

JUNE 2026



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWSLETTER



Board Meeting: Sunday, July 5th 6:00 pm
gfwcblueumbrella.org





President's Message

BY: KATHY MAMMENGA

Together we make a difference.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as President of the Blue Umbrella Club. I am grateful to immediate Past President Dianne for her vision in bringing this club to life and for encouraging us along the way. Thank you to our previous leadership team for keeping us aligned with our mission, and to every member whose work has strengthened our club and our communities.

Thank you to our current elected and appointed board members for stepping forward to lead. I am excited to work alongside you as we come up with projects that matter and create opportunities for members to engage in meaningful ways. I met many of you in person at Spring Convention and hope to meet more of you at other gatherings. I am thrilled to continue this journey with you and to lead with Love, Respect, and Kindness.

As I begin my first month, I am excited for the year ahead. The generosity, compassion, and dedication of each of you inspire me. Sometimes a comment will foster a spark in a listener. That is what we recently witnessed with a project that provided resources for two camps that are local to some of our members. Last month brought forward a beautiful example of who we are. What started as a simple mention of water shoes being thrown away became a heartwarming act of teamwork and service. Instead of ending up in a landfill, the water shoes found their way onto the feet of campers who needed them. It's a perfect reminder that our small acts and working together create meaningful impact. We show up because we care about our neighbors, our communities, and each other. That is who we are. That is what we do.

The year ahead is full of opportunities. Working together, we will continue to come up with ideas and projects to spread the Love, Respect and Kindness that is our foundation. I look forward to meeting more of you, hearing your ideas, and working side by side as we continue building a future rooted in service, connection, and shared purpose.

I am excited for all we will accomplish together.

In Love, Respect and Kindness,
Kathy Mammenga





Water Shoes go to camp!

BY: LAURIE AUTH

When our member Patricia Wolff of Plant City learned from a friend that a store was preparing to throw away a large quantity of brand-new water shoes, she immediately stepped into action.

Patricia arranged for the shoes to be rescued before they were sent to the landfill. During the recovery process, one box broke open and some shoes had to be cleaned after falling onto the ground. Another box contained shoes that were not usable. Even with those losses, approximately 135 pairs of colorful new Panama Jack water shoes remained available for donation.

Laurie Auth traveled to Plant City to pick up the shoes from Patricia and bring them back to Pinellas County. After sorting and documenting the donation, Laurie organized the shoes into 14 bags by size. The assortment included children's, women's, and men's sizes, creating opportunities to benefit several organizations.

Working together, Blue Umbrella Club members found homes for the donated shoes. Margie Harper coordinated with Good Counsel Camp in Floral City, an organization that immerses boys and girls ages 7 to 15 in outdoor adventures, including kayaking activities. Three bags of water shoes were delivered there for campers to use.

The majority of the shoes were donated to Sailability Greater Tampa Bay, a nonprofit organization that teaches sailing skills to amputees and otherwise challenged youth and adults. Patti, a regular Sailability volunteer, picked up the remaining 99 pairs for distribution through the program. A small number of shoes were also donated to volunteers with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, who regularly collect water samples in local waterways. One of the programs served by Sailability is the annual Never Say Never Pirate Camp, a multi-day adaptive sailing experience that helps participants build confidence, learn sailing skills, and enjoy time on the water with their families. Many campers face physical challenges, making appropriate footwear especially important during water activities.

What began with a simple phone call about unwanted merchandise became a wonderful example of collaboration, environmental stewardship, and community service. Because Patricia's friend took the time to save the shoes, and because club members worked together to sort, transport, and distribute them, more than 135 pairs of water shoes found new purpose instead of ending up in a landfill.



"This is amazing teamwork, a wonderful resource to the campers, and a great loss for the landfill! I can imagine the smiles of the pirates when they get to wear their new water shoes." -

Kathy Mammenga





Welcome to our new President, Kathy Mammenga

BY: KAREN GRIGGSBY

As summer approaches and a new season begins, we are delighted to welcome Kathy Mammenga as President of the Blue Umbrella Club!

Originally from Minnesota, Kathy and her husband enjoyed the state's natural beauty and winter activities, especially snowmobiling. After years of building homes and investing in Florida real estate, they relocated permanently in 2005. Kathy enjoys gardening, sewing, spending time outdoors, volunteering, and sharing her life with the Rottweilers she and her husband have lovingly raised over the years. One of her favorite experiences was participating in a dog therapy program, bringing comfort and joy to nursing home residents and others in need.

Kathy's passion for service began through her love of learning. While earning a degree at an all-women's Christian college, she enrolled in a course that required 100 volunteer hours. She discovered ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes and quickly developed a passion for teaching English and adult literacy, work that continues to inspire her today.

Her GFWC journey began in 2018 when she was introduced to the GFWC Brandon Junior Women's Club while seeking volunteer opportunities. Since then, she has served in numerous club and state leadership roles, including Membership, Finance, Advocate for Children, Treasurer, Registration, Credentials, and Communications. Kathy currently serves as Co-Editor of the GFWC Florida Clubwoman weekly newsletter. She has also been honored with the GFWC Florida Charlotte Meeds Smith Award and the Mary Ann Taylor Award.

As one of the founding members of the Blue Umbrella Club, Kathy has enjoyed watching the club grow and thrive. She values the club's flexibility, partnerships, and commitment to serving others. Her vision is a wide blue umbrella extending love, respect, and kindness to everyone within its reach.

As President, Kathy hopes to create a master list of service projects members can implement in their own communities, increase visibility for the club, attract younger women to volunteer service, and focus on member retention by helping each member discover and use their unique talents.

Thank you, Kathy, for your dedication, compassion, and leadership. We look forward to an exciting year ahead under your guidance!



JUNETEENTH

BY: KAREN GRIGGSBY

Juneteenth, officially known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, informing enslaved African Americans in Texas that they were free—more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation on January 1, 1863. The name "Juneteenth" combines the words "June" and "nineteenth." ([Wikipedia](#))

In Florida, emancipation was proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, a date now recognized as Florida Emancipation Day. Both observances remind us of the long journey toward freedom and the importance of understanding our nation's history. ([Florida Department of State](#))

Today, Juneteenth is celebrated across the country through community gatherings, festivals showcasing Black artists, barbecues, music, educational programs, art, and family traditions. The holiday honors the resilience, achievements, and cultural contributions of African Americans while encouraging reflection on the ideals of freedom, equality, and opportunity for all.

On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became a federal holiday when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. As we celebrate this important day, may we continue to recognize the value of freedom, dignity, and unity within our communities. ([GovInfo](#))

Let freedom always be celebrated.



GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENTS PROJECT

Get involved with **Terry Reese's** President's Project, **"Fired Up For Firefighters,"** by participating in the Firefighter's Calendar Contest! Clubs should submit a photo with local firefighters to their District or Junior District Director by mid-July. The best photo from each district will be sent to Chair Georgia Browning by August 1st.

Georgia Browning - gbrowning78@gmail.com



A firefighter holding a camera, with the text 'Firefighter's Calendar Contest' in a stylized font.

A fun and engaging project to support Scholarships & Equipment for the Florida State Fire College

Who Can Participate All GFWC Florida Clubs	Why It Matters - Support Firefighter Training & Certification - Scholarships for the Florida State Fire College - Essential Equipment for Fire Safety
The Project 2027 Firefighter Wall Calendar - Photos with local firefighters in action - Club members encouraged to join the fun! *Get in the photo. Be creative & interactive!	Timeline May – July: Clubs take & select photo Mid-July: Submit digital photo to District Director August 1: Districts submit one digital photo to State Chairman
How It Works - Take photos with local firefighters - Make it fun and engaging - Submit one photo to your District Director	
Where To Find It - Available at 2026 Fall Board - Available on gfwcflorida.org Marketplace	

Winning Photos Featured in the 2027 Calendar and Recognized at Fall Board 2026

Contact: Georgia Browning, President's Project Chairman gbrowning78@gmail.com

GFWC FL JUNIOR DIRECTOR PROJECT



Donate essential breakfast items to keep summer filled with possibilities.

Benefiting
FEEDING TAMPA BAY

MOST NEEDED BREAKFAST ITEMS

- Breakfast Bars
- Dry Cereal
boxes or bags | nutritious cereals like Cheerios, Chex, or Wheaties!
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Oatmeal
- Granola

SCAN TO JOIN OR SUPPORT OUR TEAM!



Together, we can provide meals and hope to children and families in our community.



SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST
Items ship directly to our collection site!



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FCQXFQL9R5V1?ref=wl_share

EVERY ITEM COUNTS.

Summer should be full of possibilities, not hunger. Donate today to give kids in 10 counties a nourishing start to their day.



GFWC DISTRICT 8 SPRING WORKSHOP MEETING
Saturday, June 6, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Doors Open @ 9:00 AM



THE GROVES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
7924 Melogold Circle
Land O'Lakes, FL 34638

Nourishing bodies. Restoring dignity. Serving with love. Royally Served.

In Support of **Sherry Clendinen's** Director's Project, **Royally Served**. We are proud to be participating in Feeding Tampa Bay's Cereal for Summer campaign as we work to nourish bodies, restore dignity, and serve with love.

Together, we can help provide essential breakfast items to children and families experiencing food insecurity this summer.

There are many ways to help: Join or support our team: <https://donate.ftb.org/GFWCFLROYALLYSERVED>

Donate Breakfast through our Amazon Wishlist – all donations will be shipped directly to Feeding Tampa Bay:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FCQXFQL9R5V1...>

Summer should be full of possibilities, not hunger.

DONATE ❤️

SAVE THE DATE



The General Federation of Women's Clubs is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The 2026 GFWC International Day of Service is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. The focus will be to help end domestic and sexual violence across the United States and internationally.

Clubs can register here:

<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/gfwc-international-day-of-service>

We ♥ our Volunteers

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19

Planning for the 2026 Leadership, Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) for GFWC Florida is in progress. Scheduled for September 18, 2026, at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando, it will take place before the Florida Fall Board meeting. If you are interested please contact Kathy Mammenga

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Check out the GFWC Learning Academy today:

The General Federation of Women's Clubs continues its mission of supporting women through education, leadership, and community impact. The GFWC Learning Academy offers free online training in leadership, membership, technology, and more—helping members grow and succeed in their club journey.

<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/learning-academy>

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

Please download the PhotoCircle App and begin uploading your BUC photos directly to the Blue Umbrella Club PhotoCircle (scan the QR code below to join).

It makes creating the newsletter and gathering historical memories so much easier!



 2026 Blue Umbrella Club
Join my circle by scanning
the QR Code above

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
PO Box 371
Mango, FL 33550-0371

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Mammenga	president@gfwcblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Dana Monteneri	firstvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Harriet Hankerson	secondvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Nancy Crawford	recordingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Margie Harper	treasurer@gfwcblueumbrella.org
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History Chairman	Rachelle Warmouth	historian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
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Advisor	Dianne Foerster	advisorfoerester@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

Nancy Crawford 17th

Joyce Johnston 27th

July

Mimi Frezza 4th

Helen Smith 7th

Candy Jackson 9th

Kaitlyn Doty 18th

Carey Bates 23rd

Wilma Jackson 27th

Theresa Crockett 28th