



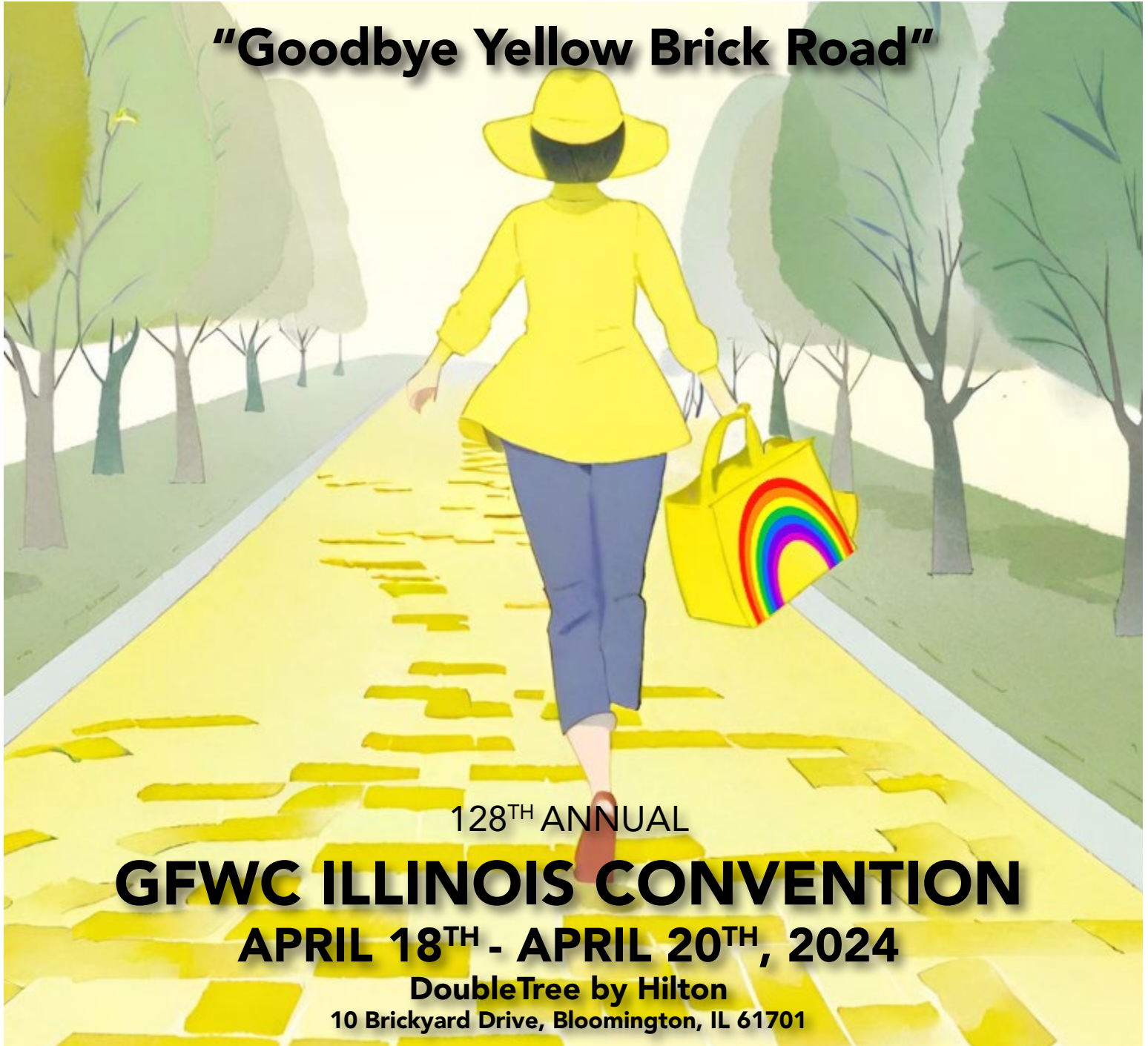
Volume 105 | Spring 2024

# 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

## "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road"



128<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION

## APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701

## SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE



# GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

BY LEEANN CONLON, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2022-2024

**B**y the time you read this, we will have less than two months to complete our journey together down the yellow brick road of GFWC Illinois. To say that I have been amazed by your heart, passion, courage, and intellect is an understatement!

The wizardry used to support your communities, and to assist those globally was profound, and a sight to see by those around you.

At the end of our journey, we will celebrate YOU for your leadership and fortitude when needing to escape the flying monkeys and meet the angry apple trees, as well as the remarkable things done in the name of GFWC Illinois!

I am excited to bring this convention before you. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski will be our honored GFWC guest, won't it be entertaining to hear about her personal journey too?

Meet the 2024-2026 GFWC Illinois Leaders, participate in the process of adopting a few much-needed bylaws amendments, and attend the workshops we have planned, with our speakers' passionate, courageous, and mindful words of wisdom to engage your inner spirit for learning.

Finally, our service project is "And TOTO too" to address food insecurity at local pet shelters.

Thank you for joining us.

## AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

PATTI KUCHAR, GFWC ILLINOIS DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS 2022-2024



**W**e are almost to the end of this administration, so we are calling this state convention "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road". It has been a magical journey with all of you. Your support, passion, dedication, and friendship have been so important to this Director and the Illinois Junior Organization.

During this convention, we will be celebrating your leadership, membership, and involvement within your communities. No wicked witches were able to halt your projects and programs.

We will have speakers, projects, nominations and elections. We will be voting on bylaw amendments,

resolutions and more as needed. Your vote does count so please make sure to be there.

I am happy to have served as Director for these past years and will wholeheartedly support the 2024-2026 Junior Leadership Team of Officers and Chairman in Illinois and GFWC. My rainbow will continue to shine as long as there are Junior Women's Clubs in the State of Illinois and such dedicated women advancing all the projects, programs, and ideals as we have been for many, many years.

See you on the Yellow Brick Road!

### GFWC ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** LeeAnn Conlon

**Director of Junior Clubs:** Patti Kuchar

**President Elect:** Trisha Schafer

**VP Northern Region:** Sandy Christofanelli

**VP Central Region &**

**VP Southern Region:** Gina Fritz

**Secretary:** Mary Jane Koester

**Treasurer:** Carol Jablonski

**Parliamentarian:** Diane Addante

### THE CLUBWOMAN CREW

**Editor in Chief:** LeeAnn Conlon

**5 E Van Buren St #212, Joliet, IL 60432**

**Hours of Operation**  
**9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Monday-Thursday**



# DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS ANNUAL MEETING

April 18, 2024 | 9:15 PM | BRICKYARD 3

It's time to SPARKLE & SHINE and have fun with our fellow Divas! We are having our Annual Meeting during the GFWC IL 2024 Convention. You will want to be on hand to get an update on the 2022-2024 GFWC administration and hear about the upcoming GFWC Convention in Chicago. Let's celebrate with our own Diamond Diva, GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski, as her administration is coming to a close.

The GFWC Illinois Deb's Diamond Divas will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 18, after the conclusion of Fun Night in Brickyard 3. All members are invited to remain for the meeting. We will be electing our officers for 2024-2026.

Membership in GFWC IL DDD club is open to all Illinois members. **Dues for 2024-2025 are \$35 and are payable by September 15, 2024, to Treasurer Michelle Schultz.** Feel free to bring them to the meeting and give them to Michelle, or if you are mailing them, please send to Michelle Schultz at 805 Carol Ct., Pontiac, IL 61764. Hope to see you there!

## DUES FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable for **\$35** to **Deb's Diamond Divas** | Mail to **Michelle Schultz 805 Carol Ct., Pontiac, IL 61764**

## CONVENTION 2024 | HOTEL INFORMATION



### SEE YOU IN BLOOMINGTON!

#### DoubleTree by Hilton

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701

#### ROOM RATE:

**\$115 plus Tax** (King or 2 Queen)

#### RESERVATIONS:

Call the Hotel at 1-309-664-6446 and say you are attending the GFWC Convention 2024.

Room reservation link: <https://hil.tn/901a4c>

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 27, 2024, TO GUARANTEE RATES AND AVAILABILITY.**

Check-in is at 4pm | Check-out is at 11am





# GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

## 128<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, BLOOMINGTON | APRIL 18-20, 2024

### GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Credentials** | Prefunction Area

Thursday, April 18 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
 Friday, April 19 7:30 am – noon; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
 Saturday, April 20 7:30 am – 10:00 am

**Fundraising** | Brickyard 4

**GFWC IL Arts & Crafts** | Brickyard 4  
 Drop Off: April 19, 2024 7:00 am - 8:45 am  
 Pick Up: April 20, 2024 Before 10:00 am

#### PRECONVENTION ACTIVITIES AND LOLLIPOP KIDS DINNER | Thursday, April 18, 2024

9:00 – 12:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Brookridge
1:00 – 3:00 pm	GFWC 2024 Convention Committee Meeting	Brickyard 2
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Past State BOD Members Meeting (Pat Heitman)	Brickyard 2
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Elections Meeting	Brickyard 2
4:45 – 6:00 pm	Pre-convention Board of Directors Meeting	Brickyard 3
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Lollipop Kids Dinner	Brickyard 3
9:15 – 10:15 pm	Deb's Diamond Divas Meeting (Megan Mitchell)	Brickyard 3

#### TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Friday, April 19, 2024

7:45 – 8:45 am	Junior Board of Directors Meeting	Brickyard 5
9:00 – 10:00 am	<b>General Business Session I</b> / Convention Opening Welcome & Greetings, Business, First Time Attendees	Brickyard 1,2,3
10:15 – noon	<b>General Business Session II</b> Business: Proposed Bylaws and Resolutions, Awards: Health & Wellness; Civic Engagement, Community Improvement; Legislation & Public Policy Leadership, Environment, Fundraising, WHRC	Brickyard 1,2,3
12:30 – 3:00 pm	<b>General Business Session IIIa</b> / Opening Luncheon Guest Speaker, Memorial Service, Awards: Membership, Communications & Public Relations, Arts & Culture, Education & Libraries (ESO)	Brickyard 1,2,3
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<b>General Business Session IIIb</b> Presentation of GFWC Illinois Executive Officers Candidates	Brickyard 1,2,3
5:30 pm	Meet the Candidates	Prefunction Area
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Cocktails/Photo Op	Prefunction Area
7:00 – 10:00 pm	<b>General Business Session IV</b> - Federation Banquet GFWC Jennie Award, LEADS, Monetary Contributions, Awards: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness, Our Promise, Advocates for Children, Children's Research Foundation	Brickyard 1,2,3
10:00 – 11:00 pm	Reception for GFWC International President Debra Strahanoski	

#### TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Saturday, April 20, 2024

7:00 – 9:00 am	<b>Elections</b>	Brookridge
8:30 – 9:30 am	<b>Junior Business Session</b> Junior Awards, Nomination & Elections for Junior Secretary & Treasurer	Brickyard 6
9:30 – 10:30 am	"And TOTO too!" Service Project	Brickyard 5
10:45 – noon	<b>General Business Session V</b> Business; Club Awards for Coveted Shoe, Food Insecurity; Arts and Upcycled Arts Contest Winners	Brickyard 1,2,3
12:30 – 3:30 pm	<b>General Business Session VI</b> – Unity Luncheon / Installation Leadership Awards, Club Unity Award, 25/50 Year Member Recognition, Raffle Winners, Installation of 2024-2026 Officers, Outgoing Officer Words!	Brickyard 1,2,3
3:45 – 5:00 pm	<b>2024-2026 Officer Reception</b>	Prefunction Area



# CONVENTION 2024 | REGISTRATION FORM



## GF WC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 128<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

**April 18-20, 2024 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, Illinois**

Mail this registration form by **March 27, 2024** with your payment (checks payable to **GFWC Illinois**) to:  
**Renee Super, GFWC Illinois Convention Treasurer | 5 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 212, Joliet IL 60432-4224**

### MEMBER/CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name	Badge Name
Club Name	District Check here if you belong to a junior club <input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address	City, State, Zip
E-Mail Address	Best Phone Number to Call

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Registration must be postmarked on or before March 27, 2024 to avoid a late fee.** Online registration is available at [www.gfwcillinois.org](http://www.gfwcillinois.org) under the **Events** tab.
- **ALL** attendees must pay a registration fee of \$40. Late registrations pay \$55 if postmarked after March 27, 2024. **No registrations accepted after April 4, 2024**
- Registration fee for GFWC Illinois Past State Presidents and Past State Directors of Junior Clubs is waived.

### PLEASE INDICATE IN WHAT CAPACITY YOU ARE ATTENDING (select only one)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past GFWC Illinois State President                | <input type="checkbox"/> GFWC International Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past GFWC Illinois State Director of Junior Clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2022-24 GFWC IL Executive Committee               | Office _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2022-24 GFWC IL Board of Directors                | District President/Committee _____                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2022-24 GFWC IL Junior Executive Committee        | Office _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2022-24 GFWC IL Junior Board of Directors         | District DJC/Committee _____                        |

### SELECT REGISTRATION & MEALS

<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE</b> (if BEFORE March 27, 2024) <b>(required)</b>	\$40.00	\$ _____
<b>ORGANIZATION OF PAST STATE BOARD MEMBERS MEETING</b>   Thursday, April, 18, 2024 3:00-4:00 p.m.	\$10.00	\$ _____
<b>LOLLIPOP KIDS DINNER</b>   Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:30 p.m. Cheeseburgers, bratwurst, carved turkey sandwiches, fruit salad, pasta salad, potato chips & dip, dessert	\$45.00	\$ _____
<b>DEB'S DIAMOND DIVA'S MEETING</b>   Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:15 p.m.	\$10.00	\$ _____
<b>OPENING LUNCHEON</b>   Friday, April 19, 2024 12:30 p.m. Baby Spinach Salad, Epicurian Salad, Asian Mesclun Salad, Grilled Chicken Breast, Loaded Baked Potato Soup, Dessert	\$35.00	\$ _____
<b>FEDERATION BANQUET</b>   Friday, April 19, 2024 7:00 p.m. Classic Wedge Salad, Garlic crusted chicken w/herb wine butter sauce, Grilled Petit Bistro Steak with port mushroom ragout, broccoli with cheese mornay, white cheddar duchess potatoes, turtle cheesecake	\$60.00	\$ _____
<b>UNITY/INSTALLATION LUNCHEON</b>   Saturday, April 20, 2024 12:30 p.m. Paradise Santorini salad, fresh fruit salad, vegetable crites and dip, savory wild rice blend, vegetable medley, Atlantic Salmon, herbed pork tenderloin, cheesecake	\$50.00	\$ _____
<b>LATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE</b>   Required after March 27, 2024	\$55.00	\$ _____
<b>LATE MEAL REGISTRATION FEE</b>   Required after March 27, 2024 per meal	\$10.00	\$ _____
<b>GFWC IL FUNDRAISING</b> (6 tickets for \$20) # of tickets _____		\$ _____
<b>GFWC 2024 CONVENTION FUNDRAISING</b> (6 tickets for \$20) # of tickets _____		\$ _____
<b>JUNIOR SPLIT THE POT FUNDRAISING</b> (30 for \$20) # of tickets _____		\$ _____
<b>FELLOWSHIP 125   SUPPORTING</b> – Donation of \$125 or more; <b>CONTRIBUTING</b> – less than \$125		\$ _____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (please inform us of any medical or food allergies or restrictions)

- ☐ Vegetarian
 ☐ Gluten-Free
 ☐ Chicken for Beef
 ☐ Diabetic
 ☐ No Dairy
- ☐ List Food Allergies/Medical \_\_\_\_\_

**\*There are absolutely no food or meal substitutions during convention if no restrictions are checked.\***

# THE ORGANIZATION OF PAST STATE BOARD MEMBERS OF GFWC ILLINOIS ANNUAL MEETING



Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 3:00–4:00 p.m. | DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, BLOOMINGTON

All members of GFWC Illinois Organization of Past State Board Members are invited to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 3:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. in Brickyard 2, Double Tree by Hilton, Bloomington, Illinois. Fee for the meeting will be \$10.00 that will be paid through the GFWC Illinois Convention Registration Form.

All past and current members of GFWC Illinois Board of Directors are eligible for membership and are invited to become members. This Organization encourages the maintaining of friendships made while service on the Board of Directors.

Members wishing to renew their membership and new members should send their \$3.00 per year dues to Treasurer Becky Weber, 602 Malone Court, Metamora, IL 60548. Please make check payable to Organization of Past State Board Members. Also include with your dues your full name, address, phone and email address.

During our meeting besides catching up with our friends, we will be discussing amendments to our bylaws. We would be delighted to have everyone join us this year. **Hats Off to the Volunteer!**

Pat Heitman,  
President

**QUESTIONS? Contact Pat Heitman | [auntpatty44@gmail.com](mailto:auntpatty44@gmail.com) | (815) 600-1032**

## GFWC IL STATE NIGHT | GFWC 2024 CONVENTION "A NIGHT AT THE DIAMOND CLUB"



Step back in time 100 years and spend a night at the Diamond Club with us! It is 1924 and the Wrigley building has just been finished, Soldier Field is opening in October, and J Edgar Hoover became the head of the FBI.

Trends of the 1920's called for bobbed hair and finger waves, dresses were sleeveless with knee-length hems (oh my- so scandalous!) with so many different pattern choices (stripes, polka dots, plaids, florals, or geometric patterns), gloves, stockings, and cloche hats. If you were going to a party your flapper dress or cocktail dress would have sparkled as you moved due to fringe, beads, sequins, or rhinestones. Don't forget the long strands of pearls, brooches, gem studded bracelets and feathers! Men wore suits (dark, pinstripe or plaid), white dress shirts, vests, suspenders, ties, and don't forget the hats (fedora, bowler, derby, newsboy, gambler, boater, top hat or homburg)!

As you may have guessed, our theme for GFWC IL State Night at the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago is a 1920's speakeasy night club. The Hilton Ballroom oozes old time elegance, perfect for flappers and their fellas to enjoy some food, music, and dancing. Our entertainment is going to be Howl2Go, which are dueling pianos, with a guitar and drums. Our décor will be jewel-toned centerpieces with feathers and gems.

So, save the date, Friday, June 28, 2024! We would love our Illinois members to be ready to travel 100 years in the past and volunteer to help create this fun-filled evening! Help us show off the jewels of Illinois and to welcome home our favorite Diamond, Deb Strahanoski! Pull out your favorite brooches and pearls and let's make Illinois sparkle and shine as we party Illinois style!

# CONVENTION 2024

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### DEBRA STRAHANOSKI

Deb has been a dedicated GFWC Illinois clubwoman for 36 years and is regarded as a great mentor to many. Deb's boundless energy has been apparent during her Federation journey. She has served GFWC Illinois in various roles, including on the Board of Directors as GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs 2000-2002, GFWC IL President Elect/Dean of Chairmen 2006-2008, GFWC IL President 2008-2010, and the GFWC IL Leadership Committee.

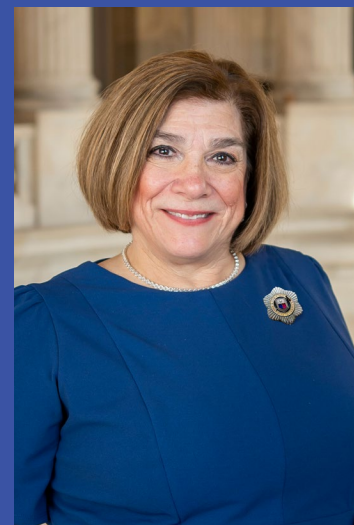
Her GFWC leadership positions have included Membership Chairman, Community Improvement Program Chairman, Capital Campaign Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President-elect. Deb now serves as GFWC International President, enthusiastically and effortlessly leading the Federation alongside the GFWC Executive Committee.

Deb is also a highly respected volunteer and leader within her community. She has served Easterseals and PCA Illinois at regional and state levels and has been honored with the coveted Friends of Children Award by PCA Illinois.

Deb retired from the Easterseals Joliet Region after 17 years as a dedicated Development Manager. She credits much of her professional success to all she has garnered through Federation.

Deb continues to assist her husband, Bill, in his public accounting office (taking a two-year leave), which they have owned since 1984. Married for 43 years, they have a beautiful family of Lauren, her husband David, grandsons Owen and Henry, son Joe and his wife Paige, and grandson Julien.

Her visionary leadership, extensive experience, and infectious enthusiasm have motivated new and veteran members alike. Her bright, shining smile and warm, caring spirit will undoubtedly inspire GFWC members for years to come.



### MARY REID

Mary Reid studied History and Music in College, traveled the country with the All-American High Dive Team, dabbled in Law School and currently works as a paralegal at a prestigious law firm in Chicago. She served as co-president of the Lemont Junior Woman's Club in 2020 – 2021. As she is always striving for more, Mary authored Reading My Mind after discovering her college journals packed away in moving boxes and thought it would be helpful to share her experiences with those who are setting off for college. The journal excerpts contain lessons learned along the way pertaining to life, love and personal growth, along with her commentary and hindsight.

Mary enjoys spending time with her family, attending concerts and staying active with her Peloton bike. Mary lives in Chicago with her husband, son and two rescue dogs.

To learn more, visit [www.mary-reid.com](http://www.mary-reid.com).

### AIMEE BEAM

Aimee Beam is the Executive Director of Midwest Food Bank (MFB) in Normal, IL. Now the largest food bank in the nation, MFB is on track to distribute \$500M worth of food in 2024 to battle food insecurity across the nation. A skilled marketer and communicator, Aimee has used her talents for 30+ years to support McLean County's nonprofit and for-profit businesses alike. Her often-stated goal is to strengthen her community and help make her "assigned corner of the world" a wonderful home for all its citizens.

Beam was honored in 2022 with McLean County's prestigious ATHENA Award for community leadership. She holds a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration from LSU, a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Eastern Illinois University, and numerous certifications that she puts to use in her many volunteer leadership roles across the community.

Aimee is married to Brian Beam, Executive Director of Marketing at Illinois State University. Aimee and Brian have two daughters, Elizabeth, a Junior at the University of Illinois in Champaign, and Allie, who is doing her graduate work at Columbia University in New York City.





## MEET THE 2024–2026 GFWC ILLINOIS LEADERS!

### GFWC IL PRESIDENT TRISHA SCHAFER



Meet Trisha Schafer, the leader set to guide the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Illinois as President from 2024 to 2026. With a deep commitment to service and a passion for community betterment, Trisha's journey is a testament to a life dedicated to making a positive impact. She is extremely proud to serve GFWC Illinois in this capacity!

Trisha has a remarkable track record of accomplishments, having spearheaded numerous initiatives that have uplifted communities across Illinois. Her strategic leadership and collaborative spirit have fostered unity, encouraging GFWC members to work together towards common goals. Trisha's commitment to inclusivity ensures that every member's voice is heard and valued, fostering a sense of unity among the diverse women of GFWC IL.

As we embark on the next chapter of service, Trisha Schafer's leadership promises to inspire, unite, and propel GFWC Illinois toward new heights of community impact. Together, GFWC IL will continue its unwavering commitment to service, weaving a tapestry of positive change across the state in a united journey of compassion and dedication.

### GFWC IL DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS MARIA URIBE



Maria's GFWC journey started in 1997 when she joined the Lombard Junior Woman's Club and quickly moved up, being installed as President for the first time in 2001 and again in 2015 and 2020. In addition to being club president Maria served in several committees as well as serving as the 5th District Legislation Chair.

In 2012, Maria served District 5 as the Director of Junior Clubs (2012–2014). In 2018 she was chosen as the GFWC Illinois LEADS Candidate in St. Louis, MO. At the State level, she served as a District Director (2012–2014) and the GFWC IL Junior Special Projects Chair (2015–2016). In 2020, was installed as Junior Treasurer and was then voted in as Director Elect of Junior Clubs in 2022.

Maria has had great adventures so far in GFWC and looks forward to the future ahead. She is very excited to work with all of you as we continue the good work we do and the awesome legacy of GFWC Illinois! My focus this next administration will be on children, concentrating more on Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) and Children's Research Foundation (CRF).

## CANDIDATES FOR 2024–2026 GFWC ILLINOIS OFFICERS

### GFWC IL PRESIDENT ELECT KARYN CHARVAT



Karyn has been a member of GFWC Illinois since 2002. During her leadership journey, she has held various state positions, but it is her work in chartering multiple clubs across the state of which she is most proud. To see many still active in their communities, and the lifelong friendships that have been formed, has been incredibly rewarding.

Karyn believes that YOU, the amazing clubwomen of GFWC IL, are the lifeblood of the organization! Assisting our GFWC IL President in strengthening our state membership would be one of her main focus areas over the next two years.

Karyn has served as the GFWC IL Director of Junior Clubs in 2014–2016; Northern Region Vice President in 2018–2020; and has been the state Juniorette Chairman since 2018.

At the GFWC level, she played a pivotal role in teaching our national membership how to communicate virtually during the pandemic as the 2020–2022 GFWC CPR Chairman and is the current GFWC Protocol and Special Events Chairman. She is honored to be a candidate for the position of GFWC Illinois President Elect for the 2024–2026 administration and is looking forward to doing all she can to help to retain and grow our membership!

### GFWC IL NORTHERN REGION VP MEGAN MITCHELL



GFWC Illinois District 11-12 is proud to endorse Megan Mitchell for the position of GFWC Illinois Northern Region Vice President for the 2024–2026 administration

Megan is a charter member of the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club, established in 2010. She has served two terms as President, as Vice President, Club Advisor, and chairman of numerous committees.

On the District level, Megan served as District 11 President, President-Elect, Director of Junior Clubs, and has held several chairmanships.

At the State level, Megan is the Advocates for Children/CRF Chairman for 2022–2024. She is the President of Deb's Diamond Divas, and a member of the 2024 GFWC Convention Committee, as the Illinois State Night Chairman. Megan was the 2019 LEADS candidate and the 2022 Outstanding Junior Service Award recipient. She has attended Great Lakes Conferences and GFWC Conventions.

Megan has been active in her church as a Sunday School teacher, Youth Group advisor, Communion assistant, and reader. She was a team leader for the Run for Hope 5K benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities at Advocates for Children's Hospital.

Megan married Dave in 1991, and their daughter Jenna is also a member of Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club. Megan works for Mitchell's Hinsdale Flower Shop.

## GFWC IL SOUTHERN REGION VP MARY JANE KOESTER



District 23 is proud to nominate Mary Jane Koester, a member of our District, for office of Southern Region Vice President for the 2024-2026 term.

Mary Jane joined the GFWC Effingham Women of Today 27 years ago. She has held the office of President, Vice President, and Secretary, as well as chairmanships. Her contributions to that club includes working diligently on projects, contributing financially, securing numerous speakers for club meetings, and sharing news from State Board Meetings with the club members.

Mary Jane has served District 23 for many years. Here again she has held office of President, 1st Vice (Dean of Chairman), Secretary and various chairmanships. Very rarely has she not attended our district meetings. She is willing to report news from state board meetings and answer questions regarding GFWC.

On the personnel side, Mary Jane willingly jumps in to listen and assist the leaders of the 23rd District. Most recently the district traveled to Shawnee National Forest several times to accomplish the Rim Rock Trail monument project.

GFWC Illinois most certainly would miss out on excellent leadership, knowledge of the organization, and willingness to volunteer, if Mary Jane Koester is not elected to the office of Southern Region Vice President.

## GFWC IL SECRETARY JEANETTE T WELLS



Jeanette is currently serving as GFWC Illinois Meetings and Conventions Co-Chair and also the GFWC Fundraising and Development Chair. She served on the GFWC Junior Executive Committee as Bylaws Committee Member 2018-2020 and Fundraising and Development Committee Member 2020-2022.

Jeanette has served in various positions including GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs 2016-2018, Bylaws Chairman, 5th District President, Fundraising Vice Chair and various positions on the GFWC Illinois Junior Board of Directors.

Jeanette is a 29-year member and served on the 5th District Board of Directors as District President 2018-2020 and every administration since serving as the District Director 2004-2006. Jeanette is employed as a Senior Business Analyst for Insurity, which is an insurance software company. She has one adult son, lives with and is the primary caregiver for her mother.

Within her community she is currently on the Governing Board of her church, serving as Financial Secretary; manages the books for the church's Youth Group; serves on the Managing Board for the Hope Center, a community outreach center that she helped start up in 2022. She also serves on the DuPage Area Project Board of Directors.

## GFWC IL TREASURER LISA FLANIGAN



GFWC Illinois District 11-12 is proud to endorse Lisa Flanigan for the position of GFWC Illinois Treasurer for the 2024-2026 administration. Lisa has been a member of GFWC Illinois since 2009.

- Current Member of the 12th District Past Junior Officers Club - Secretary and Treasurer.
- Former member of GFWC Illinois Somonauk Junior Woman's Club - Treasurer, Vice President, and President.
- District 11-12 - Communications and Public Relations Chairperson.
- District 12 Board of Directors - Treasurer twice, President-Elect, and President.
- GFWC Illinois Junior Board of Directors 2022-2024 Administration - Health and Wellness Junior Chairperson.
- GFWC Illinois Board of Directors 2022-2024 - serves on the Budget, Finance and Strategic Planning Committee.

**Professionally:** Lisa graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Business Administration-Accounting. She is an accounting professional with over 30 years' experience. For the last 18 years, Lisa has worked for non-profit organizations.

**Community Volunteer:** Lisa and her husband are on the Plano Community Garden NFP Board where she serves as Treasurer.

**Personal:** Lisa is originally from Wisconsin and has made her home in Illinois since 1998. She is married to Gordon, a retired police officer, and they have one daughter, Samantha.

## GFWC IL JUNIOR TREASURER MELISSA ALSTOTT



Melissa Alstott is currently serving as the GFWC Illinois Junior Treasurer and would be happy to be considered for the same position for the 2024-2026 administration.

Melissa joined the Coal City Junior Woman's Club in 2012 and has served as Club President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

She was also a member of the District 12 Junior Organization and served as Co-Director of Junior Clubs 2014-2016. Melissa served simultaneously as District Junior Secretary and District 12 Secretary. Keeping accurate records and reports has always been her goal for any administration in which she served in.

Melissa has been employed by the Joliet Junior College for the past 28 years as Department Secretary for the Student Advising Center. She has three adult children and three grandchildren. She enjoys going to concerts, playing bingo and spending time with her family and friends.

## GFWC IL CENTRAL REGION VP

The Central Region at this time has no candidate and will take nominations from the convention floor for this position.

## GFWC IL DIRECTOR-ELECT OF JUNIOR CLUBS

There is a candidate for this position who will be nominated from the floor at convention. Any other nominations for this office will be taken from the convention floor.

## GFWC IL JUNIOR SECRETARY CATHY MARSOUN

Cathy Marsoun is a 36 year member of the Junior Woman's Club of Rock Island. She has been the club's President twice, and served on every committee in the club. She was District 14/15 Director of Junior Clubs in 2004-06 and 2022-24, and District President in 2010-12 and 2019-20. She served on the GFWC Illinois Public Issues committee in 2018-20. She was the GFWC Illinois Central Region Vice President in 2020-22.

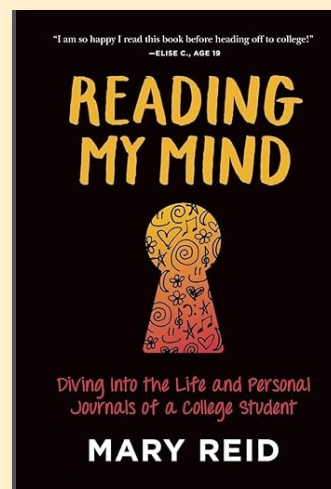
Cathy also volunteers with her local community theater, Quad City Music Guild. She manages their costume shop which serves the area schools and theaters by providing costumes for their productions. She also designs and helps to build costumes for the theater's 5 musical productions each year.

Cathy is married to retired teacher Bill. They have two grown children. Daughter Beth is the executive producer of a daily lifestyle program on local TV. She has a regional Emmy on her bookshelf! Son Rich is the Membership Director of a Jewish Community Center in Northbrook. His most important job title is Daddy to Cathy's two favorite people, Atticus and Oliver.



## "READING MY MIND"

Fellow clubwoman Mary Reid from the Lemont Junior Woman's Club has published her first book - Reading My Mind - after discovering her college journals packed away in moving boxes and thought it would be helpful to share her experiences with those who are setting off for college. Mary will share her highs and lows of this journey and how she has grown personally. This lively and insightful author will be a delight to listen to. And, you'll be able to purchase a personally signed book!



## GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION BANQUET



On Friday evening, we will hold our customary Federation Banquet with a twist, our DJ from the 2023 Convention will be joining us again! We will celebrate our GFWC Jennie Award and LEADS Nominees, present our monetary contributions, and of course, give out a few awards! Dancing optional!

To end the evening, GFWC Illinois will honor our very own Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President with a special reception! You don't want to miss this banquet.



## LOLLIPOP KIDS DINNER

On Thursday evening, kick back and hang with your Federation friends at our Lollipop Kids Dinner – we've got a few fun surprises planned, as well as a great "off the grill" casual dinner. Attire is casual. Reconnect with your besties and share some of your special talents!





We're 106 miles to Chicago. We've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses.... Hit it. Whether you are 347 miles away like the Anna Jonesboro Woman's Club or 29 miles like the Lemont Junior Woman's Club, it is time to make your plans to attend the GFWC Convention at the Chicago Hilton, 720 South Michigan Avenue so you can hit the road and join us June 28 to July 1, 2024.

## **START PLANNING NOW**

GFWC has made a block of rooms available for the event at a rate of \$229 plus 17.4% tax. It's important to note that if there are more than two people in the room, there will be an additional charge of \$25 per person. If you haven't already made your reservations, it is highly recommended that you do so immediately in order to secure a room for the event.

To assist in your attendance plans, the following events are scheduled:

- June 27: Tours
- June 28: Tours, GFWC Illinois State Night
- June 29: LEADS breakfast, Unity Luncheon, Region Banquets, Junior Fun Night, Opening Ceremony and business sessions
- June 30: ESO Breakfast, Affiliates Luncheon, Gala, elections, workshops, and business session
- July 1: Past State President Breakfast, Community Impact Luncheon, Installation Banquet, Installation Ceremony, and business session.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising efforts are currently underway for hosting the 2024 GFWC Convention, and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our GFWC Illinois members and clubs who have contributed towards covering the costs of the convention. While many have already shown their support, there are still a few items available for purchase at the convention fundraising table.

These items include the \$50 and \$100 Chic Baubles, aprons priced at \$30, and raffle tickets available for \$10. By purchasing raffle tickets, you have a chance to win a \$350 prize, which will be drawn at the state convention. It is important to note that winners do not need to be present at the drawing to claim their prize.

Furthermore, during the state convention, there will be four additional raffles featuring the items as pictured. To participate in these raffles, you can purchase tickets at the price of 6 for \$20. Just like the previous raffle, winners need not be present to win. If you would like to secure your raffle tickets in advance, you have the option to do so through the convention registration form or the form included in this magazine. Additionally, tickets will also be available for sale at the 2024 GFWC Convention table in Bloomington.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Besides our fundraising needs, manpower is needed to meet our obligations as host state. It will take an army of volunteers to keep the convention moving smoothly.

Working behind the scenes you do not need to be registered, but to attend meal events other than State Night, enter business sessions, or serve as a doorkeeper during a business session registration is required. It would be great to see Illinois having the largest number of registered delegates.

It is important to note that volunteering for the convention is not only a great way to contribute to the success of the event, but it is also an opportunity to meet new people, gain valuable experience, learn more about GFWC, and be a part of something truly special. We encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved to reach out to Sue Haa, our volunteer coordinator, by submitting the form included in this magazine.

# FOUR GFWC 2024 CONVENTION RAFFLES



Vera Bradley bag  
plus a trio of  
cosmetic bags



CHICAGO | 2024  
GFWC CONVENTION



Sparkly Necklace  
with a jewelry  
travel case



Brighton Chicago  
charm bracelet and  
two charming books



\$50 Bill with a bottle of  
Illinois wine and a box  
of Fannie May mints

# Order Form

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

RUTH SLOOT

4 Latham Place

Lincoln IL 62656

217-737-0156

slootruthgfwc@gmail.com

Description	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
<b>SOLD OUT</b> Small Chic Bauble	\$ 50	_____	_____
<b>SOLD OUT</b> Large Chic Bauble	\$100	_____	_____
<b>Can You Spare Me A Couple of Fins</b>			
\$350 cash prize with opportunity drawing April 2024	\$ 10	_____	_____
<hr/>			
<b>Apron</b>	\$ 30	_____	_____

**Convention Raffle \$5 each or 6 for \$20**

Vera Bradley bag

\_\_\_\_\_

Sparkly Necklace

\_\_\_\_\_

Chicago Brighton Charm Bracelet

\_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Make checks payable to

GFWC Illinois 2024 GFWC Convention Fund

**Total**

\_\_\_\_\_

-----Check Number



CHICAGO | 2024  
GFWC CONVENTION

THANK YOU



# GFWC ILLINOIS RAFFLES

## A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE GFWC ILLINOIS ORGANIZATION



**Prize #1**

### 6pcs Plaid purse set:

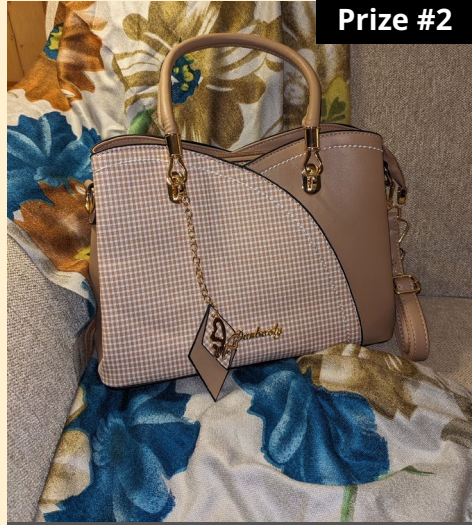
- Large tote bag 13.4x11x5.1 inch (W\*H\*D) One main zipper compartment with one inner zipper pocket, one back pocket and two slot pockets.
- Crossbody bag :9.4x9 inch (W\*H) one main zipper pocket with inner zipper pocket.
- Hobo bag 9.8x5.5x2.4 inch(W\*H\*D) Has one main zipper pocket with inner zipper pocket
- Crossbody cell phone purse :7.5x4.7 inch(W\*H) Has two phone pocket.
- Clutch 7.1x5.3 inch(W\*H)
- Card holder 4.5x3 inch(W\*H). Two interchangeable shoulder straps.



**Prize #4**

### Purple Purse with a Purple Hinged Bangle Watch

- Purse Made of Durable Synthetic Leather with Gold Tone Hardware. Removable Crossbody Shoulder Strap with Adjustable Drop of 13-25" Interior Two Zippered Pocket and Two Slip Pockets, Exterior Back Pockets. Handbags Dimensions: 12"L x 5.2"D x 9"H, Top Handle Height 5.2"D.
- Fashion Watch Bangle style in silver with purple face and heart trim.



**Prize #2**

### Khaki Purse with Multi Color Spring Shawl

- Purse 11.81L \* 8.27H \* 5.12W inches Height of Handle: 5.91 inch Made of Quality Durable Synthetic Leather with pebbled textured and gold-tone hardware, Back Zipper Pocket, 1 Interior Zipper Pocket, 2 Interior Open Pockets.
- Spring Shawl Multi colored 72 x 30



**Prize #5**

### 4 Piece Floral / Ivory Purse Set

- MATERIALS:** Synthetic Leather. Polyester lining
- Large bag: 33\*26.5\*12.69cm(W\*H\*D), main zipper compartment has one inner zipper pocket, one back pocket and two slot pockets.
  - Crossbody bag: 26\*9.49\*19cm(W\*H\*D),
  - Wallet: 20\*10\*3cm(W\*H\*D)
  - Card holder: 10.5\*7.5\*1cm(W\*H\*D).

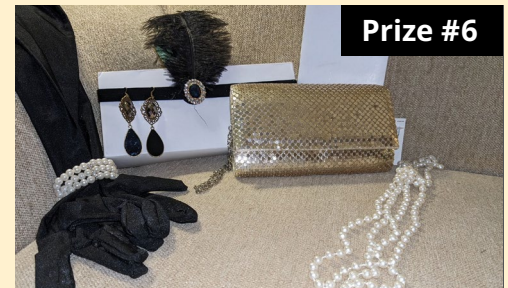


**Prize #3**

### 3 Piece Red Set

**MATERIALS:** Vegan Leather

- Large Bag 14.5"W x 11"H x 4"D, handle drop: 4.7"; Detachable shoulder strap 40" 1 internal zipper pocket, 2 internal slip pockets, 1 center zipper pocket.
- Large Wristlet: 1 zipper pouch
- Coach brand OZ Wallet zippered closure, coin pouch and 2 card slots



**Prize #6**

### Gold Sequin Clutch with Flapper Accessories

- Gold Clutch 7.5 x 5 x 1.5 with gold chain shoulder strap
- Black feather headband with jewel
- Gold and dark blue drop earrings
- Long black gloves
- Long string of fake pearls
- Triple strand fake pearl bracelet



**Prize #7**

### Tan Embroidered Clutch with Flapper Accessories

- Tan embroidered clutch 8.5 x 4.5 x 1.5 with braided pearl shoulder strap
- Gold sequin headband with Black feathers and rhinestone drape trim
- Long gold dangle earrings
- Long black gloves
- Long fake pearl necklace
- Triple strand fake pearl bracelet
- Cigarette holder

Tickets are 6 for \$20. Winners will be drawn at the GFWC Illinois Convention on April 20, 2024. Purchase your tickets through the registration form and you will receive your tickets at convention when you register. Tickets will be available at Convention. If you are unable to attend convention, and would like to purchase tickets, complete and mail this form by March 31, 2024. Your name will be entered for the selected raffle prize for each chance you purchase. Winners need not be present to win. **We thank you in advance for your support!**

## GFWC ILLINOIS **RAFFLE TICKET** ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHANCES TAKEN FOR EACH RAFFLE PRIZE:

PRIZE #1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRIZE #2 \_\_\_\_\_ PRIZE #3 \_\_\_\_\_

PRIZE #4 \_\_\_\_\_ PRIZE #5 \_\_\_\_\_ PRIZE #6 \_\_\_\_\_

PRIZE #7 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS PURCHASED \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois** | Mail order to **Margie Nilson**, 35360 N. Shoreline Drive, Ingleside, IL 60041

## NEW FILLABLE ONLINE FORMS FOR 25/50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION & MEMBER MEMORIALS!

# 25&50

### SUBMIT RECOGNITIONS BY April 1, 2024

For 2024, we have designed a new, easier & faster way to report 25/50 year membership recognition and member memorials. The new fillable forms are located on the GFWC Illinois Website under the Members Center tab - all the way at the bottom. Once the information is entered you simply click "submit" and your information is sent directly to Renee Super, the GFWC Illinois Headquarters Secretary. There is no need to download, print, email or mail the information.

Here is the link for the GFWC Illinois Fillable Forms (remember the password is gfwc-member)

**<https://gfwcillinois.org/members-center/>**

#### HONOR - MEMORIAL FORM

Submit the names of your club members who passed away between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024 on the "HONOR" form. They will be honored at a memorial service during the GFWC Illinois Annual Convention on Friday, April 19, 2024. Complete the form and click submit.

#### ANNIVERSARIES FORM – 25-YEAR AND 50-YEAR RECOGNITION

Please submit the names of your members who celebrated their 25th or 50th anniversary as a member of GFWC during 2023. Complete the form and click submit.

25-year anniversary members will be recognized in the Convention booklet and on the screen during the presentation at the Unity Luncheon on Saturday, April 20, 2024. GFWC Illinois will provide the recipient with a certificate, the club is responsible for the purchase of the GFWC 25-year pin.

50-year anniversary members will be recognized in the convention booklet and on the screen during the presentation at Unity Luncheon on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Upon receipt of the completed form, GFWC IL submits the paperwork for GFWC to request the 50-year pin and letter which is provided at no cost. 50-year Member will be presented with pin and letter at Convention if received prior to Convention. In the event it is not, these will be mailed to the recipient.



# SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING EVENTS

## FIRST 2024-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

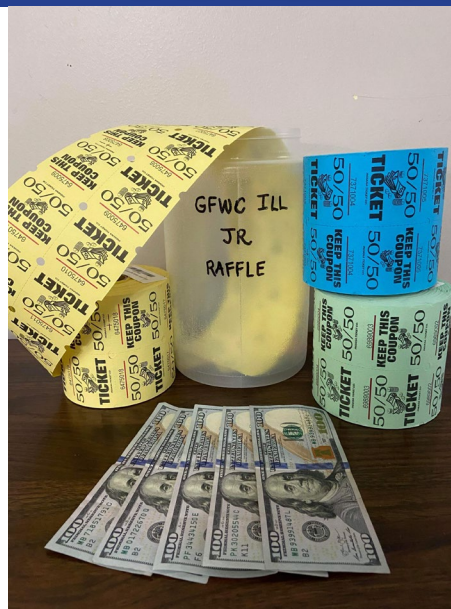
September 20-22 | Princeton, Illinois

## POST CONVENTION BOARD MEETING

May 9 | Virtual at 7pm

# JUNIOR SPLIT-THE-POT RAFFLE

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIOR ORGANIZATION



The GFWC Illinois Junior Split-the-Pot  
is back live\* at the GFWC Illinois  
Convention!

### Raffle Ticket Prices

**\$1 each | 6 for \$5 | 15 for \$10 | 30 for \$20**

**\* You may also order tickets from home  
ahead of time.**

Winners will be drawn at the GFWC Illinois Convention on April 20, 2024.  
**Please specify the total number of tickets you would like to purchase.**  
Mail-in ticket orders must be received by April 1, 2024. Tickets may also be  
purchased at the Convention. You need not be present to win.  
**The GFWC Illinois Juniors thank you in advance for your support!**

## GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIOR SPLIT-THE-POT RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS PURCHASED \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **GFWC Illinois Junior Organization** | Mail order to Candyce Jordan, 2903 Sheffield Drive, New Lenox, IL 60451  
**QUESTIONS? Contact Candyce Jordan | (815) 370-6150 | [cie83@yahoo.com](mailto:cie83@yahoo.com)**



# CONVENTION 2024 | PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS

As recommended by the Bylaws Committee | To be presented at the 2024 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention

## PAGE 29

### ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 2. ANNUAL DUES, B.

#### Currently Reads:

B. Each member of a club shall pay annual GFWC Illinois dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). The GFWC Illinois dues structure shall be reviewed every four years beginning with the year 2024.

#### Proposed:

B. In the first sentence, STRIKE "ten dollars (\$10.00)" and INSERT "twenty dollars (\$20.00)". In the second sentence, STRIKE "shall be reviewed every 4 years" and INSERT "shall be reviewed every administration". REMOVE the words "beginning with the year 2024".

#### To Read:

B. Each member of a club shall pay annual GFWC Illinois dues of twenty dollars (\$20.00). The GFWC Illinois dues structure shall be reviewed every administration.

**Rationale:** To promote fiscal stability. The current level of dues does not support the operating expenses of the organization.

### ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 3. FUNDS, A #2

#### Currently Reads:

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 this Foundation shall remain in perpetuity. Income from these invested funds shall be transferred to the GFWC Illinois Working Cash fund.

#### Proposed:

2. Isabella Candee Foundation – In the second sentence, STRIKE: "shall remain in perpetuity. Income".. INSERT: "and income". CHANGE: "shall be transferred" to "may be transferred as needed". ADD to the end of the sentence: "by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the Board of Directors."

#### To Read:

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 this Foundation and income from these invested funds may be transferred as needed to the GFWC Illinois Working Cash fund by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of 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.

### ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 3. FUNDS, A #3

#### Currently Reads:

3. Special Funds- Consist of the Scholarship Fund, GFWC and GFWC Illinois Monetary Projects. Expenditures from Special Funds shall be limited to the purpose of the Funds. Funds may be diverted to other projects by a two -thirds vote of the Board of Directors, previous notice having been given.

#### Proposed:

3. Special Funds – In the second and third sentences STRIKE: "Expenditures from Special Funds shall be limited to the purpose of the funds. Funds may be diverted" INSERT: "These funds are established for a specific purpose, but may be redirected to..."

#### To Read:

3. Special Funds – Consist of the Scholarship Fund, GFWC and GFWC Illinois Monetary Projects. These funds are established for a specific purpose, but may be redirected to other projects by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, previous notice having been given.

**Rationale:** Current Practice

### ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 3. FUNDS, A #4

#### Currently Reads:

4. Award and Prize Money – Money from awards or prizes won or earned by anyone in the name of GFWC Illinois shall be placed in a special contingency fund to be used by the vote of the Executive Committee.

#### Proposed:

4. Award and Prize Money – STRIKE: "a special contingency fund". INSERT: " the operating fund". ADD to the end of the sentence: "unless otherwise specified by the award."

#### To Read:

4. Award and Prize Money – Money from awards or prizes won or earned by anyone in the name of GFWC Illinois shall be placed in the operating fund to be used by vote of the Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified by the award.

**Rationale:** Current practice.

## PAGE 30

### ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 5. AUDITING AND BONDING, A

#### Currently Reads:

A. At the close of the fiscal year, a Review of the books shall be made of the first year of an administration and a full Audit shall be made at the close of an administration.

# CONVENTION 2024 | PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS

As recommended by the Bylaws Committee | To be presented at the 2024 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention

## PAGE 30 CONT.

Both will include the records of the Treasurer, Headquarters Executive Secretary, Meetings and Convention Treasurer, Fundraising Chairman, and Treasurer of the Junior Organization.

### Proposed:

STRIKE: "Meetings and Convention Treasurer".

### To Read:

A. At the close of the fiscal year, a Review of the books shall be made of the first year of an administration and a full Audit shall be made at the close of an administration. Both will include the records of the Treasurer, Headquarters Executive Secretary, Fundraising Chairman and Treasurer of the Junior Organization.

**Rationale:** Registration for Meetings and Conventions is done online and/or sent to GFWC Illinois Headquarters where it is handled by the GFWC Illinois Treasurer and the Headquarters Executive Secretary.

## ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 5. AUDITING AND BONDING, B

### Currently Reads:

B. An audit will be made when the Treasurer, Headquarters Executive Secretary, Meetings and Convention Treasurer, Fundraising Chairman, or Treasurer of the Junior Organization resigns before completing her term of office, the cost of the audit to be borne by GFWC Illinois.

### Proposed:

STRIKE: "Meetings and Convention Treasurer".

### To Read:

B. An audit shall be made when the Treasurer, the Headquarters Executive Secretary, the Fundraising Chairman or Treasurer of the Junior Organization resigns before completing her term of office, the cost of the audit to be borne by GFWC Illinois.

**Rationale:** Same as letter A. above - Registration for Meetings and Conventions is done online and/or sent to GFWC Illinois Headquarters where it is handled by the GFWC Illinois Treasurer and the Headquarters Executive Secretary.

## ARTICLE IV, DUES AND FINANCE, Section 5. AUDITING AND BONDING, C

### Currently Reads:

C. The Treasurer, the Headquarters Executive Secretary, Meetings and Convention Treasurer, Fundraising Chairman, Treasurer of the Junior Organization, and all others who handle GFWC Illinois funds shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine, the cost of the bond to be borne by GFWC Illinois.

### Proposed:

STRIKE: "Meetings and Convention Treasurer".

### To Read:

C. The Treasurer, the Headquarters Executive Secretary, Fundraising Chairman, Treasurer of the Junior Organization, and all others who handle GFWC Illinois funds shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine; the cost of the bond to be borne by GFWC Illinois.

**Rationale:** Same as after letter A. above - Registration for Meetings and Conventions is done online and/or sent to GFWC Illinois Headquarters where it is handled

## ARTICLE V, OFFICERS, Section 2. CANDIDACY, A. Eligibility #3.

### Currently Reads:

3. There shall be no more than two candidates at a time from the same District for state office. Candidates from a District may not be nominated for the same office. Candidates for President Elect and Director Elect of Junior Clubs shall not reside in the same District.

### Proposed:

**Insert NEW #4 after #3 and renumber the remaining To Read:**

4. In the event that no candidate has been endorsed for an office by December 1 of the odd-numbered year, item #3 above may be suspended for the election to allow qualified candidates from any District to run from the floor for that office at the GFWC Illinois Annual Convention in the even-numbered year. Endorsement by the candidates' District is required.

Current #4 becomes #5

Current #5 becomes #6

**Rationale:** If a state office is without a candidate, those willing, able and qualified, regardless of their geography, should be allowed to seek office.

**PROVISO:** If this amendment is adopted, it becomes effective immediately.

## PAGE 33

## ARTICLE V, OFFICERS, Section 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, A. President 6.a

### Currently reads:

6. Appoints the following to serve during her term of office: a. Parliamentarian

**Proposed:** Add: "or Parliamentary Advisor. Appointee shall be experienced in presiding at meetings"

### To Read:

a. Parliamentarian or Parliamentary Advisor. Appointee shall be experienced in presiding at meetings.

**Rationale:** Clarification

# CONVENTION 2024 | PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS

As recommended by the Bylaws Committee | To be presented at the 2024 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention

## PAGE 36

### ARTICLE V, OFFICERS, Section 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, B. Duties #12

#### Currently Reads:

12. Review the revisions to the Standing Rules for the Junior Organization

**Proposed:** STRIKE #12 in its entirety.

#13 becomes the new #12

#14 becomes the new #13

**Rationale:** Not in current practice. (Conflicts with Page. 52 #12D). Junior Organization is tasked with checking for compliance with GFWC Illinois Bylaws.

## PAGE 37

### ARTICLE VI, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 8. QUORUM

#### Currently Reads:

The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be a majority of the voting members.

#### Proposed:

ADD in front of the current sentence: "The official record of attendance and quorum at meetings of the Board shall be based on the registration of Board members for the meeting."

**To Read:** The official record of attendance and quorum at meetings of the Board shall be based on the registration of Board members for the meeting. The quorum for the Board of Directors shall be a majority of the voting members.

**Rationale:** To streamline procedures and align with GFWC Bylaws.

## PAGE 39

### ARTICLE VII, CONVENTIONS, Section 6. GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

#### Currently reads:

- A. The GFWC Illinois officers corresponding to the GFWC officers shall be delegates to the GFWC Annual Convention.
- B. Should a club not have its full delegation, the chairman of the delegation may fill the quota for that club from those present at the GFWC Annual Convention.

#### Proposed:

STRIKE: B. in its entirety and remove the letter "A".

#### To Read:

#### Section 6. GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

The GFWC Illinois officers corresponding to the GFWC officers shall be delegates to the GFWC Annual Convention.

**Rationale:** Not a current practice and without a "B", no need of an "A".

### ARTICLE VIII, GFWC ILLINOIS HEADQUARTERS, Section 1. HEADQUARTERS

#### Currently Reads:

GFWC Illinois shall maintain a Headquarters. The GFWC Illinois Seal shall remain at Headquarters and be used only under the direction of the President.

#### Proposed:

STRIKE the second sentence and INSERT: "The GFWC Illinois Seal shall be archived at Headquarters."

#### To Read:

#### Section 1. HEADQUARTERS

GFWC Illinois shall maintain a Headquarters. The GFWC Illinois Seal shall be archived at Headquarters.

**Rationale:** The seal is no longer usable.

## PAGE 39-40

### PAGE 39-40 - ARTICLE VIII, GFWC ILLINOIS HEADQUARTERS, Section 2. HEADQUARTERS STAFF

#### Currently Reads:

- A. A GFWC Illinois Headquarters Executive Secretary shall be employed by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Headquarters Executive Secretary shall file with the Recorder of Deeds of Will County and the Secretary of State in Springfield, within thirty days of the election of officers, certificates of their election.

#### Proposed:

STRIKE Section 2. B. in its entirety

#### To Read:

#### SECTION 2. HEADQUARTERS STAFF

A GFWC Illinois Headquarters Executive Secretary shall be employed by the Board of Directors.

**Rationale:** No longer in practice, and STRIKE Letter "A", if there is no "B".



# CONVENTION 2024 | GFWC ILLINOIS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AMENDMENTS



**The 2022-2024 Resolutions Committee:** Gerri Eck, Legislation Chairman; Lucia Rossi-Nichols, Junior Chairman; Patti Kuchar, Director of Junior Clubs; Regina Orawiec, District President; Connie Head, Board Member; Trisha Schafer, President Elect; Diane Addante, Parliamentarian; LeeAnn Conlon, President, Ex-Officio.

The GFWC Illinois Resolutions Committee recommends that GFWC Illinois adopt the GFWC Resolutions as their own and maintain only the following in Illinois Resolution Policy due to the specificity to Illinois:

**Civic Engagement + Outreach – Child Safety Seats**  
**Education + Libraries – Funding for Education**  
**Environment – Shawnee National Forest**

These three resolutions were reviewed in 2023 with no changes suggested.

If this recommendation is adopted, all but these three resolutions will be rescinded from Illinois Resolution Policy.

**Rationale:** GFWC spent two years reviewing, reorganizing and consolidating the GFWC Resolutions. All Illinois Resolutions must be aligned to the GFWC Resolutions and the time required to overhaul ours for that alignment is prohibitive. When there are amendments to resolutions or new resolutions, we will no longer need to make those changes in Illinois. By taking this action, the GFWC Illinois Legislation Committee can spend time educating clubs about the Resolutions, why they matter and promoting the importance of the GFWC Legislative Action Center.

## CONVENTION 2024 | SUGGESTED DRESS

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

**Board of Directors Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Lollipop Kids Dinner** | GFWC Emblematic Wear

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19

**Business Sessions** | Business Casual

**Opening Luncheon** | Business Casual

**Federation Banquet** | Cocktail Dress

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

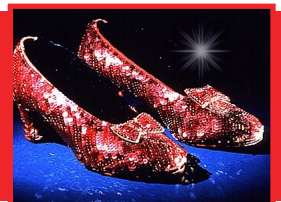
**Business Session** | Business Casual |

GFWC Emblematic Wear

**Unity/Installation Luncheon** | Business Attire



## RECOGNITION OF COVETED SHOE AND REDUCING FOOD INSECURITY AWARDS



On Saturday morning, April 20th, clubs that submitted Coveted Shoe and Reducing Food Insecurity Awards will be recognized. Thank you for all that your clubs have done to support this special emphasis, and engaging with GFWC Illinois by embracing our numerous initiatives over the last two years! Can't wait to present your clubs with your awards!

## SERVICE PROJECT | AND TOTO TOO



As we finish our fight to reduce food insecurity for this administration, it is only fitting that we do not forget our furry friends who can be impacted by situations beyond their control that may affect their health and well-being! With your generosity, GFWC Illinois will support two organizations – Ruby Whiskers in the Lemont community, and The Humane Society of Central Illinois in the Bloomington-Normal community.

Ruby Whiskers Animal Rescue based in Lemont, Illinois is dedicated to rescuing, vetting, and rehoming animals from shelters and other abandoned situations. Volunteer-run, supported by foster families and sponsors, their goal is to provide the necessary veterinary care, grooming, and love while finding them forever homes.

The Humane Society of Central Illinois is a not-for-profit animal welfare organization that has served the Bloomington-Normal and surrounding areas since 1984. They care for, house, and provide adoption services for over 1,000 animals each year who are looking for their forever homes.

GFWC Illinois will be supporting these two organizations by collecting donations from their wish lists and on Saturday morning of Convention, will be making “no sew blankets.”

How can you help?

1. Access the wish list of your choice and donate directly to the organization or bring your donation with you to the Convention.
2. Join your fellow federation friends on Saturday morning for a “hands-on” service project to make pet blankets that will be donated to both organizations. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm and hands – no cutting involved!

A big “shout out” to the Northwestern Suburban Woman’s Club for coordinating our hands-on service project!

### Wish List - Ruby Whiskers

<https://www.rubywhiskers.org/homeless-pet-supply-donations>

### Wish List - Humane Society of Central Illinois ([hscipets.org](https://hscipets.org))

**Amazon wish list:** <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/12DWNQUB19DWS/>

**Chewy wish list:** [https://www.chewy.com/g/humane-society-of-central-il\\_b72766740](https://www.chewy.com/g/humane-society-of-central-il_b72766740)



# 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.**



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



# 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 (found on the GFWC Illinois website in the Members Center Tab) with details, including the title of the work, category, list of recycled materials and other items used (glue, etc.), size, artist's name, club, district, address and phone number. Please designate which items are being recycled.
- 7. Winner Selection** | Winners will be selected by judges. The categories are:  
Home Decor | Jewelry | Sculpture | Garden | Miscellaneous
- 8. Winners** will be asked to bring their item to the GFWC Illinois Convention. There will be a certificate for the winner in each category.
- 9. Questions?** Contact Mary Lee Howard, Environment Chairman at (815) 302-3704, mhoward4030@sbcglobal.net or Marie Mueller, Junior Chairman at (630) 877-6595 or geonerd22@comcast.net. ■



# 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 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. Pre-registration forms were due by February 1, 2024.

**Pre-registration Forms for the following are due March 1, 2024**

## 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."

## 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](mailto:karelvolpert@gmail.com) or (217) 497-7616. Items to be displayed at the GFWC Illinois Convention are to be dropped off on Friday, April 19, 2024 between 7:00 am - 8:45 am, and picked up on Saturday, April 20, 2024 by 10:00 am.

## A FEW CONTEST WINNERS FROM 2021



# CONVENTION RULES

- The Convention shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting.
- A credential badge is required to be worn by all persons at all business sessions, workshops and Federation sponsored activities.
- Voting Members shall be seated on the Convention Floor.
- Voting Members should be seated at all Business Sessions throughout the duration of the Convention.
- Those who are appearing on the program shall report to the Convention Chairman one-half hour before their time to appear on the program, unless otherwise noted.
- All motions made from the floor shall be presented to the presiding officer in writing.
- A Voting Member shall speak only once to a question. Debate shall be limited to two minutes per person. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment/motion.
- A motion shall be carried by an affirmative vote of the Voting Members present and voting.
- Printed copies of resolutions recommended by the Resolutions Committee, not included in the CALL to Convention, must be in the hands of the Delegates at least six (6) hours before they are voted upon by the Convention Body
- No materials shall be placed on the chairs at any time except those approved by the Executive Committee.
- No food, other than that provided by the Convention, will be permitted on the Convention floor
- Cellular phones are not to be used on the Convention floor, in workshops, during programs or meal functions. Audible ringers/sounds on cellular phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off while on the Convention floor.
- Doors shall be closed at the direction of the presiding officer during business meetings. When doors are periodically opened, be seated promptly.
- No recording devices may be used on the Convention floor, in workshops or during programs without the approval of the Executive Committee.
- A credential badge and meal ticket are required for attendance into all food functions. Meal Tickets will be collected at the tables or at the door.
- Written messages may be left with the Convention Chairman or Vice Chairman.
- All official Assistants as well as the Convention Chairman and Vice Chairman will be permitted to exit all sessions as needed.



# CONVENTION 2024 | CREDENTIALS FORM

FRIDAY APRIL 19			SATURDAY APRIL 20	
DISTRICT	VOTING	NON-VOTING	VOTING	NON-VOTING
3				
4				
5/6				
7				
10				
11-12				
13				
14/15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
22				
23				
25				
TOTAL				

	FRIDAY, APRIL 21	SATURDAY, APRIL 22
Past State Presidents		
Executive Committee		
District Presidents		
Community Service Program Chairmen		
Convention Officers		
GFWC Officers		
Guests		
Standing Committee Chairmen		
Special Committee Chairmen		
Past State Directors of Junior Clubs		
Junior Executive Committee		
Junior Chairmen		
District Directors of Junior Clubs		
TOTAL REGISTRATION		



GFWC ILLINOIS  
5 EAST VAN BUREN ST.  
SUITE 212  
JOLIET, IL 60432-4224  
WWW.GFWCILLINOIS.ORG

Please join us in Bloomington for the  
**128th Annual GFWC Illinois Convention**  
**April 18-20!**

**GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD!**

**DONATE TO GFWC ILLINOIS**

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

**GFWC ILLINOIS FELLOWSHIP 125 CONTRIBUTION FORM**

AMOUNT OF DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT ONE:    PERSONAL       CLUB       DISTRICT

DONOR \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT TO** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to GFWC Illinois with Fellowship 125 on the note/memo line.  
Mail to GFWC Illinois, 5 E. Van Buren St., Suite. 212, Joliet, IL 60432**

FELLOWSHIP 125 FELLOWSHIP 125 FELLOWSHIP 125 FELLOWSHIP 125 FELLOWSHIP 125