



DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

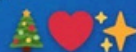
GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB



A Christmas Wish From My Heart to Yours

I wished for a world
Where kindness is louder than hate,
Where generosity replaces greed,
Where every lost soul finds its way.

I wished for joy to return,
For healing to begin, And for love
to be the gift we share most.



Next Board Meeting: January 4, 2026, 6 pm ET

gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

Wishing each of our Blue Umbrella members, friends, and families a wonderful, loving, holiday season, regardless of the holiday you are celebrating! We are as one!

My sincere thanks to everyone who was able to join us for the December 7th Holiday Membership Meeting. Many of our regulars were traveling, and they were missed. But we did have fun! Special thanks go to Patty Fisher for planning the meeting, and to Lisa Klatt, our trivia creator and host extraordinaire! During the business meeting, we accomplished some important tasks. You will find more information later in the newsletter about the nominating committee report and the first Blue Umbrella 2025 reporting documents. The meeting was recorded and is available for viewing.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GnX1ZkXwu4MzfqaZFpWhucXuT8todQJ-/view?usp=sharing>

I was thrilled to see so many GFWC clubs across the country participating in the Wreaths Across America project. Honoring veterans - men, women, even canines - is one meaningful way we can show our appreciation for the sacrifices they have made. Another way to show our support is through the GFWC Florida's President's Project, Flight of Honor. This very special flight is coming up quickly, and the Florida clubs have worked really hard to bring it to fruition.

With the season of giving upon us, we also have an opportunity to continue showing our generosity by supporting the upcoming service trip to Belize. This is a project that we have always strongly supported, and several of our members will be part of the travel team. While most of the items on their Amazon wishlist have already been purchased, I encourage you to consider a monetary donation. Last year, remaining funds helped the five federated clubs in Belize pay their GFWC dues and enabled members to attend the GFWC Convention. This upcoming Convention will be the final one for the 2024-2026 GFWC administration and an exciting opportunity for representatives from the International Affiliates to join us!

Please remember those who may find this time of year difficult -- those who have lost loved ones, are facing illness, or navigating personal challenges. This is the time to practice LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS in overdrive. Let's each commit to being the one who sets the example!

 *Dianne*

SHARE SHEET - BLUES NEWS

BY: LAURIE AUTH

I am happy to announce that we will have a new Share Sheet coming out at GFWC Florida Convention. This new Share Sheet will be titled BLUE'S NEWS and will be different than our last Share Sheet. We are going to be featuring Love, Respect and Kindness projects from clubs that have federated since 2022. This includes EIGHT Juniorette clubs out of 18 clubs. Our GFWC Blue Umbrella Club federated at Fall Board in 2022. We will be asking these newer clubs to advise of projects they are working on where our Blue Umbrella Club members, and others throughout the state, could possibly assist them. This would be either through hands-on service, fundraising, or providing items for their project. We are looking forward to sharing these projects with other clubs in our Federation. Stay tuned!

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2028

*BY: NANCY CRAWFORD,
GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR*

We acknowledge the amazing leadership that our GFWC Blue Umbrella Club has had in our early years and we honor and appreciate the love, respect and kindness they have shown to build to where we are. Now it is time to rely on new leadership as we open up for nominations and elections of our 2026-2028 officers. We know this club is full of leaders so we look forward to what comes next.

The Nominating Committee for the Election of 2026-2028 Officers is:

Nancy Crawford – Chair, Laura Connelly, Patty Fisher, Lee Kraus, and Margie Harper.

The officers to be elected are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers are required to be dues-paying members in good standing, plan to serve a two-year term beginning June 1, 2026, and have read and understand the GFWC Blue Umbrella Bylaws. This club does not follow a steps into offices. All members are eligible to be nominated and elected to any of the offices.

Following is a brief summary of the responsibilities of each offices, as outlined in our bylaws and standing rules:

The President shall: preside at all meetings of the club, have general supervision of the work of the club, appoint a Corresponding Secretary and a Parliamentarian, appoint the Chairmen of Standing Committees, Special Committees, and Advisors appoint a member (with board approval) to serve in a newly vacated elected position until the next annual meeting and election, be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating committee.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2028

CONTINUED

The First Vice President shall: preside at meetings in the absence of the President, oversee club projects and the chairmen for the newsletter, website, and social media. perform related duties as requested by the President.

The Second Vice President shall serve as the Membership Chairman, collaborate with the Treasurer to maintain an accurate and updated membership roster, oversee the Archives Chairman and the Merchandise Chairman. perform related duties as requested by the President.

The Recording Secretary shall: keep the minutes of the Board and Membership meetings, maintain the official Bylaws and Standing Rules, perform related duties as requested by the President.

The Treasurer shall: collect all dues, collaborate with the Second Vice President to maintain an accurate and updated membership roster, send written notice to all members by March 1 that dues are due by April 1, submit remittance form and payment of dues, as appropriate, to GFWC Florida by the deadline mandated by GFWC Florida, receive all monies for the Club and deposit them in the club accounts on a timely basis, disburse funds as authorized, present a written financial report at each board and membership meeting to be included in minutes, serve as Chairman of the Budget Special Committee, perform related duties as requested by the President.

In addition to these elected officers, a Corresponding Secretary serves as an officer and is appointed by the President. The Corresponding Secretary shall: attend to all correspondence authorized by the President, be responsible for initiating and notifying the board and membership, as appropriate, of all meetings, perform related duties as requested by the President.

In January 2026 an email blast will go out to all members asking for nominations or expressed interest in one of elected offices, along with a full copy of our bylaws and standing rules.

Please consider serving in one of these critical offices for the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club. You can contact me anytime with comments, questions, nominations, or interest via phone call, text message, or email (or even snail mail). 407-474-3763, ngbrat@gmail.com, 264 Almyra Drive, Lake Mary, FL 32746.

With Love, Respect, and Kindness,
Nancy Crawford



REPORTING



Reporting is a key element for GFWC Clubs to share with GFWC Florida and GFWC the important role that our clubs and members play in supporting our local communities. This year, GFWC Blue Umbrella Club will report on the projects we have undertaken!

If you volunteered your time for a GFWC Blue Umbrella project, we want to hear from you by December 30! Click the link below and input your information on the next available row in the “Master Document for Members” tab. Choose your project from the dropdown in Column A. Use as many rows as you need to enter everything you did for Blue Umbrella. You can’t report projects you already reported for another club. If your project is not listed in the dropdown in Column A, please contact Lisa Klatt, correspondingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org. Here’s the link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M_kM2wPmq5-xbrf0bqBsbViu-4yupoXs/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=102526507107265201620&rtpof=true&sd=true

Thank you for your commitment to service and for helping GFWC Blue Umbrella Club accurately report on our collective impact in the community!

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Send free virtual cards to St. Jude kids to brighten their holidays.

Your message can offer much-needed encouragement and warmth, reminding these brave kids that they're not alone. We've made it easy, and your kindness can make their holidays a little brighter and fill their hearts with hope.

Choose a Christmas or festive holiday card inspired by patient art. Select a pre-written message or write your own holiday message to the kids and their families.

[Click Here](#)
[to send virtual cards](#)

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE: BELIZE

Would you like to support the GFWC service project trip to Belize? Donations are being accepted through January 31. Funds will be used to purchase project supplies in Belize. Remaining funds will help the five Federated clubs in Belize pay their GFWC dues and cover some of their travel expenses to attend GFWC Annual Convention. Donations can be sent c/o Laura Connelly:

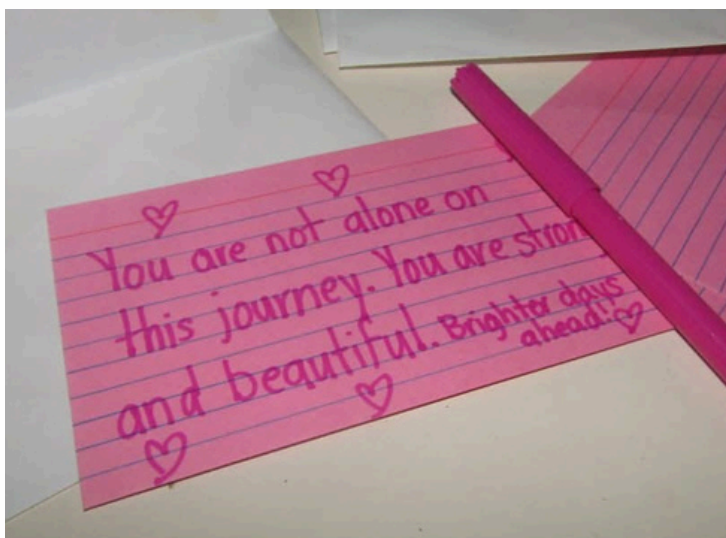
- Zelle - William Connelly, 724-272-0706
- Venmo - @Laura-Connelly-13
- Mail check to Laura Connelly, 2737 Timberline Court, Clearwater, FL 33761



Follow @havenhousebz on Facebook or visit www.havenhouse.bz for ways to help

The members of GFWC Belize City Women's Club collected boxes of donations for the women living at Haven House in Belize City, including clothing and shoes. Members also wrote cards of encouragement, which they delivered along with the donations.

Haven House is a non-profit domestic violence shelter and a provider of support and intervention services for women in crisis and their children. By offering emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, referrals and transitional living opportunities, Haven House aims to provide an opportunity for women to rebuild a positive self-image necessary for them to regain control of their lives.



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT UPDATE

GFWC and the Women's Suffrage National Monument

GFWC has officially joined the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation as a National Partner, helping advance the long-awaited Women's Suffrage National Monument in Washington, D.C.

A permanent location has been secured at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 19th Street NW, near the National Mall. This milestone brings national recognition to the women who fought for the right to vote and ensures their legacy will be permanently honored in the heart of our nation's capital.

As part of this partnership, GFWC has pledged to raise \$150,000 to support the monument's creation—reflecting GFWC's long-standing commitment to civic engagement, education, and advocacy for women.

GFWC members, clubs, and supporters are invited to be part of this historic effort.

Donate here:

[Click Here to Support the GFWC fund.](#)



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/RrZR23ym4cs5aDVL9>

Join us for “Better Together: Leadership Essentials for Club Secretaries” on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 pm ET. Whether you are currently serving as a club or district secretary—or are considering stepping into the role—this webinar is designed just for you! Do you have questions about how to take minutes? Wonder what should or shouldn't be included? Looking for tips to stay organized and confident? Dara Bergdoll and Patty Fisher will share practical guidance, tools, and real-world strategies to help you succeed!

BLUE UMBRELLA MERCHANDISE

Do you need a Blue Umbrella Club T-shirt? These fitted tees come in a stunning turquoise blue and are available in sizes Small through 4XL. Please order at least one size up—these shirts are fitted and may shrink slightly in the wash.

T-Shirt Pricing (tax included):

👕 Small-XL: \$27

👕 2XL-4XL: \$29

📦 Add \$5 shipping per order

💎 Jewelry Collection:

🌟 Bracelets: \$15

(more pictures on the website)

🌟 Earrings: \$10

🌟 Pins: \$10

📦 Shipping additional

🛍️ NEW! Blue Umbrella Totes \$5
Perfect for meetings, errands, or
gifting—grab one (or more)!

NEW!! Blue Umbrella Lanyard \$5

To Order:

Email Paula Juvinall at”

merchblueumbrella@gmail.com

with your order and shipping info.

Payment Options:

✓ Use any of the payment links on our website

✓ Or mail a check



Use the QR code for online payment, or mail a check to the address listed below.

QR Code - put a checkmark in the box labeled “Other”. Note t-shirt size or jewelry details in the box below that

Check - in memo line, write t-shirt size or jewelry details

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

PO Box 371

Mango, FL 33550-0371

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Email
President	Dianne Foerster	president@gfwcblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Sallie Milner	firstvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Patty Fisher	secondvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Karen Griggsby	recordingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Kathy Mammenga	treasurer@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa Klatt	correspondingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Communications Chairman	Amber Treat	communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org
History Chairman	Rachelle Warmouth	historian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Merchandise Chairman	Paula Juvinall	merchandise@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Technology Chairman	Lisa Klatt	technology@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Parliamentarian	Nancy Crawford	parliamentarian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Social Media Chairman	Sharon Grace	socialmedia@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Julie Babcock	advisorbabcock@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Karen Morris	advisormorris@gfwcblueumbrella.org



Mission Statement

This Club is organized to encourage an ongoing, positive opportunity for volunteerism based on incorporating the attributes of love, respect, and kindness through all aspects of life. The mission will encompass support for existing clubs and projects at local levels.

A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
And always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better
impulses,
Straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is
The little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
To be kind!

Mary Stewart, 1904

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

Happy Birthday

December

Laura Connelly - 2nd

Karen Griggsby - 4th

Paula Juvinal - 5th

Paula Rosen - 7th

Kathy Mammenga - 12th

Patty Fisher - 15th

Lisa Klatt - 18th

Jo Ann Bruno - 20th

Lee Kraus - 28th

Sallie Milner - 29th

Becky Culver - 30th

January

Kathryn Gallagher 3rd

Rachelle Warmouth 4th

Patricia Vegnani 14th

Barbara Booth 16th

Diane Price 16th

Amber Treat 25th