



PRESIDENT MARY PAT MARCELLO

**GFWC MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION**



*Joy In Service, Pride in Achievement  
United in Friendship*

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## **2023 GFWC International Convention June 10-12 – Louisville Kentucky**

It's time to begin to think about attending the GFWC International Convention, this year held in the exciting city of Louisville Kentucky, home to the Kentucky Derby, the Louisville Slugger Factory & Museum, seven (7!) bourbon experiences within walking distance, and much much more! If you've never attended an International Convention, now is the time to do it!!! You'll want to come early to enjoy the vibrant city of Louisville and experience the excitement of the International Convention!

The Opening of the Convention will take place on Saturday morning, June 10; the Middle Atlantic Region Semi-Annual Meeting Luncheon will be the same day. Workshops, guest speakers, service projects will be interspersed throughout the weekend, combined with the business of the Convention.

The official event hotel is the Louisville Marriott Downtown. You may make your room reservation via the dedicated group phone number (800-266-9432) or reserve your hotel room AND make your reservations for the Convention via the website <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=19390>

In addition, GFWC has partnered with United Airlines for air travel. To make reservations online, click on the discount code ZMWZ353876. Or, call the United Meetings Reservation Desk, Monday through Friday, at 800-426-1122 for booking assistance. Booking fees are waived for 2023 GFWC Annual Convention reservations.

All registrations must be submitted no later than May 15.... come and share a mint julep with your GFWC sisters!



**INVITATION TO THE  
GFWC MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION  
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

**When: Saturday June 10, 2023 12:15pm-2:15pm**

**Where: Louisville (KY) Downtown Marriott**

GFWC Middle Atlantic Region President Mary Pat Marcello cordially invites you to attend and will warmly welcome you to the GFWC MAR Semi-Annual meeting in exciting downtown Louisville Kentucky. This luncheon will be your opportunity to meet the Region's 2023 LEADS graduates and the Jennie Award nominees. The luncheon menu will feature local culinary delights (can we say bourbon??) all while enjoying great conversation with sister MAR clubwomen!

Be sure to register before May 15, 2023 via the GFWC member portal or via the link  
[.https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event\\_id=19390](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=19390)

## From New Jersey

Shirley Holly, President

**Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF)** is our Special State Project during this administration. ECF helps families dealing with a diagnosis of pediatric cancer in many ways – they give financial support, provide material items, and give emotional support through trained in-home counselors/case workers. The unique thing about ECF is that they support the whole family as they feel cancer doesn't just affect the sick child, it affects the entire family. Every child in the family receives a birthday gift, every child receives a Christmas/holiday gift and this is where NJ clubwomen were able to jump right in to help.

New Jersey clubwomen have whole heartily embraced ECF. Last August we held a basket raffle luncheon fundraiser with over 200 gift baskets being donated. The event was sold out with 225 in attendance and a wait list. We raised nearly \$10,000. For school opening in September, ECF asked if we could supply 550 backpacks, filled with school supplies. Not only did we donate 550 backpacks, we doubled that donating 1300 filled backpacks! Every child in every family received a backpack filled with supplies needed to start the school year. We know there were many smiling faces as each family received their brand-new backpacks.

With ECF food pantries always low just before the holidays, at our annual Fall Conference in October, clubwomen brought food donations for the ECF pantries valued over \$2,000. In November, members provided turkeys for families in need valued over \$1,000.

All ECF children were able to make wish lists for the holidays. Clubs and individual clubwomen adopted families providing gifts for over 150 families creating many happy memories for families struggling with day to day cancer issues.

The ECF Southern Regional office couldn't find a venue large enough for their holiday party. One of our clubwomen reached out to a contact she knew and was able to secure a venue. When the venue found out it was pediatric cancer, they donated EVERYTHING as they had lost a child to cancer! There really are kind people in this world! Clubwomen worked at the 4 holiday party locations providing all of the crafts and face painting supplies and working those craft tables.

Clubwomen have helped in the regional offices by hand writing over 300 thank you notes to cash sponsors. Registration forms have been sent from clubs to school districts spreading the word about ECF services and three new families, who didn't know where to turn to, have been identified. Those new families are now receiving the support ECF has to offer. Many clubs and districts are holding their own fundraisers to support ECF. We are thrilled to be able to do the many hands on projects as we have so far and look forward to another year of activities to benefit ECF.



**Emmanuel Cancer Foundation**

## From New York

Kathy Meyers, President

GFWC New York's President's special project is Mental Health awareness. **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** was chosen to be the organization that NY members could learn from through guest speakers as well as raise funds to support NAMI's mission. Because her son has struggled with Mental Illness since he was in his teens helped New York's State President decide that the group was one of the best.

The first place that provided support was at the Middle Atlantic Region meeting in Albany NY. Members present created cards for the program. Members from the Pittsford Women's Club pre-assembled "kits" for MAR members to work with in creating a special message for NAMI clients. A total of \$495 was a gift in kind and time was spent on the cards as well as of 185 total hours creating the "kits". Pittsford club hosted a speaker from NAMI at their meeting in the fall and donated a gift of \$100 .

The Junior Women's Club of Bellerose donated \$100 to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Another member organized an advocacy supper. Syracuse Federation of Women's Club sponsored a speaker at a district meeting. The District Director shared the information at their District meeting. Servers from Western New York at their March meeting will share a list of program suggestions and a bibliography to assist families in the community with the names of organizations that can help them.

The Women's Club of Peekskill and Cortlandt is very creative and decided to learn more about the national alliance. During a part of their meeting the president gives highlights on a specific aspect of mental illness. There has been no conversation or noise during every presentation. Later in the meeting people privately disclosed personal things relating to that topic. As State President, this President is very touched and proud of the group for taking on the conversation of helping people who have mental illness.



## From Pennsylvania

### Heide Cebrick, President

The Clubwomen of Pennsylvania have really embraced the President's Project – **Operation "We've Got Their Six"**. This Project focuses on Women Veterans, Active Duty Military, Veterans in Nursing homes, and homeless Veterans. The project was launched at the Summer Leadership Conference in July. From July to December 31, the following totals were reported:

| Challenge Area Name                 | Number of Items/Events | Dollars Donated   | In Kind Donations  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mommy & Me/Glam Bags                | 1,306                  | \$1,040.00        | \$5,902.05         |
| Women Veterans Activity/Event       | 6                      | \$731.80          | \$980.00           |
| Dignity Clothing Protector          | 1                      |                   | \$10.00            |
| Lap Robes/Blankets                  | 22                     |                   | \$365.30           |
| Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program     | 1                      |                   | \$100.00           |
| Care Packages for Deployed Military | 834                    | \$917.75          | \$3,002.58         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>2,170</b>           | <b>\$2,689.55</b> | <b>\$10,359.93</b> |

This Officer is so very proud of the totals for just 5 months into the project. Between Dollars Donated and In-Kind Donations, the Grand Total is \$13,049.48. There are many more projects planned for this year. A great big THANK YOU to the Great Ladies of Pennsylvania for helping our Veterans!



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## From Delaware

Trish Rodriguez, President

GFWC Delaware State President Rodriguez chose **Anti-Trafficking Awareness and Prevention** as her President's Special Project. Her goal is to create an awareness that human trafficking occurs in every community and is prevalent today. Mitzi Perdue, an anti-human trafficking awareness advocate, has been appointed her project chairman.

January was proclaimed Human Trafficking Awareness month nationally and by the Delaware State Legislature as well.

The Laurel New Century Club held two programs on Human Trafficking. The first presented an awareness of the situation and was given by DE State Police Detective Josh Rawley and DOJ representative Caroline Brittingham. The second concentrated on After the Rescue and was presented by Sharon Stevens of Zoe Ministries. Nine clubs in Sussex County were invited to attend and eight clubs were represented. Several newspaper articles in the local paper followed. A simple email to the tri-state TV station WBOC resulted in an appearance by club president Bonnie Stone Fischer and State President Rodriguez on an afternoon program, DelmarvaLife.

The Townsend Women's Club invited Loren Arnold of the Salvation Army Human Trafficking Department to speak at their November meeting. Ms. Arnold spoke of the ways that clubwomen could assist them. She also mentioned the need for more speakers to spread the information and housing for those in the process of getting assistance.

The GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club met with the Local Troop 7 Police Victims Unit and delivered 16 blankets and six gift cards to them. The blankets requested by the unit will be used to keep victims warm and the gift cards will provide for immediate needs.

The President of the GFWC Blue Hen Chicks Club researched human trafficking and wrote two articles for the club newsletter.

Plans for seminars and speakers in 2023 are being researched by seven clubs across the state.



Pictured- DE State Police Detective Josh Rawley and DOJ representative Caroline Brittingham present a program on Human Trafficking Awareness.

## Nominating Report

**State conventions will be here soon!**

At state conventions this spring, each state must nominate and elect a candidate for each region office to serve during the 2024-2026 administration in the following rotation:

Region President – Pennsylvania  
Region Vice President – New York  
Region Recording Secretary – Delaware  
Region Treasurer – New Jersey

MAR Nominations Chairman, Linda Kreussling, will need copies of each state's Convention minutes, showing the nomination and vote for the candidate, state endorsement letter, and a short bio of the candidate.

These documents must be hard mailed to her no later than July 1, 2023 at the following address:

Linda Kreussling  
MAR Nominations Chairman,  
147 Raspberry Court, Melville, NY 11747

If there any questions, do not hesitate to contact her at [linda56@optonline.net](mailto:linda56@optonline.net)

## 2022-2024 Jennie June Award

The GFWC Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym, "Jennie June." The award highlights those extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence in purpose through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, elsewhere in the community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. In fact, it is the highest honor bestowed by GFWC.

The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. They are chosen by their clubs to compete at state, region, and national levels for their outstanding personal commitment to club, community, and family. State Presidents it's not too early to begin reminding your clubs to start thinking about nominating a candidate for this prestigious award. Encourage clubs to start looking for candidates to propose. Announce call for nominations at state meetings and publish reminders in newsletters, magazines, and emails.

Here are the Dates to Remember:

- Clubs submit nomination materials to respective State Presidents, **POSTMARKED by June 1, 2023**
- State Presidents submit nomination materials (1 per state) to MAR President, Mary Pat Marcello, 1848 Wildcat CV, Hutchinson Island, Florida 34949 **POSTMARKED by August 1, 2023**
- MAR President Mary Pat Marcello will submit the nomination materials of 2 nominees to GFWC Headquarters **by December 1, 2023.**

## Club Highlight

The **GFWC Curwensville Woman's Club** members provided planning and volunteer power as part of a **financial reality fair** for five local school districts.

A financial reality fair is an interactive, fun event for students to experience a simulation of real-life choices related to spending, saving, and budgeting and expose senior students to the financial decisions they will face as they graduate from high school or college and experience budgeting and managing money.



Prior to the day of the event, students pre-selected a career and were assigned a realistic salary for that career, including estimated payroll taxes. They also preselected housing level (buy, rent, live at home) and transportation (public, compact car, mid-size, SUV, etc.). which helped them make other choices during the fair without having a bottleneck at the housing or transportation tables. Students also took a pre-survey to assess their beginning financial knowledge and awareness.

On the day of the event, students from five school districts were bused to the chosen venue. Upon entering the event, each student received an individualized budget sheet, which contained the student's name, chosen career, corresponding annual salary, monthly gross income, taxes and take-home pay. Tables were Investments, Housing, Housing Expenses, Transportation, Insurance, Health Insurance, Food, Entertainment, Communications, College/Technical School, Pets, Personal Care, Bank (credit and credit cards), Charity & Community Service, and Whammy Wheel (The whammy wheel is a game of chance with various emergencies and windfalls with corresponding dollar amounts.). The students visited each table for 5-7 minutes as volunteers presented the available options and financial impact; they did not try to persuade students to make good choices. By the end of the time, the students chose options in each area and recorded the corresponding dollar amount on their budget sheet. At the end of the event, the volunteers helped students add their expenses and see how they did against their budgets. Woman's Club members volunteered as table speakers in their personal expertise areas, as well as helped with lunch for the volunteers.

## Update to GFWC MAR DIRECTORY



Please update the address in your directory  
for Elaine Ko-Talmadge

International Liaisons Committee  
Elaine Ko-Talmadge  
**2400 South Ocean Drive # 7422**  
**Fort Pierce, Florida 34949**  
Cell: 518-495-4110  
E: [elainekotalmadge@gmail.com](mailto:elainekotalmadge@gmail.com)

(The Fayetteville address  
is for only part of the year).

