



Volume 104 | Fall 2023

GFWC ILLINOIS

CLUBWOMAN

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

GFWC ILLINOIS IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



HELPING ELIMINATE
FOOD INSECURITY...

ONE GFWC ILLINOIS
CLUBWOMAN AT A TIME!



*Thank you to all of the GFWC Illinois clubs that participated
in the GFWC National Day of Service!*



COURAGE & PASSION

BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

Hard to believe that we are one-quarter through the second year of this administration! A total of 68 clubs have completed their NDS project/program to fight food insecurity, and we honored Wanda Burklow as the Illinois Jennie June Nominee at the GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference. Clubs are reaping the benefits from information shared at the GFWC Illinois Summer Seminar in August and are staying informed by reading the ongoing *Illinois Connections*. Dues have been submitted to GFWC Headquarters from 103 clubs! Hooray!

What's next, you ask?

- Join us for the 2024 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention on April 18-20, 2024 in Bloomington.
- Detailed planning for the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago is underway and we continue to fundraise.
- The new GFWC Illinois website will be unveiled soon.
- Register to attend the GFWC Illinois LEADS Seminar on February 3, 2024 and/or apply for the GFWC LEADS workshop as the Illinois Candidate.

- Submit the Coveted Shoe Award by January 15, 2024, the Food Insecurity Award by February 1st, and your winning award entries by February 1st.

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. ■

SAVE THE DATE! | 2024 GFWC IL CONVENTION

The 2024 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention –“Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” – will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois, on April 18-20, 2024. Click those Ruby Red Slippers over the Rainbow a few more times with your fellow clubwomen to say “goodbye” and celebrate our many accomplishments and say “hello” to the 2024-2026 team of leaders!

There will be much to recognize and celebrate – the new GFWC Leadership Award Winners; the Food Insecurity and Coveted Shoe Awards; Community Service Program, Advancement & Special Program Awards; Membership Contests; Upcycled Arts, Photography and Art Contests, and much more!



Our very own GFWC International President, Deb Strahanoski, will be our special guest for the convention. So exciting to have her join us! The service project is going to be “And Toto Too” tentatively planned for Saturday morning.

The tentative agenda is as follows:

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Executive Committee meeting, 2024 GFWC IL and GFWC Convention Committee meetings, Past State Board Members meeting, Pre-Convention BOD meeting over dinner, “fun night” and Deb’s Diamond Divas meeting.

Friday, April 19, 2024

Business sessions, awards, meet the candidates, fundraising, art contests, social time, Federation Banquet (and maybe even a DJ).

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Junior Business Session, elections, Special 2024 Awards, service project, more awards, Unity Luncheon and installation of 2024-2026 Officers with reception to follow. ■

THE DEADLINE FOR STORIES & PHOTOS FOR THE CONVENTION ISSUE OF “THE CLUBWOMAN” IS DECEMBER 15, 2023.

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

OVER THE RAINBOW

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



Congratulations to all the junior clubs who registered and participated in the Annual GFWC National Day of Service. From all the plans I heard from various junior clubs, I know this has been a success! Ideas ranged from the collection of food pantry and backpack items for school children to monetary donations to local food banks and much more. Don't forget to report what your club did; the report form from GFWC will be available soon and does not affect other club reports (dual reporting does not apply).

We have decided to expand the Junior Leadership Awards: Junior of the Year, Outstanding Junior Service and Spark Plug awards. They will be renamed and be available for all levels of clubwomen to celebrate their leadership skills. Some details need to be worked out, but I think this is a positive step. The GFWC Illinois Junior Lifetime Achievement Award will not be



changed, and, remember, this award will be given out at the 2024 GFWC Illinois Convention for all juniors who are eligible to win it. So count your points, fill in the form and send it on to the Junior Leadership Chairman.

In the last issue of *The Clubwoman*, there was a message from GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Katie Moydell about the new Junior Leadership Certification program. I know the deadline is approaching (December 1, 2023) but this is so your junior club may benefit from the entire program. This is to enhance the knowledge of junior club members and does not have to be accomplished by only the club president. The entire club executive board or knowledgeable members may help with certification. This certification program will continue in the 2024–2026 administration. More information is available in the GFWC Digital Library under “J” for Junior Leadership. ■

CHICAGO 2024 GFWC CONVENTION ON THE ROAD TO CHICAGO

The GFWC Convention in Chicago is barreling down on us. The road forward will be straightaways, a few uphill climbs, some amazing views, and a few surprising twists and turns until GFWC Illinois speeds down the final straightaway to the finish line on South Michigan Avenue. Our clubs, districts, and members continue to move us forward. Twelve junior and general districts have joined as sponsors of the event. Thirty-three clubs have fueled the event. Through donations, buying pins and aprons, or purchasing raffle tickets, 146 Illinois clubwomen have helped underwrite the costs of hosting the convention.

It takes the support of districts, clubs, and individuals throughout the state to host the convention. On the road to Chicago, we don't want to run out of fuel before we cross the finish line. It is not too late for your district or club to partner with us through a monetary donation. For individuals, a limited number of small pins, large pins, and aprons are available. Raffle tickets are still on sale for the \$350 cash prize with the winner being drawn at state convention. Help us move full throttle forward and avoid yellow caution flags and unnecessary pit stops. When Team Illinois reaches the

finish line, victory circle will be in the halls of the Chicago Hilton with GFWC Illinois members proudly welcoming clubwomen from across the country to our beautiful home—Illinois.

Go to the GFWC Illinois “Member Center” under “GFWC Convention” to find a form for donations, pins, aprons, and raffle tickets or email Ruth Sloat, Chairman 2024, at sloottruthgfwc@gmail.com. Thank you for your continuing support. ■

Ruth Sloat, GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Chairman



CHICAGO | 2024
GFWC CONVENTION





CLUB COVETED SHOE AWARD & FOOD INSECURITY AWARD

BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

Recognition for these awards will be presented on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the GFWC Illinois Annual Convention. These can be found on the GFWC IL website at <https://gfwcillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GFWC-IL-Coveted-Shoe-Award-for-2023-final.xlsx> and <https://gfwcillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2024-Food-Insecurity-Award-v1.pdf>.

Food Insecurity Award

To recognize the efforts of clubs throughout the state that made a difference in their communities regarding easing or reducing food insecurity, GFWC Illinois will award certificates at the GFWC Illinois 2024 Annual Convention.

This is simple, just record your club activities in the categories of **Food Pantries, Senior Food Insecurity, Community Service Programs, Monetary Donations** or **Other** beginning July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. For each category, give a brief description and goal of the activity/project, the dollars spent or donated and the beneficiary.

Submit your award entry to LeeAnn Conlon at leeann.conlon@aol.com by February 1, 2024.

Coveted Shoe Award

At the April 2024 GFWC Illinois Convention, clubs will be recognized for completing or participating in GFWC Illinois activities during the 2023 calendar year. Some activities are simply submitting requested information on time, some are engagement with District or State Officers, and others focus on leadership, membership or mentorship activities.



See how “sparkly” your club shines as you progress through 2023! The clubs with the most points will receive an award. All clubs submitting will receive recognition. You don’t want to miss out!

Submit your award entry by January 15, 2024, to LeeAnn Conlon at leeann.conlon@aol.com. ■

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE | PARTICIPATING CLUBS

List of Clubs that registered for the National Day of Service

- GFWC Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club – (Abingdon)
- GFWC Antioch Junior Woman’s Club – (Antioch)
- GFWC Antioch Woman’s Club – (Antioch)
- GFWC Beverly Hills Junior Woman’s Club – (Chicago)
- GFWC Bloomington Normal Junior Woman’s Club – (Normal)
- GFWC Darien Woman’s Club – (Darien)
- GFWC Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club – (Downers Grove)
- GFWC East Peoria Woman’s Club – (East Peoria)
- GFWC Elgin Junior Woman’s Club – (Elgin)
- GFWC Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club – (Oswego)
- GFWC Illinois Federated Women’s Club of Greater Belleville – (Belleville)
- GFWC First Ladies of GFWC Illinois District 11-12 – (Manhattan)
- GFWC Fithian Woman’s Club – (Fithian)
- GFWC Glendale Heights Junior Woman’s Club – (Glendale Heights)
- GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club – (Hampton)
- GFWC Highland Woman’s Club – (Highland)
- GFWC Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club – (Homer Glen)
- GFWC Illinois CFR Junior Woman’s Club – (Naperville)
- GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman’s Club – (Coal City)
- GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today – (Effingham)
- GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman’s Club – (Eldorado)
- GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club – (Eola)
- GFWC Illinois Geneseo Woman’s Club – (Geneseo)
- GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club – (Gilman)
- GFWC Illinois Glenwood Junior Woman’s Club – (Glenwood)
- GFWC Illinois Junior Cyber Stars – (Naperville)
- GFWC Illinois Junior Woman’s Club – (Metamora)
- GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club – (Morris)
- GFWC Illinois Sailors of Service – (Glendale Heights)
- GFWC Illinois Waukegan Woman’s Club – (Wadsworth)
- GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismarck – (Danville)
- GFWC Jackie’s Bow Ties Club – (Joliet)
- GFWC Joliet Junior Woman’s Club – (Joliet)
- GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Rock Island – (Rock Island)
- GFWC Lansing Woman’s Club – (Lansing)
- GFWC Lemont Junior Woman’s Club – (Lemont)
- GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club – (Lincoln)
- GFWC Lisle Woman’s Club – (Lisle)
- GFWC Lockport Woman’s Club – (Lockport)
- GFWC Lombard Juniors – (Lombard)
- GFWC Lombard Service League – (Lombard)
- GFWC Macomb Woman’s Club – (Macomb)
- GFWC Mahomet Town & Country Women’s Club – (Mahomet)
- GFWC Manhattan Woman’s Club – (Manhattan)
- GFWC Millstadt Civic Club – (Millstadt)
- GFWC Mokena Woman’s Club – (Mokena)
- GFWC Morton Grove – (Morton Grove)
- GFWC Naperville Woman’s Club – (Naperville)
- GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman’s Club – (Schaumburg)
- GFWC Oswego Junior Woman’s Club – (Oswego)
- GFWC Palos Heights Woman’s Club – (Palos Heights)
- GFWC Palos Park Woman’s Club – (Palos Park)
- GFWC Past District Northern Lights – (Naperville)
- GFWC Peoria Women’s Club – (Peoria)
- GFWC Plainfield Junior Woman’s Club – (Plainfield)
- GFWC Polo Women’s Club of Illinois – (Polo)
- GFWC Princeton Junior Woman’s Club – (Princeton)
- GFWC Wauconda Woman’s Club – (Wauconda)
- GFWC Wheaton Junior Woman’s Club – (Wheaton)
- GFWC Wood River Woman’s Club – (Wood River)
- GFWC Woman’s Club of Aurora – (Aurora)
- GFWC Zion Woman’s Club – (Zion)
- Gifford GFWC Woman’s Club – (Gifford)
- Impact Makers of Palatine – (Palatine)
- Lincoln-Way GFWC Junior Woman’s Club – (New Lenox)
- Naperville Junior Woman’s Club – (Naperville)
- Oregon GFWC Woman’s Club – (Oregon)
- Woman’s Club of Kankakee, Illinois GFWC – (Kankakee)



NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club participated in the National Day of Service at the West Suburban Food Pantry. In addition to the food drive, they also held a give back to the Pantry.

On September 16, 2023, Lockport Woman's Club held its fourth annual Spooky Night Out event at Hell's Gate, Illinois' top-rated haunted night out. The adult costume party included vendors, food, and the band Beyond the Blonde. It was the fundraiser's best year yet, earning a profit of over \$17,000! The proceeds from Spooky Night Out, which total over \$40,000 to date, will be used to build a children's park in collaboration with the City of Lockport.



The Northwest Suburban Woman's Club participated in the 2023 National Day of Service by helping out at Feed My Starving Children.



On September 30th, the Geneseo Woman's Club collected monetary and food donations outside the local Fareway grocery store to help end food insecurity. Their collection jar was overflowing with donations from generous community members!

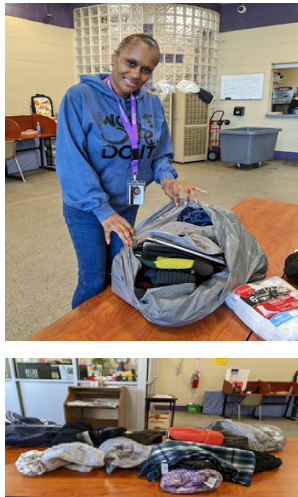


On September 30th, The Impact Makers of Palatine volunteered with two local organizations that operate a food pantry for underserved families – Partners for Our Communities and All Saints Food Pantry. For four hours, club members guided families through the shopping process. They served 215 families!



NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



Members of the GFWC Mokena Woman's Club purchased and donated \$150 of in-kind hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for the residents of the Daybreak Center in Joliet, Illinois. A member delivered the items to Daybreak.

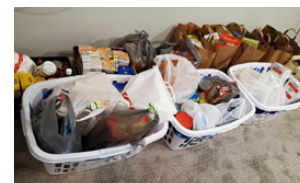
Daybreak Center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing emergency housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families. Some participants in the program need short-term housing as a result of a situational crisis. Others need support services as they work to reestablish permanent housing.

Homelessness prevention services are also provided to individuals and families at risk of losing their homes.



Members of the Zion Woman's Club collected manual can openers at their September general meeting. On the National Day of Service, members delivered them to Abiding Love and The Giving Point food pantries. At their meeting they also collected food items to take to the pantries. For the day of service they delivered the can openers, which are very much needed. "We CAN do it together" is their theme this year to help combat food insecurities.

Members of the Morris Woman's Club set up a booth with signs, a tent and table at the club's Scarecrow Stroll at the Grundy County Corn Festival on one of the busiest days of the festival. They were collecting for the micro-pantry they are responsible for. Members took turns manning the booth for 10 hours. They also did some pickups from those who couldn't make it, and one member's 4-year-old son joined the effort. Collection baskets were put in two local businesses. They collected 184 pounds of food and \$200 in donations.



For GFWC National Day of Service, the Homer Glen Juniors volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. The group packed 22 boxes of food, which is equivalent to 550 meal packs (vitamins, vegetables, and soy). Members also donated some food to the local library's micro-pantry.





NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

GFWC East Peoria Woman's Club had a drive-thru food and monetary collection for the East Peoria Food Pantry. To get the word out about their project, they met with the mayor of East Peoria, who decided to do a proclamation for the food drive. Members went to the city council meeting to receive the proclamation. They invited the club, friends, the East Peoria Methodist Church, and Food Pantry members to come to the city council meeting. The meeting was televised on the local channel for the community. They also sent letters to the 15 leaders of the community to join them in their food drive by telling their friends and family. They had a past Mayor and the church minister and all of the food pantry members at the drive-thru food collection, which was held at the First United Methodist Church where the Food Pantry is located. The food collection brought in over 350 items, as well as many donations. The drive-thru information was posted on the marquee at the church and bank along with signs to point the way. The chairman and members of the Food Pantry were invited to come to the club's October meeting where they were presented with a check for \$1,075. They were surprised and thrilled. The club received a beautiful thank you card signed by all of the Food Pantry members. It was a wonderful event that gathered the club and community together.



The GFWC IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club chose the Coal City Backpack Program as the organization to receive food for this project. The Coal City Backpack Program's mission is to help the individual child with a bag of food each week during the school year. This program services approximately 135 children in the school district. On NDS, members had a "drive-thru" at the Methodist Church, where members of the community dropped off food for the program. The types of food requested were individual servings of mac and cheese, fruit cups, juice boxes, cereal, pudding cups, etc. Several items were donated and monetary donations were also accepted. Any food items the program could not use (full-sized items, ramen noodles, Wagu Beef sticks) were donated to the food pantry run by the Methodist Church, as the Backpack Program cannot use "full-sized" food items. Club members were excited to see people pull up and open their trunks to reveal their trunk FULL of food to be donated. The total number of individual items donated was 2,363 items, enough for almost a month's need for the bags given out.

The club was also honored by the Mayor with a signed Proclamation stating September 30, 2023, as GFWC National Day of Service.



GFWC BOD MEETING | WESTMINSTER, COLORADO



GFWC ILLINOIS ELECTION 2024 | FAQ



GFWC Illinois is encouraging qualified candidates to apply for the following:

- Executive Offices for the 2024–2026 administration.
- President-Elect
- Director-Elect of Junior Clubs
- Northern, Central & Southern Region Vice Presidents
- Secretary and Treasurer

Candidates should:

- Be available days, evenings, and weekends
- Be willing to travel and meet clubwomen across the state

- Be confident speaking to large groups
- Have leadership and organizational skills

Candidates must submit an application with a letter of recommendation. Please provide a photo and an under 200-word biography/letter of interest. Applications, further information and a checklist are on the website at www.gfwcillinois.org in the Members Center.

The deadline for applications is December 1, 2023. Application materials may be submitted by USPS to Jo Koenig, 730 S. Gables Blvd. Wheaton, IL 60189 or e-mail to jkoenig9698@gmail.com; (630-660-7655). ■

Jo Koenig, Chairman

LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY | THE POWER OF US

The Power of Us: Club Advocacy

As a GFWC Illinois State Legislation and Public Policy Committee, we received powerful information that we would love to share with the members.

This information was written by Carol Forbes, GFWC Middle Atlantic Region Representative.

Still looking for ways to encourage advocacy on the local, state, and national level, while also raising awareness of GFWC as an organization? We have created a **Legislative Advocacy Tool Kit** as a result of the committee's successful workshop, "The Power of Us: Club Advocacy," held at the GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This toolkit can be found in the Member Portal's Digital Library under "L" for Legislation. One of the components of the toolkit will help prepare members for their state's legislative session. At a club meeting, your members could work in groups to answer the following questions:

- When is your state legislature in session?
- Do the legislators hold pre-session meetings or hearings?
- When can bills be introduced? Can legislators pre-file bills?
- Can bills from a previous session be carried over? Is there a crossover date?
- Is there a limit on the number of bills a legislator can introduce?

- How do the bills move through the chamber(s) of your legislature?
- What happens after a bill passes one chamber of the legislature?
- What happens after a bill passes both chambers of the legislature?
- Do all introduced bills get a hearing?
- Is there a crossover date for legislation?
- How are bills assigned to committees?
- Can the public attend committee hearings?
- What are the procedures for providing written or in-person testimony?
- Who are the state and federal legislators in your voting district?
- Who are the legislature's majority/minority leaders?

Knowing when the legislature meets and its procedures for introducing, moving and enacting legislation is important foundational work for an advocacy campaign.

Utilize the **GFWC Legislative Action Center** to identify and track bills that your members are interested in on the state and federal level.

<https://www.voterve.net/GFWC/home> ■

Gerri Eck, Chairman & Lucia Rossi-Nichols, Junior Chairman

GFWC 2024 LEADS APPLICATIONS | DUE FEBRUARY 15

The **GFWC Leadership Education and Development (LEADS) Seminar** program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. It is a full day of activities and includes breakfast and lunch.

Fill out and return the LEADS application form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to your State Federation by **February 15, 2024**. The LEADS application form is available in the GFWC Member Portal in the "LEADS Application and Information" subfolder under "L" in the Digital Library and also on the GFWC Illinois website in the "Members Center" under "Awards and Contests." ■

*Submitted by Mary Jane Koester,
GFWC Illinois Secretary, 2022-2024*



On August 9, 2022, Carol Sheehan, District 23 President, invited ladies from her district to visit the Lake Glendale Forest Plantation Monument at Lake Glendale in Shawnee National Forest. This site is in recognition of GFWC Illinois' contribution towards the reforestation of the Shawnee National Forest since 1934.

At this meeting, the Shawnee National Forest Ranger pointed out that there was a trail at Rim Rock at Pounds Hollow sponsored by GFWC Illinois Women's Club that no longer has a marker. We had no knowledge of this trail. The Ranger showed us pictures and gave us some history of this trail.

On April 3, 2023, Carol Sheehan, District 23 President and Mary Jane Koester, GFWC Illinois Secretary, went back to Shawnee and met with the Forest Ranger, Heather, at the Forest Ranger Headquarters in Vienna, Illinois. She had dug up more facts on this trail. She took us to Rim Rock at

Pounds Hollow and we walked the trail. We went to the monument company in Vienna and chose a granite stone, to include the same inscription as the original sign, and were given an estimate of \$4,652.59 to present to the Board of Directors for approval. At the GFWC Illinois Convention on April 20, 2023, it was presented to the Board of Directors for approval and was approved.

On July 25, 2023, the GFWC Illinois Monument at Rim Rock Trail at Pounds Hollow in Shawnee National Forest was replaced. This monument designates the First Cooperative Forest Trail financed by a woman's organization in any National Forest.

The original wooden marker was placed in 1963 (60 years ago).

The Dedication of the Marker was held on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Rim Rock Trail at Pounds Hollow.

Please, when you pay your dues, remember to support the GFWC Illinois members who long ago had the foresight to value majestic green spaces by donating to the Shawnee National Forest. ■

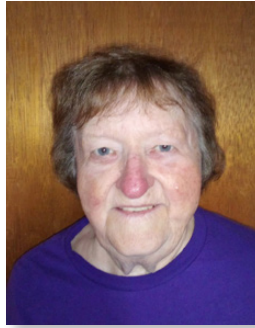


GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE 2023



LEADERSHIP | 2024 JENNIE AWARD NOMINEE & MORE

Because of her exemplary years of service as a clubwoman and dedicated community volunteer for over 50 years, GFWC Illinois is proud to announce we have selected **Wanda Burklow**, from the Eldorado Woman's Club, as our Jennie June Nominee! Her name and application have been submitted to our GFWC Great Lakes Region President for consideration to become one of two region finalists.



In the final award process, the Region Chairman will submit two candidates from Great Lakes to GFWC Headquarters, postmarked by December 1, 2023. One winner from each region will be chosen! The Jennie Award winners will be announced and "sparkle and shine" during the Gala at the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago. GOOD LUCK, WANDA!

Reminder that we will be hosting the **GFWC IL 2024 LEADS** on Saturday, February 3rd from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This will be in-person in the Northern Region at the PowerForward DuPage facility

located at 28600 Bella Vista Pkwy, Warrenville, IL 60555. Watch your *Connections* newsletter and our Facebook page for more details over the coming months!

Another reminder, we have renamed the Junior Leadership Girl Awards as the **GFWC IL Leadership Awards!** You can nominate fellow General and Junior club members who met this criteria for their 2023 year of service. Nominees and winners will be recognized at the 2024 GFWC IL Convention!

The **GFWC IL Spark Plug Award** is open to any GFWC Illinois General or Junior Club member who has been in her club 2 years or less.

The **GFWC IL Member of the Year Award** is open to any GFWC Illinois General or Junior Club member who has been in her club for at least 2 years. The nominee's work for the current club year is all that would be considered.

The **GFWC IL Outstanding Service Award** is being split into two tiers – open to any GFWC Illinois General or Junior Club member with less than 10 years of service to her club, and open to any GFWC Illinois General or Junior Club member with 10 years of service to her club or more. ■

IL LEADERSHIP SEMINARS | LETTERS FROM ATTENDEES



+



= **A Wonderful Partnership**

The mission of ILS is to unleash the leadership potential of Illinois youth. They are grateful for the decades of generous support from GFWC Illinois and so many GFWC Illinois clubs across the state that send as many students as possible to their annual flagship seminar. ILS has been providing quality, free leadership seminars in Illinois since 1977 and are excited about the continued partnership with GFWC Illinois. At ILS, they don't tell participants what to think, or even how to think, but stress the importance of careful thought for our world's future leaders. Each year, they are excited to introduce a new group of sophomore leaders to this life-changing experience.

Here are a few personal thank you notes from ILS attendees:

- "I'm a leader from group #5 and I've been so thankful for my experience at ILS. Thank you for supporting an organization that has inspired me and helped me gain knowledge to motivate me to continue to make a difference, in a now courageous way. These days at seminar have truly changed my life. Embracing this experience with the fun, crazy & amazing people has been something I will always remember. The people here you've helped connect will change the world. Something this amazing couldn't happen without your contribution! Thank you."

Grace, McHenry Community High School

- "I am a leader from group #5, and I cannot stress enough my appreciation for practically changing my entire life by donating and sponsoring me. This weekend has taught me how to be a leader and overall a better person. This importance of listening is a lesson I cannot wait to share with my community. Making people feel appreciated, seen, and heard is an essential skill to have when leading any group. Learning to avoid arguments and turn them into exchanges instead is part of the leadership legacy I want to carry out."

Selene, Marian Catholic High School

- "I am a rising junior who had the honor of attending ILS. I'd like to display my eternal gratitude for sponsoring me to be here. This was an eye-opening and life-changing experience that I will never forget. I will not only be taking back skills to build myself, but to better my community and potentially the world!"

Keaton, Midwest Central

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 \$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 7, 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 geoner22@comcast.net. ■





GFWC IL TREASURER | DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS

By Carol Jablonski, GFWC Illinois Treasurer, 2022-2024

Dues & Contributions Submission Process

The process was revamped last year and was a success! About 75% of our clubs submitted their dues and contributions using the Excel workbook that was emailed to all the club presidents. Using this format enabled our Headquarters Executive Secretary, Renee Super, to capture all of the member data in 3 days (in past years the process took 2-3 weeks).

There are just a few tweaks to the process that will be reviewed during the Dues & Remittance Process. Free workshops were held in September and October to help familiarize club treasurers with the new process.

The Excel workbook was emailed to the club presidents August 31, 2023, and was sent again September 21, 2023. The Excel workbook is also available through the GFWC Illinois website, in the Member Center (password is gfwc-member).

By the way, individuals who wish to make contributions can use this workbook too.

While the 1st payment was due November 1st, the next payment is due January 15th.

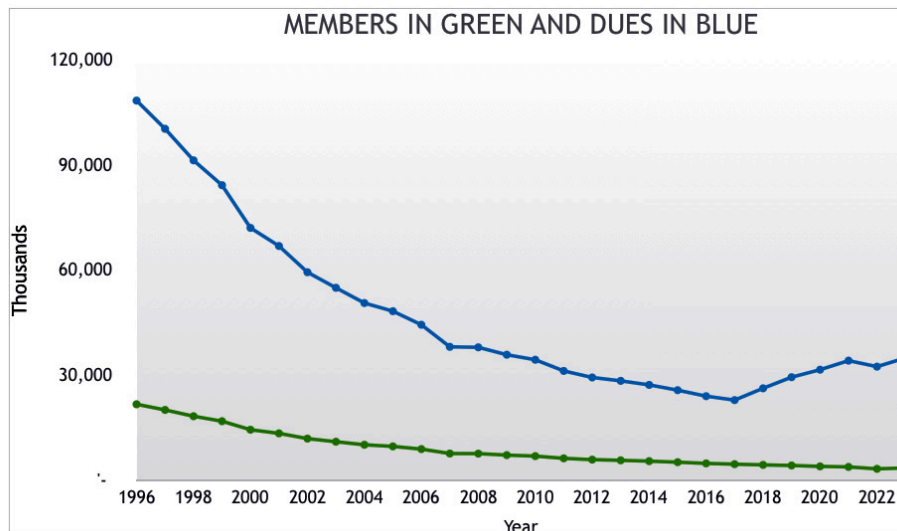
Proposed Dues Increase

Fiscal responsibility is one of the duties of this officer, both in the short term and long term. This administration's Executive Committee is addressing this issue by proposing a dues increase to support the operational expenses of GFWC Illinois. The proposal is to increase dues to GFWC Illinois from \$10 per member, to \$20 per member, effective with the 2024-2026 administration.

Here's a very brief history lesson about our dues back in 1996 and the number of members supporting GFWC Illinois. In 1996, dues were raised from \$2 per member to \$5 per member.

Year	Members	Dues	Dues Collected	Year	Members	Dues	Dues Collected
1996	21,665	\$5.00	\$108,325	2010	6,874	\$5.00	\$34,370
1997	20,054	\$5.00	\$100,270	2011	6,236	\$5.00	\$31,180
1998	18,254	\$5.00	\$91,270	2012	5,863	\$5.00	\$29,315
1999	16,836	\$5.00	\$84,180	2013	5,670	\$5.00	\$28,350
2000	14,399	\$5.00	\$71,995	2014	5,439	\$5.00	\$27,195
2001	13,366	\$5.00	\$66,830	2015	5,138	\$5.00	\$25,690
2002	11,868	\$5.00	\$59,340	2016	4,795	\$5.00	\$23,975
2003	10,980	\$5.00	\$54,900	2017	4,571	\$5.00	\$22,855
2004	10,110	\$5.00	\$50,550	2018	4,371	\$6.00	\$26,226
2005	9,646	\$5.00	\$48,230	2019	4,199	\$7.00	\$29,393
2006	8,871	\$5.00	\$44,355	2020	3,941	\$8.00	\$31,528
2007	7,611	\$5.00	\$38,055	2021	3,791	\$9.00	\$34,119
2008	7,583	\$5.00	\$37,915	2022	3,240	\$10.00	\$32,400
2009	7,161	\$5.00	\$35,805	2023	3,490	\$10.00	\$34,900

You can see where I'm going with this, right? Here's another way to see how we've trended.



(continued on next page)

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Fast forward to 2023 where we have about 16% of the membership that we had back in 1996. Our operational expenses were covered by our dues. Not today. For many years, we have had to dip into our investment income to cover our expenses.

Let me explain to you a bit about our investments. We have five accounts with Edward Jones in “balanced” portfolios. Four of these accounts have restrictions on how we can use the funds and are listed with a brief summary below and their current estimated balance (fluctuates daily):

Isabella Candee: The principal consists of donations made. Profits and dividends may be transferred to Working Cash, and 2/3 of those funds transferred may be used to support operations and the other 1/3 must be used for charitable projects. This fund currently has \$285,033.

1922 Trust: At the GFWC Illinois 1922 Convention, 100,000 attendees donated \$1 each to create this trust. While the trust documents state that the trust in effect until 20 years after the last donee passes (which would be 1987), we’ve had two attorneys review the trust documents who concluded that there was nothing provided in the agreement on what happens after that. This fund currently has \$105,090.

Scholarship Fund: Currently this fund is used to fund scholarships given out by GFWC Illinois. This fund currently has \$383,997.

Englewood Memorial Fund: Interest and dividends may be used to fund projects in research, education, science, geriatrics or mental illness. This fund currently has \$71,859.

Working Cash: This account is where the eligible interest and dividends go. We can transfer funds out of it to use for operations. This fund currently has \$19,162.

There’s a second amendment that affects the operations of GFWC Illinois IV Dues and Finance, Section 3. FUNDS Subsection A. 2. (page 29 of the GFWC Illinois Yearbook)

Currently reads:

- A. 2. Isabella Candee Foundation – The Foundation principal and additional contributions received for the Isabella Candee Foundation shall be invested to help secure the future of GFWC Illinois. The principal of the Foundation shall remain in perpetuity. Income from these invested funds shall be transferred to the GFWC Illinois Working Cash fund.

Strike in its entirety to read:

- A. 2. Isabella Candee Foundation – The Foundation and additional contributions received for the Isabella Candee Foundation shall be invested to help secure the future of GFWC Illinois. The principal of the Foundation and income from these invested funds may be transferred as needed to the GFWC Illinois Working Cash fund as recommended by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.

Rationale: To be fiscally responsible. The Isabella Candee Foundation income available to move to the Working Cash fund is not enough to sustain the organization.

The Bylaws Committee received a proposal to amend the bylaws to increase dues and a proposed amendment regarding the Isabella Candee Foundation by their November 1 deadline. These amendments will be voted upon at the 2024 GFWC Illinois Convention in Bloomington, Illinois, in April. You are encouraged to attend and vote. ■

GFWC ILLINOIS BOARD MEETING | TOYS FOR TOTS



At the November board of directors meeting in Bloomington, Illinois, over 140 toys were collected for the local chapter of Toys for Tots. Troy Viegler, the McClean County Director for Toys for Tots, was the guest speaker at the meeting. Last year, in McClean County alone, 4,872 kids received toys through generous donations to Toys for Tots. Troy said they typically collect over 22,000 toys in 60 days...and give them all out in just 18 hours!

So, what are the most requested toys this year? According to Troy, L.O.L. dolls, LEGOs, Squishmallows, Nerf guns, and, of course, Barbies topped the list. The Toys for Tots staff uses monetary donations to purchase any sought-after toys they do not receive. A “toy shop” is then set up so parents can “shop” for the toys their children wish to receive from Santa. Seven different service agencies in McClean County, including Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and others, help identify families that need a little help purchasing toys.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 and is run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Did you know that Walt Disney himself designed the red train logo? ■

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK 2023

The GFWC Junior Special Program is Advocates for Children, and the week we recognize as Advocates for Children Week fell this year from Sunday, October 22 to Saturday, October 28, 2023. We have submitted a proclamation request to Governor Pritzker's office to declare October 22-28 as Advocates for Children Week in Illinois! We will keep you updated on the response.

Advocates for Children may be the Junior Special Program, but clubwomen from any club are encouraged to support our advocacy for children. If you haven't started planning a club activity for this week, there is still time! Partnering with our Affiliate Organizations is the perfect place to start:

- 1. Heifer International** – Check out their gift catalog and donate. You can send a girl to school, purchase a flock of chicks or some goats, provide a family with a starter farm care package, or the gift of water. There are many ways to make an impact on the lives of children through Heifer International.
- 2. Hope for Justice** – Help the organization tackle the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking. You can donate to their cause, hold a fundraiser, or host a seminar on how to spot the signs of modern slavery, trafficking, or child criminal exploitation, all of which are listed on their website.
- 3. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** – Every day, 43 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer. At St. Jude's, families with children who have cancer never receive a bill for treatment, and that is where we can help. You can make a monetary donation, hold a fundraiser like a trike-a-thon, donate your unused gift cards, or purchase items from the St. Jude gift shop. When you donate a gift of money, 82 cents of every dollar support the treatment, research, and needs of St. Jude.
- 4. Shot@Life** – Every Fall (October 1–November 14) Shot@Life holds their “Mobilize to Immunize” initiative, which is an effort across the nation to raise voices to help increase vaccine access for children around the world. World Polio Day is Tuesday, October 24, which is during Advocates for Children Week, and you could have your club members call or email your members of Congress to ask them to fund global immunization programs in the federal budget. You could also fundraise on Facebook for Shot@Life during Advocates for Children Week; they have a tab on their website to help start such a fundraiser.
- 5. March of Dimes** – Doing a project with March of Dimes helps to lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies by supporting research and providing education to give babies the best possible start. You can make a monetary donation, choose something from their gift guide, or inspire others by sending some of their eCards.
- 6. Operation Smile** – A smile is something we often take for granted. Here is a great way to help transform a child's life because without surgery, cleft conditions can endanger a child's health and future. Donations to this affiliate can help transform a child's life by helping to give a new smile to a deserving youngster! If you have creative members, you could donate smile splints, smile bags, quilts, blankets, child life supplies, or hospital gowns.
- 7. UNICEF USA** – They have a variety of ways you can give and support UNICEF's mission for children around the world: you can make a monetary donation, send UNICEF inspired gifts such as school supplies, soccer balls, or vaccines, or purchase a handcrafted product from their Market.

Partnering with a local charity in your community is also a wonderful option! You can have a pajama party at your October meeting and collect children's pajamas to donate to a children's advocacy center (guess what my club is doing?), support your local teen center, volunteer in your local elementary school. The possibilities are limitless! We can't wait to hear what your clubs did in honor of Advocates for Children Week (Sunday, October 22–Saturday, October 28, 2023)! ■



STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) will celebrate its dedication to the awareness and promotion of the physical and emotional well-being of children on October 22-28, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, GFWC is an organization of women from all walks of life who have the common goal of making the world a better place by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service; and,

WHEREAS, GFWC has played a role in many national efforts with current affiliations with distinguished organizations such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and March of Dimes; and,

WHEREAS, GFWC has historically worked for the passage of child labor laws and the Pure Food and Drug Act, supported public education, and was credited in 1933 with establishing 75 percent of U.S. public libraries; and,

WHEREAS, over the past 130 years, millions of GFWC clubwomen have given their time, talent, and resources to improve the lives of children, including women in the GFWC State Federation of Illinois;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 22-28, 2023, as **GFWC Advocates for Children Week**.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this SECOND day of OCTOBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexis Leonard
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR



CONVENTION 2024 | DOOR PRIZE REQUEST



Donations Needed!

The 128th Annual GFWC Illinois Convention will be held April 18–20, 2024, 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 **return to GFWC Illinois by March 1, 2024**. You can also bring your door prize donation to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting, February 16–17, 2024, 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 2024 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 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 212, Joliet, IL 60432**.
Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois**.

For **Gift Donations only** (such as a basket), please return form to **GFWC Illinois, 5 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 212, Joliet, IL 60432**. Gifts/gift baskets may be brought to Convention.

For recognition in the Convention Booklet, please return by March 1, 2024. Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

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

WHY WEARING THE RIGHT SIZE BRA MATTERS

By Lisa Flanigan, Junior Health & Wellness Chairman

We all are aware that October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is a reminder to get your annual mammogram as well as a reminder that we should be doing monthly breast self-exams.

But are you aware that wearing the wrong bra size can impact your health?

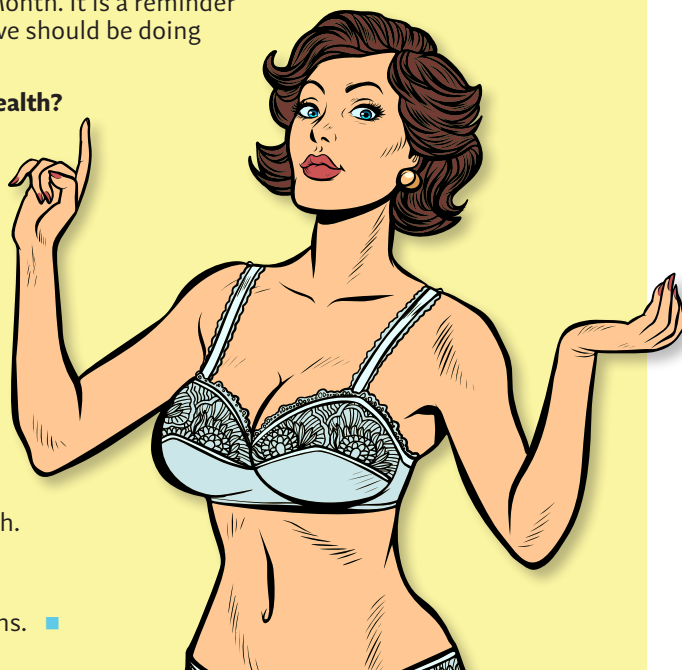
ADVANTAGES TO WEARING THE RIGHT BRA SIZE:

- Comfortable support
- Breasts that are supported underneath by the band, as opposed to by the shoulder straps, for reduced shoulder pressure
- Reduced breast motion which helps avert breast tissue breakdown
- Boosted confidence
- Clothing that fits better

Checking your bra's fit regularly can be one important part of paying attention to your body and being mindful of your overall breast health.

How do you measure cup size and band size? Log on to <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/bra-fit-guide/>.

Your free guide will include answers to the most frequent fit questions. ■



GFWC | EMBLEM REBRAND

Did you notice the GFWC and GFWC Illinois logos look a little different in this issue of *The GFWC Illinois Clubwoman*? The red and blue colors are a bit brighter and the gold is a shade darker. This is all part of the GFWC rebranding initiative, which was launched on November 13. All of the various versions of the GFWC logo have been redesigned to reflect the new colors, as well as to include the full name “General Federation of Women’s Clubs” and the year our organization was established.

Digital files for all of the updated logos are available on the GFWC website (www.gfwc.org) in the “Digital Library” under “E” for Emblem. Formats available include: JPG (best for web pages and digital communications, such as emails; has a white background), PNG (best for design projects created in Microsoft Office; has a transparent background), and EPS (ideal for professional printing, used by designers for large scale design/print projects). You will not be able to open an EPS file unless you have the Adobe Creative Cloud software on your computer, but your printer will be able to work with the file just fine.

In addition, there are two versions of the new rebrand available for the emblem: horizontal and vertical. The primary emblem is the horizontal version; however, the secondary emblem (vertical) can be used when space is limited or when your design requires more flexibility. Each will be available in full color, black (for use on light backgrounds), and white (for use on dark backgrounds).

The GFWC Illinois logo has been updated as well with the new colors. Different file formats will be available soon on our website (www.gfwcillinois.org) under the “Communications” tab.

Complete usage instructions and color information for the updated GFWC logos, as well as answers to other questions you might have about GFWC’s branding, can be found in the 2023 GFWC Style Guide, which is available for download on the GFWC website (www.gfwc.org) in the “Digital Library” under “S” for Style Guide. ■

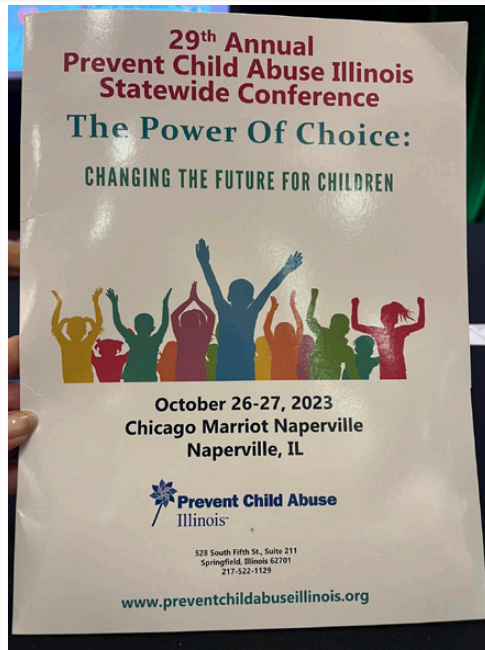


PCA ILLINOIS | STATEWIDE CONFERENCE 2023

The 29th Annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Statewide Conference was a huge success again this year! Congratulations to the PCA staff and volunteers for another successful event. This conference provides information and education to those who work in the field with families in crisis. They are often the key to helping fractured families recover!

Three GFWC Illinois members serve on the statewide PCA Board of Directors – Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, Karel Volpert and Cherie Sieger. They assisted with this year's raffle basket drawing. The raffle basket table was supported by Naperville Woman's Club and the Elgin Junior Woman's Club and was coordinated by "Our Promise..." Chairman Debbie Monteith. Twenty baskets were donated by GFWC Illinois clubs from across the state raising a total of \$1,351 for PCA Illinois!

PHOTOS – Top left: Karel Volpert with speaker Jerry Moe. Top Right: GFWC Illinois clubs donated 20 raffle items to raise over \$1,300 for PCA! Thank you to Elgin and Naperville club members for manning the tables. Bottom left: Tim Clue, another powerful speaker, demonstrates The Power of Engagement and Laughter by involving attendees. Bottom right: Thank you to Cherie Sieger for putting the raffle together in Naperville for PCA! Thank you also to Chairman Debbie Monteith who organized the event. ■



Who doesn't love a good book?

Did you know that you could share your love of reading by joining the GFWC ESO Program?

Clubs can participate through book clubs or literacy programs that promote reading. Individual members are always welcome to follow their own choices and may join on their own.

To participate in ESO all you need to do is read what you like! Expand your horizons and share your love of reading with other GFWC Illinois readers.

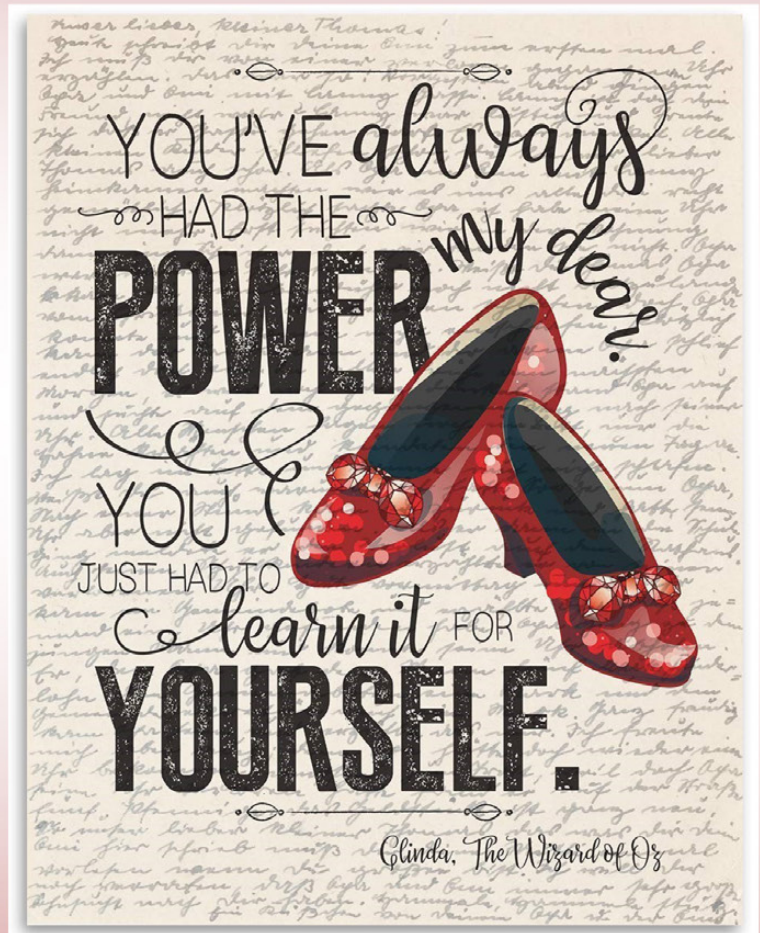
Check out the GFWC Illinois Readers Facebook page! Every Wednesday a book from an Illinois ESO reader is featured.

In addition, GFWC ESO has challenged Illinois to be the state that increases our membership the most to be recognized at the GFWC 2024 Convention in Chicago.

Can your club help us meet that goal?

Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Judy Rader, GFWC Illinois ESO Chair
132 11th Street, Lincoln IL 62656
judyrader51@gmail.com



ESO forms are available at
<http://gfwcillinois.org> under
the GFWC Illinois tab
Contact Judy Rader with
questions

GFWC ILLINOIS | ARTS & CRAFTS CONTESTS

By Karel Volpert, Arts & Culture Chairman

There's No Place Like GFWC for members to travel over the rainbow and enter our Arts & Crafts Contests. These contests provide members with opportunities for the dreams that they dare to dream to come true. In addition, students can also dare to dream as they participate in the youth writing and art contests.

GFWC Illinois/GFWC Photography Contests

Club members are encouraged to enter photos that they have taken during 2023 in the GFWC Illinois Photography Contest. The four categories are Our World Up Close, Natural Wonders, Reflections, and GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit. Entries should be brought or sent by another club member to the GFWC Illinois Convention. The winning photos in each of the four categories will be sent to the GFWC Photography Contest for judging. You can find more information about these categories and rules for submissions on the GFWC Illinois website under the "Members Center."

GFWC Illinois/GFWC Writing Contests

GFWC Illinois sponsors short story and poetry writing contests for members and youth to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers. The categories for youth are Grades K, 1, and 2; Grades 3, 4, and 5; Grades 6, 7, and 8; and Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. All entries must have been written in 2023. Those entering will be asked to email their work to Karel Volpert. Winners of our state contests will be entered in the GFWC Writing Contest. Information can be found in the "Members Center" on the GFWC Illinois website.

Arts & Crafts Contest

Members can display their artistic work at the GFWC Illinois Convention in the categories of Counted Cross Stitch, Crochet, Jewelry, Knitting, Needlepoint, Quilts, Stamped Cards, Wall Hangings, and Embroidery. Each entry must have been created during 2023.

Member Painting Contest

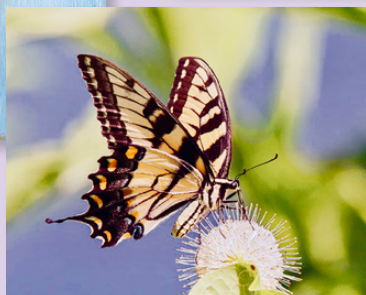
All GFWC Illinois members who are amateur artists are encouraged to enter an original painting in the Arts & Crafts Show at our State Convention. The entry must have been painted during 2023.

Youth Art Talent Contest

Youth from throughout our state are encouraged to enter this contest in one of the following media: Pencil, Pen and Ink; Collage; Acrylics; Mixed Media; or Pastels. The grade levels included are Category 1: 4-6; Category 2: 7-9; and Category 3: 10-12. All work must have been created during 2023. The entry should be brought to the State Convention by a GFWC Illinois member.

If you have any questions about the Arts & Crafts Contests, please contact Karel Volpert at karelvolpert@gmail.com or (217) 497-7616. ■

A FEW CONTEST WINNERS FROM 2021



GFWC ILLINOIS | WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023



December 16, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. Ceremony

Sponsor a Wreath for a Veteran's Grave at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Contact: proudarmysis4@sbcglobal.net

****GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS CANNOT BE DONE ONLINE****

If this is for a specific grave, you **MUST** complete a **SEPARATE** form for each Veteran sponsored. If no specific grave is requested, and this is for 'any Veteran's' grave, a form does not need to be filled out. Just send the check to the address below made out to WAA.

Please have all information complete if for grave specific.

Veterans Name (REQUIRED) _____

Section & Grave Marker (REQUIRED) _____

Contact Name & Phone Number (REQUIRED) _____

Will you be there to place the wreath yourself? Yes _____ No _____

Make Check or Money Order Payable to | **Wreaths Across America**
Mail to | **OCP WREATH PROJECT** | 10255 Donna Dr. Dittmer, MO 63023

**Sponsorships for 2023 MUST be received by November 24, 2023

Individual sponsorship: 1 Wreath, \$17.00 _____ **Family:** 4 Wreaths, \$68.00 _____

Business: 10 Wreaths, \$170.00 _____ **Corporate:** 100 Wreaths, \$1,700.00 _____

**Please note that you are 'sponsoring' not purchasing, as such your donation is tax deductible .

Wreaths Across America Ceremony will be held December 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.



We will have buses to escort people in and out of the cemetery.

For updates, please visit our Facebook page: **Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**
Location ID# ILALNE - Location Group ID# IL0013

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You can still order grave specifics but please make sure if doing online you include all Veteran information. We also have a Google doc set up. Please visit our Facebook page for that information.

I will have a form that anyone can still print and mail to me located on our Facebook page.

For wreath placement, all wreaths will be placed after the 11:00 a.m. ceremony.

We will be holding a free luncheon following the ceremony at:
Stone City VFW | 124 Stone City Dr. | Joliet

GFWC ILLINOIS | NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING



GFWC ILLINOIS | NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING





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 Joliet, IL 60432-4224
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2024 GFWC CONVENTION FUND



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 District

DONOR _____ DISTRICT/STATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____



We greatly appreciate your donation to support the GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund!

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund**
 Mail to **Ruth Slood**, 4 Latham Place, Lincoln IL 62656
 (217) 737-0156 | sloodtruthgfwc@gmail.com