



Illinois | Indiana | Michigan | Ohio | Wisconsin

# GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION COMMUNIQUE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### *Hello GFWC Great Lakes Region!*

It is hard to believe that it is already December. I am certain that the older I get the quicker time flies by. Can anyone confirm this for me?

I want to say it has been a whirlwind, but we are not quite done with this administration yet. There is still some fun and exciting things ahead for us before June 30, 2024! In this issue of the Communique' you will see an update from each of the States to see what they have been up to.

A huge thank you to GFWC Indiana for hosting our Region Conference in October. The venue was lovely, your hospitality was spot on, and I certainly walked away with new ideas for my own club – and I hope all who attended did as well. I just need to plan and get some things done instead of holding them in my brain!

Also in this issue, you will see information on all five of our Jennie June Award Nominees. It was wonderful celebrating each and every one of these volunteers. I am certainly glad that I don't have to select the winner – because I wish they ALL could win, and they certainly have in our book! You'll also see who we have sent along as the final two nominees for GFWC to select the one. Stay tuned to see who our Region Winner will be – better yet – join us in Chicago to celebrate her!

As transitions happen in our organization for the 2024-2026 Administration, I wish all that are serving the best as they take on new responsibilities and attend Orientation in January. I'm always excited to see what is next – even though where we are now is pretty exciting in my book!

It's an honor to serve as your Region President and I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season – stay healthy and I will see you all at the next appointed time!

In Federation, Dana



## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

The Illinois Clubwomen went back to their roots in October to support a long-standing partner – Shawnee National Forest with the dedication of a replacement trail marker. After a visit to Shawnee National Forest in the summer of 2022, it was brought to our attention that the wooden trail marker donated in 1963 had disintegrated. Illinois members voted to replace the trail marker with donations received from clubs/members over the past couple of years to purchase a granite trail marker at a cost of \$4,652.59.

Go back in time...

A growing interest in Conservation led the General Federation of Women's Clubs to work with the U.S. Forest Service in a program of Cooperative Forest Plantations in 1933.

In November of that year, the Illinois State chairman of Conservation, Miss Zoe Lenora Gray of Warren, contacted the Regional Forester, suggesting that the Federation establish a memorial forest.

Immediate action resulted, and a twenty-acre site for the initial plantation was located near

Eddyville, approximately midway between Golconda and Harrisburg, in the Shawnee National Forest. The first planting was made in April of 1934, the first dollar contributed by Mrs. Burgess, IFWC Executive Secretary. \$5 per half acre with certificates issued for planting one-half acre or more.

Illinois Clubwomen have continued to generously support Shawnee with donations for new trees to sustain and enhance the natural landscapes for all to enjoy.

Sixty years ago, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs forged another partnership with the Shawnee National Forest with an avid interest in preserving our natural landscapes for generations to come and dedicated the original Rim Rock trail marker! On October 20, 2023, the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Illinois proudly renewed this partnership with the rededication of the Rim Rock Trail Marker.

Suffice it to say that GFWC Clubwomen were ahead of their time in their concern for the environment!

LeeAnn Conlon  
GFWC Illinois President 2022–2024





“It’s that time of year – when the world falls in love. Every song you hear – seems to say – Merry Christmas – may your New Year dreams come true. And this song of mine – in three quarters time – wishes you and yours – the same thing too!” (The Christmas Waltz)

Doesn’t it just make your heart smile to read or (in your head) sing these words knowing it’s all true? The Christmas season is very much like GFWC is all year long. Christmas makes you feel great as you do for others and make time for those you don’t know. It just seems right at Christmas to give-give-give and love doing it. Well, GFWC must have been built around the idea of Christmas. Clubs give and give some more. Many time to those you have never met, and the great part is clubs do this out of love. Maybe GFWC needs to add a Christmas tree, Christmas star or a manger to its logo. The Christmas Spirit lives with GFWC members all year long!

Keeping with that tradition, clubwomen in Indiana have been busy giving to others: local food pantries, weekly community meals, Meals on Wheels, creating a historical coloring book used in local schools, quarter auctions, buncos, mats for homeless, making teddy bears for children and heart pillows for cancer patients while spending time with each other. They have also been baking a lot for the cookie walks around the state (this keeps our IFC President, Marianne, quite busy during November). Clubs will be participating in Shop with a Cop activities in various communities to ensure a smile on the face of so many this Christmas – just as it does all year long with the varied projects.



GFWC Indiana Jenny Award nominee Tric Heepe

Now in its 96th year as an IFC partnership, Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis is a project that seriously puts a smile on faces. RILEY ROCKS is the focus for 2022-24. Clubs are providing rocks and painting supplies to be presented to Riley at the IFC Convention in May. Patients will have the opportunity to gather supplies from the staff and paint their own rocks to give away, hide or keep as a memory.

GFWC Indiana wants to thank everyone who supported the GLR Conference. We had so much fun listening to Wolff Gang, learning about a new program, Safe Surfin’ from Eddie Worth, and exchanging ideas and info from the GFWC Chairmen.

As we prepare for our State Convention being held in Noblesville in May, we can’t help but look back on the past year. We are so excited to see what the future holds for all of us.

Until then, have fun getting ready for the holidays, shoveling snow, baking cookies and spending time with the ones you love.

Bonnie Sparks, Communication Director  
GFWC Indiana



Yellow Submarine lip sync at the GLR Conference



GFWC Indiana delegation at the GLR Conference

GFWC Michigan held our 2nd Michigan LEADS on Saturday, November 4, 2023. The day was planned and presented by a team that included our state president, Kathy Lewis; 1st V.P., Rae Lynn Hicks; 2nd V.P., Diane LaBree; leadership chair, Kath Brueck; GFWC LEADS graduates Lisa Belisle, Teresa Cannon, Laurie Geraldts, and Tammy Parenteau.

Included in the day-long seminar were the following:

- An ice breaker challenge that required thinking outside of the box
- Instruction on how to properly use a microphone.
- An activity highlighting authenticity in interactions
- Examples of problematic scenarios and how to respond.
  - Scenarios were acted out between two members.
  - Responses were unrehearsed & based on true feelings
  - At times more than one response was tried for a better outcome
  - Attendees were asked to share ideas on how to troubleshoot
  - Practice “the pause” was encouraged to avoid turmoil
- Breakout sessions were presented, separating first-time attendees from return Michigan LEADS graduates.
- First-time attendees learned:
  - Levels of leadership from GFWC to individual clubs
  - Officer responsibilities and duties
  - Presentation skills



- Return Michigan LEADS graduates learned:
  - GFWC’s Leadership Toolkit, website & portals
  - Mapping & handling conflict & polarities
  - How to successfully delegate
- Our most recent GFWC LEADS Ambassador spoke about the program and its benefits, encouraging members to apply.
- The Collect was broken down and explained in detail with meaning.

We concluded the day with a survey, certificates, and a photo op for graduates. This year’s seminar was designed with the results of last year’s survey and what attendees wanted to learn and address. GFWC Michigan would be happy to share any of these presentations with other states and clubs, as we are very proud of our program!

GFWC Michigan had the pleasure of nominating our current State President, Kathy Lewis, for the position of Great Lakes Region Treasurer. At our State Convention in April, members in attendance unanimously supported the nomination. We were honored to have our International President Deb Strahanoski and Great Lakes Region President Dana Jones both present for this very special occasion! As each month passes, Michigan is getting more and more excited for our President Kathy, and the opportunity to have our state become more involved in the Great Lakes Region. We are all looking forward to working with the GLR Administration of 2024–2026, and supporting our much-loved President Kathy, as she continues her GFWC journey. We will see you all in Michigan for a great 2024 Great Lakes Convention!

Kathy Lewis, GFWC Michigan President & Diane LaBree, GFWC Michigan Correspondent



## Greetings from the Great State of Ohio!

It is hard to believe that fall is drawing to a close. We always look forward to the fall season, one of the most beautiful in the hills and valleys of our state. The trees were especially beautiful this year. GFWC Ohio has kicked off our busy season of meetings, fundraisers, and community service projects. All across the state, clubs and committees have been spending many hours planning exciting events and filling calendars with speakers, programs, and educational opportunities.

September found Ohio members making the Gold Star pilgrimage to our beautiful Memorial Shrine in the Mohican National Forest to honor all those who paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their life for our country. The event is held every year on the last Sunday in September.

All five Districts participated in the "National Day of Service." Each club planned their individual events that were held on September 30th.

Ohio members held their annual Fall Conference on October 14th, which was held virtually. Members learned about this year's programs and projects. The reporting pages were reviewed, and members were able to ask questions. All five districts were represented. The districts then had breakout sessions to conduct their individual business. A parade of presidents followed with each club telling of projects they were planning. After the breakout sessions, we returned to the GFWC Ohio Business. We

were honored to have our International President Deb Strahanoski stop in for a visit and address the assembly.

In October, about 11 members traveled to Noblesville, Indiana for the GLR Conference, which is always a fun Mini Convention to attend. President Dana Jones did a wonderful job and it was a fun-filled informative weekend. President Ford and Junior Director Karen Margala presented what was happening in Ohio and highlighted events that clubs are working on across the state. Ohio's Skit to the theme of Cheers was a hit, but the contest was won by Madame President. We played a great game of Family Feud lead by Esther Gartland, Legislation/Public Policy Committee and a cheer for Junior's Special Project led by OFWC Junior Director Karen Margala. Deidra Devore did a great job as part of the Fundraising Committee who held a Quarter Auction.

Shawna Cozzens spoke on her LEADS experience. And Barbara Whitaker was presented as Ohio's Candidate for the Jennie June Award.

And of course, we are all excited to have Rose as the GLR President-elect. I hope you all plan on attending the GFWC Convention next year where Rose will be installed as GLR President.

Well, I guess summer is over and winter is here. We had snow already so get out your Long Johns.

Marjean Sizemore  
GFWC Ohio Correspondent





## Greetings from GFWC Wisconsin!

It is hard to believe that it has been more than two months since we gathered together in Noblesville, Indiana. Thanks, again, to the Indiana sisters for a spectacular conference. Wisconsin is very proud to celebrate our Jennie June nominee, Paula Schlice, GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club and current GFWC-WI Parliamentary Advisor. And now busy holiday season is upon us. Where does the time go?

Wisconsin's State Director of Junior Clubs, Suz Hooser, in her quest for "Turning Stones," just recently hosted the 64th GFWC-WI Junior Fall Conference. She packed the agenda of the one-day conference with interesting, informative, and entertaining presentations. The main order of business was to elect the 2024–2026 Junior Officers. Director Missy Kimball, Secretary Janine Haar, Treasurer Lora McPhillips, and Director Elect Carolyn Mitchell were elected by acclamation. One of the highlights of the conference was the "Babe to the Bra" Contest. Selected Junior Officers each brought in a bra and members had to match the bra to the officer. The meeting was held in a bright room with large windows, and the bras strung on a line for display attracted lots of attention



from people walking by on their way to the Farmers' Market! Prizes were given for those who had the most correct. Michelle Munoz led the group in a Domestic Abuse workshop with scenarios for each small group. Suz had a counselor on site in case the workshop was disturbing to any participants.

The members listened to an assortment of speakers from Stryv365, Advocates for Children Week, and best ways to "boost" your club and its events through social media.

GFWC-WI has a special award honoring Suffragette and Journalist Theodora Youmans. We were excited to hear from the 2022 winner, Tamarra Coleman, of the Shalom Project in Kenosha, Wisconsin. As a service project, members made "Rain Sticks" from paper towel rolls, beans/rice, tinfoil, and pretty paper to be given to patients who need relaxing sounds.



The highlight of the afternoon was a Leadership/Membership presentation entitled "Snow Wright and the GFWC Dwarves." GFWC-WI President, Nancy Dickman, and GFWC Leadership Committee Member, Deb Brossard, stole the show appearing as Sneezy and Grumpy, respectfully. Members also had time to visit The Civil War: Upper Middle West Experience Museum during breaks and after the session was over. The conference was a great success. Congratulations to Suz and her team.

The fall has been busy with each district holding their fall district meetings and all clubs beginning a new year of service to their respective communities. Wisconsin's membership is on the rise, and we are proud to keep those numbers going up.

GFWC-WI President, Nancy Dickman, is actively planning for another "hands-on" workshop in February. Great speakers will be on hand, and the key focus will be on technology. There will be lots to learn and absorb. Plans are also in the works for the GFWC-WI 2024 Convention, which will be in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We will be honoring our Jennie June nominee, Paula Schlice, electing our officers and installing them at a gala.

We here in the Midwest understand what these cooling temperatures mean. Snow is coming! Truly what magic there is in that first measurable winter snow. When the snow comes, let us all remember that the Great Lakes sisters are like snowflakes, each beautiful in our own unique way.

Nancy Niedziela  
GFWC Wisconsin Correspondent

# HOW TO APPLY FOR LEADS

By Deb Brossard, Great Lakes Region Representative | 2022–2024 GFWC Leadership Committee

The excitement is in the air! It is the start of a new GFWC administration, and time for YOU to consider applying for the opportunity to be your state's LEADS representative at the 2024 LEADS session in Chicago, IL, on June 28, 2024. The application process varies from state to state, so it is essential that you investigate how your state determines who will be the LEADS nominee. If this process is not already promoted on your state's website, begin by contacting your state's Leadership Chairman or your State President, who can surely guide you through the process. Or contact me, your Region's Leadership Committee Representative, at [deb.brossard@gmail.com](mailto:deb.brossard@gmail.com) or (608) 751-2552, as I can also help you navigate the system.



Many states have adapted the GFWC LEADS Application (available in the Leadership Toolkit) to fit their needs and process. It might behoove you to look at that so you are prepared to provide the necessary information. You will likely need to provide two letters of support from active GFWC club members. State application deadlines also vary, but each state is to submit its candidate to Susan Gettys, GFWC Leadership Committee Chairman, by March 15, 2024. Good luck!

# GFWC REBRANDING

By Loretta Caron | 2022–2024 GFWC Communications & PR Committee member

Have you heard GFWC has an updated emblem? GFWC's updated emblem and rebranding materials are now available to members on the GFWC website.

Want to download the latest GFWC Style Guide? Download by using the below QR Code.



Instructions to use the QR Code:

- Open your phone camera.
- Point the lens in the direction of the QR Code.
- When a yellow banner appears, tap the banner. You will automatically be directed to the document.



## THE NEW GFWC EMBLEMS





# 2023 GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE

October 2023 | Noblesville, Indiana



Welcome by Mayor Chris Jenson



President Deb and Karyn Charvat – the Lip Sync Winners



GFWC IL LEADS graduate Teri Merrell



GFWC GLR Great 8!



GFWC IL Jennie Nominee Wanda Burklow



Wolff Gang from Hobart High School!





# OFFICER REPORTS

## GLR PRESIDENT

Dana Jones, GFWC GLR President 2022–2024

Since our bi-annual meeting at the GFWC Convention in June, this officer has completed all necessary tasks of the position of President.

The most involved task was preparing for the Region Conference through coordination with the conference co-chairman. I enlisted guest speakers, finalized the agenda, gathered fundraising items, prepared the program book, preparing for the service project and many other details in order to have a wonderful conference experience for all who attend.

This officer also prepared an invitation to our Region Conference that was presented at the GFWC Board of Directors meeting in September in Westminster, Colorado, featuring a corn hat and sharing that there is more than corn in Indiana.

This officer also met with the Executive Committee prior to the Region Conference to ensure all were ready with their needed tasks and duties for the conference.

It is an honor to serve the GFWC Great Lakes Region and I am proud to belong to this group of volunteers.

## GLR VICE PRESIDENT

Rose Logston, GFWC GLR Vice President 2022–2024

As vice president, this officer:

- Followed up on previously contacted potential vendors for the Great Lakes Region Conference to again encourage them to attend. Received some new leads and one of those actually signed up.
- Prepared for the GLR Executive Committee meeting via Google meets.
- Contacted the “Great 8” of GLR regarding their presentations during the annual conference.
- Sent pictures and description of items to be donated for the quarter auction.
- Received an invitation from Lansing, MI, to visit possible sites for the GLR 2024 conference.

Traveled (with GFWC Ohio member, Peggy Hickenbottom) to Lansing and visited two possible sites and were the first guests to spend the night at Hyatt House in Lansing.

- Made arrangements to extend the trip to meet with the incoming president of Michigan and conference chairman at their chosen site, the Gateway Hotel and Convention Center in Flint/Grand Blanc.
- Prepared for and attended the Great Lakes Region Conference in Noblesville, IN.

This officer was very honored to be elected the 2024–2026 GLR president.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your continued support.

## GLR TREASURER

Candy Godbee, GFWC GLR Treasurer 2022–2024

It has been a privilege to serve this administration and you, its members, since taking office. Since my last report I have performed the duties of the office, which have included the following: prepared the Financial Report of the Region, compiled the Treasurer’s Report since GFWC Convention, updated the checkbook ledger, sent dues invoices to the five Region States, participated in the GLR EC Zoom meeting, met with the Audit Committee, made deposits.

I look forward to completing the tasks and having all records and materials prepared to pass on at GFWC Convention in Chicago.

## GLR SECRETARY

Loretta Caron, GFWC GLR Secretary 2022–2024

This officer met with the GFWC Great Lakes Region Executive Committee via Google Meet on October 2nd. The minutes were approved from the Great Lakes Region Semi-Annual Meeting. This officer attended and kept minutes of the Great Lakes Region Conference in Noblesville, Indiana.

This officer is honored to be elected GLR Vice-President for 2024–2026.

## 2024 GFWC Great Lakes Region Jennie Award Nominees

### ILLINOIS

#### WANDA BURKLOW

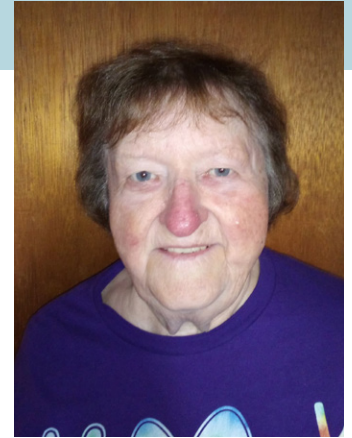
Wanda Burklow joined the Eldorado Junior Woman's Club in 1973, 50 years this month. She became an active member immediately and has held a position of Leadership from the first year she joined. She volunteered to help gather gifts for a local nursing home for Christmas, she worked on a club fundraiser, she helped build a parade float for the local fall festival and rode on it as a caregiver for the contestants and winners of the baby pageant, which the club sponsored. (That was just the first year).

Wanda has been married for 58 years and one of the best ways her family describes her is a caregiver. When Wanda lost her daughter at age 30, she helped to raise her grandchildren who were ages 5 and 8 years old at the time. She sews for everyone in her immediate and extended family, is a great prayer warrior, still fills Easter baskets for all 12 immediate family members, and my favorite – "she cooks the meal of their choice for any family member that will come for dinner on their birthday"! And, they say she is fun to work with and never asks anyone to do anything that she will not do!

She is fiercely committed to her church, club, and community. She has worked in her church for over 50 years, teaching Sunday School and serving on the kitchen committee for over 40 years, and she has served as Church treasurer a total of 22 years! Brownie leader, Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout den mother, room mother and 4-H leader, Wanda brings a smile to everyone's face through her quick wit and cheerful disposition, and she makes everyone feel special. 500 words are not enough to list her accomplishments!

We in GFWC IL have been well aware of the extraordinary clubwoman Wanda Burklow is – in addition to 50 years of committed club service, she has been president of her club for 12 years, served as District president multiple times, held many state chairmanships, and served as GFWC IL Southern Region Vice President.

Congratulations on your nomination, Wanda!



### MICHIGAN

#### SHERRI KRAUSE

Sherri is a longtime member of the Manistique Club in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (aka "A Yooper"). She was club president during Covid, and kept her club not only going, but thriving. She held meetings by Zoom and then in her personal garden.

She is the club membership chair, runs the club's annual pie booth at folk fest, is advocate for children, and leads pinwheels for awareness against child abuse.

She created a community garden, along with the local 4H, Michigan State University, the local Girl and Boy Scout troops, and the Kiwanis Young Builders Club.

She is best known for her largest community project, "living waters fountain," built in their local park. It was a 7-year venture that included raising \$70,000 and working with the city and many other entities (including the Green Bay Packers). She received the GFWC Community Impact Award for this project!

These are just some of the examples of Sherri's outstanding leadership and why she is Michigan's Jennie Award nominee.





# INDIANA

## PATRICIA “TRIC” HEEPE

Patricia “Tric” Heepe is our nominee for the Indiana Jennie Award. Tric joined GFWC in 1981 in order to get out of the house one night a month. She also had a 38-year career with the Social Security Administration. She was recognized for volunteerism during her long career with the SSA.

Tric is committed to her family and friends. She has two children, Ian and Jen. She is a grandmother to four children, who she has also supported and mentored. Her children and grandchildren are also involved in volunteering thanks to Tric. It is because of this kind of dedication and influence that has caused the Hoosier State to nominate Tric for this important award.

She has served at the Club, County, District, State, Regional and National levels. She uses her vast experience to mentor new leaders. She has served as a great source of inspiration and determination to our new, and more experienced club members alike.

She has been involved with many of the GFWC partners and is one of the Chairmen for the Giving program. She is a member of the Maxine Millennium Belles, where she continues to serve as the club treasurer.



When our state treasurer had to step down, Tric was gracious enough to step in and make the job her own. She has been able to get everything brought up to speed and balanced!!!

We, in the state of Indiana, couldn't be prouder of Tric. She truly embodies all the qualities to be a solid candidate for the Jennie Award. Win or lose, Tric will continue to serve Indiana as graciously as she has served in the past. She is a great clubwoman and a good friend to all who have the honor of calling her friend, sister, mother, grandmother and “Jennie.” Congratulations, Tric!

## THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD (FROM THE GFWC MANUAL)

The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community and family. It is the *only national honor* bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym “Jennie June.” The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Since it is an award for lifetime personal excellence, club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians for Jennie Award nominees. Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible as it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders.



The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form and information is included in the GFWC Manual in the Member Portal. It will be updated for 2024–2026 after the new administration begins in 2024. It is never too soon to start thinking about who might be a good candidate from YOUR club!



# OHIO

## BARBARA DAVIS WHITAKER

Barbara Davis Whitaker, a fourth-generation clubwoman, has served GFWC Ohio in all offices except Junior ones, serving as state president twenty years after her mother. She co-founded the GFWC Internet Service Providers, one of the first online GFWC clubs, for members unable to be active in regular clubs due to work, health, or distance. They have projects and monthly online meetings, with in-person meetings at state and GFWC gatherings. Her first volunteer opportunity was licking stamps for her mother's club mailings when she was three, followed by modeling in the club's style show fundraisers.

She served as GFWC GLR President from 2006–2008 and has served on GFWC committees, including CIP, Communications, Leadership, Resolutions, and Strategic Planning. A Professional Registered Parliamentarian, she is serving GFWC Ohio and GFWC GLR as a Parliamentarian and GFWC as Bylaws Chairman. Having assisted the National Association of Parliamentarians at GFWC conventions, she saw a desire for members to advance their parliamentary skills. The pandemic allowed her to organize the Grapevine Electronic Parliamentary Unit with a membership consisting mainly of GFWC members. She has given several parliamentary workshops at the state, regional, and national levels.

As Editor for the Ohio Association of Parliamentarians, she produced their first online newsletter. This increased communication, increasing membership by sharing events and educational information. Barbara has served as Vice President and is currently President of OAP. As the Annual Session coordinator, she and other volunteer parliamentarians became proficient with Zoom during the pandemic. She has hosted OAP educational meetings and meetings for other organizations, including the GFWC Ohio statewide meetings.

Barbara is a member of ESO, serving as state Secretary-Treasurer, helping build the chapter from seven members in the 1980s to over eighty today. She and her mother edited the fifth edition of the *GFWC Ohio History*, and she serves as GFWC Ohio Historian.

She earned her first paycheck at five as a “gofer” for her uncle's medical practice. With a vision of being a nurse, she graduated from the University of Akron, then furthered her education to become a Nurse Anesthetist. She is not only a clinician but an instructor of anesthesia. She is employed full-time as an affiliate medical staff member of WVU Medicine Camden Clark.

She, with her husband Joel, owns Unicom Wine Guild in Belpre, Ohio, and has served on the Board of the Marietta/Washington County CVB and is a member of the Belpre Chamber, working on shop local campaigns. Barbara volunteered her parliamentary skills to the new Marietta/Belpre Health Board as they developed bylaws. She was active with the Wood County Society for years, serving those with physical and mental disabilities, and is still a supporter.

Barbara and her husband are parents to two felines adopted from the Humane Society. They are St. Andrews United Methodist Church members, and she has served on several committees. She is a participant in the Memorial Day Flower Foundation Program. She provides free roses to be placed on the graves of area veterans and at Arlington National Cemetery.





# WISCONSIN

## PAULA SCHLICE

GFWC Wisconsin is extremely grateful to Paula for the leadership she has provided to many members during her 36 years of membership. While we knew Paula was a very busy volunteer and had many irons in many fires outside of all levels of GFWC, we had no idea the depth and breadth of her family and community involvement!

After compiling the nomination paperwork, we are more in awe than ever and will wholeheartedly agree with those who have provided amazing letters of recommendation that Paula Schlice has and will continue to go above and beyond to help others in any way she can. She truly epitomizes the spirit of the GFWC Jennie Award.

Paula's tenure of service is consecutive and how she managed that on top of all her local community involvement is her superpower!

Her commitment to her family and her participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional, is unwavering. As a small business owner, her firm provides a necessary and professional service, some of which Paula provides 'pro bono'. And if you need a professional to walk you through the 501(c)(3) process, Paula is your "go to" expert. If there is a fundraiser of any kind for any of her favorite non-profits, you can be sure Paula is working the crowd or pulling out her own checkbook.

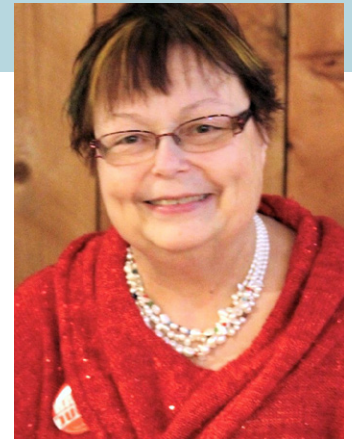
Her commitment to her local club, district, state, region (for which she has served in numerous roles, including

president at each level), and her service to GFWC at the international level is unquestionable. She has led by example and has inspired many GFWC Wisconsin members (and many from other states as well) to make the GFWC

Leadership journey. Her nomination includes 15 pages of recommendation letters, newspaper articles and awards. If there is a scheduled GFWC meeting at any of these levels, you can bet Paula will be there with her cheerful disposition, unwavering support, and lots of cash she is willing to part with.

Many GFWC Wisconsin state presidents have benefited from Paula at their side as the state's Parliamentary Advisor. Her calm demeanor and knowledge of parliamentary procedure are talents she willingly shares that allows the State President to confidently lead effective meetings in a professional manner.

Praises for Paula have poured in from city officials, state agencies, and multiple charitable organizations that have been touched by her. GFWC Wisconsin proudly endorses the 2024 Jennie Award Nomination of this amazing woman who gives so generously of her time, talent, and treasure to the MANY organizations who have been lucky enough to call her a volunteer, supporter, leader, mentor, cheerleader, and friend. We are so proud of Paula. We hope you agree!



# OUR REGION FINALISTS

## JENNIE AWARD – GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION FINALISTS

It was such an exciting time to hear from each state in our Region about their Jennie nominee. Each of the five ladies that were nominated is truly deserving of the award, and it made the work of the judges very difficult, which is terrific!

After the three judges reviewed the nominations independently against the three criteria areas for the award, it was Tric Heepe from Indiana and Paula Schlice from Wisconsin that have been forwarded to GFWC for the final decision. Whomever is selected is a wonderful representation from our Region. Congratulations to ALL!