

**Remember Summer Seminar is August 5th from 9–11:30 a.m.!** The link was attached to your confirmation email.



# COURAGE & PASSION BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

hat a year it's been! As I reflect upon the courage of the Lion, the heart of the Tin Man, and the brain of the Scarecrow, you, A GFWC ILLINOIS CLUBWOMAN, have found the Power Within!

Congratulations to all clubs who submitted award entries and were recognized by their Districts, GFWC Illinois and/or GFWC! Thank you for engaging your current members and reaching out to recruit new members. For the first time since 1996, GFWC Illinois experienced an increase in membership, and welcomed three new clubs – Gifford Woman's Club, Impact Makers of Palatine, and Peoria Woman's Club.

As an organization, we strived to successfully accomplish a few goals. You embraced the need for change, enabling our successes!

- Moved our office to a smaller space, reducing our expenses and completing an inventory of our historical papers and artifacts.
- Streamlined our dues remittance process, which improved our cash flow and reduced the time required to update our membership database.
- Changed the award entry process to submit all entries to a single email address.
- Held an in-person statewide conference and brought back the "speed dating" concept of sharing information.
- Adopted a GFWC Illinois Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement, which was the result of a conversation at a Wisdom from the Wizard Zoom call in September.
- Successfully launched our efforts to host the 2024 GFWC Convention by fundraising and gathering the volunteer chairmen needed.

Convention in Bloomington.
Invited the 2023 GFWC Convention attendees to the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago.

Hosted an informative, fun-filled 2023 GFWC Illinois



Most importantly, we are not done! Over the next 12 months, we will continue to prepare for hosting the GFWC 2024 Convention in Chicago, host a virtual Summer Seminar, support the GFWC National Day of Service to combat food insecurity, and communicate regularly with you, the GFWC Illinois clubwoman, through GFWC Illinois Connections (our email newsletter) and Wisdom from the Wizard zoom calls.

We will help you to shore up and/or expand your clubs and districts and suggest ways in which you

can build the leadership pipeline and focus on training for Club Presidents/Treasurers.

Thank you for all that you do for your communities and the greater world around us.

#### WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR GFWC ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP JOURNEY DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD?

Remember, there is no place like GFWC Illinois and...

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.

# **2024–2026 ADMINISTRATION** BY TRISHA SCHAFER, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT-ELECT



To All GFWC Illinois Clubwomen,

t is already time when the 2024–2026 administration begins seeking the leaders who will guide our Illinois clubs. Not only are there nominations happening for your GFWC Illinois officers, but the official 2024–2026 Administration Application for all chairmen serving the board is now uploaded to our website and has also been emailed to those currently serving.

Director-Elect Maria Uribe and I hope many of you will be excited to renew and/or expand your service and dedication to GFWC Illinois by seeking an appointment to the incoming Board of Directors and Junior Board.

#### Note: The 2024–2026 administration will be united/combined Woman's and Junior Board Meetings.

Please consider applying and share this application with any other members from your club or that you know (must be a GFWC Illinois member in good standing) who might be passionate about one of these positions. Encourage them to apply for a State Board position (Woman's and Juniors).

The deadline is September 25, 2023 – send to me via e-mail at trishamae2520@gmail.com.



# **OVER THE RAINBOW** BY PATTI KUCHAR, GFWC ILLINOIS DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS 2022–2024

ILLINOIS JUNIORS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE GFWC!

2022-2024



would like to say "CONGRATULATIONS" to all the Illinois Junior Clubs who received awards at the GFWC International Convention in Louisville, KY! I was so proud to receive your clubs' awards from Deb Strahanowski and Katie Moydell for all the hard work you did and reported on!!! Our Rainbow did shine!

I would also like to thank all the Junior Club presidents and/or officers for updating their clubs' information that will be printed in the 2023–2024 GFWC IL Yearbook. I know how many times I use the information in that book. Also in the yearbook will be the updated Junior Standing Rules that were just voted on at our 2023 Illinois Convention. There were some important changes, so please remember to take a look at them. Every Junior Club will get their copy of the yearbook this fall.

We are excited to present a terrific agenda of presentations at the August 5th Summer Seminar via Zoom, which is, of course, open to all members of GFWC Illinois. If you missed the registration deadline or are unable to attend the Seminar for whatever reason, the booklet from the event, including reports from all of the presenters, will be available on the GFWC Illinois website after August 5th. Some of the information to be included will feature Leadership, Membership, Communications, some project updates, the 2024–2026

> administration, as well as some "Back to Basics" helpful hints on bylaws, officer training and more.

LeeAnn and I had a blast presenting the Illinois Invitation to the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago to the convention body on Monday in Louisville. With help from the rest of the Illinois ladies who attended, we wore Chicago sports team jerseys (Blackhawks, Cubs, Sox, etc.) and sunglasses, we used some lines from Ferris Bueller and the Blues

Brothers, and we included a lot of history from past GFWC Conventions in Illinois. We also had a great video on Chicago! I'd like to personally thank all of the creative women who came up with the script and video presentation!!!

# CHICAGO 2024 GFWC CONVENTION FUNDRAISING UPDATE

FWC Illinois is on the road to Chicago 2024. Through your generosity we are moving toward meeting our financial needs. To date, donations have been received from 8 districts and 30 clubs with additional donations from statewide organizations and individual clubwomen. It is not too late to help us meet our financial needs to host the 2024 GFWC Convention at the Chicago Hilton.

Looking for another way to support GFWC Illinois hosting the international convention in 2024, we have a very limited number of Chic Baubles and aprons for sale. Feeling lucky, we have two raffles where you could win <sup>\$</sup>350 or a quilt. Tickets for the <sup>\$</sup>350 drawing are <sup>\$</sup>10 a piece, and the drawing will be held at the GFWC Illinois Convention in Bloomington. Quilt tickets are <sup>\$</sup>5, and the drawing will be held in the fall. You do not need to be present to win. Order forms for the Chic Baubles, aprons, and raffle tickets are available in the Member Center on the GFWC Illinois website.



We are excited to introduce our GFWC friends to the museums, iconic neighborhoods, theaters, jaw dropping architecture, shopping, and sports teams that are all located steps from the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Please mark your calendars for June 28 (State Night) to July 1, 2024, and see you at the Chicago Hilton.

Ruth Sloot, GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Chairman

#### GFWC ILLINOIS 2022–2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** LeeAnn Conlon **Director of Junior Clubs:** Patti Kuchar **President Elect:** Trisha Schafer VP Northern Region: Sandy Christofanelli VP Central/Southern Regions: 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**  LEADERS, MEMBERS & CLUBS...

**5**0H





9:00–11:30 a.m. via Zoom

The Summer Seminar Booklet will be posted on the GFWC Illinois website on Sunday, August 6th



# **2023 SUMMER SEMINAR**

You won't believe what we have packed into this virtual Summer Seminar!

Membership • Membership Drive(s)	Sandy Christofanelli & Gina Fritz	
<ul> <li>New Members – Orientations &amp; How to Keep Them</li> </ul>		
What HQ Needs and Why		
Award Entry for Clubs – Adjustments to the Process		
Shawnee National Forest	Mary Jane Koester	
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois (PCA)		
Advocates for Children		
Upcycled Art Contest – 2024		
Hat Not Hate Project (Arts & Culture Entry Updates) Leadership	Karel Volpert	
<ul> <li>Leadership Pipeline (District &amp; State)</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Leadership in Clubs – Recognizing Leaders</li> </ul>		
・ LEADS 2024		
<ul> <li>Officer Training &amp; Helpful Hints (Presidents &amp; Treasurers)</li> </ul>		
Bylaws (Clubs & Districts)	Mary Jo Murphy	
2024-2026 Administration	Trisha Schafer & Maria Uribe	
Elections		
Protocol & Parliamentary Pointers		
Resolutions	Gerri Eck	
Food Insecurities		
Treasurer – Dues & Monetary Donations		
Clubs & Districts		
Communications & Public Relations	Ashley Wilhelm & Jenna Mitchell	
<ul> <li>Ways of Communicating Today</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Responsibilities to Read &amp; Respond</li> </ul>		
Website Update		
Road to Chicago 2024 & State Night	Ruth Sloot & Megan Mitchell	
Raffle Winner	Margie Nilson & Candyce Jordan	

# JUNIOR & JUNIORETTE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

#### By Katie Moydell, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs 2022–2024

ne of the greatest takeaways a clubwoman can get from GFWC is leadership experience. Since our Junior Clubs are geared towards younger women, many of these members are developing their professional careers. Our leadership tools are infrequently used at the



club level and are a missed development opportunity for clubs and clubwomen alike. By developing a club-level leadership program, members can take on more roles in their club, their career, and in the community and be more comfortable running for district and state positions.

To qualify, clubs will need to complete six monthly leadership activities. They must cover at least six of the eight topics listed below.

- **1.** GFWC History
- 2. Self-Development
- 3. Team Development
- 4. Strategic Thinking and Acting
- 5. Innovation
- 6. Fundraising
- 7. Legislation
- 8. Communication and Public Speaking

A comprehensive list of both GFWC and external training material to be utilized for the completion of this program is available in the Digital Library under "J".

Clubs will submit a summary of the leadership activities completed and number of members in attendance for each session by May 15, 2024, to be recognized at next year's Annual Convention. Clubs will also be listed on the website as a "Junior Leadership Designated Club" and are encouraged to selfpromote as well.

If your club intends to participate, please submit the form to the Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Moydell, at kmoydell@gfwc. org by October 1, 2023.

I hope you will join me in providing training that is relevant to the needs of Junior members and will provide GFWC with leadership for the future.

SPOTLIGHT ON

JUNIORS

# REGISTER NOW! | GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE

#### **GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference 2023**

Registration is open for the GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference, which is scheduled for October 5–8, 2023, in Noblesville, Indiana. There will be a fun Topgolf outing or wine tasting and a service project to make thank you cards for foster families, as well as many educational presentations from GFWC chairmen and committee members. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites, which includes a **free** full breakfast and an evening happy hour with snacks. So get out your calendar and mark the date for a weekend of fun and learning! Complete details are available online now, and you will be able to register online or via mail at this link: <u>https://gfwcillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-OFFICIAL-CALL-to-GLR-Conference.pdf</u>







# GFWC IL CONVENTION 2023 | **APRIL 20-22, 2023**















## CONGRATULATIONS TERI MERRILL



REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS









# GFWC IL CONVENTION 2023 | WITCHES SNEAKER BALL























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## GFWC IL CONVENTION 2023 | AWARDS

#### **GFWC ILLINOIS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS**



THE WORLD IN PICTURES | Natural Wonders Jodi Hanson | Mount Prospect Woman's Club GFWC Title: "Fire and Ice" Sunset on the Hennepin Canal, Geneseo, Illinois December 29, 2022



THE WORLD IN PICTURES | Reflections Jodi Hanson | Mount Prospect Woman's Club GFWC Title: "Fall Lineup" The Hennepin Canal, Geneseo, Illinois October 27, 2022



THE WORLD IN PICTURES | Our World Up Close Teri Merrell | Fithian Woman's Club Title: "Light Up The Sky" Lake Shelbwille Hot Air Balloon Show at Shelbwille (II

Lake Shelbyville Hot Air Balloon Show at Shelbyville (Illinois) Airport. My mom's first views of hot air balloons up close.

October 2022



**GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT** Jackie Hupfer | GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck Title: "Our Spirit Rolls On" Club Homecoming Parade Entry, Bismarck (Illinois) Lions Club

Park. Golf carts owned by two club members were decorated in the school colors-blue and white. One golf cart was driven by our club president's husband. October 7, 2022

# GFWC IL CONVENTION 2023 | AWARDS

#### **GFWC ILLINOIS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS**

Short Story | Sherrill Gramse | "A Personal and Historical Perspective on Hospice Care" | Member Writing Contest
 Poetry | Rachel Albers | "The Thoughts in my Head" | Member Writing Contest

Youth (Grades 9-12) | Maya McCool | "The Parking Lot" | Youth Writing Contest (Grades 9-12)

#### **GFWC ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

#### Arthur Grant Smith Drama Scholarship

Jackson Ewen of Ottawa | Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

#### Hamilton Ridge Music Scholarship

Sam Kelly of Pontiac | Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois Julia Olson of Arlington Heights | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

#### Illinois Cottage Park Ridge Scholarship – Vocational Career

Kayleigh Brantley of Galatia | Southeastern Illinois College. Harrisburg, Illinois Klarissa Helton of New Holland | HairMasters Institute of Cosmetology, Bloomington, Illinois

#### Illinois Lincoln Lodge – Vocational Career

James Niebrugge of Teutopolis | Lakeland College, Mattoon, Illinois Christopher Schenkenfelder of Mount Prospect | William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, Illinois

#### Lorado Taft Art Scholarship

Corinne Francis of Ottawa | Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois Karyss Joy Opsal of Normal | Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

#### Vina A. Miller Memorial Scholarship – Environmental Studies

Olivia Larrison of Metropolis | Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois



# AWARD ENTRY WORKSHOP | NOVEMBER 4

Prepare to write your club's 2023 Award Entry reports by attending the November 4th Award Entry Workshop. Topics covered in the workshop include:

- Explanations of the different award entry forms and instructions for where to send them
- Sample narratives, a club tracking spreadsheet, sample award entry with labeled callouts and a glossary of terms
- Information about the different contests with links to the entry forms
- Information about the GFWC Community Service Programs (CSPs) and Special Projects
- Answers to frequently asked questions

Complete your Award Entries like a pro!

## **ILLINOIS STATEWIDE CONFERENCE** | NOVEMBER 11

ave a Poppy of a Day – and speed date the GFWC Way! Mark your calendars for a GFWC Illinois statewide in-person conference on Saturday, November 11th at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois.

The 2023 GFWC IL Convention Survey indicated that you'd like more workshops on membership recruitment and engagement, club officer duties, fundraising, GFWC history and more! Come to Bloomington in November for a statewide meeting open to all club members. Back by popular demand – the speed-dating concept will be used to deliver multiple workshops throughout the day, providing an opportunity for attendees to attend the ones most important to them. More details will be coming in August!



# **#HATNOTHATE** | GFWC ILLINOIS ARTS & CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

#### By Karel Volpert, GFWC IL Arts & Culture Chairman

embers throughout Illinois are encouraged to participate in the #HATNOTHATE project, which encourages kindness through creativity. People who knit, crochet, or loom are asked to make blue hats, which are distributed to schools either locally or throughout the country. The hats are blue because blue represents awareness, peace, and solidarity and is the color to wear in support of bullying prevention. Hats can be mailed to #HATNOTHATE, taken to area drop-off locations, or given to local schools. The addresses to mail and drop off hats will be provided when that information is available. If your club wishes to work with a local school or community program, please share the #HATNOTHATE resource page with the principal or director and obtain permission to initiate the project. If you do not knit, crochet, or loom, consider purchasing yarn for those who do. Reach out to knitters, crocheters, and loomers in your area and ask them to help support the cause. Hats are shared with youth in October, which is National Bullying Prevention Month.

#HATNOTHATE was founded in 2018 by Shira Blumenthal. Because she was bullied in the 4th grade, Shira decided to begin #HATNOTHATE to support other students who are bullied. Her wish is that the hats will empower students to be strong and stand up to bullying and feel encouraged by the love and purpose with which the handmade hats are created. PLEASE CONSIDER ADOPTING #HATNOTHATE AS A CLUB PROJECT SOON. THEN MEMBERS CAN BEGIN MAKING HATS AND CONTACTING FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY TO KNIT, CROCHET, AND LOOM THIS SUMMER. HATS SHOULD BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS IN OCTOBER.

You can find additional information on the #HATNOTHATE website and Facebook page. If you have questions about this project, please contact me at karelvolpert@gmail.com or (217) 497-7616.

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## GFWC ILLINOIS WELCOMES THREE NEW CLUBS!



## CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION | FUNDRAISER





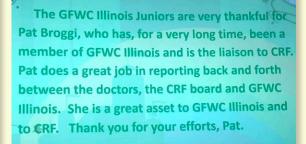












n July 9, 2023, the GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman's Club held a Private Movie at the Hollywood Palms Theater in Naperville. "The Wizard of Oz" was the featured film! Money was raised to support CRF, the Junior project for 47 years. The Children's Research Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization started in 1956 by two parents whose child was being treated for leukemia at the University of Chicago. Over the years of our partnership, the GFWC Illinois Juniors have donated more than <sup>\$</sup>440,000 to CRF, with over 400 doctors receiving grants.

Thank you to Hollywood Palms Cinema for a wonderful trip over the rainbow!





# NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

### Help Us to End Hunger in the United States by Volunteering, Donating or Organizing a Community Service Project

Living the Volunteer Spirit | www.GFWC.org | #GFWC23NDS



GFWC will hold our inaugural National Day of Service in September! We have a tremendous opportunity to unite all GFWC clubs in serving others and creating great change!

As you know, hunger and food insecurity are serious issues across our nation. According to the USDA, more than 34 million people, including 9 million children, in the United States are food insecure.

We hope that you will help by accepting this national challenge and share with your Region as well as other networks. Together we can begin to change these statistics with the **GFWC National Day of Service on September 30, 2023.** 

#### Help Us End Hunger in the United States by Volunteering or Organizing a Community Service Project to help eradicate hunger.

Clubs are encouraged to make plans to:

- Volunteer at a local food bank
- Organize a food drive
- Raise awareness about hunger issues in the United States
- Advocate to end food insecurity in America

Mark your calendars now and begin making plans! Save the date for September 30, 2023.

More resources will be available to assist in the planning. This service project is threefold: increase public relations and awareness for the GFWC brand (CPR), excite and unite our membership in a way that others want to join us (Membership), and wipe out food insecurity (Health and Wellness, Advocates for Children, Legislation and Public Policy, and even Civic Engagement – Veteran Food Pantries). You choose your intent!

#### **DON'T MISS WISDOM FROM THE WIZARD!**

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

September 11 | November 6

THE DEADLINE FOR STORIES & PHOTOS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE CLUBWOMAN" IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

# GFWC IL ENVIRONMENT | UPCYCLED ART CHALLENGE

We are challenging all members/clubs to help improve our environment by reusing items in a positive way to keep them out of landfills! Look at the things you would probably throw away with new eyes. Can they be combined in a way to make a useful piece of art? Something for the yard, the house, a friend or a party? What about for a school room or to draw attention to something?

You can go back to March 1, 2023, if there was something you were working on, and you have until March 1, 2024, to complete it! Work together as a club, as a committee or as an individual. Brainstorm ideas! Send pictures of your completed project – how easy is that?!!! If you're a winner, you can bring your creation to Convention and listen to all of the "ooohs" and "aaahs" as sisters admire your work.

And here's an additional challenge: If your recycled art helps in some way with combating food insecurity, the winner in this challenge will receive a <sup>\$</sup>25 gift card to be used toward providing food for your local food pantry. How can recycled art help with food insecurity? Try a sculpture that draws attention to your local food pantry or create reusable bag(s) out of recycled materials that food pantries can use to distribute food to their clients.

#### 2023–2024 GFWC Illinois Upcycled Art Contest Official Rules

- 1. Creation Period | March 1, 2023 to March 1, 2024.
- 2. Entry Deadline | Must be in Chairman's hands by March 7, 2024.
- **3.** Eligibility | Contest is open to all members.
- 4. **Qualifications** | Projects must be made of at least 75% materials that would otherwise be destined for the recycle bin or landfill.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Email 2 or 3 photographs (from different angles) to the Environment Chairman, mhoward4030@sbcglobal.net no later than March 7th, 2024. Include an entry form with details, including the title of the work, category, list of recycled materials and other items used (glue, etc.), size, artist's name, club, district, address and phone number. Please designate which items are being recycled.
- 7. Winner Selection | Winners will be selected by judges. The categories are: Home Decor | Jewelry | Sculpture | Garden | Miscellaneous
- 8. Winners will be asked to bring their item to the GFWC Illinois Convention. There will be a certificate for the winner in each category.
- 9. Questions? Contact Mary Lee Howard, Environment Chairman at (815) 302-3704, mhoward4030@sbcglobal.net or Marie Mueller, Junior Chairman at (630) 877-6595 or geonerd22@comcast.net.

**Examples** | Golf club yard art or outdoor seating



# GFWC CONVENTION 2023 | LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



























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# GFWC CONVENTION 2023 | JUNE 10-12, 2023























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GFWC ILLINOIS 5 East Van Buren St. Suite 212 Joliet, IL 60432-4224 www.gfwcillinois.org

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# **2024 GFWC CONVENTION FUND**

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GFWC Illinois is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible. GFWC Illinois appreciates the generosity of its donors, and we appreciate contributions of all sizes. Recognition will be given to the following classifications of donors:

\$1,000+ The Lincoln Leaders \$500–999 The Illinois Partners \$250-499 The Shawnee Sponsors\$100-249 The Rte. 66 Contributors

\$50–99 The Windy City Friends

GFWC ILLINOIS 2024 GFWC CONVENTION FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM			
AMOUNT OF DONATION \$	DATE		
SELECT ONE: Personal Club Dist	rict		
DONOR	DISTRICT/STATE	CHICAGO   2024 GFWC CONVENTION	
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
EMAIL	PHONE		
We greatly appreciate your donation to support the GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund!	Make check payable to <b>GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund</b> Mail to <b>Ruth Sloot</b> , 4 Latham Place, Lincoln IL 62656 (217) 737-0156   slootruthgfwc@gmail.com		

| CHICAGO 2024 |