PHOTOS FOR
THE CONVENTION ISSUE
OF "THE CLUBWOMAN"
IS JANUARY 16, 2023

OVER THE RAINBOW

BY PATTI KUCHAR, GFWC ILLINOIS DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS 2022-2024



By the time this issue is available, the holidays will be behind us and the new year begun. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and was able to celebrate as they wanted to.

The GFWC Illinois Junior Board of Directors has been spending some of our funds – we became the first to donate \$1,000 to the 2024 GFWC International Convention fundraising efforts. And so, we were the first “Lincoln Leader.” I’ve got my 2024 convention pin, how about you? It’s pretty and sparkly, just the way I think it should be. I’m sure there is a pin order form in this edition, so please order either size. I know there are more plans for raising funds for the convention in Chicago so, keep an eye open for those opportunities to support GFWC Illinois as hostess for the GFWC 2024 Annual Convention. We also made donations towards food insecurity and many gently used jewelry items for “Operation Deploy your Dress.” Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets for the CRF annual year-long Illinois lottery with 68 chances to win from now to October 31, 2023. CRF along with Advocates for Children are the Illinois Junior and GFWC Junior Special Emphases. Thank you for doing projects and programs during the October Advocates for Children’s Week.

Plans are in the works for our 2023 State Convention in Bloomington at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel April 20th to 22nd. Some new and creative workshops are planned, along with fun meals and more. *The GFWC Illinois Clubwoman* Convention edition will be out early March 2023. You will see lots of Rainbows and Sparkly Red Shoes and new items for Junior Fundraising.

Thank you to all the Junior Clubs for getting your dues in by the first deadline and know that more dues may still be sent by January 15th. More details on the website! Please be thinking about the Illinois Junior Leadership Awards. Does your club have a member you wish to honor? I’m sure you do. Is she a “Spark Plug” an “Outstanding Junior

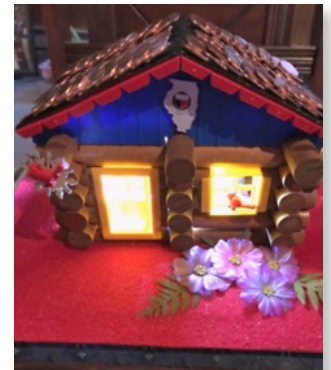
Service” or a “Junior of the Year” nominee? There is also the “Junior Lifetime Achievement” award but that will be given at the 2024 Illinois Convention. As it usually takes some effort to write these resumés, and the deadlines are February 1, 2023, I’d advise to start thinking about them now! It’s time to honor those special members!!!

I know we had quite a few members at the “Speed Dating” during the Rock ‘n’ Roll Down the Yellow Brick Road Fall Conference. A few bumps, but overall, it was a success! Thank you to those who attended – we’ve had good feedback. And also, good attendance at the Club Award Entry Zoom workshop on November 5th.

We will keep working to get the new office at the Rialto moved over and set up, as well as all the artifacts, history, files, and information we’ve collected over many years.

We will continue to find ways to stay in communication with the clubs in Illinois: *GFWC Illinois Communications* (virtual newsletter), *The GFWC Illinois Clubwoman* magazine, Zoom workshops and meetings, LEADS by the GFWC Illinois Leadership committee, Wisdom from the Wizard Zooms with every other month available to any GFWC Illinois club member. The Illinois Junior Board and the Junior Executive Committee are here for you – for support, for questions, invitations to attend meetings, and more. Thank you for being there for us! There’s No Place Like GFWC!!! ■

Federation Love and Friendship,
Patti



The Illinois log cabin “Christmas Village” house that was presented to GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski this holiday season.

SAVE THE DATE! | GFWC IL CONVENTION | APRIL 20-22

Make plans to attend the 127th annual GFWC Illinois Convention this spring!

WHEN | April 20-22, 2023

WHERE | DoubleTree by Hilton, 10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701. Reserve your room by March 29, 2023, using this link: <https://hil.tn/3wccgs4>. Rooms are \$115/night.



WHY | Fun, camaraderie, awards, seminars, banquets, and more!

WHO | All club members!

SAY WHAT? | Get all the details in the Convention issue of *The GFWC Illinois Clubwoman* printing in early March! ■

GFWC ILLINOIS ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMES GFWC GIFFORD WOMAN'S CLUB

BY CHERYL HORNE, GFWC ILLINOIS DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT

GFWC Illinois' newest club has hit the ground running with some completed, ongoing, and planned projects and activities. GFWC Gifford Woman's Club is led by President Jill Duden and has 10 charter members. They have partnered with the local bank, food pantry, and school district for several community projects, which include cleaning overgrown flower beds in the town park and collecting personal care hygiene items to add to an existing backpack program for needy students and families. Flyers and collection boxes have been made for plastic caps and lids to be recycled into a bench or other item for the school. Club t-shirts are being ordered to aid awareness of their club along with their own Facebook page.

The club's official chartering ceremony was held on November 14th, facilitated by Shelli Fehr, GFWC Illinois President 2018–2020, and assisted by Cheryl Horne, District 19 President. Following the induction of members and installation of officers, Maggie Woodham, the school principal, was the guest speaker. Discussions are ongoing with the school about ways they can volunteer. Ideas include helping out in the school library, mentoring students, or assisting with fun student programs. Another long-term club plan is to determine the feasibility and steps to opening a community library. A Christmas cookie swap and nursing home caroling or cards were other possibilities discussed.

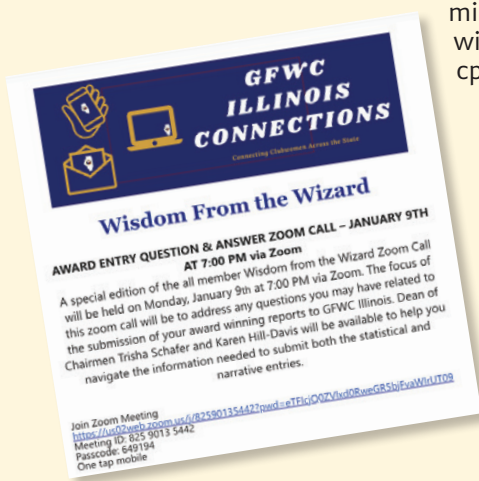
Welcome Gifford ladies! GFWC Illinois and District 19 are so pleased you have joined us and proud of your efforts and plans so far. We look forward to long and successful partnerships. ■



COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE “GFWC ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS” SCHEDULE

BY ASHLEY WILHELM, CPR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The GFWC Communications Team is continuing their hard work into 2023 staying busy keeping out state in the know! We have a proposed ongoing schedule for *GFWC Illinois Connections*, which is listed below. If you have not already signed up for *Connections*, please visit the GFWC Illinois website to sign up! This year we have put a large focus on our social media presence, setting a goal of reaching over 1,000 likes before the end of the year. With many thanks to you, we have done just that. Our online presence is booming, and it is all due to our clubwomen engaging with us across the state! One of the biggest hits has been our new **SPOTTED!** posts where clubs are able to turn in milestones, past activities, or successes they have had and want to share with the everyone. Remember to share what you club has done to cpr@gfwcillinois.org and you too can be SPOTTED! ■



PROPOSED ONGOING SCHEDULE FOR ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS

Every Other Tuesday
(Schedule always subject to change)

January 17	March 28	June 6
January 31	April 11	June 20
February 14	April 25	July 5
February 28	May 9	July 18
March 14	May 23	

OUR PROMISE...A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD PREVENT CHILD ABUSE ILLINOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BY DEBBIE MONTEITH, CHAIRMAN & LORETTA REVESZ, JUNIOR CHAIRMAN

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois held their annual conference on October 13-14, 2022, in Springfield, Illinois, with the theme **“Reimagining Resilience: Embracing Change and Protecting Children.”** The two-day conference offered access to national speakers and cutting-edge information in the field of child abuse prevention, intervention and best practices.

Their event had 20 workshops and featured speakers who spoke on psychosocial issues and treatment implications for pregnant and parenting women using drugs and alcohol, which continues to be a major factor in child abuse and neglect.

From the author of *Healing Neen*, they heard a dynamic presentation of a personal journey of resilience through trauma and healing and the importance of creating a trauma-informed culture in our communities.

Thanks to the great response and generosity of GFWC Illinois clubs who donated baskets for the event, we raised \$1,100 for PCA Illinois. Their evolving programs and partnerships have impacted thousands of children and families throughout Illinois.

A huge thank you for their dedication to PCA Illinois goes to Cherie Sieger, who handled this project and worked the fundraising table, along with her helpers Karel Volpert and Martha Bein.

Again, thank you to all club members for remembering: **Our Promise...A Safe Place for Every Child.** ■



THE GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION COMMUNIQUE IS ONLINE NOW!

Find out what our fellow GFWC Great Lakes Region clubwomen have been up to in the latest issue of *The GFWC Great Lakes Region Communique!* The clubwomen in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, along with, of course, Illinois, have been very busy the last few months. Read about the Great Lakes Region Conference held in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Also included in this issue are officer reports, leadership, membership, bylaws, legislation and public policy, as well as an article about the GFWC Signature Program – Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention by Trisha Schafer. Did I mention the photos? LOTS of photos from the Great Lakes Region banquet at the GFWC Convention in New Orleans. Find this issue online at: https://gfwcillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/GLR-Communique-Dec-2022_FINAL.pdf. ■



HOMER GLEN JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB MEMBER NICOLE LAHA ZWIERCAN, MRS. AMERICA 2022

BY MEGAN MITCHELL, HOMER GLEN JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB PRESIDENT

Nicole La Ha Zwiercan is a member of Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club. She is also the current Mrs. America 2022, and in December she competed at the Mrs. World Pageant. Nicole is a Trustee on the Homer Glen Village Board, the Illinois State Senate Press Secretary, and spokesperson for the Illinois Senate Minority Leader. Nicole is married to Christopher, and they have a son, Cristiano, and a daughter, Ashlynn.

Nicole's daughter, Ashlynn, was born with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy. This diagnosis has led to Nicole's platform as Mrs. America, a passion and dedication to community inclusivity and accessibility advocacy. One example of this is getting Homer Glen grocery stores to offer the GoTo cart which is designed for children of special needs and makes shopping easier for their parents. Nicole has also been instrumental in helping make an ability-aware toddler playground become a reality at Heritage Park in Homer Glen.

Homer Glen Juniors are in awe of all that Nicole does, and we can't wait to see where her advocating will lead next. India's Sargam Koushal was named Mrs. World 2022, besting contestants from 63 countries, but we were all rooting for Nicole! ■

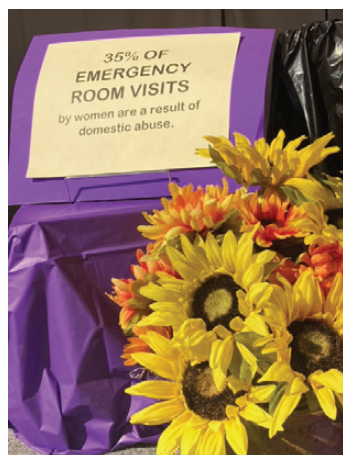


GFWC LINCOLN WOMAN'S CLUB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROJECT

BY TERRI MCDOWELL, GFWC LINCOLN WOMAN'S CLUB PRESIDENT

Here are a few photos of GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club's window display for the month of October in downtown Lincoln, Illinois. I am so proud of our Domestic Violence Awareness committee and how creative they are every year! They brainstormed display ideas, researched statistics, and created a multi-faceted display incorporating many resources and how-to's, the t-shirt clothesline concept, and a personal story, all complete with purple lights to draw attention to the display! Patti Becker is chairman of this terrific project!

I am so proud to be the President of LWC and this is only one of many wonderful projects sponsored by our amazing club! Our kind members are our strength and backbone! ■



LOGAN CO STATS		
YEAR	CALLS	ARRESTS
2020	355	95
2021	319	76
THRU SEPT 2022	230	84

1 DEATH



GFWC ILLINOIS HELPING ELIMINATE FOOD INSECURITY

BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

At our November Board of Directors Meeting, Chef Chris Franzoni, a former executive chef in Chicago, from the Southside Mission in Peoria, Illinois, had a heartfelt conversation with us about how his organization is working to address food insecurity. In addition to providing a weekly free lunch program and delivering meals for the holidays, they are now focused on education – starting with preschoolers. Chef Franzoni said, “It’s just as important to teach people how to use and prepare the foods they receive, as it is to give food.” The organization conducts a free six-month program to educate individuals with careers in food service – focused on skills required to be a chef. He also educated us about what a “food desert” is and how the lack of grocery stores affects healthy eating habits.

Illinois members donated \$1,000 that day through personal contributions and the sale of GFWC Ruby Slipper ornaments, handmade and donated by this President’s sister! ■



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMITTEE APPLY NOW FOR SHOT@LIFE SPRING SUMMIT

shot
@life | advocate
to vaccinate

SPRING SUMMIT

February 27 – March 1, 2023



This year the SHOT@LIFE Summit will be held in person in Washington, D.C. This is a terrific opportunity for YOU to be a part of a great affiliate of GFWC!

“Those that have the ability to take action, have a responsibility to take action.”

NICHOLAS CAGE

Come to Washington, D.C. to gain advocacy skills and meet with your congressional offices!

APPLY TODAY:
bit.ly/2023summitapp



2022 GFWC CONVENTION SHORT STORY WINNER “QUILTING AMERICA”

BY SHERRILL GRAMSE, THE HERRIN WOMAN'S CLUB

It was a cold, single digit, February morning when Lynnsey pulled the cold metal door handle open to the Spencer Civic Center with her gloved hand, not knowing what to expect on the other side. Immediately she was hit with a blast of warm air smelling of sugar cookies and hot apple cider. In fact, to her left was just that – a refreshment table set up with insulated cups, a crock pot and ladle, and two trays of sugar cookies sprinkled with red sugar. Seated to her right were the two ladies at a welcome table she had met that past Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Spencer. Lillian and Judy both smiled at her and waved her over.

“Hello, Lynnsey! We’re so glad to see you’ve come today.” said Lillian, passing Lynnsey a name tag and a Sharpie.

“I’m glad, too” said Lynnsey. “Being new in town I thought this would be a good way to meet new people and also help the community”.

Lynnsey had just moved to Spencer, Illinois from a suburb of Chicago in northern Illinois for her job as a pharmacy technician. Being single, it was fairly easy for her to relocate downstate and get a fresh start in her life. Although she enjoyed the four seasons of her hometown, and her family and friends where she grew up, she longed for a change.

“Let me introduce you to the others here today” said Judy as she rose and guided Lynnsey to the open area just beyond the refreshment table. Eight senior faces looked up at Lynnsey as she approached the tables gathered together in a giant square. At one end two sewing machines were set up. An ironing board and iron were off to one side.

Judy started, “Everyone, this is Lynnsey Close, whom we told you about. This is her first day at the Busy Bees – she just moved to Spencer and works at Brown’s Pharmacy. Let’s go around and introduce ourselves and tell her a little about yourselves”.

“Hi, welcome, Lynnsey. I’m Janis and this is my husband, Joe. We come to the Civic Center every week to work on projects that help our community. Right now we are making quilted lap blankets for our veterans that will be on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. this June. We are sending about 60 veterans from WWII, the Korean War, Viet Nam, and from the Middle East conflicts. We try to have one quilt ready for each veteran as the plane trip can be a little chilly. And they get to keep the blankets as a souvenir of their trip”.

“I’m Joe as my wife said. I like to do the cutting. Paper, cloth, whatever, depending on what the project is. I’m also a driver when we collect or deliver food during the holidays”.

“Each of us have different talents. I’m Gloria, glad to meet you. Some of us like to sew or crochet or knit. Take for example this quilting project: I never quilted before until I was retired as a teacher when I was 60”!

“That’s good to hear” said Lynnsey, “because I’ve never quilted before, but I’ve done some simple sewing on my mother’s sewing machine back home”.

“You’ll be fine, Lynnsey. There will always be someone here to help you with what help we need”.

“I’m Kay. I like to work with the batting, the inner part of the lap quilts. We take a solid piece of cloth for the back and baste this fluffy material to it. We use a different color cloth for each branch of the service: olive green for the Army, khaki for the Air Force, red for the Marines, aqua for the Coast Guard and navy blue for the Navy. The batting holds the quilt together giving it strength and warmth. It’s unseen, but very necessary for our veterans”.

“I’m Judy. We welcome any newcomer to the Busy Bees and try to utilize their talents and their availability, especially someone younger than us old timers”.

“And I’m Glenda. I like to bring refreshments and serve the volunteers. Then they let me do other things as needed – mainly a gofer”!

“I’m Shirley. And this is my sister, Caroline,” as Shirley pointed to the older woman with snow white hair seated next to her. “We are regular quilters, so they have us draw up designs and lay out the material. We learned from our grandmother. We had to make-do growing up in the depression and during war time, so we collected and used every scrap of cloth we found. Old, worn-out clothes, flour sacks, anything, you name it. Nothing went to waste”.

“Come with me, Lynnsey, and we’ll get you acquainted with pinning some pieces together before we sew them into strips. But first, why don’t you help yourself to some refreshments. We want to make sure you’re not starving!” suggested Lillian.

As the group went back to cutting, pinning, and stitching they chattered amongst themselves quietly. Lynnsey poured a cup of the cider and took two sugar cookies, licking her fingers as she settled herself into an empty chair beside Kay. Closely watching how the others were coordinating their efforts, Lynnsey began to feel very comfortable with this group of seniors. Perhaps this was the “thing” she felt was missing from her fast-paced, busy life up north. Just meeting people, getting to know them and this new community. This must have been what it was like “in the olden days”. People took time with each other.

Janis started, “So Lynnsey, what brought you down to Southern Illinois?”

“Well, mainly for my job opportunity as a pharmacy technician. And I am thinking going back to school – maybe to be a pharmacist. I do like working in the pharmacy that

(continued on next page)

2022 GFWC CONVENTION SHORT STORY WINNER

“QUILTING AMERICA”

(CONTINUED)

much. I like helping people, especially when they are not feeling well and can be confused, even angry about what their prescriptions are. Many are angry about the cost of the medicines. They cannot understand why everything is so expensive, so I try to help them, with the pharmacist of course, to be aware of their choices”.

“My, Lynnsey, you sound like a God-send to Spencer! We are so blessed to have you here with us” said Judy.

“Thank you, Judy. I was really kind of fed up with the atmosphere in Northern Illinois. Violence every night on the news. Gangs. Protestors demanding their rights. People arguing about Covid, masks, the government, our relationship with other countries, immigration, inflation – I was getting so that I was ashamed to be an American”!

Everyone at the tables suddenly stopped what they were doing and looked directly at Lynnsey. You could hear a quilting needle pin drop it was so instantly quiet.

After a pause, it was Janis that said, “Oh, Lynnsey, you must never say that! No matter how sad you feel about what is going on in America”!

“No, Janis, it’s OK. Lynnsey is just expressing her frustration with many of the situations we are facing in our country right now. But we are old enough, experienced enough to know that although all these things together seem insurmountable to fix, we have seen our people rise above it all. That is the character of the American citizens as a whole. Lynnsey, Janis and I worked up in Minnesota at a free clinic for over 20 years before moving down to Spencer to be near our daughter and her family. The free clinic took care of the poor, the uninsured, the homeless – and yes, many immigrants from over 50 countries throughout the world. Our volunteer doctors and nurses treated everyone with respect and kindness, regardless of their socio-economic status. I myself served in the army in Viet Nam, so I can relate to the negativity and chaos that you hear about on the nightly news. But let me assure you, that those patients at the free clinic in Minnesota, literally kissed the ground that housed those volunteers. Many said with great emotion, “I loved my country, I did not want to leave, but this America is the greatest nation in the world”.

“Lynnsey, did you know that even after the Revolutionary War, our war of Independence from England, that our forefathers who fought together, side by side, often argued and even threatened with murder, anyone who did not agree with the federal government retaining the power to create an army, tax its citizens, or to keep a national bank? Many of our forefathers did not believe in a federal government, but thought we should be separate states. And not to mention the civil war which nearly did destroy our nation, but only after an ungodly amount of death and destruction, did we come together to heal and move forward?” gently said Caroline.



“I’m so sorry everyone. I didn’t mean any disrespect” said Lynnsey, looking downward, tears welling up in her eyes.

“Oh honey, you came to the right place at the right time. You are the very spirit of our America. Young, vibrant, willing to try new experiences. Willing to serve in a community that is totally unfamiliar to you. You just keep questioning and listening and feel free to express your ideas, and yes, even your frustrations. That is the best part of America. We came together as a nation with every trial put before us: the World Wars, the Depression, 9-11, AIDS and even our new challenge, Covid! We need you”! exclaimed Shirley.

“You see, Lynnsey, groups like ours, and those that went before us – we are just like the batting we are putting between the back cloth and the cover quilt piece. Without it, those two thin pieces will wear out soon enough. Nothing to hold them together but a few stitches. You stay around us long enough and you’ll see, you’ll have hope, too” said Kay getting up from her chair and moving towards Lynnsey. “I think we need a group hug”. ■

2023 GFWC ILLINOIS LEADS LEAD WITH JOY: JOY, OPTIMISM & YOURSELF! BY KARYN CHARVAT, LEADERSHIP/LEADS CHAIRMAN



LEAD with JOY: Joy, Optimism, and Yourself!

Saturday, March 4, 2023

8:30 a.m. Registration | 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Seminar

28600 Bella Vista Parkway, Warrenville, IL 60555

Open to all GFWC IL members, this re-imagined in-person workshop takes a look at leadership with a different lens; one that looks inward and focuses on tips, tools, and strategies to become a more confident and joyful leader. Lunch included.

Interactive Sessions | Speakers | Roundtable Discussions

GFWC IL LEADS is for all who want to become a better leader for your clubs, district, and our great state Federation!

If you are unable to attend in person, we will offer speaker presentations by Zoom. This is a separate registration and a Zoom link will be sent prior to the event.

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

GFWC IL CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A GFWC IL MEMBER? _____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED DISTRICT MEETINGS _____ STATE MEETINGS _____ GFWC CONVENTION _____ ?

HAVE YOU ATTENDED GFWC IL LEADS BEFORE? _____

IF ATTENDING IN-PERSON, A BOX LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRÉE BELOW:

TURKEY BREAST _____ ROAST BEEF _____ HAM _____ VEGGIE WRAP _____

PLEASE NOTE ANY ALLERGIES _____

Registration Fee: \$35 | **Registration Deadline:** February 17, 2023

Make check payable to **GFWC IL** and mail to:

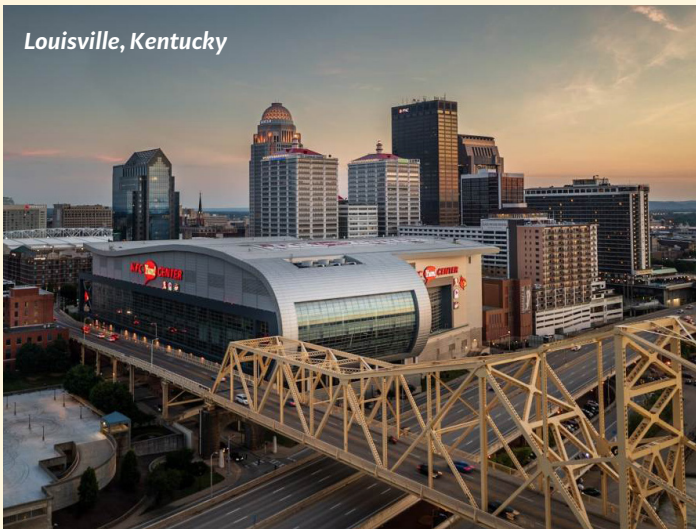
GFWC Illinois Headquarters, 5 E. Van Buren Street, Joliet, IL 60432-4224

GFWC ILLINOIS ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMES **IMPACT MAKERS OF PALATINE** A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



SAVE THE DATE | **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Louisville, Kentucky



GFWC ILLINOIS ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 20–22 | Bloomington, Illinois
Reserve your room at the DoubleTree by Hilton today at this link: <https://hil.tn/3wcgs4>

GFWC ILLINOIS SUMMER SEMINAR

August 5 | Via Zoom

GFWC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 9–13 | Louisville, Kentucky

GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE

October 5–8 | Noblesville, Indiana

2023 GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION ARTS & CULTURE CONTEST INFORMATION

BY KAREL VOLPERT, ARTS & CULTURE CHAIRMAN

There's no place to dream, sparkle, and shine like the Art Contests in GFWC!

ALL CONTEST ENTRANTS FOR ANY CONTEST BELOW MUST COMPLETE A GFWC ILLINOIS PRE-REGISTRATION FORM BY FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

The pre-registration form can be found on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center at the following link: <https://gfwcillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-24-Art-Contest-Preregistration-Form.pdf>.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CONTEST AT THE GFWC ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Bloomington where you can display your artistic work in the categories of Counted Cross Stitch, Crochet, Jewelry, Knitting, Needlepoint, Quilts, Stamped Cards, Wall Hangings, and Embroidery. Your contest entry must have been created during 2022. You or a fellow GFWC member can bring your handiwork to the convention. Registration will be Thursday afternoon, April 20, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and Friday morning, April 21, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Club members who attend the convention will be asked to vote for their favorite entries on Friday afternoon. The MEMBERS CHOICE AWARDS will then be announced on Saturday morning. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. The rules for this in-person contest can be found on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab and in the GFWC Illinois Award Entry Manual.

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBER PAINTING CONTEST

All GFWC Illinois members who are amateur artists are encouraged to enter an original painting in our "Over the Rainbow" Arts and Crafts Contest at the State Convention in April. Your entry must have been painted during 2022. You or a GFWC club member can bring the painting to the convention. Registration will be Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Winners will be announced on Saturday morning. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Please check the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab and in the GFWC Illinois Award Entry Manual for the contest rules.

GFWC ILLINOIS YOUTH ART TALENT CONTEST

At the end of the GFWC Illinois rainbow is a pot with treasured artwork from youth throughout our state. Students are encouraged to enter this contest in one of the following media: Pencil, Pen and Ink, Collage, Acrylics, Mixed Media, or Pastels. Grade Levels included are Category 1: 4-6; Category 2: 7-9; Category 3: 10-12. The entry must have been created during 2022. The artwork should be brought to the state convention by a GFWC member. Registration will be on Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Winners will be announced

on Saturday morning. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded in each grade category. Rules for this contest are available on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab and in the GFWC Illinois Award Entry Manual.



GFWC ILLINOIS/GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

The Photography Contest encourages your artistic expression and visual storytelling, while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. This contest invites you to "Dream Big," "Sparkle More," and "Shine Bright" as you capture those cherished moments in your photographs. Your photo(s) must have been taken in 2022. You or a GFWC clubwoman can bring your photograph(s) to the state convention for judging. Each submission must include a signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver, which is found under the Members Center tab on the GFWC Illinois website. Registration will be on Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The winners will be announced on Saturday morning. One winner in each category will receive a certificate and ribbon. The winning photographs will be submitted to GFWC for judging. GFWC Illinois Contest rules are found on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab and in the GFWC Illinois Award Entry Manual. GFWC Contest rules are found in the GFWC Club Manual.

■ **THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST (3 CATEGORIES)**

Our World Up Close – Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Some examples are bugs or parts of flowers.

Natural Wonders – Use wide angles and panoramas or changeable landscape images to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.

Reflections – Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories or capture a

2023 GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION ARTS & CULTURE CONTEST INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

fleeting image reflected in glass, water or another mirrored surface.

■ GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one.

GFWC ILLINOIS/GFWC WRITING CONTESTS

GFWC sponsors writing contests in short story and poetry for members and youth to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers. Authors, young and old, are invited to tell a story, express their thoughts, and share their voice while using the elements of presentation, organization, word choice, and sentence fluency. This contest provides members an opportunity for dreaming big, sparkling more, and shining bright! Entries should be emailed to awardentry@gfwcillinois.org or mailed to GFWC Illinois Headquarters by March 1, 2023. Each submission must include a signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver, which is found on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab. Rules for GFWC Illinois Contest entries can be found on the GFWC Illinois website under the Members Center tab and in the GFWC Illinois Award Entry Manual. Guidelines for the GFWC Contest can be found in the GFWC Club Manual. Winners will be announced on Saturday morning.

■ MEMBER CONTESTS

Members may submit short stories limited to 2,000 words and poetry entries with a minimum length of 8 lines and a maximum of 50 lines. Works of amateur authors must be written during 2022. The winner in each category will be mailed to GFWC for judging.

■ YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

Youth are encouraged to submit a short story of 2,000 words or less or a poem of 8 to 50 lines in this contest. The categories are Grades K, 1 and 2; Grades 3, 4 and 5; Grades 6, 7 and 8; and Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. The entries must be written during the contest year (January 1–December 31, 2022). Submissions will be judged using the Six Traits of Writing. The winner in each category will be mailed to GFWC for judging.

DARE TO DREAM

As you travel OVER THE RAINBOW, the Arts and Crafts Contests provide opportunities for “the dreams that you dare to dream” to come true. As you participate in writing, photography, painting, and arts and crafts, your dreams “really do come true.” In addition, students can also “dare to dream” as they participate in the youth writing and art talent contests. “There’s No Place Like GFWC” to make your dreams become realities.

GFWC ILLINOIS CONTEST ENTRIES

All arts and crafts entries, paintings, youth artwork, and photographs should be brought to the GFWC Illinois Convention where they will be judged. Please pre-register in all of these categories by February 1. This information will let us know the number of entries to expect and how much space is needed to display the work in each category. Entries should be picked up between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. If you have questions, please email karelvolpert@gmail.com or call (217) 497-7616. ■

IN MEMORIAM | REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST

GFWC Illinois Geneseo Woman’s Club

Patti McNaught

St. Francisville Womans Club

Julie Ivers

GFWC Illinois East Alton Woman’s Club

Catherine Colter

GFWC Illinois State President 1984–1986

Lou Brown



CONVENTION 2023 IN MEMORIAM | 25- & 50-YEAR MEMBERS



Club presidents, please submit the names of your members who passed (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023). They will be honored at a memorial service during Convention April 20–22, 2023.

Please also send the names of your members who celebrated their 25th or 50th anniversary as a member of GFWC during 2022.

Please e-mail names to GFWC Illinois Headquarters, gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net, or mail to 5 E. Van Buren St., Joliet, IL 60432-4224 by April 1, 2023. ■



CONVENTION 2023 | DOOR PRIZE REQUEST



Donations Needed!

The 127th Annual GFWC Illinois Convention will be held April 20–22, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois. A welcomed tradition of GFWC Illinois is the door prizes given away during meal functions throughout convention. Your support of this tradition, by the donation of a door prize, would be appreciated. Door prizes are to be a minimum of \$25. This can be a cash donation or a gift (such as a gift basket) valued at \$25 or more. To assure that proper recognition is given for your gift/donation, please complete the form below and return as indicated.

Your donation will be accepted at any time, but to be included in the Convention Program, please fill out the form below and send it to me by **March 1, 2023**. You can also bring your door prize donation to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting, February 17–18, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. If you do not plan to attend the Spring Meeting, please deliver your door prize donation to your District President or a GFWC Illinois board member from your district, prior to the dates noted above.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We look forward to receiving your donation. ■

GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION 2023 DOOR PRIZE REQUEST FORM

DOOR PRIZE DONATION BY (CHECK ONE): INDIVIDUAL _____ CLUB _____ DISTRICT _____

DONOR NAME _____

(How would you like the Door Prize listed, i.e., your name or name of club/district?)

TITLE OR CLUB _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

DESCRIPTION OR AMOUNT OF GIFT/DONATION _____

For **Cash Donations**, please return form and check to **GFWC Illinois, 5 East Van Buren St., Joliet, IL 60432**.

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois**.

For **Gift Donations only** (such as a basket), please return form to **Joanne Meyer, 821 Van Street, Elgin, IL 60123**.

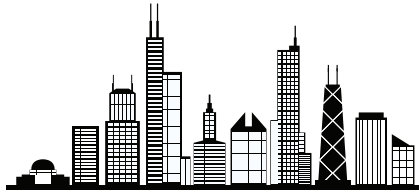
Gifts/gift baskets may be brought to the Convention.

For recognition in the Convention Booklet, please return by March 1, 2023. Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Convention Vice Chairmen Joanne Meyer | (847) 567-3843 | Joannemeyer1922@gmail.com
or Debbie Monteith | (847) 530-9281 | dmonteith02@msn.com

CHICAGO 2024 GFWC CONVENTION FUNDRAISING FORM



CHICAGO | 2024
GFWC CONVENTION

RAFFLE TICKETS | \$10/each

Order your **Can You Spot Me A Couple of Fins** raffle tickets. The cost is \$10 per ticket with the winner receiving \$350 cash. The drawing will be held at the 2024 GFWC Illinois State Convention. Tickets stubs will be sent to you for your records.

CHICAGO 2024 RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME _____ DISTRICT #/STATE _____
PHONE W/ AREA CODE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
NUMBER OF TICKETS PURCHASED @ \$10 EACH _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund**
Mail order form and check to Ruth Sloom, 4 Latham Place, Lincoln IL 62656

PINS | \$100/large | \$50/small

Order your **Chic Bauble**. The cost is \$100 for the large pin and \$50 for the small pin. Proceeds from the sale of pins will be used to underwrite the cost of hosting the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago. Pins will be mailed to you via USPS. Please add \$5.

CHICAGO 2024 PIN ORDER FORM

NAME _____ DISTRICT #/STATE _____
PHONE W/ AREA CODE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TOTAL LARGE PINS @ \$100/EA _____ TOTAL SMALL PINS @ \$50/EA _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (Include \$5 for shipping)

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund**
Mail order form and check to Ruth Sloom, 4 Latham Place, Lincoln IL 62656



\$100/large



\$50/small

GFWC CONVENTION 2022 | GREAT LAKES REGION BANQUET



JUNE 26, 2022 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA





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www.gfwcillinois.org

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**Please join us in Bloomington
 for the 127th Annual
 GFWC Illinois Convention
 April 20-22!**

**JUST FOLLOW
 THE YELLOW
 BRICK ROAD!**



DONATE TO GFWC ILLINOIS

GFWC Illinois is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. More information can be found at gfwcillinois.org.



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**

