

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

LEADERSHIP



Founded in 1890, the GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman's club—Sorositis. In celebration of Sorositis' 21st anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Club by ratifying the GFWC constitution.

GFWC Structure

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has over 60,000 members in all 50 states and 14 countries. The 189 clubs and 14 districts that comprise GFWC Florida are an important part of our worldwide presence.



Source: <https://www.gfwc.org/> and <https://www.gfwcflorida.org/> accessed March 2024

National Level

GFWC is a community service organization with many levels of leadership and membership. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors, which consists of Region Presidents, State Presidents, State Directors of Junior Clubs, Committee Chairmen, Committee Members, and Special Appointments, represent GFWC members on a national scale. GFWC members involved with the committees are appointed by the GFWC International President at the beginning of her two-year term. During her Administration, the GFWC International President lives at GFWC Headquarters in Washington D.C. All members of the GFWC Board have leadership responsibilities and are expected to attend the GFWC Annual Convention.

Regions

GFWC consists of eight Regions:

GFWC Great Lakes Region

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin

GFWC Middle Atlantic Region

Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

GFWC Mississippi Valley Region

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota

GFWC New England Region

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

GFWC South Central Region

Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

GFWC Southeastern Region

District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

GFWC Southern Region

*Alabama, **Florida**, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina*

GFWC Western States Region

Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

State Level

GFWC has members in each of the 50 states. State Federations host individual conferences each spring. County and district levels are contained within the state level. These two Federation categories vary from state to state; some states choose not to have county and district levels, whereas other states contain multiple counties and districts.

GFWC Florida Districts: 14 districts and GOWC is in District 5, including:

- *Cedar Key Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Alachua Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Gainesville Woman's Club*
- *GFWC High Springs New Century Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness*
- *Little Women Juniors of Ocala **
- *GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala*
- *GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Williston Junior Woman's Club ***
- *GFWC Williston Woman's Club*
- *GFWC Girls on Fire (cyber)*

* Juniors Clubs are composed of young women in middle or high school ranging from 12 to 18 years old, who work together to meet the needs of their communities through volunteer service projects.

** Junior clubs hold active membership status and participate in GFWC Community Service Programs and special projects in Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention and the Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children.

Local Level

GFWC comprises nearly 3,000 local clubs. Each club elects officers and works independently on various projects in their community.