



GFWC SISTERS OF SERVICE WOMAN'S CLUB, INC

SISTER TALK



APRIL - JUNE | 2021 Edition | JULY 31 | Volume 4

2021 Executive Board

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Donna J. Collier - Vice President & Membership Chair

Kim L. Brown - Treasurer

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Cameka N. Gardner - Recording Secretary

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Monique Thomas - Community Service Programs (CSP) Chair

Natasha Mitchell- Environment CSP Co- Chair

Elizabeth Mazzio - Health & Wellness CSP Co-Chair

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings Sisters:

I hope this message finds you safe and in blessed, because we still have 6 months to go and I have big plans for the near future.

Are you ready? Of course you are. This newsletter is full of great things going on the GFWC Sisters of Service. Our main focus need to be on membership recruiting. This pandemic has crept up on a few of us, so we are a little short of hands....but still big of heart. I encourage you to invite your family and friends to come check us out on zoom or at any of of community service activities.

Assure them that there is always something they can lend a hand with. No task is to small.

Although we have numbers on the books, the membership involvement and activism don't seem to match up. Why is that? Let us work with our Membership Chair and develop ways to Recruit, Retain and Reclaim our members. The number 100 comes to mind. Too much? The more hands, the merrier, I say. If we are planning for big things, then we need all the available hands. Please encourage your fellow clubmates to remember why they joined... service to the community. There is always something for everyone to participate in the process. If you're not sure, just ask. We love volunteers. Alright Ladies, ready....set.....go! Our journey continues.



Celebrating World Health Day 2021

On April 7, 2021, World Health Day, the GFWC Sisters of Service Woman's Club hosted a 5k walk at Lake Ella, located in Tallahassee, FL. It was a great way to participate in our GFWC Florida President's Project Day of Service to raise awareness of health inequities, especially among Black women in the Tallahassee community.

World Health Day is one of the world's oldest health awareness days. It takes place annually on April 7. The first World Health Day took place in 1950, with the specific date chosen to mark the World Health Organization's (WHO) establishment on April 7, 1948.



Planting Pinwheels During Child Abuse Prevention Month

GFWC Sisters of Service clubwomen planted pinwheel gardens to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month. They planted pinwheels at the Mahan Oaks Center (2898 Mahan Drive) and the Lincoln Neighborhood Center (438 W. Brevard Street), located in Tallahassee, FL. The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, in which communities work together to help families thrive and prevent child maltreatment. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services (2021), six (6) protective factors can help increase children's well-being and reduce the likelihood of maltreatment. These protective factors include:

- Nurturing and attachment;
- Knowledge of parenting and child and youth development;
- Parental resilience;
- Social connections;
- Concrete supports for parents; and
- Social and emotional competence of children.

For more information about Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being, please visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway, <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/promoting/protectfactors/>.



iGrown Community Project

Natasha Mitchell, Environment CSP Co-chair, and a few other Sisters of Service clubwomen have been busy planting a tomato garden in the iGrow Community Garden. They named the tomato garden *Plant Love & Happiness*.

The Sowing Seeds Sewing Comfort Ministry started the iGrow Community Garden volunteer project. The ministry hosts guest speakers who speak to project volunteers about their role in the health and preservation of the land, water, and air and what we as individuals can do to help the elements of the earth thrive again. Volunteers can plant plants of their choosing or select starter seeds and plants provided by the ministry. Items in the garden support families in need as well as volunteers and their families. Contact Natasha at soswc.environment@gmail.com for more information about this community service project.



Pictured on the left are some of the vegetables grown in the garden: basil, zucchini, green tomatoes, and green onions.

Kentucky Derby Social Event

The clubwomen of Sisters of Service Woman's Club hosted a Kentucky Derby event on Saturday, May 3, at the club president's home. This event served as an opportunity for members to socialize after declining positive COVID cases reported in Leon County. Members dressed up in their Kentucky Derby-inspired attire and walked the red carpet. They also played games (such as Derby Bingo and Name Your Horse), held contests (Best Hat and Best Dressed), and betted on and watched the race. Cynthia Barber won the Best Hat Contest, and Vanessa Moore won the Best Dressed Contest. Kim Brown won the prize money with her bet on Medina Spirit placing in the race. Attendees received souvenir bags to commemorate the event.

Thank you to the Kentucky Derby Social planning committee (Crystal Bryant, Kim Brown, Precious Boatwright, and Vanessa Moore) for an exceptional fun experience. Many thanks to all members who contributed to making this a successful event. Crystal, thank you for donating the game prizes and Woodford Reserve miniatures. Special thanks to Vanessa for preparing the food items on the menu and hosting the event at her home.



Pictured above: Cynthia Barber (Best Hat Contest Winner), Vanessa Moore (Best Dressed Contest Winner), and Kim Brown (Prize Money Winner).

Celebrating Seniors in the Community on Mother's and Father's Day

The Sisters of Service Woman's Club members celebrated senior citizens at the Miracle Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center residents on Mother's Day and Father's Day. The mothers at the center received a Mother's Day card and a gift bag containing soap, deodorant, Kleenex tissue, scarf, perfume, oil diffuser, and diffuser oil. The fathers received a Father's Day card and a gift bag containing socks, cologne, soap, cookies, banana cake, a razor, a baseball cap, and a word search book.

Many thanks to Precious Boatwright for organizing these community service projects and the members who delivered the gifts to residents on Mother's Day (Precious Boatwright, Lanetra Bennet, and Vanessa Moore) and Father's Day (Vanessa Moore). Special thanks to Jason Terry for donating the baseball caps.



SOSWC Receives the D. Judith Lutz Federation Interaction Award

The Sisters of Service Woman's Club, Inc. received the GFWC Florida 2020 D. Judith Lutz Federation Interaction Award during the 2021 GFWC Florida Spring Conference (May 14-17 in Orlando, FL) for their collaboration with other woman clubs located in Tallahassee, FL (GFWC Woman's Club of Tallahassee, GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Midtown, and GFWC Tallahassee Junior Woman's Club). The clubs collaborated on the ReFREeEgerator Project to help fight hunger in Tallahassee. Tonya Williams and Carolyn Albert initiated the project with hopes of eliminating the pressure of families struggling to make ends meet, especially during the COVID pandemic.

The refrigerator site is outside the Faith Deliverance Pentecostal Anointed House of Prayer, Inc., located at 1139A Kissimmee Street. Anyone who needs a meal can stop by and pick up items for free. Items inside the refrigerator include but are not limited to sandwiches, meats, snacks, and water. The community refrigerator, stocked daily, symbolizes hope to families and people experiencing food insecurity. Please contact Tonya Williams at mrswilliams118@gmail.com if you would like to donate to the community refrigerator.



Backyard BBQ Meet and Greet Membership Recruitment Event

The Sisters of Services Woman's Club, Inc. hosted a membership recruitment event at the club president's home on Saturday, May 22. Kelly Green Holmes (Credentials Chairman and Legislation & Public Policy Chairman) attended the event and provided historical background information about the GFWC and GFWC Florida. Prospective members and club members participated in an Ice Breaker activity to get to know one another. In the end, there were no strangers in attendance!

Donna Collier, vice president & membership chair, thank you for organizing a successful event. Crystal Bryant, thank you for planning the Ice Breaker activity, the "Let's Make A Deal" game, and donating prizes. Thank you to Vanessa Moore and Natasha Mitchell for donating, which also contributed to the event's success. Thank you to the members who greeted prospective members and prospective members who attended and joined the club! A special thanks to the club president, Vanessa Moore, for submitting two (2) grant applications to secure funds supporting membership activities. The club receives a \$50 grant award from GFWC and GFWC Florida to support their recruitment efforts. As a result of this event, Sisters of Service Woman's Club, Inc. increased its membership by 10%. for more information about joining the club, contact Donna at vicepresidentsoswc@gmail.com.



First In-Person Meeting Since Starting the Club During the COVID-19 Pandemic

On June 26, the GFWC Sisters of Service Woman's Club, Inc. held its first in-person meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The club was founded during the pandemic in May 2020, hosting its first meeting and new officer installation ceremony via the Zoom platform.

Club women attending the meeting were finally excited to meet in person since their first introduction to one another was via Zoom, as many of them did not know one another before joining the club. About nine members attended the meeting in person. Some members are not quite ready to participate in face-to-face meetings as the number of COVID cases continues to rise locally and nationwide. Holding meetings via Zoom enabled many of our members to attend the meetings, and we are hoping that many of our club members will be able to gather someday soon. In the meantime, we want our members to remain healthy and safe as many Americans continue to face numerous struggles (i.e., mental health, food insecurity, and housing and employment hardships) because of the pandemic.



Club Announcements

- There will be **no club meetings** held during June, July, and August. Have a wonderful and safe summer break. We look forward to seeing each of you for the next scheduled club meeting in September.
- Members are needed to serve on the **club's Reporting Ad Hoc Committee**. This committee will assist in completing state statistical forms to participate in the Awards Program. Reporting makes the club eligible to receive state membership category and club creativity awards. Please email Crystal Bryant at gfwcsistersofservice@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering to serve on this committee.
- **Get involved!** There is a place for every member to serve within the Sisters of Service Woman's Club. Your skills and talents will be of excellent service to the club and the Tallahassee community. Contact a committee chair to find out how you can get more involved in living the volunteer spirit.
- The following **positions are vacant**: Social Committee Chair, Education & Libraries CSP Co-chair, and Civic Engagement & Outreach Co-chair. Contact the president at presidentsoswc@gmail.com if you are interested in one of these positions.

Contact Us

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2021 Calendar of Events

August

- 2 ReFREEerator Project
- 26 GFWC Convention Begins (Atlanta, GA)
- 30 GFWC Convention Ends (Atlanta, GA)

September

- 4 Hear from the Top 10 and Creativity Award Winner Clubs - Health & Wellness and Environment CSP Webinar @ 10 am
- 6 ReFREEerator Project
- 19 Club Meeting @ 4 pm
- 24 GFWC Florida Fall Board Begins (Orlando, FL)
- 26 GFWC Florida Fall Board Ends (Orlando, FL)

October

- 2 Hear from Top 10 and Creativity Award Winner Clubs - Educational & Libraries and ESO CSP Webinar @ 10 am
- 4 ReFREEerator Project
- 17 Club Meeting @ 4 pm
- 21 GFWC Regional Conference Begins (Orlando, FL)
- 24 GFWC Regional Conference Ends (Orlando, FL)

November

- 1 ReFREEerator Project
- 21 Club Meeting & Election of Officers @ 4pm

December

- 4 Membership and Retention: How to Engage and Retain Members in Today's World Webinar @ 10 am
- 6 ReFREEerator Community Service Project
- 19 Club Meeting & Installation of Officers @ 4pm