



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



Winter 2026
Volume 1, Issue 6

LEADERSHIP

Ann Landis, GFWC Leadership Chairman

Goals for a NEW YEAR!

I encourage you to keep your leadership goals focused and realistic. One to three meaningful goals are far more powerful than a long list that leaves everyone exhausted and discouraged.



Build leadership development into everything you do. Look for teachable moments. Invite participation. Encourage growth. And give yourself permission to

reflect and adjust along the way. Leadership is not rigid—it is responsive.

In addition, for every goal you set, I urge you to set benchmarks. They help you measure progress, reflect honestly, and adjust when necessary. When benchmarks align with your mission—just as your goals do—they keep you moving forward with confidence.

As leaders, our goals are more than plans. They are more than reports. They are more than awards. As you set your leadership goals for this year and beyond, I encourage you to lead with clarity, compassion, and courage. Remember, your influence reaches farther than you may know. The way you lead today shapes the leaders who will follow you tomorrow.

Ann Landis, Chairman
GFWC Southeastern Region
annlandis55@gmail.com

Shelli Fehr
GFWC Great Lakes Region
shellifehr@hotmail.com

Sandy Hauenstein
GFWC Middle Atlantic Region
sandygfwc@outlook.com

Kathy Baker
GFWC Mississippi Valley Region
bkbakers@gmail.com

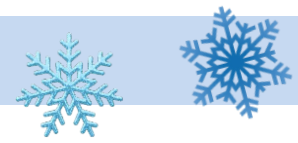
Anne Engelhardt
GFWC New England Region
annehardt@comcast.net

Suzanne Simons
GFWC South Central Region
srsimons@mac.com

Shelli Pue
GFWC Southern Region
shellipue1@gmail.com

Carol Lopez Lucey
GFWC Western States Region
cal1026ral@gmail.com





LEADERSHIP TOP TEN PROJECTS 2024

GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) – New Leaders Training

The Woman's Club of Colorado Springs believes in training new leaders. New Department Chairmen are given job descriptions, information, and training to be able to use the member portal. Each CSP chairman is charged with planning a club program. Before the club year begins, they meet to discuss their focus and plans for a program and possible projects. Members receive training on how to track programs, hours, and activities, and the importance of writing award entries is stressed.



White Lake Fort Nightly Club (SD) – Leadership in Action

Small but mighty describes women in this GFWC South Dakota club. All members are encouraged to explore and to accept leadership positions as club and state officers. This small but mighty force of women was able to fill several officer positions, knowing that attendance at state, regional, and national events reap massive benefits and provides valuable information and ideas for club members. They put leadership into action by involving clubwomen on the state level.

GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers (IN) – The Value of LEADS

The GFWC LEADS graduate used skills learned to lead in other organizations in her community and became the first woman president of a predominantly male service group. She remains active in GFWC, serving as an officer and on committee appointments for her club. She credits the GFWC LEADS program for giving her the courage, strength, and ability to move into these leadership positions. She is a strong advocate and promoter of GFWC LEADS.

GFWC Chapin Woman's Club (SC) – Speed Dating

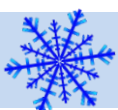
The GFWC Chapin Woman's Club in South Carolina developed a creative way to educate all members about the GFWC Community Service Programs. They designed a version of "Speed Dating" to allow club members 5-10 minutes to rotate through CSP committee-prepared displays. They were able to interact and get all their questions answered in an informal and accepting atmosphere. Members learned a lot. They were then allowed to sign up to participate in areas of interest.

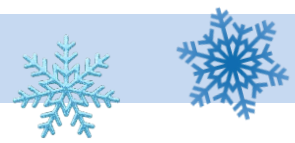
GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club (MT) – Ambassador of Fun

Fun was emphasized during club meetings by creating the position of "Ambassador of Fun." In February, members wore red hats to recognize the importance of heart health. In October, members wore pink to raise awareness for breast cancer prevention. *Fun* was inserted by using inexpensive specialty items for awards. Surprise member awards helped keep clubwomen upbeat; for example, an award was given to someone wearing blue earrings at a meeting. This activity kept members upbeat and moving along.

GFWC Nevis Area Women's Club (MN) – Award Winning Leadership Development

This club was named "Non-Profit of the Year" by the local Chamber of Commerce. This "little club that could" used mentoring and shadowing models to foster leadership development. MICRO LEADS and Virtual Mini LEADS 101 accommodated interests in developing leadership skills. New member orientation was highly attended. Zoom and recordings accommodated those who could not attend meetings. A shared Google Drive ensured all tasks and time slots for projects were covered. Leadership emerged and blossomed.





GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) – Membership Moments

This club launched “Membership Moments” and laid a foundation for continued leadership growth and unity while stressing the importance of connecting to a larger and impactful network. The goal was to emphasize, create, and connect while stressing the value of membership. Technology and the development of a comprehensive calendar with club events, locations, links for virtual participation, and details of events were available to all members and strengthened membership and communication skills while building internal bonds.



GFWC Tampa Woman's Club (FL) – Fostering Inclusive and Dynamic Leadership

The club launched a Google Form sign-up for board and chairman positions as a part of their commitment to fostering inclusive and dynamic leadership. Positions with detailed descriptions give members a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments. This innovative approach to leadership recruitment encourages greater engagement and transparency, allowing more members to step into leadership roles on a variety of levels. With appropriate training, the future is bright and exciting for this club.

GFWC Women's Club of Olympia Club (WA) – Membership Retreat

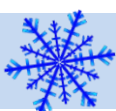
GFWC Women's Club of Olympia Club (WA) – Membership Retreat. This club held a membership retreat to engage members and to begin the new administration. With twenty-three members in attendance, the mission was to chart the administration's leadership course. Through meeting, discussing, strategizing, and having fun, they compiled a bucket list of what they wanted to accomplish during the new two-year administration. All ideas were encouraged and welcomed. Club members were engaged and committed to endeavoring to implement ideas as they charted the course forward.

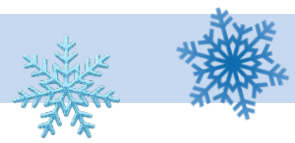
GFWC Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford (TX) – Dollars for Delegates

The club launched a “Dollars for Delegates” initiative to boost involvement in district and state activities. Donations were collected in a purple bucket from members sharing good news at meetings. The money was used to increase attendance at GFWC meetings and conferences. Attendees are encouraged to share a “Federation Minute” after returning from state, region, and national meetings, presenting what they've learned. This sharing reinforces GFWC traditions, strengthening the club, and engaging and connecting members.



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION





GFWC LEADS: Leadership Education and Development Seminar

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher offices and serve with distinction.

Applications and guidelines are on the GFWC Member Portal and are due to GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams (mbwilliams@gfwc.org) and to GFWC Leadership Chairman Ann Landis (annlandis55@gmail.com) March 15, 2026.

2025 GFWC LEADS Graduates Share Their Experience

Lisa Ball

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC Michigan**

"After attending the training, I can say that my expectations were exceeded. I met wonderful like-minded women who were looking for a way to enhance their capabilities and broaden their skills. We learned valuable lessons, including tips on public speaking, listening with empathy and conflict resolution. And, the LEADS committee members were just as enthusiastic about being there as the candidates."

Lisa Flanigan

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC Illinois**

"GFWC LEADS--*Spinning Vision into Reality*--was an amazing experience. I enjoyed meeting the other candidates in Atlanta and learning about their own GFWC experiences living out the volunteer spirit. The GFWC Leadership Committee provided enriching content offering practical tools, techniques, and concepts to enhance our leadership skills. My favorite tool was the folder which contained a wealth of knowledge. As I come across tools I think would be helpful, I add them to the back of the folder."

Kathy Sponaugle

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC West Virginia**

"This has been an experience of learning and meeting new friends. This experience will help me move forward with the work we must do to keep GFWC of West Virginia, moving into the future when challenges arise in this changing world. This workshop will give me the tools to step up to the plate and take a leadership role and help GFWC West Virginia stay on top. We will continue to look out for our state, our people, our communities, and individual clubs and help them move forward into the future with confidence to tackle the challenges that lay ahead."

Charlotte Johnson

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC Kentucky**

"If you had told me yesterday that I'd leave the GFWC LEADS workshop with a national support network, I'd have asked you what cult did I join? GFWC LEADS reminded that leadership isn't about having all the answers, it's about knowing who to call when you don't. When I don't have those answers, I now know people from all time zones who are just as committed, curious and crazy as I am, and whom I'm sure can give me inspiration. So, here's to the team we didn't know we had, and to never again having to lead alone."

Sandra Potter

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC Wisconsin**

"The nice thing about having all these new-found friends from the GFWC LEADS class is that we now have more resources. Aside from the many GFWC resources and our club sisters in our District, State, and Region, we now also have club sister contacts throughout the country to call on when we have questions or need help."



Joan Cannon

**2025 GFWC LEADS Graduate
GFWC Indiana**

"Some of the LEADS topics were comfortable to me, others challenging. But with an enlarged group of fellow LEADS grads and new friends, I have a network from which to draw, to learn and to share with. With a notebook full of areas to continue to explore I have a resource at my fingertips. I can't wait to practice these new skills."

