

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA

“Service, the Debt of Education”



**Distributed at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

April 21, 2024

Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA

# GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL REPORT 2023



GFVC VIRGINIA PRESIDENT  
Bonnie Rosemond

*"Enlighten Our Cornerstone"*



**98 of our 119** (82%) GFVC Virginia clubs reported, with a total membership of **3,068**, volunteered **328,247** hours toward **4,784** projects. **\$538,668** in monetary donations and **\$547,873** of in-kind donations were contributed to aid toward strengthening the lives of others in our local communities, nation and world. **\$136,463** was spent to advance communications and public relations, leadership, legislation/public policy and membership. Club members were innovative and productive in their fundraising efforts, raising **\$559,547** to make available funds to carry out mission goals.

Our State Project Committee went beyond the call of duty promoting the assigned mission of Education of Virginia's Natural Resources" namely our flora and fauna, waters, soil and woods. Remember the fun, members had participating building 25 Blue Bird houses at convention 2023 that were distributed throughout Virginia by our District Presidents. Then there was the very interesting service project at our 2023 State Conference where you participated vigorously folding and filling four hundred Watershed Explorer Learning boxes for the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance that were distributed to third grade students in Suffolk County Schools. It was an honor to have on hand the Alliance's President on hand to explain their mission. The State Project Committee has been holding a "Federation Forest" drawing and selling a beautifully designed Swallowtail butterfly pins as fundraisers. Funds will be divided between the Wildlife Center of Virginia and the Virginia Forestry Education Foundation. We were pleased to have the Virginia Forestry Education Foundations represented to speak at our 2023 convention. Promoting stewardship and supporting our State Project has been quite evident of the many projects carried out whether educating our members and youth or simply enjoying our great outdoors of community parks, rivers, beaches, mountains or your own backyard.

Convention 2023 hosted by the Alice Kyle District, found members hearing from speakers such as an inspiring Recreation Therapist and Mary Beth Williams, GFVC Secretary. Members got comfortably dressed in "Denim & Diamonds" for the Marjorie Branch Banquet so they could quickly enjoy hoping to win at Bingo. For the Alice Kyle Banquet we celebrated our Past Presidents, in a lavish ballroom, with members dressed in "Gatsby" attire, and serenaded by a String Quartet. During the convention's Friday Session members heard the names of passed members during the reverent Memorial Service conducted by our Chaplain. The Arts and Crafts show was a grand success with many winners. GFVC Virginia members are proud to have Caitlen Carrington, win the student short contest, where she also received first place on the GFVC International level. Caitlen's story was submitted by the GFVC Lexington Woman's Club. Members were on board with the "Step In Time" Health and Wellness project as they had a chance to tread the hills of downtown Lynchburg.

Conference 2023 hosted by the Southside District welcomed a wonderful attendance with a full day's agenda after a fun Friday night of fellowship and laughter at the "Virginia's Got Talent" Show. The goal of the conference was to enlighten members

of our GFVC Affiliates and for state chairmen to hold a "Cornerstone Marketplace". Kudos to our state chairmen for their great displays of information and availability to answer questions. To help carry out Q&A for the remainder of this administration a State Affiliate Coordinator was appointed. Four Affiliates were highlighted at conference, Operation Smile, Hope for Justice, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Canine Companions. We were fortunate to have the Executive Director of Virginia Food Banks speak to us about our Virginia Food Banks since club members were already primed to do what they could to support the GFVC National Day of Service. Members also volunteered to help VA Tech students with the project "Milk for Good" at the Virginia State Fair. The Southside District had collected can goods for the ForKids non-profit and they used the some goods to decorate the tables. Seemed it was also an appropriate time to hear from the Alzheimer's Association. Even though GFVC International President was a bit under the weather, she still made the trip from Washington, DC to Suffolk and as always brought her "Dream Big..Sparkle More.. Shine Bright enthusiasm. Our GFVC Virginia Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) was successful in providing upcoming leaders with a variety of information to strengthen leadership skills.

Virtual(Zoom) means have grown to a norm status for countless Committees, Executive Committee, Executive Board and ESO Book Club meetings. The Virginia Clubwoman continues to be distributed as does the Cornerstone Connection.

This officer has enjoyed the privilege of working with Denise Price, GFVC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs representing GFVC Virginia at the GFVC Annual Convention in Louisville KY and Southeastern Region Conference in Huntington, WV. It has be a joy to make official visits to District Meetings and join clubs for anniversary celebrations and other events. The GFVC Virginia Joint Executive Boards were not only involved in business matters at state meetings but a service project were held at each meeting location. I consider myself blessed to have worked with a talented and committed Executive Committee, Executive Board, Junior Executive Board, State Chairmen and Special Appointees. GFVC Virginia members hopefully do realize the impact of your service in your local communities and across Virginia. Members are true examples of having attained being *enlightened* for they show happiness beyond materialistic gains and constantly strive to make our communities a better place. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and represent our Virginia Federation. I will never forget this *cornerstone* journey.

**GFWC VIRGINIA 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/  
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS  
Denise Price**



GFWC Virginia Juniors continue to “Lead the Way” and do amazing work in their communities. The Junior Clubs have completed 741 projects throughout Virginia. They volunteered 18,639 hours and donated 62,582.73 dollars. Using the compass as a symbol for GFWC Virginia Junior community service projects, they certainly dedicate their time and talents to their communities.

The Juniors true “North” is evident in their leadership skills, as they serve their clubs, districts, state, region, and GFWC in various leadership positions. They attended state conventions, conferences, and GFWC International Conventions. The Juniors shared their knowledge during educational programs and new member orientations. Juniors also attended the GFWC Virginia LEADS after conference in August. Junior clubs communicated with their members and communities, using scrapbooks, websites, newsletters, and social media. They ensured members had access to the club agendas, minutes, and membership applications. Juniors also celebrated club anniversaries, members milestones, celebrated holidays, and attended socials at restaurants, breweries, and other events.

As the Juniors moved “East”, they supported the Children of Virginia in very creative ways. Clubs donated their time and money to support children’s food insecurities by providing food on weekends and holidays. They also supported food banks by providing much needed food. Juniors gave scholarships to high school students and art programs. They filled school closets with school supplies, personal hygiene products, and clothes. GFWC Virginia Juniors were also generous in their appreciation of first responders, nurses, and teachers by donating treats. Reading for school age children was also important for the Junior clubwoman. They promoted school-based book clubs, donated books, and volunteered at local libraries to assist with reading and summer programs. Outreach to the children in their communities, was also important to the Juniors. They financed families during the holidays with gifts. They collected diapers, wipes, and baby items for teenage mothers and domestic violence shelters. The Juniors also supported events in their communities, such as races and tacky-light walks. Several clubs made bags of items for senior citizens and the homeless. Another Junior club hosted a Cotillion for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Juniors also wore blue to support the prevention of human trafficking, purple to support the prevention of child abuse, and red for heart health.

The Juniors then headed “South” as they supported their communities and GFWC partnerships, by sending cards to St. Jude and collecting pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House. One club partnered with their community and can collected 1,200 can goods for a local food bank. Juniors supported low-income families, residential homes, and the homeless by providing food and clothing items. Communities benefited from the Juniors donating their time at local festivals, food banks, and remembrance ceremonies. The Juniors also supported local animal shelters by donating money, food, and toys. The cleanliness of their communities was also important as they picked up trash in local parks and streets. Plastic was also collected for the purchase of Trex benches, to be placed in their communities. They supported veteran initiatives by feeding wounded warriors and supported Wreaths Across America by laying wreaths on veteran’s graves. Health and wellness of their communities was also important to the Juniors. They promoted Heart Health Month, Relay for Life, and various cancer awareness weeks. Clubs also made blankets to donate to children’s hospitals and the Linus project. Mental Health and Suicide Awareness was also supported by clubs. One club donated cellphones and iPads to Safe Harbor and the James House to support their programs.

As the Juniors finally headed “West”, they supported fundraising efforts within their club and in their communities. Clubs held “Egg my Yard” fundraisers and raffled off baskets and one club held a silent auction. They collected loose change at meetings and one club hand- crafted ornaments to sell in their community. Raffles, purse bingos, yard sales, and various other fundraisers were also held. One club hosted a craft show and raise \$8,000 to donate back to their community. Other Junior clubs hosted Breakfast with Santa and had a Haunted History Walk. The Juniors also sold food and homemade sweets at local festivals.

GFWC Virginia Juniors used the compass to always find their way to those in need throughout their communities. They used their experience and passion to donate their time and money to causes close to their heart. Because of the GFWC Virginia Juniors, the world is a better place.

**GFWC VIRGINIA**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT – SUSIE MOWRY**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS – JOANNE DIXON**



It was a pleasure to read the Leadership reports submitted by the clubs in Virginia. It is obvious that leadership is taken very seriously and that clubs understand the significance of training and helping members realize their leadership potential. Of the clubs that reported there were 592 projects reported totaling 54,265 hours. Of course, many of those hours involved club meetings and general officer responsibilities, however there were very many that involved training, educating, and creatively improving leadership skills.

Early on the Leadership Team in Virginia recognized the need to assist members in recognizing leadership potential in their districts. During the Summer Conference in Suffolk, it was obvious that there are members eager to grow as leaders. As evidenced by attendance at LEADS Virginia in Suffolk, members were ready to find ways to sharpen those skills.

An opportunity was provided for all club members in Virginia to participate in a statewide Zoom meeting to discuss the pros and cons of reporting, giving them the chance to offer suggestions to improve the process. The meeting was a success, attended by members throughout the state, and many of the suggestions made were implemented or at least are being explored.

Through our articles in *The Clubwoman*, these officers continue to stress our theme of ***Leadership is an Action, Not a Position***. The goal is to provide club members with information to make them think about leadership, help them to see what is needed to reach their full leadership potential, and to have them understand that everyone is or can be a leader.

**GFWC VIRGINIA 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – CYNTHIA BAROODY**  
**JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN – MICHELLE CLARY**



Congratulations Virginia Clubwomen, many thanks for helping to make our membership goals a reality during this administration. You have all worked hard to “Enlighten Our Membership” by renewing, recruiting, retaining, and orienting your club members. Once again, every district has added new members and to date we have sent out more than 230 welcome letters. We were happy to award eight Membership Grants this year to clubs across Virginia. These grants were used by the clubs to support their membership recruitment activities in their communities. Three Districts engaged in creating new clubs in 2023 with two being chartered by December and one being chartered in 2024. Many thanks to all the members who worked so diligently to make this happen.

During the 2023 club year, 64 Clubs reported in the Membership Advancement Area, volunteering 15,508 Hours, and contributing \$50,652.56 Spent and In-Kind Donations for 472 projects and programs. In April, we attended GFWC Virginia Convention in Lynchburg and awarded Virginia Clubs large and small, Generals and Juniors for best single projects as well as best overall projects. GFWC Top Recruiters were also awarded – we had top recruiters in every district and GFWC recruitment stars fourteen white, and four red stars were given out.

In August, we presented a PowerPoint presentation on ‘everything membership’ at the GFWC Virginia Conference. Handouts and other pertinent information were given to all attendees. The LEGO Headquarters Building was on display and all members were encouraged to recruit new members to complete the building. Every block represents a club member, and our hope is to complete the structure by our GFWC Virginia Convention in Harrisonburg in April 2024.

On the Retention and Renewal front, clubs have been stepping up the effort to hold orientations, they have been sharing news from the GFWC Membership team and are listening to their club members to find out what improvements can be made and where their interests are. Clubs are evaluating their Bylaws and requirements for membership and developing new projects while retiring the old and overused ones.

While we have lost some clubs this past year, our membership is steady and increasing ever slightly. Our hopes going forward are to maintain and increase our membership and continue to initiate new club formation. Let’s all work together to strengthen our connections and numbers in GFWC Virginia!

**GFWC VIRGINIA SECRETARY**  
**JOBETH WAMPLER**  
**LYNN CHAPMAN, JUNIOR SECRETARY**



Congratulations to GFWC Virginia Clubwomen for a remarkable year. The foundation of our state federation is solid and strong, built upon the unwavering cornerstones that are our clubs. Over 130 years ago, it was clubs that led the way, organizing the General Federation of Women’s Clubs as we know it today. Their legacy – *our* legacy – has persisted because of the work summarized in these pages. From small projects benefitting their hometowns to those of global significance, our clubs have contributed to this living inheritance we’ve received from our federation sisters of long ago. Secretaries across the Commonwealth have ensured that future generations of clubwomen know the impact GFWC has made. To our fellow secretaries and all the clubwomen of GFWC Virginia, thank you for keeping the Volunteer Spirit alive and well.

We have attended and recorded the meeting minutes of our state organization with diligence, and we have utilized the procedures that are in place to ensure their accuracy and clarity. All minutes have been placed on file at GFWC Virginia Headquarters. We trust they will not only find new life through the research of the generations to come, but that they will serve as an accurate and true reflection of the business we have conducted throughout the 2022-2024 term. We will proceed in preparing meeting reports, sharing secretarial suggestions and support through our articles in The Virginia Clubwoman Magazine, and aiding our fellow clubwomen in any way we can. It is an honor to serve beside you all as your state secretaries. Thank you for this privilege. Now, let’s get back to work!

**GFWC VIRGINIA TREASURER**  
**LYNNE WHERRY**  
**LYNN CHAPMAN JUNIOR TREASURER**



Serving as GFWC Virginia Treasurers during this administration has been a privilege and an honor. It has been enlightening to participate in the many decisions that affect your GFWC Virginia and gain a better understanding of the Federation's workings. Please rest assured that all decisions were well thought out, and we had the members’ best interests in mind during the deliberation.

As your GFWC Virginia Treasurers, one of our primary responsibilities was managing the monthly and other expenses essential for the smooth functioning of GFWC Virginia. All monies were diligently kept in secure funds, ensuring a stable financial foundation for the future of GFWC Virginia. Introducing a new electronic voucher system during this administration streamlined the approval process, with the State President and Budget and Finance Committee Chairman pre-approving all payments. The signed vouchers were then forwarded to our GFWC Virginia Headquarters and Executive Secretary, ensuring a transparent and accountable financial system.

The Budget and Finance Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, and special meetings met via Zoom before the conference, convention, and mid-winter. In addition, all Executive Board and /or Junior Executive Board meetings were attended, and financial reports were presented. Our dedication extended to the broader GFWC Virginia community through articles contributed to each Virginia Clubwoman publication.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your GFWC Virginia Treasurer and Junior Treasurer during the 2022-2024 administration. These positions have allowed us to meet many wonderful GFWC Virginia ladies across the Commonwealth, and it has been an honor to meet each of you. As we transition into the next administration, our commitment to supporting and encouraging remains unwavering. Together, let us continue to enlighten you about the future of GFWC Virginia. Thank you.



## **ALICE KYLE DISTRICT**

**Gwen Hamlet, President**

**165 Members**

**3,211 Volunteer Hours**

**Blair Trent, Director of Junior Clubs**

**85 Projects**

**\$4,067 Donated**

The Alice Kyle District is comprised of 5 General Clubs and 3 Junior clubs, with 145 Dues paying members at the end of 2023.

The District held two district meetings during the year and one Executive Board Meeting.

The Alice Kyle District served as Hostess for the 2023 GFWC-Virginia State Convention held at the Virginian Hotel, in Lynchburg, VA in April 2023. All clubs but one were represented and members participated in decorating tables, providing “Grab N Go” Breakfasts for the State Executive Board meeting, and attended 2 banquets and 2 days of meetings.

Of the five General Clubs in the Alice Kyle District, three General Clubs reported, and 2 Junior clubs submitted reports and Stat Sheets.

Two of the Club reports included heavy hours and money donated in the Education and Libraries in their year-end reports. The Junior from So-Boston-Halifax raised funds for their education projects by holding a 5K Marathon and Run. Other clubs sold pecans, held a Farm to Table dinner and held a silent auction.

Alice Kyle held a bake sale at both District meetings to raise funds to send a camper to Camp Hat Creek in the summer of 2024. The General Clubs supported the Junior’s State Project Advocacy for Children by donating diapers, wipes, and women’s hygiene products to the State drives and collections and also donated sizeable amounts to the State “Sweats for Vets” project by collecting sweat suits at each District Meeting.

Junior clubs donated items to the Advocacy for Children projects. Fidgets, personal hygiene supplies and feminine products were donated at the state summer conference.

Arts and Culture Projects sponsored Literary Contests held for local students for the Arts N Crafts Show at District and State Level; Valentines were collected and sent to Nursing Homes. Activities were recorded involving creation of hospitality baskets for Officers at State Convention in April 2023 and serving as hostess of the Fall 2023 District Meeting. The Juniors contributed to Auction baskets fundraiser for District fundraisers. Mostly money donated to different organizations compiled the activities for Civic Engagement and Outreach.

One club produces a Club Newsletter.

General Recycling programs and projects by different members were reported in Environment as well as many outdoor area clean-up projects. Two outdoor areas, one Public Park and one School Water Pond lab were selected as cleanup projects by Junior Clubs. Generally, clubs donated to Environmental organizations and recycled in their individual homes.

## **Blue Ridge District**

**Carol Williams-Mills, President    162 Members    23,047 Volunteer Hours**  
**188 Projects    \$44,995 Donated & In-Kind**



The GFWC Woman's club of Bedford participated in the Welcome Home Parade for the Bedford Boys returning from deployment in the Horn of Africa. Their float was entitled "Women in the Military, the Forgotten Warriors and Women on the Homefront". They also held their annual Craft Show.

The GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club's emphasis was literacy. Books were donated to Carilion Hospital's pediatric unit as well as a rural area in SW Virginia. Members filled backpacks for foster care children for summer fun and Christmas.

The GFWC Blacksburg Junior Woman's Club's emphasis was on Family, especially families in need. They ran a diaper drive, assisted the YMCA in their "Cinderella Project" by collecting formal wear for teens so they could attend the prom. They also participate in the "Last Minute Angels". Whereby they take the names of children not selected from the "Angel Tree" and purchased a coat, an outfit and gifts from the child's wish list.

The GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club collected personal hygiene items, made bags and donated 100 of them to a shelter for domestic violence victims called "First Night Bags". They also helped paint, repair and clean an old house that will house the Botetourt History Museum.

The GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club established the first library in Floyd County and continue to support it through donations of books, money and helped celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They helped sponsor a Veteran's Day Parade and provided a canteen for Veteran's and their families.

The GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club "planted" a pinwheel garden in downtown Salem to remind citizens that April is Child Abuse and domestic Violence month. The club helps defray expenses for members attending district, state and GFWC meetings.

The GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton donates books to the district. The books are sold at the meetings and the money is used to help defray district expenses. They give two scholarships to girls yearly, participated in "Soup for Seniors", donated homemade goodies to the fire and rescue squads monthly and members serve on the district, state and GFWC levels.

All clubs participated in the National Day of Service as well as the District President's special Project: Animal Welfare. Clubs donate pet food, toys and cleaning supplies to local animal shelters and at district meetings. The Executive director of the Roanoke Valley SPCA brought her Ambassador Dog to a district meeting.

Several clubs collected plastic so they could get a park bench from TREX.

Three clubs celebrated their anniversaries this year. The GFWC Botetourt Town and Country celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary. The GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club and the GFWC Woman's Club of Roanoke celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries.

Unfortunately, the GFWC Woman's Club of Roanoke folded at the end of January. The club only had four members and three were already members of other clubs. The club members continued to work on projects until the end.

## LEE DISTRICT

Sally Cary, President

523 Members 27,418 Volunteer Hours

Jessica Thomas, Director of Junior Clubs 767 Projects \$163,549 Donated & In-kind



**Affiliate Reports** 5 General and 1 Junior club donated \$1480 to HOBY. Canine Companions, Operation Smile, Heifer, UNICEF Trick or Treat and Shot @Life, and St. Jude's.

**GFWC Signature Project-Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention:** 8 projects were completed with donations of \$5537 and in-kind donations of \$3044.84.

**GFWC Juniors' Special Project – Advocates for Children:** 27 projects were completed with donations of \$3146.19 and in-kind donations of \$3429. 2 Junior Clubs and 2 General clubs. Projects included Build A Bears for Police to use, planting Pin Wheel Gardens, and donating car seats.

**Arts and Culture:** 48 projects were accomplished by 8 General clubs and 1 Junior club. Clubs visited museums, went to plays, donated art supplies to schools and nursing homes and to the Childrens Hospital of Richmond at VCU. J Federated WC of Chester held Cotillion for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Peanut butter and Jelly sandwiches were made for the Homeless in the Richmond Area, toothbrushes were given out at a Truck or Treat event, Sweats4Vets were collected Coats for Kids were collected and sent to Puritan Cleaners where they were cleaned and handed out to those in need. A total of \$8966 was donated to projects along with \$37,136.21 were in kind donations.

Clubs made Thanksgiving baskets for food banks and Families First. Clubs donated eyeglasses to the Lions Club who recycled them to third world countries.

**Education and Libraries:** 118 projects were completed by both Generals and Juniors. \$86,2110 was donated to area education programs. In-kind donations were \$9,086.90 for school needs. Monies were donated to the Mary Macon McGuire and Phyllis Roberts Scholarships. Clubs also had scholarships they awarded to area seniors going off to college.

**Environment:** 46 projects were undertaken by both Junior and General clubs. \$135 were donated and \$4872.05 in-kind donations were made 2 clubs used their Christmas Exchange a gift that was recyclable and had been recycled. Clubs collected wine corks that were sent off for a 2-cent donation for each cork for environment projects. Clubs recycled trash from their homes and published ideas and tips on recycling in their newsletters.

**Health and Wellness:** Clubs used their newsletters to publish healthy meals, health ideas and exercise programs. Clubs participated in the GFWC Virginia program, Step in Time. Support was given for Breast Cancer Awareness, Pink and Pearls, Sylvia's Sisters, Wear Red Day, and Red Cross Blood Drives. A total of \$12,958 was donated and \$78,884.78 in-kind donations were made.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Clubs used Facebook, Messenger, newsletters, ads in local newspapers and websites to communicate with their communities. Shirts were imprinted with club names and slogans; aprons were worn at different functions. Clubs received News and Notes, Virginia Club Woman Magazine, and Lees Traveler.

**Leadership:** 33 Lee District members serve Lee District and GFWC Virginia. We have members who serve on the Southeastern region. Members attend GFWC Convention, Lee District meetings, GFWC Convention, GFWC Conference Richmond Area Presidents Council and Lee District members serve as Docents at the Governor's Mansion.

**Legislation and Public Policy:** Members of Lee District voted in elections, were encouraged to read the GFWC Legislative Action Center newsletter to keep abreast of the legislation being decided upon. The chairman wrote articles for the Lees Traveller and kept members apprised of where to vote.

**Membership:** To recruit and retain members, socials were held, ads were placed in local newspapers. Clubs publish yearbooks, electronically keep in touch with members and use social media to announce events. Clubs make name tags, wear special aprons and shirts to show off their club. Clubs are there whenever a member needs their support.

**Fundraising and Development:** Brunswick stew sales, bean soup packages, ornaments, silent auctions peanuts, yard sales, work at Bizarre Bazaar, Bunco, Ashland Harvest Run were all done to raise money for Philanthropic projects. \$54,244. \*\* was raised through these activities.

**Women's History and Resource Center:** The Essex County Woman's Club of GFWC celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Rose Hill in Tappahannock, VA where the first meeting of this club met. Presentations were made and homemade refreshments were served. Members donated to the 1907 Society, to the Women's History and Resource Center, a member attended the annual Women's History event at Headquarters.

**President's Project for 2022-2024:** We have been donating funds and needed items to the Childrens Hospital of Richmond Foundation at VCU. Gift cards from Amazon, Wal-Mart and Target are also donated. A raffle was held for a handmade quilt and a handmade bird condo to be given out at our Annual meeting on March 23, 2024.



## NORTHERN DISTRICT

Joyce Jolly, President    722 Members    77,498 Volunteer Hours  
884 Projects    \$312,433 Donations & \$134,606 In-Kind  
\$151,718 Raised



The 884 club projects covered all of the Community Service Programs, Advancement Plan Areas and special programs. A snapshot account of activities follows:

### Special Programs

**GFWC:** WC of Fairfax supported Free the Girls by donating bras – Springfield WC supported a battered women's shelter – clubs set up Pinwheel Gardens.

**GFWC Juniors:** The Junior Woman's Club of Loudon held their Formal Dress Giveaway program – Several clubs supported Backpack Buddies.

**Arts & Culture:** Bel Air WC again had a presentation by a Native American — Arlington WC held dance rehearsals in their club parking lot-Herndon Fortnightly assisted with Friday Night Live, a community event.

**Civic Engagement:** Several clubs participated in the National Day of Service and Wreaths Across America. They provided rides to the elderly and bags of clothing to the homeless and supported first responders.

**Education & Libraries:** Several clubs gave scholarships to high school students going on to college-Fredericksburg WC donated books to the Head Start Program – New Dominion WC provided a book to every child in an elementary school – several clubs participated in school book fairs.

**Environment:** Clubs collected aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House – Woodbridge WC picked up trash on Route 1 for Adopt-a-Spot- clubs held plant swaps, provided squirrel nesting boxes, and promoted the monarch butterflies.

**Health & Wellness:** Clubs donated feminine hygiene products and held programs on nutrition, disease prevention and physical and emotional health. Loudoun donated staff and equipment to a center for individuals with disabilities and Mary Ball tied pink ribbons to fences to honor women fighting breast cancer.

**Communication & Public Relations:** Clubs contacted members and non-members through newsletters, social media, web sites, email blasts. Western Fairfax uses a 3- sided tablecloth at community events to advertise their club.

**Leadership:** District members take leadership roles in their clubs and also serve at every level of GFWC: district, state, region and national.

**Legislation:** Springfield invited the Fairfax County Supervisor to speak at their meeting. His mother was a member of the club before she passed away.

**Membership:** Clubs emphasized this area of need with the following activities: meet and greet, ice cream socials, and teas. Manassas designed fans with their logo and QR code which they distribute at community events.

**Fundraising:** Arlington WC rents out their clubhouse to the community. – Clubs held fashion shows, bunco parties, and sold white house ornaments. Who wouldn't want pink flamingos for their lawn from the McLean WC.

**WHRC:** Arlington had a history presentation on holocaust survivors and Bel Air held a program featuring the ladies of Rippon Lodge.

**Virginia's Natural Resources & Education:** Mary Ball supported a pollinator garden on Patowomeck Tribal Land and clubs supported the Flower Power Program.

**GFWC Northern District Special Project - Care for Kids:** Clubs continue to support the district project with donations that have reached \$11,013 to date for children entering the foster care system.



## SHENANDOAH DISTRICT

**Judy Gough, President 256 Members 28,065 Volunteer Hours 479 Projects**  
**Ilia Desjardins, Director of Junior Clubs \$125,066 Donated \$24,940 In-Kind \$44,018 Raised**

**GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention:** Clubs participated in 19 Projects; 4566 Volunteer Hours; \$1009 Donated, and \$3210 In-Kind. **Greene** delivered 315 notes of encouragement along with a pair of socks, 10 pounds of toiletries, with notes both in Spanish and English to SHE, the local Shelter for Help and Emergency in Charlottesville. **Covington** donated drawstring bags with toiletry items from the Summer Conference. **Waynesboro** donated food for Thanksgiving dinner to the local shelter. **Lexington** gave \$450 in gift cards in \$10 denominations for use at Goodwill, gas stations and Walmart; provided Easter Baskets for the children at the Shelter along with a pizza dinner and personal hygiene items.

**Arts:** Clubs participated in 21 Projects; 1619 Volunteer Hours; \$1180 Donated, and \$2611 In-Kind Donations. Club activities involved student/member art shows, art supplies to local schools. **Lexington** participated in a club art show with 41 entries. Three clubs held writing contests for members and students. **Lexington** hosted a writing contest for the students at the local high schools and elementary schools. One of the students won on GFWC level – the first time for Virginia to ever have someone win. She was our guest at the Fall District meeting and read her story for us. **Waynesboro** acted as hostess for the vendors at the annual arts and craft fair providing the snacks, drinks etc. for them for the entire weekend. **Covington** had a student/member art and craft show with hanging the artwork on the school walls for a period of time. **Lexington** hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual International dinner for visiting college/high school students.

**Environment:** Clubs participated in 17 Projects; 1235 Volunteer Hours; \$1500 donated and \$209 In-Kind Conservation activities included recycling, beautification projects and planting trees and gardens **Covington** saved aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald house of Roanoke, organized a spring cleanup of downtown Covington involving community members, donated funds for the purchase of a bench for the YMCA. **Waynesboro** sold bulbs as a fundraiser for the wildlife center, members bag the bulbs, members also collected garbage bags for TREX benches and have completed 6 – the last one in 2023 and given to various areas around town, club donated to the Nature Camp as well. **Lexington** had the director of Boxerwood Gardens come and speak to the club on the nature preserve. Upon learning of the need for a digital self-guided tour for the nature center and woodland gardens stepped up and donated to provide the funding for purchase of the signage and other items to create the tour. **Staunton** donated to the Nature Camp and collected grocery bags and egg cartons to donate to the local food pantry.

**Education:** Clubs participated in 612 Projects 2352 Volunteer Hours; \$20175 Donated, and \$2213 In-Kind. 6 clubs reporting provided scholarships to high school seniors, students in Trade Schools and Community College. **Lexington** donated “kindergarten kits for over 200 children. **Waynesboro** donated \$7500 in scholarships.

**HOBY:** 2 Projects; 5 Volunteer Hours; \$300 Donated. Clubs provide scholarships for students to attend the HOBY seminar.

**Civic Engagement:** Clubs participated in 46 projects, 2450 Volunteer Hours \$28250 Donated \$86767 In-Kind. Food Pantries, Nursing Homes, Domestic Violence houses, Christmas Angel Trees were helped. **Covington** had a Veterans Day Speaker.

**Health and Wellness:** Clubs participated in 31 Projects; 4873.5 Volunteer Hours; \$ 4503.50 Donated, and \$9,605 In Kind. Projects include operating clothes closets, helping individuals with transportation to medical appointments, volunteering with the Backpack program, collecting food and toys and other needed supplies at Christmas. Donations of toiletries to the homeless and art supplies to children’s advocacy organizations.

**Legislation:** Clubs participated in 8 projects; 627 Volunteer Hours; \$2630 spent.

**Operation Smile:** Members from the **Lexington, Covington, Wayland, and Waynesboro** collected toiletries, made hospital gowns, no-no armbands, and smile bags that were filled with toys and coloring books.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Clubs participated in 27 Projects; 1466 Volunteer Hours and \$1040 in- Kind Donation. Clubs advertise through newsletters, websites, “rack cards”, FB accounts, special ‘branding’ outfits, the annual yearbook, articles in newspapers, the District and State newsletters... 1 club has joined the local Chamber of Commerce, provides rack cards at local events to explain the GFWC and club membership, participates in the local Community Festival, and participated in the Natural Bridge Festival of Trees\*1 club participates in the Community Art Festival each fall and provides refreshments to the artists and craftsmen \*3 clubs have special outfits to wear during community outreach activities (hats, aprons, pins, t-shirts)

**Leadership:** Clubs participated in 46 Projects; 8517 Volunteer Hours, spent \$10,266

Members serve in leadership positions on the club, district, and state level and GFWC International. Members attend district and State convention, Summer Conference, and SER. Clubs also held officer transition meetings and reporting workshops. Board meetings, agendas, regular meetings were all held in Club as well as the District Level.

**Membership:** Clubs participated in 27 projects; 917 volunteer Hours, spent \$1607 and \$738 in Kind. Recruiting and retaining members are top priorities for all clubs reporting, 22 membership coupons were also sent in.

**Women’s History and Resource Center:** Clubs participated in 10 Projects; 197 Volunteer Hours, and \$718 donated with \$10 in-Kind. Buena Vista celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with state officers, district officers and chairmen in attendance.

**Fundraising:** Clubs participated in 22 Projects; 3310 Volunteer Hours; \$47023 Raised, and \$1274 In-Kind.

Club fundraisers included craft and baked goods sales, ornaments, bridge luncheons, yard sales, and “The Year End Campaign” asking for end-of-year donations with an offer of matching contributions up to \$750. “Just Desserts” from **Lexington** and the annual **Waynesboro** music show. **Staunton** sold Christmas Ornaments. **Covington** had a day of Caring with the local chamber of Commerce and **Greene County** did an annual Fall Bazaar, a spring yard sale and a letter sent to all the community members detailing their club, missions, projects, etc. asking for donations.

**Advocates for Children:** 6 projects 20 volunteer hours \$760 donated with \$190 in kind donations

## **SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT**

**Amy Riggs, President      344 Members      30,008 Volunteer Hours**  
**Mary Katherine Steed, Director of Junior Clubs      833 Projects      \$56,488 Donated**  
**\$80,8050 In-Kind      \$88,040 Raised**



Southside District celebrated 100 years of service to the community with a tea at the Spring District Meeting in March 2023. Our GFWC Virginia State President Bonnie Rosemond and State Director of Junior Clubs, Third Vice President Denise Price were in attendance. Ladies wore hats and gloves, and a program included the history of the district, and fun facts about district clubs were shared at the program. A delicious English tea was shared by everyone in attendance. Special district pins were designed, and a favor shared for those in attendance.

Southside District hosted Summer Conference in August and welcomed GFWC International President Deb Stranowski along with the State Executive Board. We hosted Virginia's Got Talent Event on Friday Night. We collected two car loads full of nonperishable can items that were used as table arrangements to remind clubs of the Day of Service.

Several clubs participated in Day of Service-Focus on Food Insecurity on September 30 with many working with local food pantries or food banks.

Several clubs supported the district project-Children's Mental Health and an emphasis on assisting CHKD Mental Health Hospital. We held a raffle for a gift card basket at the Spring District Meeting, and a silent auction at the Fall District Meeting. Half of the proceeds from each went to the district project. We also had a speaker from Western Tidewater Services to discuss the impact of the mental health crisis on families today at our Fall District Meeting.

We also collected shoes-over 100 pairs- for the SSD Third Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs project at the Fall District Meeting project for keeping moving for health.

Many clubs offer scholarships to local high school seniors. The district offers one scholarship in the amount of \$500. Clubs read to students during Read Across America Week. One club helps local young students find the bus for the first day of school. Some clubs hold book reading clubs.

Several clubs supported Sweats for Vets. One club had an annual Veteran's Program and dedicated veterans' bricks in the local park.

Several Southside members are members of the Dogwood Society.

SSD President Amy Riggs attended GFWC Leads at GFWC Convention 2023.

Several members participated in the Movement Challenge with one club having 35 members participating.

Other clubs promoted Woman's Health issues such as breast cancer and heart health.

We supported Domestic Violence Awareness and Advocates for Children with programs and donations for both.

Clubs supported the State Project and focused on the environment with donations to the state project, helping at convention with production of bird feeders and raising awareness of our state's natural resources.

Several members continue to serve GFWC at the district, state, and international level.

We remain a very active district and look forward to what the next 100 years will hold in service to our communities.



## **SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT**

**Eleanor Armes, President 180 Members 35,715 Volunteer Hours**

**Heather Dunn, Director of Junior Clubs 799 Projects \$149,382 Donations**

**GFWC Special Project: Domestic Violence Awareness:** Clubs hosted representatives from area agencies and shelters to speak to members. Clubs donated gently used clothing, hygiene products, new pillows and helped renovate a duplex for victims getting back on their feet. One club took part in a Domestic Violence Awareness 5-K run.

**Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children:** Project Linus saw many blanket donations for child trauma victims and ill children. Several clubs invited speakers to present programs addressing issues, such as children's mental health and abuse, that impact children. Coats, socks, hygiene products, and food were supplied for area school emergency closets. There were also special food programs for students during holiday breaks from school.

**Arts and Culture:** Some clubs had crafting classes or demonstrated various art skills at one local museum. Others donated their time to share crafts at parades, medical facilities, festivals, schools, and nursing homes. Donations were made to local choral, drama, and dancing programs. Members supported area artists by attending community theatres, the Barter Theatre, Wohlfahrt House Theatre, and Citizens for the Arts programs.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** This year's clubs participated in GFWC's National Day of Service – a food drive to help with food insecurity. Clubs support Legacy Hospice, several backpack programs, Tri-County Health Clinic, blessing boxes, diaper drives. Veterans got a great deal of support from our clubs. from helping provide desserts for a Gold Star Family BBQ and purchasing wreaths for Wreaths Across America, to sending Christmas cards to vets.

**Education and Libraries:** Clubs awarded scholarships and helped business supported Back to School supply giveaways. Clubs have given time and financial aid to area 4-H, Head Start, and STEM programs. Many members are Friends of the Library. They encourage the public to get or renew their library cards, read in schools during Read Across America, and go to events at local libraries-one such event hosted Adriana Trigiani. One club hosted a haunted story walk where participants visited stations to finish a story. One club recognizes local volunteers with a luncheon and awards.

**Environment:** Members of several clubs having memberships in area garden clubs and beautify their towns. They collect rainwater, compost, grow organically, and maintain community gardens. Gardens are grown with beneficials in mind. Clubs promote water quality and the National Take Back Day which keeps medication out of streams and landfills. Others maintain their cars, homes, and appliances for longer usage. Some members work with animal welfare to better the lives of stray animals. Others watch and feed birds.

**Health and Wellness:** Members have programs on managing various health issues, wear various colors to bring awareness to certain illnesses and post on Facebook to bring awareness to those illnesses. Some volunteer at an area assisted living facility. Another club supports their local health department program which aids pregnant and parenting teens. Several clubs participated in GFWC Virginia's "Step in Time" challenge.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Clubs rely on Facebook and club websites to share meeting information and recruit new members. Some maintain a scrapbook for club history and recruitment purposes. Other clubs send monthly letters in the mail to remind members about the upcoming meetings. Clubs are embracing branding through club gear and adding GFWC to club names. Some clubs have their own banners.

**Leadership:** Club members also take on leadership roles in the district and state. They not only serve as club leaders but serve as leaders in the community. They attend Spring and Fall District Meetings, the GFWC Virginia State Convention, and the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference. Two members participated in the LEADS Virginia Seminar, and another is taking part in the Junior Leadership Certification program.

**Legislation and Public Policy:** One club partnered with the Chamber of Commerce for a Meet and Greet the candidates and later worked the polls. Some members attend town hall meetings. Others are learning more about advocacy through GFWC's Legislative Advocacy Center which helps members keep up with important bills before Congress. Some learn through local nonprofit agencies.

**Membership:** Members receive anniversary year pins. New members go through an installation ceremony, receive their GFWC pins and flowers. Clubs use area events, Facebook, and ask friends, family, coworkers to join their clubs. Club leadership decorates meeting areas to make them inviting to members and potential members.

**Fundraising and Development:** This has been a great year for Fundraising! Clubs used the usual ideas such as raffles and pageants but incorporated some new ideas such as selling mocktails and having a Donut Dash.

**State and District Special Projects:** Clubs supported the Natural Resources Education project with monetary donations. District project Woods Waters, and Wildlife also received monetary donations from several clubs. The Linus Project has received many blankets to benefit ill and traumatized children.

## TIDEWATER DISTRICT

Nancy Vadersen President

716 Members

1,039 Projects

Ann Schultz, Junior Liaison

62,542 Volunteer Hours

\$85,602 Dollars Donated



In support of **GFWC Affiliates**, Tidewater District clubs made donations to Canine Companions, Heifer international, Hope for Justice, March of Dimes, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, UNF Shot@Life, and UNICEF. For Operation Smile, clubs volunteered 346 hours, donated \$647, and had \$524 of In-Kind donations. GFWC Great Bridge WC packed 875 Smile Bags and prepared 740 No-No Armbands. WC of Newport News conducted training for high school students, teaching them to make fleece blankets and No-No Armbands. In support of the **GFWC Signature Program**, clubs donated \$999 and \$7022 In-Kind donations to Women's Shelter residents and their children, sponsored training for volunteers for the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and donated first aid kits and gift cards to Samaritan House. GFWC WC of Tidewater partnered with the Virginia Beach Art Center's visual art exhibit focusing on Human Trafficking. Club members participated in the Red Sand Project, educating the public on the issue of human Trafficking. Clubs also supported the **GFWC Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children**. They donated over 500 items for the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters "Prize Closet" in Norfolk. Club members worked to provide gifts for needy families and toiletry items and snacks for students. **Arts and Culture** projects included participating in the Virginia Beach Art Center's Feather Project, providing background information on the WC of Norfolk mansion for a member's book on the restoration of the historic house, and holding the District's Arts and Crafts Contest at the WC of Hampton Clubhouse. Members attended art exhibits and school drama productions, and sent cards to residents of nursing homes. **Civic Engagement and Outreach** activities included the WC of Norfolk awarding two \$2500 scholarships to students at the Sentara School of Health Sciences. Many clubs supported veterans in numerous ways. **Education and Libraries** projects included awarding students with a total of \$41,560 in scholarships. Clubs supported back to school supply drives, donated children's books to free clinics and schools, volunteered at local libraries, and supported the Peake Early Childhood Center with supplies and money. The GFWC Great Bridge WC received two \$1000 grants and purchased LEGO Learning Systems that teach STEAM skills at a local primary school. Members of four clubs participated in ESO Zoom meetings. Recycling projects dominated the **Environment CSP**. Clubs repurposed stamps, pill bottles, blankets, towels, and newspapers. GFWC Yorktown WC collected used computer ink cartridges and donated them to the Peninsula Pet Pantry who sells them for refilling. Clubs donated plastic for TREX benches, wine corks, eyeglasses, aluminum pop tabs, plastic bags and cell phones. Poquoson WC collected 40 pounds of denim jeans that will be made into pet bed inserts and industrial mattresses. **Health and Wellness** projects included donations to Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, THRIVE Peninsula, Salvation Army Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, "No Shame Period," American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, and the Yorktown Food Closet. WC of Hilton Village made and delivered 150 sandwiches each month to Salvation Army. Under **Communications and Public Relations**, eleven clubs have Facebook pages, and four clubs have websites. Club newsletters keep members informed about projects and fundraisers. A new edition of the Tidewater District brochure was printed and distributed to all clubs. A total of \$137,424 was raised for **Fundraising and Development**. Clubs held fashion shows, card parties, bazaars, breakfasts with Santa, and the sales of evergreen wreaths. **Leadership** was strong, with club members logging 11,193 hours. Members served as District Officers and Chairmen, GFWC Virginia 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President elect, and GFWC Virginia chairmen. For **Legislation and Public Policy**, members were encouraged to vote and were informed of local issues and opportunities to serve on local commissions. **Membership** activities resulted in Tidewater District gaining 60 new members. Four clubs received GFWC Virginia Membership Grants. Four clubs hold Orientation programs for new members. **WHRC** activities included Federation Day celebrations. WC of the Eastern Shore celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the GFWC Yorktown WC celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For the **GFWC Virginia State Project**, members visited local parks and preserves, purchased butterfly pins, and donated \$578 to help educate and preserve Virginia Natural Resources. The **District Project** helped a church provide non-perishable food to school children to eat during the weekend and over holidays by donating over 2200 food items at the Fall District meeting. Area foodbanks and food pantries received donations from numerous clubs.

# 2023 AWARD WINNERS



**ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM 363 Projects 16,154 Hours**  
**Pat Jeffress Chairman \$25,767 Donated \$19,836 In-Kind**

## **Best Single Project – Small Club – Woman’s Club of Norfolk – Tidewater District**

This club was proud to come alongside member Bainy Cyrus to provide editorial, research, editing and publicizing efforts of her recently written and released book, Tea and Toil at the Woman’s Club. Her book tells the account of several current Woman’s Club members (namely Susanne Ott, Paige Rose and others) who joined the club in early 2000 to rescue the "grand old lady" of a mansion/clubhouse in serious deterioration. Bainy tells the story of how this group rescued the mansion from serious deferred maintenance, a deferred tax lien, disassociation with the GFWC and a declined membership. With over 2,350 joint work hours, Bainy's efforts, supported by club efforts, produced this wonderful masterpiece which is an excellent historical reference of important GFWC accomplishments, WCN efforts as well national and global events that shaped the world at the turn of the century, to present times.

## **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

Cotillion has been a Junior project for close to thirty-five years. The instructor is a member of the American Association of Etiquette Professionals. The Chester Cotillion is a self-supporting JFWCC program that teaches dance, manners, and etiquette to 159 seventh and eighth grade students from the Chester area and runs from October through February. There are seven one and a half hour learning sessions for each group, culminating with a formal event for the parents to attend and observe what their children have accomplished.

## **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Monthly news articles, Newsletter and Hands-on Craft Projects, Cultural and Seasonal Recipes, supported local theatre, coloring book collections, Stained-Glass presentation, Club trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art and members volunteered at Community Arts & Crafts festival.

## **Best Overall – Large Club – Riparian Woman’s Club – Southside District**

5-year project came to fruition when paintings of deceased artist, Barbara Harding-Sant, which were gifted to the club several years ago were hung at a local Bon Secours Hospital. Money was raised for the cleaning of some of the art and professional hanging of the artwork. A two-year study found that art can help keep us well, aid recovery and support longer life. The arts also help meet challenges in health and social care associated with aging, loneliness, long-term conditions and mental health. With this in mind, Bon Secours Southern Virginia Medical Center agreed to allow the art project to move forward with the paintings to be hung on the walls of the local hospital. The Club entered into an agreement with Bon Secours which was a win-win for the community, patients, visitors, community, the hospital and its employees and our Club. Two club members worked with the hospital several days to decide where the artwork would be hung. Each picture lining the hospital halls has a caption describing what the painting is about.

## **ART CONTEST-MEMBER ENTRIES**

### **WRITING CONTEST, Camilla Cabiness & Lois Creasy Co-Chairman**

The GFWC Virginia Creative Writing entries came from five of the eight districts in GFWC Virginia. Blue Ridge, Shenandoah, Southside, Tidewater, and Northern had entries mailed and received by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Alice Kyle, Lee, and Southwestern had no entries. We had three judges to review the entries at the State Level.

### **Member Short Story – Amateur**

1<sup>st</sup> Place “You Never Nose How Your Day Will Go” Linda Bangert  
Poquoson Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

2<sup>nd</sup> place “Crabapple Bird” Annie McNeill

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District



## Member Poetry – Amateur

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** “In Memoriam-Mother to Child” Annie McNeill  
GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** “The Questionable Life of Words” Dawn Riddle-Knowlton  
Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** “Colors” Jane Shelhorse  
Woman’s Club of Fredericksburg – Northern District
- Honorable Mention** “Butterflies” Linda Burnette  
GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District



## ARTS CONTEST – STUDENT ENTRIES

Lois Creasy & Camilla Cabiness Co-Chairman

### Student Poetry

#### Grades K-2

1<sup>st</sup> No Entries Received Ezra Renalds GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

#### Grades 3-5

1<sup>st</sup> “When Day Becomes Night” Rose Redfern GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

#### Grades 6-8

1<sup>st</sup> “My Fishing Trip” Camden Steele GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

#### Grades 9-12

1<sup>st</sup> “Anxiety” Belle Cochran GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

### Student Short Story

#### Grades K-2

1<sup>st</sup> “Dog and Bear” Paxton Booher GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

#### Grades 3-5

1<sup>st</sup> “Long Nights at Work” Olivia Repair GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club Shenandoah

#### Grades 6-8

1<sup>st</sup> No Entries Received

#### Grades 9-12

1<sup>st</sup> “Her Dutiful Servant” Nathan Heineman Poquoson Woman’s Club Tidewater

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH PROGRAM 677 Projects 38,827 Hours**  
**Celeste Corrigan, Chairman \$130,236 Dollars Donated & \$192,928 In-Kind**



### Best Single Project – Small Club – Woman’s Club of Norfolk – Tidewater District

The Woman’s Club of Norfolk hosted a Tea to bring together newly arrived Ukrainian war refugees with Ukrainians already living in the area and local residents. The purpose was to build camaraderie and provide support. The Tea included a speech by the Mayor of Norfolk followed by a panel of war refugees telling their personal accounts of fleeing Ukraine amidst bombs dropping and the excruciating loss of their homes, barns, and animals. Then there was a moderated presentation discussing how the community could help the newcomers obtain public education, earn green cards, obtain housing, and receive English language assistance. The Tea concluded with a call to action for donations, tangible and in-kind. The event was covered by local TV news stations which further facilitated community awareness.

### Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Greene County – Shenandoah District

All throughout the year the busy “elves” of the Woman’s Club of Greene were buying gifts and collecting donations to meet the needs of over 340 children at Christmas. They bought gifts, fleece, and books on sale, made blankets, and solicited and accepted donations of gently used books. They translated their application into Spanish to reach more families via Social Services, local schools, and the local Health Department. As Christmas approached, they organized teams of volunteers to wrap the presents by ages and then hosted a “Shop Day” for parents to pick out the things they needed. Each family also received a \$25 Walmart gift card.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc – Northern District**

The club organized a 2-part Day of Service initiative to reduce food insecurities in Manassas by increasing awareness of the extent of the need. The Saturday before the main event club members collected canned goods outside our local grocery store, and they had eight sponsors donate \$250. Part two of the event they partnered with their local library to hold a Canned goods Sculpture Contest, “ExtravaCANza II.” There were eight community teams that were given a \$250 gift card to buy the cans they could use to build a sculpture. On the actual day of service, the teams and spectators gathered outside the library and built their sculptures. The result was amazing – 2,109 pounds of canned goods donated to Food Rescue and 5 boxes of canned goods were given to the local food pantry. Nearly 100 people from the community participated.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Cape Henry Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

This club continues their support of Heifer International by purchasing a pair of mating alpacas. In 2022, they purchased “Alice and Alex,” in 2023 they moved on to the B’s by purchasing Bert and Bertha. The Virginia is for Lovers Club uses an Alpaca ‘theme’ for many of their Club and outreach efforts. Two stuffed alpaca toys became the centerpiece for all their meetings, they make Alpaca scarfs, they support the airport USO office, and Amorous Alpaca baked goods are used to raise money. They carried the alpaca theme to raffling off a handmade Alpaca woolen scarf and had alpaca pins for the members of the club. Their love for the Alpaca knows no bounds as they took a road trip to an Alpaca farm in North Carolina and provided a donation to support the Alpaca farm.

**COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS      337 Projects**  
**Stephanie Griffin, Chairman      11,696 Hours      \$17,169 Spent**



Clubs across GFWC Virginia. stepped up to the challenge of communicating with members and promoting their club, GFWC and GFWC Virginia within their community. Clubs communicated with members through newsletters, social media, telephone trees, emails, handbooks, and websites. They branded their Club, District, GFWC Virginia and GFWC by wearing apparel, pins and displayed signs during meetings, events and within their community. The clubs utilized QR codes, partnered with other non-profit organizations, and publicized through their local Chamber of Commerce.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club held their annual Harvest Run/Walk 10K/5K. Promoted the event utilizing a banner, signs, ads, and flyers with club name. Created a website and Facebook page for their event promoting their club. Shirts were made with the club’s name on them. *This club has been doing this event for 20 years with much success. They know how to promote their club through this event.*

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District**

This club utilized social media, local newspapers, and cable channels to publicize information regarding their yearly TV Auction Fundraiser. They submitted two weekly articles, a paid advertising spot and a full-page advertisement to acknowledge everyone that donated to their auction. Furthermore, they placed signs and a banner with the club’s name and auction information in each of their four towns in their county.

*We have some celebrities in our presence. How impressive that they promoted their club and live event on a local channel, club website and an auction website.*

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Springfield, Inc – Northern District**

This club has owned a consignment store and volunteered at the “Pink Elephant,” for 60 years. Members promote their club by wearing aprons, signs throughout the shop, bookmarks/postcards and having pictures throughout the shop show club work. All proceeds go toward charities.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg – Lee District**

This club’s President was interviewed by a local radio station during their “Making a Difference Monday” feature in August 2023. The President promoted the club, collaboration with other non-profit organizations, and fundraisers. The radio station posted the interview to their website and the interviewer announced several times the club website for listeners to learn more about the club and contact information for the club.



**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

This club communicates with club members through emailing and newsletters. They have created a google drive for videos/photos to share with the newsletter editor or social media and uses google forms to vote on issues requiring agreement and to gather information from members. This club has a website and Facebook with informative information about the club. This club utilizes club banner, name badges, club apparel and GFWC, GFWC Virginia and Tidewater emblems.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

This club has a communication/marketing committee that sends articles and photographs to their local newspaper to advertise fundraisers and inform the public of their projects and activities. They continuously work on their club website and Facebook page and post activities and pictures of members doing projects. Club members wear their club apparel (shirts and aprons) to special events, proudly display their club banner at events and meetings, hand out their club trifold brochure that gives the purpose and history of the club, describes the Community Service Projects and a list of their dedicated events.

**COMMUNICATIONS - WEBSITE CONTEST**

**Stephanie Griffin, Chairman**



**3rd Place – GFWC Tarrara Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club at age 87, has entered into social media. They post about club events, share surrounding clubs, and information about club meetings.

**2nd Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc. – Northern District**

This club has a nice website design layout. They have pictures, the club calendar, and the history of the club. The “What We Do” section is nice with a list of Community Service Programs with projects listed.

**1st Place – Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg – Lee District**

This club’s website is inviting. Sections include Community Service, Fundraising and Sponsorship, Donations and Scholarships and Membership. This club checked ALL the website page content and design criteria.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD**

**Carolyn Fellers, Chairman**

Congratulations to GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman’s Club for their work to help preserve the Botetourt Historical Museum. Thirty-two members participated spending 983 hours of volunteer service and donating \$4951 in-kind supplies to complete this project.

This project was selected as the award winner for the following reasons: Buy in from the community. They worked with multiple agencies, businesses, and community groups to accomplish their goals. They participated in a fundraising event, the Founder’s Day Dinner to help pay for programs for local students. Multiple articles were published in the local newspaper about the project. Through their work they were able to truly preserve a historic site and the artifacts kept there for display. This work included moving from an old site to this new site. They helped make improvements to the property to ensure safety of staff and visitors. More importantly, this project benefits the community as a whole and anyone that travels to the area to visit the museum.

**EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM 535 Projects 19,113 Hours**

**Marilyn Banes, Chairman \$254,944 Donated & \$63,065 In-Kind**



Clubs assisted teachers with items not provided by schools and showed their appreciation for teachers and librarians with food and gifts. Over \$100,000.00 in scholarships were awarded. A club’s goal of partnering with *Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library* was achieved. Clubs sought community donations of books, teamed with other organizations, and donated hundreds of books to classrooms, libraries, and multiple community locations.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District**

This club supports the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library. This year they increased their library support with a \$500.00 donation for the purchase of hands-on activities for STEAM learning.

**Best Single Project - Large Club – The Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club became a partner with *Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library* and began registering children in Chesterfield County zip code 23234. Members registered 253 children who received 1251 books.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club continued a project that stocks a pediatric hospital unit with books. The club delivered 861 books. Another project assisted a school in a district with a 92% poverty rate. Their hope was that children could maintain reading levels by getting books at the end of the school year. The club donated 581 books, enough that each child went home with at least 4 books.

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Varina Woman’s Club – Lee District**

At a school’s request, this club purchased 74 books to be enjoyed by a culturally diverse school population. Three \$2000.00 scholarships were awarded. For another elementary school, the club purchased 60 backpacks and filled them with school supplies. Members encouraged first graders with buttons reading “First Graders Love to Read.” On a specified day, club members read the book With Lots of Love in 25 classrooms in 2 schools as part of Jump Start’s “Read for the Record” program.



**ENVIRONMENT 321 Projects 20,462 Hours**

**Carol Pridgen, Chairman \$22,257 Donated and \$26,134 In Kind**

During the 2023 club year, club members continued to be involved with other organizations who provide educational programs, workshops, camps, cleanup days, and other opportunities for area youth to learn to protect our natural resources. Club members continue to help preserve the environment by reusing items, recycling plastic for benches, and by planting plants and trees that are native to the area to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beetles.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Members of this small club were educated on small projects that could be done in their own backyard during the cold months of the year. (1) Look out for bats (2) Put DOWN the PRUNERS (3) Maintain a Space for Birds and (4) Plan and Attend Educational Events. Check with your local extension agent for educational opportunities.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Fairfax – Northern District**

Club members decided to take on a challenge of an “on-going project” called Adopt-A-Spot Park project. During their quarterly weeding/clean up in October, club members held a rock painting event and created “Roxie the Rock Snake”, approximately 40 people attended. Over 75 rocks were painted and placed in the WCF’s special adopt-a-spot, and that’s when Roxie the Rock Snake started *rocking* School Street Park!

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bedford Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

Members of this small club planted trees and shrubs to help preserve and protect the environment, they also planted a vegetable garden. Fruits and vegetables were canned and shared with family and friends. GFWC Bedford WC members really live up to the last paragraph of our Collect, “And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all, and O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.”

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Junto Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club provides all third graders with an educational box that is very colorful and looks like you could be floating on the river if you were small enough to fit into the box. Once you open the box the fun is just beginning, out pops a colorful bandana with the local water ways printed on it, along with a ruler, a waterfowl and animals found in or around the water ways. One of the club’s members designed the booklet inside the box explaining the different stages of an oyster. WOW, what a way to learn!

## FUNDRAISING

Susie Mowry for Faye Bocock, Chairman

351 Projects 47,183 Hours  
Dollars Raised \$551,513



### **Best Single Project – Small Club– General – Spotsylvania County Woman’s Club – Northern District**

This club held three “Work on Whatever (WOW)” events this year. Attendees worked on scrapbooks, knitting, crocheting and other handmade items.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Essex County Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club hosts a “Drink Pink” event, which is a community event that is held at a local restaurant and includes a silent auction, live entertainment, 50/50 raffle, koozie sales and donations. Over \$6,100 was raised to donate to the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Clifton Community Woman’s Club – Northern District**

This club created a Speakers for Scholarship series, which is held on four Saturdays at 4:30 PM February through May. The topics included “Reading Body Language”, “Artists of the High Renaissance”, “Russia’s war on Ukraine, origin and update”, and “What’s Modern about Modern Drama?” This lecture series is open to the community.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

This club hosted its annual haunted history walk, drawing over 400 people and raising over \$1400. This included a haunted house and haunted hayride, members donning costumes leading groups of participants on a walk through the downtown, all while sharing spooky legends and historical facts.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – tie – GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club held a princess tea party for young girls in their community. In addition to introducing young girls to a fun, somewhat formal event, this tea party involved various members of the community including teenaged girls as “Princess Helpers” and a construction crew who designed and made the cardboard castle. Aside from that project, this club held a Cookie Walk at Christmas Time, orchestrated letters from Santa. Sold anniversary and birthday calendars and held a Bingo party. All of this with 17 members.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – tie – Wytheville Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

This club of 19 members “Egged” people’s yards, set-up bake sales, sold earrings and necklaces with the GFWC emblem, held an annual craft and vendor event, and worked the concession stand for a Valentine’s Day event. Utilizing their Facebook page, this club holds a monthly online auction that begins on Friday and ends on Sunday. One significant fundraising event was the Annual Symbolic Stair Climb where all local EMS and Fire Department are invited to participate.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

This club held 16 fundraising events during 2023. These included silent auctions during their regular club meetings, working with the city on their outdoor events, selling See’s Candy, holding an annual scholarship luncheon and fashion show, working with a local restaurant selling meal tickets to support a nursing scholarship, conducting a Bunco event, and selling a donated porcelain doll collection to name a few. Of particular interest is the Annual Bottle Auction, where members and guests donate “Bottle” Prizes/gifts. A professional auctioneer volunteers his time and attendees bid on the unknown contents of the bottles.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM 504 Projects 67,099 Hours

Mary Driver-Downs Chairman \$52,623 Donated & \$123,303 In-Kind



Operation Smile, Shot-at-Life, Heifer, St Judes, March of Dimes, UNICEF and Canine Companions Affiliates were supported with monetary and/or in-kind donations as well as collections of items. The Statewide initiative for “Step in Time Fitness challenge” was promoted by all 8 Districts with clubs including all types of physical movement, which ultimately leads to healthy living.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc. – Northern District**

**Go Red Women, Wear Red Day -** While almost all clubs recognize American Heart Month, this club went above and beyond just wearing the color red. This club prepared 200 “healthy heart” goodie bags. Each bag

contained a *Red Dress* Lapel Pin (as purchased from the American Heart Association), a Heart Health Bookmark (which included 75 tips on how eating, exercising, and relaxing properly can help build a healthy heart), a heart health emery board, and club contact information. Members distributed the bags on Wear Red Day, Feb 3rd during the city's *First Friday* celebration. Dressed in red, members walked among the crowd in freezing temperatures to hand out the bags to women in attendance.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

**Operation Smile – Student /Volunteer Training** At the request of Operation Smile personnel, the club conducted training for students from high schools in the Portsmouth area. Club members showed students, and Operation Smile personnel, how to make the No Sew Fleece Blankets and the No No Arm Bands. Each student had the opportunity to use the sewing machines and work on the blankets. There were 25 blankets made and 30 No No Arm Bands. Supplies were provided by Operation Smile.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Club programming was focused around Healthy Lifestyles (following along the GFWC Virginia’s Health and Wellness “Self-Care- It’s all about me” theme for 2023) with topics such as Flexibility, Fascia movements, Dharma Code, NIA - Non impact aerobics, Healthy aging, Self-defense, Graceful Aging and for October Domestic Violence Month - “Strength” with Tae Kwon Do martial arts hands on program.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

This club embraced the Step in Time challenge incorporating it with their ON THE MOVE Program. Almost half their members participated in the Step in Time Program with over 15,880 hours of exercise logged for 2023. Club members were challenged to walk 30 miles in the month of March. Walk with a Doc program was started in September where every 2nd Saturday monthly, friends and club women meet at a local park to learn about a current health topic and then spend the rest of the time enjoying a healthy walk at their own pace and distance. All of these events were free and open to the public. This club also had 7 Affiliate projects they reported under Health and Wellness.

**LEADERSHIP**

**592 Projects 54,265 Hours**

**Susie Mowry, Chairman \$77,690 Spent and \$23,800 In-Kind**

**Joanne Dixon, Junior Chairman**

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

The Leadership Chair for this club researched, designed, and presented a workshop to members on *How to Have Difficult Conversations* to encourage clear and honest communication. A TED talk was shown, and a book given to participants.

**Best Single Project – Small Club Junior – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell– Southside District**

This club utilizes all of their leadership experience and skills to mentor a Juniorette club, hopefully instilling their knowledge and passion for volunteering into these young, future clubwomen.

**Best Single Project – Large Club General – The Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc. – Southside District**

This club has short, informal training sessions for new chairmen, officers and interested members prior to each club meeting.

**Best Single Project – Large Club Junior – GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

This club signed up for the GFWC Leadership Certification Program, completing sections of the program through training and studying the history of GFWC.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Women’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club developed a yearly meeting graphic that is shared with every member of their club. Representing their club, the co-presidents sit on the Bent Mountain Center Board providing input about how the city resources are utilized. Due to the club’s past involvement in the renovation of the library, a representative member of their club sits on the Roanoke County Library Board.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

Recognizing leadership is enhanced through educating their members, this club utilized games to increase awareness. Club members participated in a game of FAMILY FEUD, breaking into teams, using questions based on knowledge of GFWC. In addition, at the May meeting members participated in JEOPARDY, with



categories of GFWC, GFWC Virginia, The Woman's Club of Newport News, and other Federation categories. As a result of playing these games, and realizing there was more to learn about Federation, two members requested to attend GFWC Virginia LEADS. Subsequently one of these members volunteered to be Nominating Committee chair and the other asked to join the club board as a member-at-large. This club has three non-voting, at-large members on the board who are appointed by the president and are selected based on interest and demonstrated leadership potential. (outside judging was used)



**LEGISLATION and PUBLIC POLICY 65 Projects 580 Hours**  
**Liz Sabbatini Chairman \$250 Donated \$31 Spent**

GFWC Virginia Clubs place great emphasis on participating in local legislation by voting, contacting their representatives and working on local boards. They also made a point of signing up for the Legislative Action Center and supported GFWC resolutions and concerns. Tidewater Districts shone in 2023 - hopefully this is a challenge to other Districts to up their Legislative game!

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Woman's Club of South Norfolk – Tidewater District**

This club has supported member Dr. Ella Ward in her efforts on the restoration project for the Cornland School of Chesapeake. Her work came to fruition in November 2023 when the Chesapeake city leaders broke ground on the revitalization project.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Award/Entry**

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Yorktown Woman's Club – Tidewater District**

They have two members on the Board of Elections and one member on the Board of Supervisors. These ladies regularly keep the club updated on local election and legislative matters.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – GFWC Louisa Junior Woman's Club – Lee District**

This club donated \$250 to the Louisa Hometown Heroes Project, which placed 41 banners through the town to honor every Louisa County soldier who had lost their life in battle.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman's Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

This club reported 11 projects, including signing up for the Legislative Action Center, keeping members updated on Resolutions, GFWC 'Power of You' Webinar, the Legislative Scavenger Hunt and working towards the GFWC Virginia Legislation Day.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Poquoson Woman's Club – Tidewater District**

The Poquoson Woman's Club recognizes and commemorates the 19th Amendment and voting. A PowerPoint presentation entitled "It's Your Right" was created and shown to encourage their members. It was followed up with a relevant survey. Two of their members serve on the Electoral Board.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Cynthia Baroody, Chairman 472 projects 15,508 hours**  
**Michelle Clary, Junior Chairman \$50,653 spent and in-kind**



GFWC Virginia Clubs have listened and **Enlighten Our Membership!** Once again, we have received membership coupons from every district in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Club members have heard the message to nurture retention, inspire recruitment, educate members, and illuminate recognition. Clubs have held a wide variety of events featuring luncheons, dinners, brunches, ice cream socials, and get-aways to name a few, to maintain and recruit new members. The future is shining brightly to enlighten the pathway as we move forward.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Tarrara Woman's Club – Southside District**

This 80-year-old club stepped up this year and entered a new age of social media by launching a Facebook page for club members to post club activities, events, and other club information.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hilton Village – Tidewater District**

This Club manned a booth at the Hilton Fall Festival to interact with visitors and talk about the club. They received a \$100 Membership Grant from GFWC Virginia to go toward the cost of the booth and refreshments.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Herndon Woman’s Club – Northern District**

Collecting hours from club members is an important goal of the club. In order to make the task fun – at each meeting, sheets are provided for members to record their hours. The sheets are then entered into a drawing for a bouquet of flowers. This has really improved time reported.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This Club hosted a New Member Social to provide an opportunity for potential new members to interact with current club members to learn more about the club and how they serve the community. They had 61 ladies in attendance with 28 of those being potential new members.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bedford Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

Club members participated in a variety of activities to build a “team spirit”. They baked and shared cookie recipes, attended a summer luncheon, visited a local flower farm, and learned how to cut and preserve flowers and shared a potluck dinner. Members took turns providing snacks and offered Zoom to those members who could not attend meetings. This club held an ice cream social as a membership drive. They received a membership grant from GFWC Virginia to help fund this event.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Metropolitan Richmond Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This large club really “Made Some Waves” this year, as the club president’s theme was “Making Waves”, and the ripple effect was felt throughout the club year starting with the Summer Social & Prospective Member party held in August. Each month the membership chair encouraged members to invite guests to the meeting. Prior to the meeting guests received a club newsletter and at the meeting were introduced and given a gift and a welcome packet containing a GFWC brochure as well as a MRWC brochure. In September the membership chair created a checklist for each club meeting to remind members of things to do for that month. A new and improved welcome table was also rolled out. At each meeting there is a welcome table by the door as members and guests come in, it’s decorated with the theme of the club president. On the table members and guests will find name tags, sign-up sheets for upcoming projects, dates for State and District meetings, donation recording sheets and a 50/50 raffle among other things. The goal is to catch everyone’s eye as they walk in the door and have one stop for everything.

### **GFWC VIRGINIA 2023 – TOP RECRUITERS**

During the second year of this administration, our club members have been **ENLIGHTEN** about the ways to increase club membership.

Once again, every district has sent in new member coupons! Also, for the second year in a row, your membership chairs have sent out over 230 welcome letters to new members. Thank you all for your time and service in this endeavor!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP DISTRICT RECRUITERS:**

- **Alice Kyle District** – Margaret Ann White, GFWC Amherst Woman’s Club, 4 members.
- **Blue Ridge District** – Roberta Johnson, GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club, 2 members.
- **Lee District** – Courtney Rogers, Junior Federated Woman’s Club of Chester, 6 members.
- **Northern District** – Ann Livoti, GFWC Woman’s Club of Loudoun, and Susan Morabito, GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, tied with 6 members each.
- **Shenandoah District** – Maura Rodriguez, GFWC Woman’s Club of Greene County, 6 members.
- **Southside District** – Jean Cobb, GFWC Riparian Woman’s Club, 6 members.
- **Southwestern District** – Faye Bocoock, GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club, 3 members.
- **Tidewater District** – Sue Doyle, GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater, and Sue Sasser, GFWC Woman’s Club of Accomack County, tied with 4 members each.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Courtney Rogers**, Junior Federated Woman's Club of Chester, **Ann Livoti**, GFWC Woman's Club of Loudoun, **Susan Morabito**, GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas, **Maura Rodriguez**, GFWC Woman's Club of Greene County, **Jean Cobb**, GFWC Riparian Woman's Club, 6 members for recruiting 6 members each! Courtney, Ann, Susan, and Maura will each receive a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Virginia Marketplace. The winner of the recruiter coupon award drawing also receives a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Virginia Marketplace - Congratulations to **Genia Williams**, Junior Federated Woman's Club of Chester.

### **GFWC STAR RECRUITERS**

#### **White Star (5 to 9 Members)**

**Brittany Harris**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Genia Williams**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Jennifer Brame**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Lydia Klinger**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Tina Mickiewicz**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Courtney Rogers**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Susan Morabito**, GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas

**Mary Woodruff**, Riparian Woman's Club

**Hope Harrell**, Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club

**Holly Waddell**, Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club

**Pat Deel**, Richlands Woman's Club

**Karyl Mahoney**, Cape Henry Woman's Club

#### **Red Star (10 to 14 Members)**

**Katherine (Kat) Oros**, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester

**Ann Livoti**, GFWC Woman's Club of Loudoun

**Maura Rodriguez**, GFWC Woman's Club of Greene County

**Martha Matthews**, GFWC WC of the Eastern Shore

\***Brenda Fitzsimmons**, GFWC Woman's Club of Accomack County received a white star and a red star for recruiting 10 new members. Unfortunately, Brenda has moved to Pennsylvania where she will join another GFWC club.

#### **Blue Star (15 to 19 Members)**

**Faye Bocoek**, GFWC Pennington Gap Woman's Club

**Jean Cobb**, Riparian Woman's Club

**Gloria Gori**, Yorktown Woman's Club

**Mary Lee Willis**, The Woman's Club of Windsor, Inc.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

**Barbara LaPrade**, Editor of *The Virginia Clubwoman*

GFWC Virginia Newsletters were judged based on the following criteria: Appearance and organization, readability, GFWC affiliation logos, name of the club on the front cover, reports of officers and chairmen, member recognition, federation information, and reminders.

#### **Large Clubs**

1st Place *Junto Jottings*  
GFWC Junto Woman's Club (Southside District)

2nd Place *Swift News 'n Views*  
GFWC Swift Creek Woman's Club (Southside District)

3rd Place *Hi-Flier*  
GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club (Tidewater District)



## Small Clubs

- 1st Place *Kanawha Kibitzer*  
GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 2nd Place *Worthy News*  
GFWC Worthington Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 3rd Place *Ashcake Living*  
GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club (Lee District)

The level of quality displayed in the club newsletters made judging extremely difficult. I was not only impressed with the artistry of the newsletters, but also by the creativity in the types of activities planned within the clubs and for the communities.

## GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM ~ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

**Amber Holdren, Chairman 130 Projects 4,889 Hours**  
**\$8,559 Donated & \$22,771 In-Kind**

**STOP**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
Get Involved. Save a Life.



### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Richlands Woman's Club – Southwestern District**

Members started a new project this year and became Pillow Pals with Clinch Valley Community Action-Family Crisis Services' Women Shelter, donating 23 pillows. Staff had told us pillows could not be reused by clients and were always needing to be replaced. Members also donated hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to the shelter.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – no entries received**

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Woman's Club – Blue Ridge District**

Club members collected a variety of personal care items over the year and in October, they put together 100 "First Night Bags" for the shelter. Two club members made the bags and a matching tissue holder. These bags are given to ladies as a gift to boost morale on the first night in the shelter.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – no entries received**

### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club – Lee District**

This Club adopted a Safe Place Family for Christmas. Although the actual family is unknown to us, the club is given a wish list, prepared by a mom and two children. It describes their sizes, favorite colors, needs and wants. The Club concentrates on meeting the needs but often is able to supply many of their wants. We were able to do that this year. Members chose from the listed items and brought them to one person.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Lexington Woman's Club – Shenandoah District**

This Club supported Project Horizon a shelter dedicated to eradicating domestic, sexual, and dating violence through education, advocacy, empowerment of survivors, and by being a sanctuary for victims. The Club provided donated \$450 in \$10 denominations gift cards to be used at Goodwill for clothes, Sheetz for gas, and Walmart for essentials. They also had a committee that provided Easter baskets for the children residing there at Easter, and Mother's Day gift baskets for the women residing there in May and one afternoon they dropped a pizza dinner there for the residents.

## STATE PROJECT: Education and Promotion of Virginia's Natural Resources

**Dale Fisher, Chairman**

**146 Projects 3,103 Volunteer Hours \$13,043 Donated \$5,042 In-Kind**



Clubs educated their members and their communities on the importance, beauty, and threat to Virginia's natural resources through nature walks, club programs, a presence at local fairs, social media posts, publications, and collaborative efforts with other organizations. Parks, gardens, and nature centers were visited, Virginia waterways were monitored, nature camperships were provided, and books were donated to schools.



**Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

A Master Gardener presented information on the new Hanover County, VA Horticultural Education Center at a club meeting. The club designated the Center as one of the beneficiaries of their annual fundraiser which resulted in a \$7,500 donation to the Center.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Mary Ball Woman’s Club – Northern District**

This club supported a young lady’s efforts in achieving her Silver Award in Scouting - the construction of a pollinator-friendly garden on the Tribal Land of the Patowomeck Indians. The club donated money, plant material, and their time to assist her complete her project.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

Funds were provided for a student’s participation in “The Learning Barge” a floating river laboratory and classroom. Members toured the Ryan Resilience Lab and supported Lynnhaven River NOW. Speakers, newsletter articles, and the creation of a scrapbook were utilized to promote the State Project

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Junto Woman’s Club – Southside District**

Members helped with a marsh field study along the Nansemond River. assisting with displays and guiding students through “hands-on” educational stations. They participated in “Connecting the Classroom to the Environment.” 1,100 educational boxes were assembled and delivered to schools.

**GFWC WOMEN’S HISTORY and RESOURCE CENTER**

**Ingrid Sinclair-Day, Chairman      105 Projects 1,813 Hours  
\$1,804 Donated \$2,449 In-Kind Donations**



**Best Single Project – Small Club – Buena Vista Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

The club celebrated its 100-year anniversary at the historic 200-year-old Paxton House that the club had been instrumental in restoring to its former glory. Descendants of the Paxton family, past GFWC Virginia presidents, many club and district members, and local dignitaries attended the lavish reception. Club history had been updated and sent to GFWC. The local paper devoted over two pages to the club’s accomplishments in the community during the past 100 years.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

The club produced a DVD video covering its social activities, community projects, and awards during the year entitled “2023 Club Year in Review.” Shown were members, projects, and many items donated to community organizations. Slides were accompanied by music, and projects and members were identified and dated. It was shown at the Spring installation and posted on Facebook, serving as an important recruitment tool showing prospective members the club’s work in the community.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club – Southside District**

During “Women’s History Month,” eight well-known women--past and present--were recognized for their significant contributions to the community. Included were a former postmaster, US Navy decoder, school principal, and the founder of the first commercial peanut plant. An honorary member serves on the Board of Supervisors and started the Sedley Recreational Society. A present member and club president is active in the Historical Society and organizes Heritage Day and Down Home Day in the community.

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Grundy Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

The club celebrated women’s history throughout the year. Black History Month included the first African/Native-American woman to hold a pilot license. Subsequent months included topics such as “Inventive Women” with handout of 10 women inventors. Spring and Fall District Meetings included trivia games about women inventors and “A walk through 63 years of Federation,” encouraging members to tell their own story.

## **GFWC AFFILIATE AWARDS**

**Bonnie Rosemond, GFWC Virginia President**



### **Canine Companions – GFWC Wayland Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

This club organized a Yard Sale with the proceeds donated to Canine Companions.

### **Heifer International – Cape Henry Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

“Amorous Alpaca Treats” were sold at each business meeting, enabling them to purchase ten pairs of mating alpacas for farmers in South America. Members took a trip to a alpaca farm where they met, fed and even got kissed by cute alpacas.

### **Hope For Justice – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

A generous donation was made to Hope For Justice.

### **March of Dimes – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

This club collected items for the March of Dimes Personal Care Kits for premature babies and moms.

### **Operation Smile – GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

Members packed 875 Smile Bags, prepared 740 No No arm bands, donated 10 fleece blankets, 6 large suitcases to transport medical supplies, 16 stuffed animals 10 coloring books and 10 boxes of crayons.

### **St. Jude Children’s Research Hosp. – GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

Each member is dedicated to contributing to St Jude Children’s Research Hospital on a monthly basis.

### **Shot@Life – GFWC Swift Creek Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club encouraged getting their immunizations at Walgreens to participate in “Get a shot, Give a Shot”. Club was able to donate nine shots to the global immunization program.

### **UNICEF – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club GFWC – Alice Kyle District**

Members worked to encourage educational and Halloween fundraising activities with the “Trick-or-Treat” for UNICEF boxes.

## **JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM ~ ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

**Amanda Paez, Chairman 116 Projects 2,375 Hours**

**\$11,235 Donated & \$68,497 In-Kind**



Clubwomen across the Commonwealth supported programs and community partnerships that positively impacted the lives of children in 2023. Whether through monetary donations, collaborating with community partners, addressing food insecurity, or supporting regional efforts for mental health and period poverty, GFWC Virginia has held the mission of enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service to heart.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Regency Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Members met at a local Build-a-Bear workshop and made 11 stuffed animals with new outfits. These bears headed to the local police department and to the Davis Child Advocacy Center. They will be used to assist with children that are involved in traumatic situations to reduce the emotional toll.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

In honor of Advocates for Children Week, the SAJWC supported Valley Advocacy, an organization that provides mental health care and forensic investigations for child survivors of abuse. In addition to financial contributions from the club and members, they also helped market and fundraise for their Turkey Trot.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Henry Clay Woman’s Club of GFWC – Lee District**

Henry Clay Woman’s Club supports the Disciples Depot, a program at a local church which works with displaced and refugee families coming to the US for a better life. Refugee families in the area can obtain household items, clothing, and children’s items each month. Members donated back-to-school supplies, gently used clothing, linens, and household goods to help their neighbors feel at home.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg – Lee District**

JWCW donated personalized blankets to the James City County Foster Care Program. As children in foster care can be extremely transient, these clubwomen wanted to provide a sense of security with a personalized blanket.

**Best Overall – Small – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

The Woman’s Club of Tidewater supported United Methodist Family Services, which provides foster care and residential treatment to youth in need. Clubwomen provided Valentines cards so foster children could participate in their classroom exchanges, gifts during the holidays for five children, birthday celebrations with cake, gifts, and paper products for three children, and participated in events sponsored by UMFS. Additionally, this small club donated items requested by UMFS as needed such as crocheted hats, baby wipes and diapers, and so much more.

**Best Overall – Large – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

With 10 Project, totaling \$50,512 in-kind, and over 300 hours of volunteer service, the Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun led the way by hosting events for Advocates for Children Week addressing period poverty through Mobile Hope, their Annual Prom Wishes event, and supporting the Backpack Buddies which addresses food insecurity.



**Director of Junior Clubs Awards**

**Denise Price, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs**

**GFWC VIRGINIA CLUB – OUTSTANDING ACHEIVEMENT**

This GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs will award an Outstanding Achievement Award to one club in each size category. The Junior Club who demonstrates leadership within the club’s level, while also supporting Advocates for Children in our communities. See the GFWC Virginia Junior Special Awards form, for entry guidelines.

**Small Club – no entries received**

**Large Club – no entries received**

**GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

This recognition award is to recognize the dedication and hard work of a special Junior Club Women over the last calendar year. The GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia and all they do to promote leadership and volunteerism.

This Junior is a founding member of her club. She has held leadership positions at the club and district level. She promotes volunteerism in her club by encouraging members and assisted in every club project. She currently serves as club president with joy and zeal. But most importantly, she is the clubwomen we all want by our side. She took over as club president, when the current president needed to step down due to health issues. She is described as a total professional, laced with her good-natured, quick-witted Southern twang – an Appalachian Dolly Parton. It is my honor to recognized Miranda Lester from the GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Women’s Club as the GFWC Virginia Junior of the Year.

**GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR NEW CLUBWOMAN AWARD**

This recognition award is to recognize the dedication and hard work of a new Clubwoman in last calendar year. The GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia and all they do to promote leadership and volunteerism.

**No entries received for 2023**

## **GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award can be awarded to anyone who is nominated, is an active GFWC Virginia Junior Club member when nominated, and attaining at least 110 points on the form in the Junior Awards section of the Yearbook.

**No entries received for 2023**

## **GFWC Virginia Junior Honor Society**

The Junior Honor Society is recognition of a club's high level of participation in Federation activities, particularly those that are directly sponsored by the Junior organization. In order to qualify, clubs must meet a minimum point level in the following sections: Federation activities, Federation Funding, Federation meetings and Special awards. There are three award categories (participation award for those who submit information but don't meet minimums): Gold, Silver and Bronze. Participation certificate given to clubs who do not meet the minimum criteria.

### **Participation**

Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester – Lee District

Narrows Junior Woman's Club of GFWC – Southwestern District

### **Silver**

Farmville Junior Woman's Club – Alice Kyle District

GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman's Club – Southwestern District

### **Silver & Highest Point Total**

GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman's Club – Lee District

## **SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS**

### **CORRINE MURRAY AWARD**

#### **Large Club – Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester – Lee District**

The club undertook the project as an affiliate of Dolly Partin's Imagination Library. Children from 0 to 5 would receive a free book monthly. They enrolled children, put out ads, flyers and even worked with a non-profit organization called the Christmas Mother of Chesterfield to get the information to families they even provided a QR code that parents could register their children.

#### **Small Club – No Entries Received**

### **MARJORIE BRANCH AWARD**

#### **Large Club – Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club was selected for the Marjorie Branch award in promotion of GFWC and GFWC Virginia. This club focused on retaining, revitalizing, and recruiting members. This is evidenced by their continued growth. They provide members with both service projects and social events. They celebrate the members of the Club with several fun activities. They support new members with a new member buddy program.

Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester reported 82 members in 2023.

#### **Small Club – GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman's Club - Lee District**

This club was selected for the Marjorie Branch award in promotion of GFWC and GFWC Virginia. This club's projects are shared on social media to promote both the club and the organization we are serving. We wear branded gear to our social and volunteer activities to show that we are all part of the same club. We advertise projects, meetings, and socials on social media to encourage those that are interested to reach out. We encourage members to bring guests to learn about our club.

### **PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS AWARD**

#### **Large Club – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

The GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club has been working annually since 2020 to assist their neighboring General Club with reporting, since the General Club struggles with the technology used to prepare reporting. The Junior Club members assist with writing narratives, help sorting the projects into correct reporting areas, and mail the reports for the General Club. The two Clubs share a special connection and provide donations & in-kind donations to support each other’s projects. The Juniors also attend The General Club’s summer picnic and Christmas luncheon to enjoy fellowship time together.

#### **Small Club – Staunton Augusta Junior Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

The Staunton Augusta Junior Woman’s Club co-hosted a recruitment event with the Waynesboro Augusta Woman’s Club. Both Clubs are in the same county, so they combined their efforts to promote their clubs & recruit new members. Flyers were shared in public areas and on social media platforms. The event was fairly well attended and members from both clubs attended the event. No new members were recruited but the clubs enjoyed fellowship time together and they plan to try again another time.

### **SHELBY PAISLEY HAMLETT AWARD**

#### **GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Club members monthly met at the Backpacks of Love to stuff bags with food for children to take home over the weekend in order to have nourishing food. An average of 150 bags were assembled monthly.

### **SHENANDOAH DISTRICT AWARD**

#### **Large Club – No Entries Received**

#### **Small Club – GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District**

For a small club, the members of GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club are highly involved in leadership opportunities. Members serve in leadership positions in the club, district and state level. One member serves as the GFWC Virginia Junior Parliamentarian, and one member serves as the GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs both attending the annual State Conventions, Conferences, and Midwinters events. Club members are encouraged and inspired to attend GFWC meetings to gain a wider understanding of club work and Federation!

### **SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT JUNIOR AWARD IN LEGISLATION**

**No entries received for 2023**