

JANUARY 2026



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWSLETTER



Next Board Meeting: February 1, 6:30 pm ET

Save the Date: GFWC Florida Convention May 1-4

gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

Happy 2026, Blue Umbrella members!

I hope each of you began the new year surrounded by love, happiness, and a renewed commitment to our volunteer work! As we step into a new year, it is traditional to look back and reflect, but even more importantly, to look ahead and make plans. I have been doing both and would like to share my musings.

The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club came into existence in 2022 at the Florida Fall Board meeting as a cyber club of like-minded members dedicated to promoting LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS in everything we do. We established simple bylaws, identified a small leadership team, and set minimal dues. We quickly obtained our 501(c)(3) status and began exploring where we could best serve.

From the beginning, we focused on collaboration to increase our impact, working together rather than competing, and to do so with a positive, upbeat attitude. I was amazed by the number of members who joined, and thrilled with our diversity, leadership skills, and shared hopes for the future. And so, we began.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of Blue Umbrella for what will soon be two terms. While I hope to have the opportunity to continue serving this wonderful club, it is also time for our talented members to step forward and help guide us into the future.

Please read carefully and thoughtfully the letter from our Nominating Committee Chairman, Nancy Crawford. As we know, strong clubs are built by continually developing new leaders and regularly evaluating their activities and goals. Please don't be modest or shy. I am asking you to contact Nancy, or any member of the nominating committee, to learn more about a role you might want to consider. I know you, and I cannot wait to see and support your leadership skills and fresh ideas as we move Blue Umbrella forward together.

January has already been off to a busy start. This month highlights awareness of Human Trafficking, and I have included a photo of me wearing blue on January 11. I would love to see your posts on social media as well. Together, we can help raise awareness and show our support.

This year marks Blue Umbrella's first time participating in GFWC Florida year-end reporting. Our Treasurer, Kathy Mammenga, has submitted our donations and dues for 79 members. Thank you, Kathy! A special thank-you also goes to Lisa Klatt and Laura Connelly for creating a Project Tracker on Google Drive that is incredibly user-friendly (even I can use it!). It allows members to easily record



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

statistics and brief descriptions of projects in which the club has participated. Even if you think you haven't done anything to report, I encourage you to click the link and review the listed projects. You may discover you have done more than you realized.

Laurie Auth, our Share Sheet Chairman, now proudly titled *Blue's News*, is reaching out to recently federated clubs, including several Juniorette clubs, to gather projects to share. All submissions will align with the Blue Umbrella mission. *Blue's News* will be distributed at the GFWC Florida Convention this spring and will also be available on our website. Thank you to Jasdeep Cook, Florida Juniorette Chairman, for working closely with Laurie on this initiative.

The annual Belize trip is scheduled for February, with several members planning to attend. Most items on the Amazon wish list have already been purchased, but cash donations remain a valuable option. Last year, those donations helped several Belize clubwomen cover expenses to attend the GFWC Convention, and we would love to see them again this year in Scottsdale, Arizona, this June. Let's continue supporting our international members!

Thank you for indulging my reminiscing. I am incredibly proud to be part of what the Blue Umbrella Club has evolved to be, and I look forward with excitement to all that lies ahead.

LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS....always...and forever!



Dianne



IN LOVING MEMORY

GFWC FLORIDA PAST PRESIDENT PAT KEEL

It is with great love and respect that we remember GFWC Florida Past President Pat Keel, who passed away on December 7, 2025. A Celebration of Life was held on January 4, 2026, her birthday, in Tampa. It was very well attended by Pat's family and many, many friends from all over, including five past GFWC Florida Past Presidents and many members of her beloved GFWC Tampa Woman's Club.

During Pat's administration, GFWC Florida raised \$350, 000 for scholarships for young people with cancer as well as instituting the ongoing 1895 Society to maintain GFWC Florida Headquarters. Pat was a warm and inspirational leader who was adored by her members. She will be remembered with love.



OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2028

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

Hello to all of our amazing GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Members.

It is time to begin the process for election of new officers for our club. Dianne appointed a nominating committee which includes Nancy Crawford – Chair, Laura Connelly, Patty Fisher, Lee Kraus, and Margie Harper. We will be meeting on January 27, 2026, and would love to hear from you before then if you are interested in one of the elected positions.

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.

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

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2028

CONTINUED

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. Her duties are:

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 addition I am attaching a copy of the full bylaws for you to review should you chose to.

Please let us know if you would 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.

If you are more comfortable contacting another member of the Nominating Committee, I am sure Laura, Patty, Lee, or Margie would be happy to talk to you too.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Nancy Crawford

Chair

Blue Umbrella Elections Committee

ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day is celebrated on different days in different parts of the country. In Florida with the milder weather, the date to commemorate Arbor Day is January 16, 2026. Many communities have tree and seedling giveaways. Blue Umbrella members are asked to explore the possibilities, especially for your own yard! Help support the GFWC Florida Focus Project for Environment and add some natural beauty to your corner of the world. Please take a picture and share it with us!



National Wear Red Day

The First Friday in February



The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and many groups around the country observe National Wear Red Day® each year on the first Friday in February to raise awareness about heart disease as the leading cause of death among Americans, especially women.



Risk factors for heart disease are:

- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Overweight/obesity
- Physical inactivity
- Diabetes
- Family history of early coronary heart disease
- Age (for women, 55 and older)

Heart disease is largely preventable. Here's what you can do now to reduce your risk:

- Don't smoke
- Eat for heart health
- Aim for 30 minutes of physical activity at least 5 days a week
- Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose

Show your support and wear red!



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute



EXPLORE THE **NEW** GFWC LEARNING ACADEMY!



The GFWC Learning Academy is GFWC's online training platform, offering a variety of courses tailored to meet members' needs. Members seeking insight and training to advance their skill set will find the videos helpful as they continue their journey as club members and leaders.

These training videos can be utilized to enhance personal skills, train and expand club leader/member knowledge, used as programs during club meetings, or share information from past GFWC Learning Gateway Series.

GFWC has made it easy for you to build your technology toolkit, uncover the importance of financial oversight, learn how to utilize governing documents for club success, and so much more. One of the many benefits of belonging to the oldest women's volunteer organization.

Access the GFWC Learning Academy and begin your path to lifelong learning:
<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/learning-academy>



MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE FINAL GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR, PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN and GUESTS.

February 10, 2026 @ 7 P.M. ET - *Heart Health Month with Dr. Benjamin Citrin, president and founder of Citrin Cardiology, P.C.*

Dr. Citrin, Special Guest Speaker at the "A Red Affair: Pulse of a Woman Gala" at the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, will present an educational seminar on women's cardiac health. He is board certified in clinical, interventional, and nuclear cardiology as well as internal medicine. This webinar will unveil tips to achieving cardiac health goals." bit.ly/gfwcgateway021026

April 7, 2026 @ 7 P.M. ET – *Dancing with your Brain, with Amy S. Peele RN, GFWC ESO and Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman and co-presenter Dr. Dove Wilson, psychotherapist, executive coach, sleep specialist, and bestselling author of Brain Dance and Gratitude: Journaling the Good - 3 Minutes a Day for Your Brain & Life.*

Modern life has turned many of us into dancers trying to tango on a tilted stage. The good news? With a little understanding of brain chemistry, some heart-centered awareness, and a few well-timed habits, you can help your brain find its rhythm again. Welcome to "Dancing With Your Brain," a webinar designed to help you partner with your most powerful organ to create sweeter sleep, calmer days, and more energized living.
bit.ly/gfwcgateway040726



GFWC Registration Links

February 10 - Heart Health Month: <https://bit.ly/gfwcgateway021026>

April 7 - Dancing with your Brain: <https://bit.ly/gfwcgateway040726>

GFWC Florida Webinar Series – Environment

ENVIRONMENT WEBINAR

Hear from
Clubs & State
Chairmen

LEARN NEW
PROJECT
IDEAS

FEB
09



Register in the Member Center on
gfwcflorida.org

Join us for the **“Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Environment”** webinar on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 pm ET. You will hear Environment ideas from clubs across the state who will spark your creativity as they share unique and winning project details! Our Chairmen will offer additional details on the GFWC Florida Focus Project and GFWC Community Connection Initiative.
Registration Link:
<https://forms.gle/Kjk4X4wWVqdu7GfB8>

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 Juvinal	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

January

Kathryn Gallagher 3rd

Rachelle Warmouth 4th

Patricia Vegnani 14th

Barbara Booth 16th

Diane Price 16th

Amber Treat 25th

FEBRUARY

Lynn Werner 2nd

Mindy Estep 3rd

Jean DiMaria 8th

Pat Tillman-Shad 9th

Candi Aubin 10th

Elizabeth Moore 18th

