



GFWC ILLINOIS

Volume 105 | Spring 2026

# CLUBWOMAN

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



130th ANNUAL

## GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION

April 17-18, 2026



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Bloomington, Illinois



SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE



# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY TRISHA SCHAFFER, GFWC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT 2024-2026



Dear Federation Friends,

It is both a privilege and a joy to serve as your GFWC Illinois President as we continue our work in the 2024-2026 administration. This year, we move forward under a Convention Theme that truly reflects the heart of our Federation — **“One Vision, One Voice, One Journey.”** These words remind us that while our clubs are unique, our purpose is shared. When we align our vision, speak with unity, and travel this path of service together, our impact is limitless.

I warmly invite each of you to join us at this year’s Convention, where our theme will come to life through fellowship, learning, and celebration. This convention holds special significance as it is the **final convention of the 2024-2026 administration** and an **election year**, with official voting taking place during our time together. Convention is more than a meeting...it is a time to reconnect with friends, welcome new members, reflect on the accomplishments of this administration, and help shape the leadership and direction of the next. From inspiring workshops and leadership development sessions to recognizing the outstanding achievements of our clubs, there will be meaningful opportunities for every member to grow and be energized.

A special highlight of our gathering will be the honor of welcoming **GFWC International President Suellen Brazil** as our GFWC traveling officer and keynote speaker. Her leadership, global perspective, and dedication to volunteerism embody the very spirit of “One Vision, One Voice, One Journey.” We are truly fortunate to have her join us, and her message is certain to inspire and uplift us as we look toward the future of our organization.

Let us come together with pride in what we have achieved and enthusiasm for what lies ahead. Together, we strengthen our communities, amplify our voices, and continue a journey of service that extends far beyond ourselves. I look forward to seeing each of you as we gather in unity, friendship, and purpose for this meaningful and memorable **GFWC Illinois 130th Convention**. ■

In Federation Friendship & Love,

Trisha Schafer  
GFWC Illinois President 2024-2026

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

BY MARIA URIBE, GFWC ILLINOIS DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS 2024-2026



Federation Friends,

As we come to the close of this administration, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the incredible women who have made the past two years so meaningful. Serving alongside such dedicated, passionate, and supportive leaders has truly been an honor.

Together, we have strengthened our clubs, expanded our service, and touched our communities in countless ways. Your commitment, creativity, and teamwork turned challenges into opportunities and ideas into lasting impact. Every project, every meeting, and every act of service reflected the heart of who we are as an organization.

Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your friendship throughout this journey. I am proud of all that we

have accomplished and even more proud of the 2026-2028 incoming leadership that will continue this work into the future.



It has been a privilege to serve as your Director of Junior Clubs this administration, and I look forward to supporting the next administration as they carry forward our mission with the same spirit of excellence and dedication. Our legacy of service will continue to shine because of each and every one of you. ■

In Federation Friendship and Love,

Maria F. Uribe  
GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs 2024-2026

**THE DEADLINE FOR STORIES & PHOTOS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF “THE GFWC ILLINOIS CLUBWOMAN” IS APRIL 10, 2026.**

## GFWC ILLINOIS 2024-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Trisha Schafer  
**Director of Junior Clubs:** Maria Uribe  
**President Elect:** Karyn Charvat  
**VP Northern Region:** Megan Mitchell  
**VP Central Region:** Gina Fritz

**VP Southern Region:** Mary Jane Koester  
**Secretary:** Jeanette T. Wells  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Flanigan  
**Parliamentarian:** Diane Addante

## CLUBWOMAN CREW

**Editor in Chief:** Trisha Schafer  
**Managing Editor/Graphic Designer:** Jodi Hanson

Please send stories, photos and comments to:  
[jshdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:jshdesign@hotmail.com)

# GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 130th ANNUAL CONVENTION

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, BLOOMINGTON, IL | APRIL 17-18, 2026

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### REGISTRATION/CREDENTIALS | Pre-function Area

Friday, April 17 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon  
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 18 7:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.



### GFWC IL ARTS & CRAFTS | Brickyard 4

Friday, April 17 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
(8:00-9:00, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Registration)  
Saturday, April 18 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
(Item Pickup)

### GFWC IL FUNDRAISING | Brickyard 4

Friday, April 17 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. (Setup)  
Saturday, April 18 8:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.



## PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES | Thursday, April 16

3:00–5:00 p.m.	Convention Committee & Hotel Meeting	Brookridge
5:00–6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting	Brookridge
7:00–9:00 p.m.	Dinner for Executive Committee, Convention Committee and GFWC President Suellen Brazil	Fox Creek

## TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Friday, April 17

9:00–10:00 a.m.	Past State Board of Directors Meeting	Brickyard 6
10:00–11:00 a.m.	Deb's Diamond Divas Meeting	Brickyard 6
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	GFWC Illinois LEADS (lunch with Board)	Pre-function Area
11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.	Pre-Convention Board Meeting (lunch with LEADS)	Pre-function Area
2:00–2:45 p.m.	Board of Directors Photos	Pre-function Area
3:00–5:00 p.m.	<b>Opening Ceremony/General Business Session I</b> Welcome/Greetings; First-Time Attendees; Candidate Speeches; Memorial Service	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
6:00–6:30 p.m.	<b>Candidates' Reception</b> — Cocktails/Social Time	Pre-function Area
6:30 p.m.	<b>Processional Lineup</b>	Pre-function Area
6:45 p.m.	<b>Processional</b>	Pre-function Area
7:00–9:00 p.m.	<b>Federation Banquet &amp; Awards – "Together We Grow: Our Unified Journey in Service"</b> Keynote by GFWC President Suellen Brazil; Awards/Recognition: Sustainer Society; PCA Illinois and Children's Research Foundation Check Presentations; Advocates for Children; Jennie Award; Isabella Candee; 25- and 50-Year Members	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
9:00–10:00 p.m.	<b>Junior Board of Directors Meeting</b> Immediately following the close of Federation Banquet & Awards	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4

## TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE | Saturday, April 18

7:00–9:00 a.m.	<b>Voting</b>	Ironwood
8:00–8:45 a.m.	<b>Junior Business Session/Junior Club Awards</b> Open to all attendees, not just Junior members	Brickyard 6
9:00–11:45 a.m.	<b>General Session II</b> Alzheimer's Workshop; Bylaws; Communications & Public Relations	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
12:00–2:00 p.m.	<b>Luncheon &amp; Awards – "The Power of We: Service, Strength and Sisterhood"</b> LEADS; Juniorette Awards; Fundraising; Education & Libraries; ESO; Community Improvement; Leadership; Lifetime Achievement; Membership	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
2:30–5:00 p.m.	<b>General Session III &amp; Awards</b> Keynote TBA; Health & Wellness; Civic Engagement; Legislation & Public Policy; Environment; WHRC; Arts & Culture; Bylaws	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4

Continued on page 4

# GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 130th ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA – CONTINUED

6:00–6:30 p.m.	<b>Cocktail Reception</b>	Pre-function Area
6:30 p.m.	<b>Processional Lineup</b>	Pre-function Area
6:45 p.m.	<b>Processional</b>	Pre-function Area
7:00–9:00 p.m.	<b>Unity Banquet &amp; Installation Ceremony – “One Vision, One Voice, One Journey”</b> Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention; Unity Award; New Clubs Recognition; Art Contest Winners; Raffle Prize and Split-the-Pot Raffle Winners; Door Prizes; Final Announcements	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
9:30–11:00 p.m.	<b>Reception &amp; Dancing</b>	Brickyard 1, 2, 3, 4
<b>POST-CONVENTION SCHEDULE   Sunday, April 19</b>		
9:30–11:30 a.m.	<b>2026–2028 Post-Convention Board Meeting &amp; Brunch</b>	Brickyard 1, 2, 3

*Schedule Subject to Change*

## REGISTER FOR CONVENTION TODAY!

Scan the QR code at right or click the link below:

<https://gfwcillinois.org/event/gfwc-il-2026-convention/#tribe-tickets>



## CONVENTION 2026 | HOTEL INFORMATION



### DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701

#### ROOM RATE

**\$133.00 plus tax** (King or 2 Queens)

#### RESERVATIONS

Call the hotel at **1-309-664-6446** and say you are attending the GFWC IL Conference. Ask for the **GFWC IL Annual Conference room block** or reference the **group code 958**.

Register online at: <https://hil.tn/5g3jcq>

**BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 26, 2026, TO GUARANTEE RATES AND AVAILABILITY.**

Check-in is at 3:00 p.m. | Check-out is at 12:00 noon



*See You in Bloomington!*

## CONVENTION 2026 | FREE HOTEL NIGHT RAFFLE



Enter the GFWC Illinois fundraising raffle to win a **FREE** hotel night at the 2026 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention! Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased online at <https://gfwcillinois.org/events/>. You must be registered to stay at least one night at the 2026 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention to win. Prize has a \$133 value! Winner will be chosen by random drawing on April 13, 2026, and will be reimbursed for a booked hotel room at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois. Odds of winning are determined by the number of entrants. Good luck!



# CONVENTION 2026 | REGISTRATION FORM



## GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 130th ANNUAL CONVENTION

**April 17–18, 2026 | DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, IL**

Online registration is available at [www.gfwcillinois.org](http://www.gfwcillinois.org) under the **Events** tab.

Registration must be completed **on or before April 1, 2026**, to avoid a late fee. No registrations accepted **after April 10, 2026**.

### 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

- Mail this registration form with your payment (checks payable to **GFWC Illinois**) to: **310 N. Hammes Ave., Ste. LL4, Joliet, IL 60435. Registration must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2026, to avoid a late fee.**
- **ALL** attendees must pay a registration fee of \$50. Late registrations pay \$60 if postmarked after midnight on April 1, 2026. No late registrations after April 10, 2026.
- 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 unless you are a first-time attendee)

<input type="checkbox"/> Club Member	<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"/> 2024–26 GFWC IL Executive Committee.....Office _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024–26 GFWC IL Board of Directors.....District President/Committee _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024–26 GFWC IL Junior Executive Committee.....Office _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024–26 GFWC IL Junior Board of Directors.....District DJC/Committee _____	

### SELECT REGISTRATION & MEALS

<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE (if BEFORE April 1, 2026)</b>	(required) \$50.00	\$ _____
<b>LATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE</b>   Required AFTER APRIL 1, 2026 / Ends April 10, 2026	\$60.00	\$ _____
<b>JUNIORETTE REGISTRATION FEE</b>   For Saturday only	\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>ORGANIZATION OF PAST STATE BOARD MEMBERS MEETING</b>   Friday, April 17, 9:00–10:00 a.m.	\$10.00	\$ _____
<b>DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS MEETING</b>   Friday, April 17, 10:00–11:00 a.m.	\$10.00	\$ _____
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS &amp; LEADS LUNCHEON</b>   Friday, April 17, 12:00–1:30 p.m.	\$45.00	\$ _____
<b>FEDERATION BANQUET</b>   Friday, April 17, 7:00–9:00 p.m.	\$55.00	\$ _____
<b>LUNCHEON</b>   Saturday, April 18, 12:00–4:00 p.m.	\$45.00	\$ _____
<b>UNITY BANQUET &amp; INSTALLATION CEREMONY</b>   Saturday, April 18, 7:00–9:00 p.m.   DJ following	\$55.00	\$ _____
<b>POST-CONVENTION BOARD MEETING BRUNCH</b>   Sunday, April 19, 9:30–11:30 a.m.	\$32.00	\$ _____
<b>GFWC ILLINOIS FUNDRAISING</b>   (6 tickets for \$20)   # of tickets _____		\$ _____
<b>JUNIOR SPLIT-THE-POT FUNDRAISING</b>   (30 tickets for \$20)   # of tickets _____		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		\$ _____

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

Vegetarian  Gluten-Free  Diabetic  No Dairy  List Food Allergy/Medical \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SEE BANQUET MENU OPTIONS ON PAGE 6**

# CONVENTION 2026 | DISTINGUISHED GUEST

## SUELLEN B. BRAZIL GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

On July 1, 2024, Suellen Brill Brazil, Daphne, Alabama resident, was installed as the 55th International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Chicago, Illinois. GFWC Alabama is proud to recognize its own Suellen Brazil as the first International President from the State of Alabama in GFWC's 134-year history who will serve from 2024-2026.



She will lead over 60,000 club members in every state, the District of Columbia, and 20 countries. GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by advocating for women, children, and families while concentrating on domestic and sexual violence, food insecurity/hunger, promoting healthy lifestyles, and so much more.

Under the administration banner of "EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER," the cornerstone will be engaging others in purposeful conversations, equipping them with knowledge and skills to make notable differences, and empowering members to unite with others to unleash a commanding force — the Circle of Influence — to address today's issues.

A 50-year member passionately dedicated to leadership development, her leadership has been broadened as she acquired diverse perspectives while serving in all Alabama and Southern Region elected offices, including State

President and Region President. As GFWC President-elect and First and Second Vice President, she expanded her resolve to enhance the understanding and skills necessary for 16 Region Officers, 51 State Presidents, and 107 GFWC chairmen and committee members she led. She recognizes their potential to influence growth in leadership strength and succession, strengthening and sustaining the organization.

During the last twelve years, ten of which have been on the GFWC Executive Committee, Suellen has connected with leaders and grassroots members and had various opportunities to represent the organization; she:

- Participated in The White House Summit United State of Women in Washington, D.C., 2016.
- Participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.
- Participated in the 2017 State Department Briefing.
- Represented GFWC with the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation (HOBY), which began 12 years of continued national service with the HOBY's International Leadership Seminar, including the 1985 National Volunteer Chairman in Los Angeles, California.
- Attended multiple functions with the GFWC Women's Club of Aruba and conducted a GFWC LEADS workshop for various International Affiliates and dignitaries attending the Women's Leadership Conference. ■



## CONVENTION 2026 | BANQUET MENU OPTIONS

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS/LEADS LUNCHEON (BUFFET)

**Soup/Salad/Potato Bar:** Roasted Tomato Bisque Soup (vegetarian, GF) and Chili; Mixed Greens; Toppings; Chef's Selection Dessert Station

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | FEDERATION BANQUET (PLATED DINNER)

**Chicken Milanese:** Parmesan- and Romano-Encrusted Chicken Breasts with White Wine Herb Sauce; Caesar Salad; Asparagus and Red Peppers; Wild Herb Risotto; Cheesecake Flight for Dessert

### SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | LUNCHEON (BUFFET)

**DoubleTree Delicatessen:** Chilled Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad (GF); Homestyle Potato Salad (GF); Assorted Meats and Cheeses; Deli Breads; Condiments; Chips and Dip (GF); Chef's Selection Dessert Station

### SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | UNITY BANQUET/INSTALLATION CEREMONY (PLATED DINNER)

**Garlic Chicken & Petite Bistro Steak:** Wedge Salad; Mashed Potatoes; Steamed Broccoli, Cauliflower and Carrots; Brownie Flight for Dessert

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | POST-CONVENTION BOARD MEETING (BRUNCH)

**Chef's Choice Egg Casserole:** Eggs; Breakfast Potatoes; Muffins; Sausage; Fresh Fruit Kabob



# THE ORGANIZATION OF PAST STATE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GFWC ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS | ANNUAL MEETING



**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 | 9:00–10:00 a.m. | BRICKYARD 6 | \$10.00**

If you read all that in the title of this article, I salute you! It's a mouthful, isn't it? The founding members of this club wanted to be succinct in naming this club, so here we are today with a very long name that we usually shorten to Past State Board Members when talking.

Our club meets once a year during the annual GFWC Illinois Convention. Our dues are a mere \$3.00 per year. Why bother to join? Let me give you my personal reasons for joining.

1. It's nice to see and chat with ladies of this club I would not see at any other time of year from across the state.
2. It's a time to have fun while conducting business.
3. It's only \$3.00 a year. My favorite coffee costs that much.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Carol Jablonski, (630) 989-4771 or carolajablonski@gmail.com.

If you have served on the Board of Directors or Junior Board of Directors or are currently serving on the Board of Directors, you are eligible to join this fine group. It sure would be nice to chat with some new members.

This year's annual meeting will be on Friday, April 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington. When you arrive and receive your credentials, please double-check the meeting room assignment. ■



*The Organization of Past State Board Members of the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs 2025*



## DEB'S DIAMOND DIVAS | ANNUAL MEETING

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | BRICKYARD 6 | \$10.00**

It's time to SPARKLE & SHINE and have fun with our fellow Divas! We are having our Annual Meeting during the GFWC Illinois Convention.

The GFWC Illinois Deb's Diamond Divas will hold their Annual Meeting on Friday, April 17, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in Brickyard 6. All members and guests are invited to the meeting. Please pay the \$10.00 at the time you register for Convention.

Membership in GFWC Illinois DDD Club is open to all Illinois members as we celebrate the 2024–2026 GFWC Administration. Dues for 2026–2027 are \$35.00 and are payable by September 15, 2026, to Treasurer Michelle Schultz. Feel free to mail your dues or bring to the meeting. ■

### DUES FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable for \$35 to **Deb's Diamond Divas** | Mail to **Michelle Schultz, 805 Carol Court, Pontiac, IL 61764**

## MEET THE 2026–2028 GFWC ILLINOIS LEADERS!

### GFWC IL **PRESIDENT** **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! Strengthening our state membership will 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; GFWC IL President-Elect in 2024–2026, and the state Juniorette Chairman from 2018–2022. In 2025, Karyn was chosen as a GFWC Great Lakes Region Jennie Award winner.

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. She also served as the 2022–2024 GFWC Protocol Chairman and is the current 2024–2026 GFWC Membership Chairman. She is honored to be elected GFWC Illinois President for the 2026–2028 administration and is looking forward to doing all she can to help retain and grow our membership! ■

### GFWC IL **DIRECTOR OF JR. CLUBS** **ASHLEY WILHELM**

Ashley joined the Naperville Junior Woman's Club in 2019 and quickly discovered her passion for the organization and its mission of service to communities.



Since joining, Ashley has held leadership roles at the club, state, regional, and national levels. Within her club, she served as Ways & Means Chairman in 2020, helping support fundraising efforts that benefit community programs. At the state level, she served GFWC Illinois as CPR Junior State Chairman (2020–2022), CPR Chairman (2022–2024), and Junior State Secretary (2022–2024). Regionally, she served GFWC Great Lakes as Fundraising Chairman (2022–2024) and has also provided social media and technology support at the national level for GFWC.

Ashley believes every member plays a vital role in making GFWC a strong and impactful organization. While a shared passion for volunteerism brings members together, it is their diverse perspectives and experiences that help the organization grow and develop strong leaders and dedicated clubwomen. She looks forward to continuing to promote the spirit of Unity in Diversity while strengthening the organization for future generations.

Within her community, Ashley remains active in the Naperville Woman's Club and is a charter member of the GFWC IL Junior Woman's Flight Club. She is honored to serve the next administration as Director of Junior Clubs for the State of Illinois. ■

## OPEN POSITIONS FOR THE 2026–2028 ADMINISTRATION

### 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, as long as the required paperwork has been sent to the Elections Chair, Jo Koenig, no later than two weeks before the opening of Convention. ■

### GFWC IL **TREASURER**

There is no candidate for this position. Nominations for this office will be taken from the Convention floor, as long as the required paperwork has been sent to the Elections Chair, Jo Koenig, no later than two weeks before the opening of Convention. If no candidate comes forward, the current GFWC Illinois Treasurer will continue on for the 2026–2028 administration. ■

### GFWC IL **SOUTHERN REGION VP**

There is no candidate for this position. Nominations for this office will be taken from the Convention floor, as long as the required paperwork has been sent to the Elections Chair, Jo Koenig, no later than two weeks before the opening of Convention. If no candidate comes forward, the current GFWC Illinois Southern Region Vice President will continue on for the 2026–2028 administration. ■

### GFWC IL **JUNIOR TREASURER**

There is no candidate for this position. Nominations for this office will be taken from the Convention floor, as long as the required paperwork has been sent. ■

### GFWC IL **JUNIOR SECRETARY**

There is no candidate for this position. Nominations for this office will be taken from the Convention floor, as long as the required paperwork has been sent. ■



# CANDIDATES FOR 2026–2028 GFWC ILLINOIS OFFICERS

## GFWC IL PRESIDENT-ELECT MEGAN MITCHELL

Megan Mitchell is a charter member of the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club, established in 2010. Her club leadership journey includes serving two terms as President, Vice President, Club Advisor, Parliamentary Advisor, and multiple chairmanships.



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

For GFWC Illinois, Megan served as Northern Region Vice President (2024–2026), Advocates for Children/CRF Chairman (2022–2024), President of Deb's Diamond Divas (2022–2024), the 2024 GFWC Convention Illinois State Night Chairman, Junior International Outreach Chairman (2018–2020), and on the Resolutions Committee (2020–2022). Megan was the 2019 LEADS candidate and the 2022 Outstanding Junior Service Award recipient.

Megan Mitchell is honored to be considered for the position of GFWC Illinois President-Elect for the 2026–2028 administration. As President-Elect, Megan will support our GFWC Illinois President and her fellow members of the Board of Directors. Her main goal is to retain and grow the membership that we have, and support clubwomen in being creative and flexible as they pursue new avenues in recruiting members to GFWC Illinois.

Megan is looking forward to having the opportunity to be part of the leadership team for GFWC Illinois during the 2026–2028 administration! ■

## GFWC IL SECRETARY BECKY WEBER

Becky has been a member of GFWC Illinois since 1988. She has been an active member in the Metamora-Germantown Hills Junior Woman's Club, Junior Woman's Encore Club, Peoria Woman's Club and Deb's Diamond Divas. She has served her Federation in chairmanships and leadership positions on the GFWC Illinois Junior Board, GFWC Illinois Board and the GFWC International Board. Becky's emphasis has been community service, especially focusing on our Veterans, legislation, advocating for children and domestic violence victims. As Illinois Director of Junior Clubs and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, she has proven her leadership abilities, dependability, enthusiasm, and unending dedication to GFWC.



Because of her involvement in GFWC Illinois, Becky became involved in her local DV shelter and served as President of the board. She volunteered at her local high school in the special ed resource room, was a Key Volunteer for the Peoria US Marine Reserve unit, served on the PCA Illinois board as president, and is a CASA Volunteer.

Becky is a proud member of Bugles Across America, sounding Taps at Military Funerals for 53 years, and has been happily married to Mike for 47 years with four children and ten grandchildren. ■

## GFWC IL NORTHERN REGION VP JEANETTE T. WELLS

Jeanette joined the Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club in November 1994, where she served and or chaired most every committee and major fundraiser. She has served on the District Board of Directors every administration since 2004–2006 in many committee chairs and served as Director of Junior Clubs in 2004–2006, as well as District President in 2018–2020. Other positions include Fundraising and Bylaws chairman, among others. She has served several chairmanships on the GFWC Illinois Junior Board and as District Director, as well as on the Junior Executive Committee as Dean of Chairmen, Director-Elect of Junior Clubs and Director of Junior Clubs. She has filled several chairmanships on the GFWC Illinois Board of Directors including Fundraising co-chair, Bylaws chair and Meetings and Conventions co-chair, and is currently serving as the GFWC Illinois Secretary. She has served on the GFWC Board of Directors as Bylaws committee member, Fundraising committee member and chairman and is currently serving as Communications and Public Relations committee member. Jeanette has been in the insurance industry for 40 years and on the Governing Board of her church as Financial Secretary. She is excited to work with the Northern Region Clubs. ■



## GFWC IL CENTRAL REGION VP CHERYL HORNE

Cheryl Horne is running for GFWC Central Region Vice President in the spring 2026 election. Cheryl joined the GFWC Cerro Gordo Woman's Club in 2013 where she currently serves as Vice President and Arts & Culture Chairman. She has also served her club as Co-President and chairman of their nut sales fundraiser for many years. In 2023, she also joined the Champaign-Urbana Junior Woman's Club and currently serves on their board as Federation Chairman.



At the district level, Cheryl has served as Vice President and Membership Chairman, as well as chairman of the Bylaws Committee. She currently is the District 19 president, a position she has held since 2022. In addition to her role as District President on the GFWC Illinois Board of Directors, she now serves on the state Bylaws Committee.

Cheryl takes her responsibilities seriously and does her best to show up for meetings, training, and events throughout the district and state. She actively participates in service projects and fundraisers. Being a good listener, friendliness, and a positive outlook help her to bring people together. Her leadership experience in the education field prior to GFWC has helped make her a valuable asset to our organization. ■

**Convention registration is open NOW.  
Don't delay! Prices increase after  
the April 1, 2026, deadline!**

# CONVENTION 2026 | DOOR PRIZE REQUEST FORM



## Door Prize Donations Needed!

Dear GFWC Illinois Members, Clubs and Districts,

Many thanks for the wonderful Door Prizes for the 2025 GFWC IL Convention! Once again, we are gearing up for the 2026 GFWC Illinois Convention taking place from April 17-18, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, IL, and we need your help to make it even more special!

We are looking for exciting, creative and generous door prize donations to surprise and delight our attendees! If you or a local business want to contribute, your donation will help create a fantastic experience. What we're looking for:

- Gift baskets (themed or general)
- Handcrafted items
- Unique experiences
- Gift certificates
- Local goods and services
- And much more!



If you're interested in donating, please contact:

**Phyllis Skubic** at pjskubic@gmail.com or (815) 735-9947 or

**Deb Strahanoski** at debra.strahanoski@gmail.com or (815) 953-4829.

Your donation will be accepted at any time.

**Important:** To be listed in our Convention Program, please fill out the form below and send it to Phyllis or Deb **no later than April 1, 2026.**

We appreciate your support of this tradition. Door prizes should be valued at a minimum of \$25.00. Your generosity significantly contributes to making our Annual Convention shine!

We look forward to receiving your donation.

Phyllis Skubic & Deb Strahanoski  
Convention Vice Chairmen

## GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION 2026 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/CLUB/DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OR AMOUNT OF GIFT/DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

For **Cash/Check Donations**, please return form and check made payable to **GFWC Illinois** to **GFWC Illinois, 310 N. Hammes Ave., Suite LL4, Joliet, IL 60435.**

For **Gift Donations only** (such as a basket), please return form to **Phyllis Skubic, 40 W. Gordon Street, Coal City, IL 60416** or **Deb Strahanoski, 1011 Galway Rd., Joliet, IL 60431.**

Gifts/gift baskets may be brought to the Convention.

Please describe the donation item to either Phyllis or Deb in writing.

**For recognition in the Convention Booklet, please return by April 1, 2026. Thank you!**

# CONVENTION 2026 | MEMBER RECOGNITION 25- AND 50-YEAR MEMBERS | IN MEMORIAM



**Attention Club Presidents:** Please submit the names of your members who passed away between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. They will be honored at a memorial service during the Convention held April 17-18, 2026.

Please also send the names of your members who celebrated their 25th or 50th anniversary as a member of GFWC during 2025.



Please e-mail names to GFWC Illinois Headquarters, [gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwc-illinois@sbcglobal.net), or use the form below to mail to 310 N. Hammes Ave., Suite LL4, Joliet, IL 60435 by April 1, 2026. ■



## GF WC ILLINOIS CONVENTION 2026 MEMBER RECOGNITION FORM

SUBMITTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**25-YEAR MEMBERS** \_\_\_\_\_

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**50-YEAR MEMBERS** \_\_\_\_\_

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**IN MEMORIAM** \_\_\_\_\_

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# CONVENTION 2026 | PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS



As recommended by the Bylaws Committee, Shelli Fehr, Chairman  
To be presented at the 2026 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment about Officers

PAGE 30 | GFWC ILLINOIS 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

INSERT New Section 5. RESIGNATIONS, to read:

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

##### Section 5. RESIGNATIONS

- A. The resignation of an officer shall be in writing and addressed to the GFWC Illinois President at the GFWC Illinois Office. It shall be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the Board of Directors for action.
- B. A vacancy shall not be filled at the same meeting at which a resignation is accepted, unless previous notice has been given to all members of the Board of Directors.”

**Rationale:** Procedure was previously found in the Standing Rules but should be a Bylaw by virtue of its importance and permanence.

If adopted, re-number the remaining Sections.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment about Board of Directors

PAGE 34 | GFWC ILLINOIS 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

### ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 4. VACANCY

##### Currently Reads:

“The resignation of an officer or chairman shall be sent in writing to the President at the GFWC Illinois Office and be presented to the Executive Committee for action.”

##### Proposed Amendments:

**STRIKE** “officer or” after “resignation of an”, **INSERT** “or committee member” after “chairman”, **INSERT** “GFWC Illinois” before “President”, **INSERT** “and then to the Board of Directors” after “Executive Committee”.

##### to read:

### ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 4. VACANCY

The resignation of a chairman or committee member shall be sent in writing to the GFWC Illinois President at the GFWC Illinois Office and be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the Board of Directors for action.”

**Rationale:** Officer resignations are noted in **ARTICLE V OFFICERS, Section 5. RESIGNATIONS**; and clarification.



## Proposed Amendment to Annual Convention

PAGE 37 | GFWC ILLINOIS 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

### ARTICLE VII CONVENTIONS

#### Section 1. ANNUAL CONVENTION

##### Currently Reads:

“GFWC Illinois shall hold an annual convention in the spring. The Call to Convention and proposed Bylaw Amendments, Resolutions and Revisions shall be published for the voting body of GFWC Illinois in the Convention issue of the “GFWC Illinois Clubwoman” six (6) weeks before the Annual Convention.”

##### Proposed Amendments:

**STRIKE** “ANNUAL” in the Section heading, **STRIKE** “annual” after “hold an”, **INSERT** “at least once an administration” after “convention”, **STRIKE** “Annual” after “(6) weeks before the”,

##### to read:

### ARTICLE VII CONVENTIONS

#### Section 1. CONVENTION

GFWC Illinois shall hold a Convention at least once an administration in the spring. The Call to Convention and proposed Bylaw Amendments, Resolutions and Revisions shall be published for the voting body of GFWC Illinois in the Convention issue of the *GFWC Illinois Clubwoman* six (6) weeks before the Convention.”

**Rationale:** Allows more flexibility from administration to administration. If the case warrants, Convention would be held in the even-numbered years and a statewide meeting would be held in the odd-numbered years.

If adopted, remove “Annual” in front of “Convention” throughout the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment about Amendments

PAGE 38 | GFWC ILLINOIS 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

### ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

#### Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE, A. and B.

##### Currently Reads:

- A. The GFWC Illinois Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended at an annual convention by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, providing that notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to the GFWC Illinois voting body with the Call to Convention.
- B. Bylaws may be amended at any state-wide meeting by two-thirds vote of those present and voting, providing that notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to the voting body 30 days prior to the meeting.”

##### Proposed Amendments:

**INSERT** a new A., **STRIKE** B.,

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC ILLINOIS BYLAWS | CONTINUED

to read:

## ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE

A. The GFWC Illinois Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended at a Convention or any statewide meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, providing that notice of the proposed amendments have been sent to the GFWC Illinois voting body at least six (6) weeks prior to the event.

**Rationale:** Provides flexibility and clarification  
If adopted, re-letter the Section.

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment about Amendments

PAGE 38 | GFWC ILLINOIS 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

## ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS Section 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Currently Reads:

“Amendments to the Bylaws shall be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Junior Executive Committee, the Bylaws Committee, Finance

Committee, a District, or two (2) or more clubs, and shall be sent in writing to the Bylaws Chairman by November 1st.”

**Proposed Amendments:**

**INSERT** at the end of the sentence “for a Spring Convention or Statewide meeting and April 1st for a Fall Statewide Meeting”,

to read:

## ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS Section 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

“Amendments to the Bylaws shall be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Junior Executive Committee, the Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, a District, or two (2) or more clubs, and shall be sent in writing to the Bylaws Chairman by November 1st for a Spring Convention or Statewide Meeting and April 1st for a Fall Statewide Meeting.”

**Rationale:** Clarifies when proposed amendments must be received by the Bylaws Committee in order for them to have time to review and publish the amendments before the event.

**Proviso:** All Bylaws amendments adopted at the April 2026 Convention take effect immediately following the close of the convention. ■

## SAVE THE DATE | UPCOMING EVENTS

### BLUE RIBBON BUNCO FOR PCA ILLINOIS

March 22 | Lockport, Illinois

### GFWC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 27-29 | Scottsdale, Arizona

### GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE

October 2-4 | Pewaukee, Wisconsin



## CONVENTION 2026 | GFWC SPECIAL PROJECT



### *Legacy Market: Treasures with Purpose*

The Special Project for the 2026 GFWC Illinois Annual Convention is “**Legacy Market: Treasures with Purpose.**” Please bring any new or slightly used items you no longer need to Convention. These items will then be available for others to ‘purchase’ for a donation. Proceeds from the sale will go to the **GFWC Women’s History & Resource Center** at our headquarters in Washington, D.C.

- Please donate gently used or new items including: accessories, household items, books, etc., that you no longer need.
- Items can be GFWC-branded or not.
- Everyone is encouraged to both donate and browse—take home the treasures that inspire you! ■



# CONVENTION 2026 | ARTS & CRAFTS CONTESTS



Items that are to be entered in the Member Painting, Member Arts & Crafts and Youth Art contests should be preregistered before March 15, 2026, and then brought to Convention for display. Drop-off times are Friday, April 17, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 10:00-11:00 a.m. Ribbons will be awarded Saturday night at the Unity Banquet. Item pickup is Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Items must be checked out, so if you will be leaving early, please designate somebody from your club to come pick up your artwork and award(s).

Categories for the Arts & Crafts Contest are:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ceramics/Sculpture                   | Jewelry                      |
| Counted Cross Stitch/Needlepoint     | Embroidery                   |
| Crochet/Knitting                     | Wall Hangings                |
| Paper Art/Quilling/Stamped Cards (5) | Wearable Art                 |
| Quilts                               | Drawing/Collage/Monoprinting |
| Mosaic/Stained Glass                 | Miscellaneous                |



*Items not included in one of these categories will be judged as Miscellaneous.*

Please note that Arts & Crafts entries must be created by a current member. Each entry should include the following information: name, mailing address, phone number, club name and district, category, title of entry, category – indicate if item is a kit or original design, plus a brief description. Entries are limited to one (1) item per member per category.

Paintings entered in the Member Painting Contest must be original and have been preregistered prior to March 15, 2026. Paintings must have been created during the contest year (January 1–December 31, 2025) and may only be entered in one year's painting contest. Items previously entered in the contest will be disqualified. Entries must include the following information: name, e-mail address, mailing address, phone number, media and dimensions, club and district number. Entries limited to one (1) painting per member.

Please read the complete rules for all of the Arts & Culture contests at [www.gfwcillinois.org](http://www.gfwcillinois.org) > **Members Center > Award Entry - Reporting > Awards & Contests > CREATIVE ARTS Award Entry Forms > #2026 Arts Contest Rules.PDF.** ■

## GFWC ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS | 2026



### It's not too late for YOUR club to spread the news about the 2026 GFWC Illinois Scholarships!

This year, GFWC Illinois will award \$40,000 in scholarship monies to Illinois students pursuing degrees in **Art, Civic Engagement, Drama, Education, Environmental Studies, Health and Wellness, Music, Vocational Studies for Females** and **Vocational Studies for Males** at colleges, universities, community colleges, and vocational programs located in the State of Illinois.

It is my hope as the 2024–2026 Scholarship Chair that a majority of these scholarships will be awarded to students who live in communities where GFWC Illinois clubs are at work.

To help facilitate this goal, I encourage clubs to share the news with club members, deliver scholarship applications to local schools and publicize them in community news venues. **Application deadline is March 15, 2026!** Scholarship applications are available on the GFWC Illinois website at <https://gfwcillinois.org/gfwc-il-scholarship-information/>.



And that's all you need to do! Applicants will send the completed application directly to the GFWC Illinois scholarship chair who has a panel of judges with expertise in the focus of the scholarship prepared to choose the best recipients.

Even if your club already has established your own scholarship program, why not add this opportunity to benefit even more students in your community?

Judy Rader  
GFWC Illinois Scholarship Chair 2024-2026

**Questions?** Go to [scholarshipsifwc@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipsifwc@gmail.com)



## JOIN THE GFWC IL SUSTAINERS SOCIETY!

**SUSTAINING OUR LEGACY, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE**



The Sustainers Society is a dedicated group of passionate GFWC Illinois members, committed to securing a brighter, more sustainable future for our Federation.

The purpose of the Sustainers Society is to provide critical support for the continued success and growth of GFWC Illinois' programs, projects, and events.

By offsetting costs associated with these initiatives, the Sustainers Society ensures that GFWC Illinois' vital work can thrive without interruption.

Through the generosity of our members, we can sustain and expand the impact of our community-focused efforts, from leadership development to advocacy and service, ensuring that GFWC Illinois remains a powerful force for positive change, now and in the future.



### **RED ROSE LEVEL BENEFITS with gift of \$1,894**

Each member will be listed in the Convention Program and will be featured with photo on the GFWC Illinois website as a Sustainers Society Red Rose member. Members at this level will also be recognized at all state meetings as a Sustainers Society Red Rose member. Red Rose members are not obligated to make an annual contribution; they will be lifetime Red Rose members by virtue of their initial donation.



### **PINK ROSE LEVEL BENEFITS with gift of \$189.40**

Each member will be listed in the Convention Program and will be mentioned by name on the GFWC Illinois website as a Sustainers Society Pink Rose member. Pink Rose members will need to continue making an annual contribution of at least \$18.94 annually to remain in The Sustainers Society.



### **YELLOW ROSE LEVEL BENEFITS with gift of \$18.94**

Each member will be listed in the Convention Program as a Sustainers Society Yellow Rose member. Yellow Rose members will need to continue making an annual contribution of at least \$18.94 annually to remain in The Sustainers Society.

ONCE YOU'VE JOINED OR PLEDGED A COMMITMENT TO PAY IN INSTALLMENTS (AND ONE PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED), YOU'LL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE 2026 CONVENTION AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE SUSTAINERS SOCIETY.

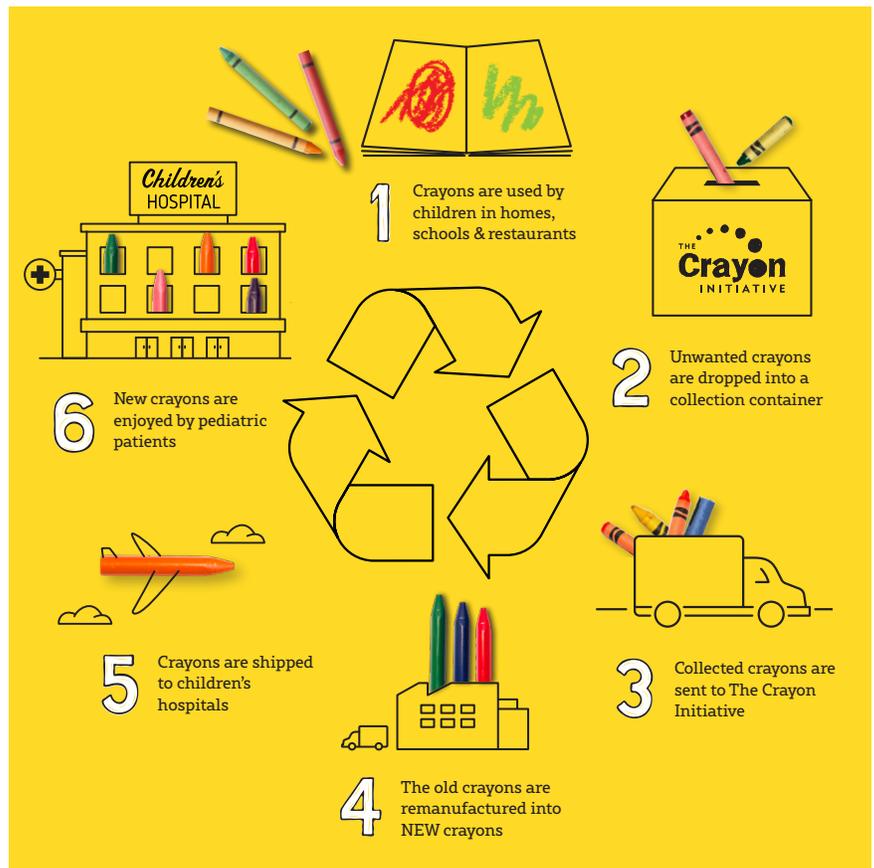
**RENEWALS OR NEW COMMITMENTS MADE BY APRIL 1, 2026  
WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE 2026 GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION.**





## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR UNWANTED CRAYONS?

Millions of pounds of crayons are discarded every year, turning into a waxy sludge that clogs our landfills. With your help, we can recycle and remanufacture them into new, free crayons for kids in children's hospitals across the U.S. Join us and color a life at [thecrayoninitiative.org](http://thecrayoninitiative.org).



[@thecrayoninitiative](https://www.facebook.com/thecrayoninitiative)
[The Crayon Initiative](https://www.instagram.com/TheCrayonInitiative)
[@thecrayoninitiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thecrayoninitiative)
[@ShareYourColors](https://twitter.com/ShareYourColors)

# 2026 GFWC IL CONVENTION UNWANTED CRAYON COLLECTION

Please bring any unwanted crayons you might have to the GFWC Illinois Convention for recycling. There will be a collection box set up by the Arts & Crafts Contest in Brickyard 4. The crayons can be in any condition — broken or new, papered or not. Crayons will be sent to The Crayon Initiative where they will be sorted, melted down, remolded and papered into larger three-sided crayons that will be distributed FREE to children's hospitals. The three-sided shape makes them easier for children to grasp and prevents them from rolling off food trays.

Spread the word and help us collect lots of crayons! Set up a collection at your club, schools and preschools, churches, restaurants...anywhere they give out crayons!

Questions? Contact Arts & Culture Chairman Jodi Hanson at [jshdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:jshdesign@hotmail.com). ■

# SPLIT-THE-POT RAFFLE

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIOR ORGANIZATION



The GFWC Illinois Junior Split-the-Pot Raffle will be held live at the GFWC Illinois Annual 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 held on April 17-18, 2026. **Please specify total number of tickets purchased for the raffle.** Your name will be entered one time for each chance you purchase. Mail-in ticket orders must be received by April 10, 2026. Tickets may also be purchased at the Convention and online at <https://gfwcillinois.org/event/gfwc-il-2026-convention/#tribe-tickets>. 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 Dr., New Lenox, IL 60451  
**QUESTIONS?** Contact Candyce Jordan | (815) 370-5150 | [cie83@yahoo.com](mailto:cie83@yahoo.com)

## BLUE RIBBON BUNCO FOR PCA IL | MARCH 22, 2026



April is just around the corner and it will be time to raise awareness for the prevention of child abuse by planting our pinwheel gardens and participating in projects and events to further raise awareness.

In order “to march” into all our activities and to support our longtime partner Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, we will be hosting our 2nd annual Blue Ribbon Bunco event on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at the Lockport Moose. The information flyer and opportunities for sponsorship can be found on the following two pages. Registration can be done by writing a check to GFWC IL, signing up on the GFWC IL website under “Events,” or by using the QR code. Bring your husbands, kids over 21, neighbors, friends, everyone!

If you or your club would like to donate a basket, please let Sandy Christofanelli know at [sandychristogfwc@gmail.com](mailto:sandychristogfwc@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there! I guarantee you will have a great time while you are supporting PCA Illinois!!!

Loretta Revesz  
2024-2026 GFWC IL Advocates for Children Chairman



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
**GENERAL FEDERATION  
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
 ILLINOIS

**PRESENTS**

**BLUE RIBBON  
 BUNCO**

**MARCH 22nd, 2026  
 12:00PM**

**Tickets- \$25  
 At Door-\$35**

**Lockport Moose  
 Lodge #1557  
 118 E. 10th St.  
 Lockport, IL**

**Food and Drink  
 Self-Pay**

**Raffles  
 & Cash Prizes!**



**TO SUPPORT  
 PREVENT CHILD  
 ABUSE ILLINOIS**

**12:00 DOORS OPEN  
 12:00 FOOD, DRINKS,  
 & BUNCO TUTORIAL  
 1:00 GAMES START**

**TICKETS AT  
[GFWCILLINOIS.ORG](http://GFWCILLINOIS.ORG)  
 OR SCAN HERE!**





## Sponsorship Opportunities

### BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR \$1,000

This level of sponsorship includes: eight tickets (whole table) to the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Four Blue Ribbons in the Registration, Bar, Raffle, and Food areas ▪ Reserved Sign on table ▪ Name mentioned in the pre-event PR and social media ▪ Bar Sponsor Sign ▪ Name in the post-event PR materials ▪ Poster recognition at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Name in printed Thank You at the Blue Ribbon Event ▪ Mention on GFWC Illinois website.

### BIG BUNCO SPONSOR \$500

This level of sponsorship includes: four tickets to the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Two Blue Ribbons in the Registration, Bar, Raffle, and Food areas ▪ Name mentioned in the pre-event PR and social media ▪ Registration Table Sponsor ▪ Poster recognition at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Name in printed Thank You at the Blue Ribbon Event

### LET'S ROLL SPONSOR \$250

This level of sponsorship includes: ▪ Two Blue Ribbons in the Registration, Bar, Raffle, and Food areas ▪ Poster recognition at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Name in printed Thank You at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event.

### BABY BUNCO SPONSOR \$100

This level of sponsorship includes ▪ Poster recognition at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event ▪ Name in printed Thank You at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event.

### BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR \$25

Purchase a Blue ribbon in memory or in honor of someone you care about. The ribbons will be placed in high traffic areas at the event.

**Example - In memory of my friend Mary Grabiwitz. Love, Terry**

**PCA PARTNER IN KIND DONATION** – \$\_\_\_\_\_ If you would like to make a donation to support the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event put the amount in the blank above. This level of sponsorship includes name in the printed Thank You at the Blue Ribbon Bunco Event.

Name, Address and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your sponsorship form with payment (check made out to GFWC IL) to GFWC Illinois, 310 N. Hammes Ave., Suite LL4, Joliet, IL 60435 to arrive by February 28, 2026.

If possible, please text a copy of your form to Sandy at 312-342-7706 or email it to Sandy at sandychristogfwc@gmail.com.

To pay online for sponsorship scan:



# CONVENTION 2026 | 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 people 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 Convention.
- Those who are appearing on the program shall report to the Convention Chairmen thirty (30) minutes 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 (2) minutes per person. Debates shall be limited to ten (10) minutes for each amendment/motion.
- A motion shall be adopted 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.
- Audible ringers/sounds on cellular phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off when you enter the Convention floor.
- Doors shall be closed at the direction of the presiding officer during business meetings.
- Promptly find your seat when doors are opened or returning from a break.
- No recording devices may be used on the Convention floor, in workshops, or during programs without the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Credential badge and meal ticket are required for attendance at all food functions. Meal tickets will be collected at the tables or the door.
- Written messages may be left with the Convention Chairmen or Vice Chairmen.
- All official Assistants as well as the Convention Chairmen and Vice Chairmen will be permitted to exit all sessions as needed.

## CONVENTION 2026 | SUGGESTED DRESS

### THURSDAY, APRIL 16

**All Activities** | GFWC Emblematic Wear/Business Casual

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17

**Organization of Past State Board Members Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear/Business Casual

**Deb's Diamond Divas Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear/Business Casual

**GFWC Illinois LEADS** | GFWC Emblematic Wear/Business Casual

**Pre-Convention Board Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear/Business Casual

**Opening Ceremony/Business Session** | Business Casual

**Candidates' Reception** | Cocktail Attire

**Federation Banquet** | Cocktail Attire – the color **BLUE** is highly suggested in honor of Prevent Child Abuse

### SATURDAY, APRIL 18

**Junior Business Session** | Business Casual

**Business Sessions** | Business Casual

**Unity Luncheon** | Business Casual

**Cocktail Reception** | Formal/Cocktail Attire

**Unity Banquet & Installation Ceremony** | Formal/Cocktail Attire

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19

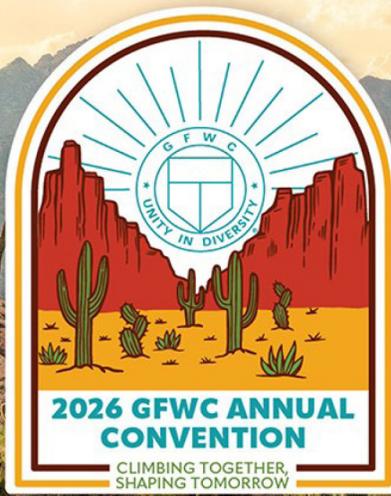
**2026–2028 Post Convention Board Meeting** | GFWC Emblematic Wear



# CONVENTION 2026 | CREDENTIALS FORM

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

	FRIDAY, APRIL 17	SATURDAY, APRIL 18
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		
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		



# SCOTTSDALE

ARIZONA

## 2026 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

### Scottsdale, Arizona

The Grand Canyon State is calling you to sunny Arizona for the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention, June 26–29, in Scottsdale! Known as “The West’s Most Western Town,” a slogan adopted in 1951, Scottsdale proudly reflects a rich heritage of ranching, cowboys, and Southwestern charm.

Guests will stay at the beautiful Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. The resort offers breathtaking views of manicured golf courses, desert landscapes, and unforgettable sunsets. The property itself is a destination—featuring luxury pools, a full-service spa, and plenty of spaces to relax and recharge. Scottsdale is brimming with cultural attractions, delicious local cuisine, and outstanding shopping. The resort is conveniently located just 20 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, a 30-minute drive. Taxi and rideshare services are readily available, and valet parking is available for guests driving.

Register now for the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention. Early Bird registration ends March 16, and all registration closes on May 15. In addition, check out the official Call to Convention, available via GFWC’s online registration site or the GFWC Member Portal. Be sure to select “allow notifications” during registration to receive important updates via text messages.

Please book your room using the GFWC room block, which will close at midnight on June 1. Note that the room block fills quickly.

Make your plans now to join us in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona, where our International President, Suellen Brazil, will lead us as we celebrate, learn, and share our theme: “Climbing Together, Shaping Tomorrow.” We may be in the desert—but rest assured, the air conditioning works beautifully. Pack accordingly, and we look forward to seeing you there! ■

### CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

#### ■ TWO FUN PRECONVENTION OUTINGS:

**SIZZLING SOUTHWEST** – Sizzle at Classic Cooking Academy and master bold Southwest flavors with hands-on techniques. Enjoy a three-course feast served by staff and shopping at Scottsdale Quarter for one unforgettable adventure.

**UNDER THE ODYSSEA** – Dive into an unforgettable oceanic adventure at OdySea Aquarium, home to the world’s only rotating aquarium experience. Then explore local history at Scottsdale Historical Museum and enjoy shopping and lunch at Scottsdale Quarter—all in one splash-worthy 4-hour tour.

#### ■ ELECTION & INSTALLATION OF 2026–2028 GFWC OFFICERS

#### ■ WORKSHOPS & SPEAKERS

#### ■ BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

#### ■ BANQUETS & AWARDS

#### ■ SEE YOUR GFWC FRIENDS!

#### ■ GREAT LAKES REGION BANQUET

#### ■ JENNIE AWARD NOMINEES

#### ■ AND MORE!

