

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

VOLUME XIII - NOVEMBER, 2023

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



From Dianne's Desk:

Happy Thanksgiving, Blue Umbrella members!

It is hard to believe that this 2023 year is drawing to a close. But I can tell by all the exciting fall festivals and activities that we are quickly approaching that time of year where gratitude, thanks, love, family and friends are the order of the day. Of course, for the Blue Umbrellas, this is a philosophy we champion every day of the year! One way those feelings can be shown is by sponsoring a Friendsgiving celebration, where we gather with friends, members, benefactors, and sponsors and share the joy of being together as well as saying thank you to all. I hope all of you will have the opportunity to celebrate Friendsgiving in your favorite way.

Much has been happening in GFWC since our last newsletter, some of it very exciting and positive, and unfortunately some of it has been sad. GFWC President-elect Suellen Brazil lost her dear husband Billy to a long and cruel illness just this last weekend. She has been, and I know will continue to be, surrounded with so very much love and support. If you would like to send Suellen a card, her address is: **6510 Bay View Lane, Daphne, AL 36526**

Also, our own Southern Region Conference President and fellow Blue Umbrella member Joyce Johnston had a fall while at the Southern Region Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi and broke her hip. Joyce and her husband Tracy are still in Biloxi, where Joyce has undergone surgery and is now recuperating and having therapy. They have been shown a well-deserved abundance of love and kindness and concern from all of the GFWC members. Hopefully they will be able to travel home next week. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: **10904 Victoria Arbor Way, Temple Terrace, FL 33617**

With the exception of Joyce's accident, the Southern Region Conference was very successful. Later in the newsletter there will be a short report and some pictures. Florida was very well represented, as was the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, and the ladies from Mississippi were extremely gracious. Later in this newsletter there is an International Club article about a different International Club than we have previously discussed, with a Florida tie-in, as well as information about Belize.

We have the very good fortune to have a membership that is composed of many seasoned leaders, past and current club presidents, past and current District Directors, chairmen and even state and GFWC officers. You will soon be receiving a copy of some proposed bylaws changes. The board is proposing these changes to hopefully accommodate growth, adjust necessary positions, duties, and procedures and most importantly, the continuation of our stated mission. Please read them carefully. They are simply proposals and the input of all of our members is important. According to our current bylaws, the membership must have at least 30 days to consider the changes before a vote. If there are questions or alternative proposals, a zoom meeting with the entire membership can be called to discuss them. Please feel free to email me or any member of the board with any questions or concerns about the proposed bylaws changes.

As we move into what I am calling "Phase Two" of the Blue Umbrella journey, we would like to hear from you, the members, regarding potential projects, methods of collaboration and engagement, and priorities. There will be a very short survey that you will receive soon. Please help us by completing it and sending it back by the deadline. After the results are organized, we will schedule a Blue Umbrella Member Forum to discuss the direction we would like to pursue. So it sounds to me like we will be "seeing" each other a little more often and getting an opportunity to talk together more. For those of you who know me well, you know I am looking forward to that and am going to LOVE it!

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

Hugs,

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
President
GFWC Blue Umbrella Inc.
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com





GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES!



CONGRATULATIONS!
Thank you Cindy!
We are so proud of you!

Cynthia LaRosa of Ocala, FL
named as 2023 winning
recipient of \$25,000 grant

The [Pella Rolscreen Foundation](#), the nonprofit arm of Pella Corporation, recognized team member Cynthia LaRosa as this year's winning recipient of the Joan Kuyper Farver Spirit Award, granting \$25,000 in her name to the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Greater Ocala Woman's Club in Ocala, FL.

Since 2018, the Joan Kuyper Farver Spirit Award has recognized Pella team members with a caring spirit and passion for community service. Winners receive a \$25,000 grant for the non-profit organization of their choice, and each of the runners-up receives a \$10,000 grant to their organization of choice. Pella also grants \$1,000 each to the organizations selected by honorable mention recipients.

Cynthia LaRosa, a team member of CWS, part of Pella's family of brands located in Ocala, FL, chose the GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club because she has been a long term committed member of the volunteer community service organization for nearly two decades. She was nominated by her peers for her unwavering selflessness and her ability to balance her career while caring for family members with unique needs and volunteering in ways that improve lives throughout her community.

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club 24 Days of Giving

The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club has another new meaning to "we've got you covered." Plan your own Blue Umbrella 24 Days of Giving Program.

If you're looking for a meaningful December holiday tradition for yourself, your family, club, school or place of business, here is the project that goes hand in hand



with the 2023 Inaugural GFWC National Day of Service - keeping the focus on the needs of others.

Here's what you do:

- Get a box. Two wine or liquor boxes with cardboard compartments work well, but any box will do. Decorate it if you want or ask your children or grandchildren to do it.
- Add a food or gift item to it

daily. A recommended list is below.

- On Day 24, bring the box to a local food bank, food ministry, foster care home; just give away your box of love where it is needed.

Get kids involved with:

- Decorating the box
- Planning items to purchase
- Shopping & selecting items
- Putting an item in the box every day
- Praying for the people who will receive it
- Coloring in or marking off a calendar
- Making a Holiday card to be included

Suggested non-perishable items:

Sizes are what the pantry typically stocks, which makes it easy for them to store.

They will accept any in-date and unopened food items!

- Canned vegetables & beans – 15 oz cans
 - Canned fruit – 15 oz cans
 - Canned soups – 10.5 oz (no Ramen please!)
 - Canned chicken – 5 oz
 - Canned tuna – 5 oz
 - Cans or jars of spaghetti sauce
 - Boxes of pasta – 16 oz (no bags)
 - Rice, Beans – 1 or 2 lb. bags
 - Mac & cheese – boxed, 7.5 oz
 - Boxed cereal 18 oz or less – no bags
 - Peanut butter, smooth – 16-18 oz
 - Diapers – all sizes
 - Baby wipes
 - Feminine products
 - Box of Tissues (packages of toilet paper won't fit in the box)
-



GFWC BELMOPAN WOMEN'S CLUB, BELIZE
GFWC BELIZE CITY WOMEN'S CLUB, BELIZE
GFWC BELIZE CITY JUNIORETTE, BELIZE



Two GFWC groups will be traveling to Belize in February to join with the GFWC clubs there for four days of shared service projects, fellowship and fun. Between the two groups, sixteen club women and boosters will join two Belize women's clubs and a Juniette club to visit elementary schools where they will conduct hygiene classes. They will also hold clothing giveaways in impoverished neighborhoods, play some GFWC trivia during officer installation, and enjoy a meal together. If you would like to help with items the team is collecting to donate in Belize, here is there wish list. Cash donations are also appreciated, and will be used to purchase items to support the Belize clubs and community. Contact Laura Connelly with questions, lauraconnelly43@gmail.com

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1XTAYHVLLKJ6C?ref_=wl_share



The GFWC Woman's Club of Stuart and the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is fortunate to have a member, Cecilia Lewis, who lived in Peru and who continues to visit and volunteer there. She has copies of a fundraising cookbook and flyers available as well as historical information on the American Woman's Literary Club in Peru.

<http://awlcinperu.com/>

AWLC – The American Woman's Literary Club, is a member of GFWC in Lima, Peru. These amazing women, many in leadership are teachers, have volunteered countless hours to the teaching college outside Lima, Instituto Pedagógico Nacional Monterrico. They also donate to Enseña Peru, a program modeled after Teach for America, as well as other smaller programs that promote literacy. Their conversation curriculum for students wanting to become English language teachers is truly remarkable. Although they are all volunteers, this program is formally part of the curriculum.

They have been selling a bilingual cookbook since 2017. The proceeds go directly to improve public education in Peru, which has had a stagnant growth for over 40 years.



2018 American Women's Literary Club (GFWC Perú) presents:



SIMPLE TO SUBLIME

*a bilingual cookbook promoting
education in Peru*

*un libro bilingüe de cocina fomentando
la educación en el Perú*



Donation: \$40

*-Over 400 pages of bilingual recipes
featuring favorite American and Peruvian
cooking;*

*-Recipes for appetizers, breakfast/brunch,
soups, breads, vegetables/salads, grains,
pasta, meats, poultry, seafood, specialty
sauces, sweets, herbs/spices, ingredient
substitutions, cooking tips & more;*

*- Some easy enough to make with children
and others elegant enough for the
discriminating gourmet!*



<https://www.redem.org/educacion-intercultural-bilingue-una-propuesta-en-la-formacion-del-docente-peruano/>

All proceeds go towards
promoting education in Peru
including **ENSEÑA Perú**
and **Instituto Pedagógico
Nacional Monterrico**.

Please contact Cecilia Lewis: mdlewis5@aol.com or (240) 899-5770

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS (GFWC) INTRODUCES NATIONAL REBRANDING

November 13, 2023



Washington, DC, November 13, 2023 — The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is pleased to announce the release of its rebrand for the national organization. Part of the 2022-2024 Administration's Strategic Plan includes rebranding GFWC to increase its national profile.

"I am delighted to introduce the rebranding of the General Federation of Women's Clubs to our members and the world," said Debra Strahanoski, GFWC International President. "The updated brand honors our past, present, and future of the GFWC. The shield remains unaltered, honoring our long-standing tradition. New to the Emblem's design is the acronym bolded prominently in blue, followed by the date, 1890, of GFWC's founding. We felt it important to include that element due to our 133-year legacy. GFWC's name is spelled out for name recognition. The GFWC rebranding will carry the Federation well into the 21st Century, ensuring people know us by our name and what all GFWC club members do to improve their communities through volunteerism."

To ensure consistency throughout the Federation, a brand identity brochure, *GFWC Emblem Use & Corporate Color*, has been developed for clubs to give to graphic designers and printers as a guide. The rebranded Emblem is available on the [Digital Library](#) in folder "E." The *GFWC Style Guide* can be found in folder "S." All club members are asked to review the brand brochure along with the *GFWC Style Guide* when using the rebranded Emblem.



It's time to make Magic in Mississippi!
Southern Region Conference - Biloxi, MS
Oct. 26-29, 2023

GFWC Southern Region Conference 2023: A Weekend of Learning, Laughter, and Service



The GFWC Southern Region Conference (SRC) held in Biloxi, Mississippi, was a remarkable gathering that seamlessly blended camaraderie, service, and southern hospitality. From trolley tours of Biloxi's historic landmarks to a heartwarming act of kindness for a fallen leader, the conference left a lasting impression on all who attended.

The conference kicked off with trolley tours of Biloxi, allowing participants to soak in the city's rich history and scenic beauty. Highlighting the iconic lighthouses that dot the Gulf Coast, attendees were treated to breathtaking views and tales of Biloxi's maritime heritage.

The GFWC Girls on Fire group demonstrated a commitment to community service by engaging in two impactful projects. Dividing their group, one team boxed lunches for Meals on Wheels, while the other assisted with cleaning at the local Salvation Army. This hands-on-approach displayed the organization's dedication to making a positive impact in any community they happen to be visiting.

Friday night's dinner was not just a celebration of elegance but also a demonstration of the GFWC Southern Region's commitment to literacy. Members dressed in black and white, symbolizing the colors of books, and generously donated 884 books for Mississippi libraries devastated by tornadoes. The evening continued with the SRC Junior Fun Night, filled with laughter, Dr. Seuss-inspired fashion, and the creation of bookmarks to further support Mississippi libraries.

Saturday was a day of enlightenment, with informative and interactive mini workshops presented by the GFWC Chairmen. The GFWC LEADS graduates, including the GFWC Florida 2023 graduate Dana Monteneri, actively participated in the leadership presentation, showcasing the commitment to leadership development within the organization.

Saturday night's dinner was a celebration of the Southern Region Jeannie June nominees, with GFWC Florida's Jennie June nominee Gerry Wilson shining brightly. Although not chosen to represent the Southern Region in Chicago in 2024, the camaraderie and support demonstrated the true spirit of the GFWC community.

The conference concluded with a Sunday breakfast hosted by the gracious Mississippi hosts, featuring beautiful table settings reminiscent of a charming tea party along with a hat fitting the occasion. The morning took a heartfelt turn when news of Southern Region President Joyce Johnston's accident and subsequent hospitalization was shared. The room united in an inspiring act of kindness, raising over \$1600 to help offset the added expense for Joyce and her husband, a testament to the organization's commitment to its members.

As the 2023 GFWC SRC came to an end, the excitement for the 2024 conference in Greenville, South Carolina, was palpable. The announcement encouraged attendees to mark their calendars for October 3-6, 2024, promising another weekend of learning, laughter, service, and friendship.

Patty Fisher





Advocacy and GFWC



According to the GFWC Standing Rules, “Member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions.” Clubs and clubwomen are the local advocates for GFWC’s legislative agenda. It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

When advocating on behalf of the Federation, it is critical to remember:

When speaking on behalf of the Federation, members may not oppose the GFWC resolutions.

GFWC is a nonpartisan, nondenominational organization. Clubwomen are allowed to advocate for policies or legislation, but NOT allowed by law to endorse candidates or engage in partisan politics. GFWC members must separate personal political activities from official club or state federation work.

Minority opinions may be expressed as follows: A member organization (club or state federation) holding a minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.

Legislative Action Center

Take Action: Use Our Legislative Alerts

Sign up for the Legislative Action Center here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home> a powerful tool to alert you to GFWC’s public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.



**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
Living the Volunteer Spirit

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Advocacy in Action

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, GFWC often joins other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter. These letters, in addition to individual clubwomen contacting their members of Congress directly through the Legislative Action Center, result in a national network of grassroots advocates working together to improve the lives of club members, their communities, our nation, and the global community.

To promote the interests of the Federation and its members, GFWC may provide additional information including bill summaries, congressional conference reports, and research findings germane to GFWC advocacy efforts. We also encourage clubwomen to engage in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their professional staff. These meetings may be on Capitol Hill or in-district. To assist you in your legislative visits, GFWC provides talking points and leave-behinds for our core issues as well as for other timely matters.

this is GFWC advocacy in action!

Tips for meeting with Legislator

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home>

If you would like to order Blue Umbrella T-shirts and/or jewelry

please contact [Paula Juvinall](mailto:pjuvinall@gmail.com) at pjuvinall@gmail.com or call 727-401-1328

You can also **Link to our online payment page:**

<https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/gfwcblueumbrella/payments>



OR

QR Code for our online payment page:



Thank you, Kathy Mammenga,
Blue Umbrella Club Treasurer,
for making this process easy for everyone!



GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

General Federation of Women's Clubs



Our Mission Statement

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

Love, Respect and Kindness

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

To all our Blue Umbrella Sisters



A Collect for Club Women

Mary Stewart

Keep us oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, and 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 judgment 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 not forget to be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 – 1943), wrote a “Collect for Club Women” which our club recites at meetings, as do club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the Collect was written “...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own.”



gfwc.org gfwcflorida.org



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

[Unsubscribe vayermoli@hotmail.com](mailto:vayermoli@hotmail.com)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by vayermoli@hotmail.com