

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA

“Service, the Debt of Education”



Distributed at the 114th Annual Convention

May 2, 2022

Sheraton Virginia Beach

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021



GFWC VIRGINIA PRESIDENT

Dale Fisher

“Envision the Future”



The continued impact of the COVID pandemic did not deter our members from “Living the Volunteer Spirit.” Clubs embraced the GFWC *Frame* of Mind- one of optimism, clarity, openness to change, and appreciation, and moved forward with a positive *vision* for the future.

94 of our 129 (73%) GFWC Virginia clubs, with a total membership of **3,263**, expended **213,139** hours in the completion of **4,516** projects. **\$394,573** in monetary contributions and **\$428,554** of in-kind donations were made to benefit those less fortunate in our communities, nation, and world. **\$73,479** was spent to address the GFWC Advancement Plans, thus strengthening our leadership, membership, P/R, and legislative advocacy. Through creative fundraising efforts, **\$ 388,596** was raised to further our clubs’ missions. 2021 saw an increase in the number of projects, hours, and fundraising dollars raised. However, the previous year’s lack of fundraising abilities and the reorganization of club’s activities are reflected in the decrease of monetary and in-kind donations.

In addition to clubs’ traditional service work as is outlined in this publication, GFWC Virginia clubs banded together on several initiatives. In recognition of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 GFWC Virginia declared a *Day of Service* to show support of our first responders. Homemade treats, thank-you cards road signs and U.S. flag gardens displayed our commitment in support of their efforts. “Team GFWC Virginia” virtually walked to raise funds to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and club members participated in a *Day at Camp Easter Seals* by greeting campers and family and assisting with the check-in process. GFWC Virginia received a commendation from Governor Ralph Northam for our advocacy on behalf of children. A wonderful Legislation Day was held in February 2022 featuring Winsome Earle Sears, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, members visited their legislators, toured the capitol building and grounds and were introduced in both chambers of the General Assembly.

However most notably was the adoption of our State Project – Support of Military Families and the Armed Services YMCA. The Sweats for Vets project provided over 400 sweatsuits to veterans in Virginia VA hospitals. And clubs enthusiastically rallied behind our efforts to raise \$35,000 to purchase a school bus for the Armed Services YMCA. This bus will provide much needed transportation for their before and after school programs, field trips, and summer camps thus enhancing the lives of military children with educational development and recreational opportunities.

Due to the continued COVID restrictions the 113th Annual GFWC Virginia Convention was held using a remote format. 160 ladies gathered online to celebrate accomplishments and address business. Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC Secretary joined us remotely from Florida to share her insight on effectively promoting our clubs through social media. We were also able to continue the tradition of Junior “Fun Night” by offering an evening of online BINGO.

Everyone was so pleased when we were at last able to hold an in-person GFWC Virginia Summer Conference in Staunton. A fun night of Federation Olympics, a series of teambuilding exercises, started off the weekend. Special guest, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Kristina Higbee joined us to share junior objectives. Workshops were held, round table discussions stimulated project ideas, a Chairmen’s Marketplace was offered, and a service project rounded out the conference. Our GFWC Virginia Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) provided upcoming leaders with a wide variety of materials to strengthen their leadership skills.

The virtual platform continues to be utilized when needed by the Executive Committee, Executive Board, and our Standing Committees to fulfill their administrative and fiduciary responsibilities, ensuring the continued well-being of our organization. And the GFWC Virginia ESO Book Clubs meets quarterly online to discuss literary selections. The Virginia Clubwoman continues to be distributed quarterly and is offered to all members on the GFWC Virginia website. A new one-page publication, First Friday Focus on Federation, was published the first Friday of each month to provide time sensitive news and project ideas.

This officer has had the privilege of working *hand-in-hand* with Jenny Hinegardner, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs representing GFWC Virginia at the GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, all GFWC Board of Directors meetings and the Southeastern Region Conference. The Junior/General relationship is strong and flourishing. It has been a delight to make official visits to District Meetings and to join clubs for anniversary celebrations, meetings, and events.

The last two years have been an *eye-opening* and enjoyable experience. I have been blessed to work with a committed and forward-thinking Executive Committee and Executive Board, and creative and enthusiastic chairmen and special appointees. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our Virginia Federation. It has been the *spec-tacular* pinnacle of my federation journey.

**GFWC VIRGINIA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT/
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS
Jenny Hinegardner**



Once again, the GFWC Virginia Juniors and Juniores 'Paid it Forward' with Volunteerism. Your projects were inventive and somewhat diverse. You must be so proud of all you accomplished in 2021. Here is just a glimpse of what you accomplished.

GFWC Virginia Juniors completed eleven projects for GFWC Virginia Signature Program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention- They donated \$150 and had in-kind donations of \$5,828. Members made in-kind donation to the domestic violence shelter as well as monetary donations to their local Women's shelter which provides women housing. An outstanding project was providing "first night" bags to victims and items such as gently used items for residents who are leaving the shelter needing pots, pans, clothes, and other necessities.

You completed 25 projects, volunteered 126 hours, donated over \$1,000 and gave in kind donations of \$652 in the GFWC Virginia Juniors Special Program, Advocates for Children category. Club members met at Camp Easter Seals to check in campers for the week stay. Other projects included making bunnies out of wash clothes for children in foster care, donated items to their local shelters and schools, just to name a few. Members also participated in Advocates for Children week by giving books to their local YMCA.

In the category of Arts & Culture, members served as ushers at the theater, put together a "spring Themed" basket to raise money for funeral expenses of a members child- continued their Cotillion along with their etiquette dinner-held international meal potluck- pool party-Researched how people in other countries celebrate Christmas - made decorative door hangers for foster children. You all completed 18 projects- volunteered 115 volunteer hours- gave \$780 donated dollars and in-kind donations totaling \$470.

Your work in Civic Engagement and Outreach produced 73 projects, volunteered 509 hours, gave out \$4,089 in donations and \$31, 280 in kind donations- members participates in "Thanksgiving Complete Meal" Donated to first responders, working to get their local high school to recommend a child for HOBY-gave to Heifer International, adopted 24 children for Christmas-Helps furnish homes for Habitat for Humanity.

You participated in 44 projects in the area of Education and Libraries- you donated 303 hours of your time, gave \$10,453, and had in kind donations of \$3,764. Clubs participated in their local YMCA Bright Beginnings Backpack program- helping children be prepared for their first day of school- helped with the Head Start- Communities in Schools-helped sponsor a child in summer day camp.

Environment plan produced 33 Projects-, volunteered 528 hours-donated \$1,870 and \$6,321 in kind donations. One club donated items for their spring district favors which included seed pods and wildflower seeds. Juniores collected acorns to participate in the Virginia Department of Forestry repopulated trees, held a Trashathon to raise money for families that have been displaced by fire.

Health and Wellness CSP realized 71 Projects, 1,674 volunteer hours, \$14,176 donated dollars and \$7,087 in kind donations. Members Participated in 5Ks, raised money for suicide prevention, kept track of all of their exercise time throughout the year enticing other members to be more active. Showed support for Shot @ life by getting Flu shots at their pharmacy.

In the Communications and Public Relations Advancement Plan- Clubs use websites, Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, and Snap Chat when communicating with the public and their club members. They promote their clubs through public displays such as Lights Display in their local park during the Holidays. Communicated through newsletter that are digital. Juniors completed 45 projects Volunteered almost 400 hours and spent more than \$200.

Virginia Juniors shine in the Leadership category. 64 projects, 3,000 volunteer hours, and spent over \$10,000. If members are not serving on a higher level than club, they are showing leadership through chairing committees, delegating, and communication with in the club. There are Junior members serving as District Presidents and holding positions on the State Executive Committee.

A few projects for Legislation and Public Policy consist of Members sent letters and other communications to their legislators to support bills recommended through the Legislative Action Committee. They have signed up for the communications through GFWC.Org-

All members of GFWC Virginia are responsible for Membership. Clubs held New Member Socials after regular club meetings. Held Holiday Dinners and Ornament exchanges- Secret Pal exchanges- Have new member buddies, gave a breast cancer “survival” package to a member filled with comforting items and games. A “Member & ME” box is circulated to a different member monthly, given to a member who is working hard, needs a pick me up, or is having difficult life events. This is filled with items that the member receiving would enjoy. A Freindsgiving event was held by another club.

Nothing can keep a GFWC Virginia Junior from being rockstars when it comes to fundraising. All together you raised over \$36,000, volunteered 3,426 hours and participated in 23 projects. Projects included holding an online fundraiser by collecting hundreds of items and partnering with their cable company, broadcasting to their customers. Another great fundraiser was selling easter baskets stuffed with goodies and a letter from the Easter Bunny. One club held a “Drink Pink” event where the proceeds were given to Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation in honor of all of the members friends and family that have been affected. You certainly know how to “pay it forward” with your fundraisers and your communities

2021 held many joys as you Director of Junior Clubs. Getting to visit in person, attending district meetings, attending Convention and Conferences. Reading the reports and celebrating the success of GFWC Virginia Juniors. It’s difficult to believe that two years serving as your Director of Junior Clubs/Third Vice President are over. This has been the most incredible, rewarding and fulfilling position. Thank you all for everything you do in your communities. You completed 464 projects, volunteered 10,786 hours, donated \$112,312, spent \$15,673 and raised more than \$36,000. Make sure to celebrate these accomplishments. I am so proud to have gotten to serve you in 2020-2022- Thank you!

GFWC VIRGINIA
1ST VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT – BONNIE ROSEMOND
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS – DENISE PRICE



The best words to describe the past year’s leadership accomplishments between Club, District and State Leaders would be Dedication and Communication.

A Zoom meeting was held for District Presidents to decide on how they would present their district’s annual reports with a bit of fun. How perfect were the ideas that were carried out of advertisements throughout our virtual GFWC Virginia Convention 2021?

A Community Service Program and Advancement Area Marketplace was coordinated and successfully carried out by respective State Chairmen at the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference. Members will remember flashing lights, videos, power points, raffles, club photos, history displayed, graduation cap and gown, red, white and blue, valuable handouts, prizes, jewelry, sign-up sheets, #IamGFWC buttons, and even butterfly eggs and lava. During conference’s session we shared a video compliments of Shannon Bailey, GFWC Leadership Chairman, navigating us on the GFWC Membership Portal through the Leadership Toolkit. This video was also shared at the marketplace and placed on the GFWC Virginia website.

Articles included such topics from the GFWC Leadership Toolkit as, “Stay Positive When Adversity Hits”, “Everyone Is a Leader Every Day”, “Set Achievable Goals and Cast a Compelling Vision”, and “Accept Your Fiduciary Responsibility” were submitted to our *Virginia Clubwoman* newsletter.

The Jennie Award, GFWC LEADS and GFWC Virginia LEADS were promoted on all Leadership levels. Their diligence led to four worthy Jennie Award entries. Selected, Kathryn Sowers- GFWC Woman’s Club of Vinton, Blue Ridge District will represent Virginia and Southeastern Region at GFWC Convention 2022. Our LEADS Virginia Chairman led a fun and informative Seminar in Staunton and we were well represented at GFWC LEADS at GFWC Convention in Atlanta.

Leadership on all levels attended Virginia Virtual Convention and Virginia Conference, Southeastern Regional Conference and GFWC Convention

Dedication and Communication was also expressed through the reports of 72 Clubs, as they carried out 613 Projects, devoted 37,152 Volunteer Hours, Donated \$285.00/In-Kind Donated \$27,200 and spent \$20,718.00.

**GFWC VIRGINIA 2ND VICE PRESIDENT – TRINA BEHBAHANI
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CHARIMAN – LYNN CHAPMAN**



Cheers to GFWC Virginia Clubwomen for making time to Envision Membership Growth. The second year of our administration found clubs returning to some of their normal activities while carrying forward some of the lessons learned and new approaches to engaging members they picked up as change was thrust upon them in 2020.

Through articles in the GFWC Virginia Clubwoman we continued to promote the idea that membership is everyone's responsibility and we are all on the membership team together. We presented a membership lunch and learn during the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference, a session developed as a direct result of feedback garnered through a survey of club presidents in early 2021. Our clubs said they wanted more training on topics such as membership and leadership; and when it comes to membership, the three biggest concerns expressed were maintaining current members, recruiting new members and improving member motivation and participation. The lunch and learn featured two parts. The first part allowed members to brainstorm and share ideas through a series of guided table talks; and the second part featured presentations from two different members that had success with forming new clubs.

During the 2021 club year, 70 Clubs reported in the Membership Advancement Area, volunteering 11,699.75 hours and contributing \$32,107.64 in their efforts through 459 projects. Clubs continued to make an effort to identify new members by hosting events and inviting others to join them in making a difference. We received 180 new member coupons for the administration proving that members are still focused on growing our membership numbers.

The first half of the year still found clubs navigating restrictions that prevented or limited in-person activities. This did not deter clubs' efforts to connect and meet with members, with many using Zoom, drive-by meetings, phone calls and handwritten notes to stay in touch, meet and hold fun events. As restrictions lifted, many clubs returned to holding in-person meetings and social events but still embraced the technology solutions they implemented in 2020 and continued to offer virtual and hybrid options to current and prospective members. Clubs were creative in developing themed events and games to engage their members and shared information from all levels of GFWC to inform them. They utilized surveys to inform decision making and offered member orientation and mentor/buddy programs to help acclimate new members to the organization. Clubs recognized members for years of service, celebrated individual milestones and life events, and supported each other in times of need.

Despite positive reports from clubs outlining how they were returning to more normal activities in 2021, member and club retention continued to be a challenge. We did experience a decrease in membership and unfortunately had clubs defederate. That said, our overall decrease in membership was less than 6%, which is an improvement over the double-digit decreases we experienced just a few short years ago. There are additional positives to be taken from our overall membership statistics in 2021. Five out of eight districts retained all clubs from 2021 to 2022 and all of our districts had clubs that experienced an increase in membership or sustained their membership numbers. Overall, 22 clubs in Virginia experienced an increase in membership in 2021.

Based on dues received, GFWC Virginia membership stands at 3,072 members, in 124 clubs (95 General, 24 Junior and 5 Juniorette).

Let's continue to Envision Membership Growth, which means not only growing our membership numbers but also growing our understanding of the value of GFWC.

**GFWC VIRGINIA SECRETARY
SUSIE MOWRY
JOANNE DIXON, JUNIOR SECRETARY**



It has been an amazing two years and it is impossible to believe that this administration is almost over. The time in these positions has enabled us to better understand the workings of Federation. As each of you may know from your district or your club, the position of secretary allows you to participate in some form or another in all that is done. Your job as secretary is very important since you are the one that documents the work of the organization. Your work is relied upon, not only now, but for years to come. Think back, how often have you or another club or district officer had to research a decision that was made? It is safe to say that all of us can come up with examples of when the minutes have been used in this way. That is why we stressed the importance of accuracy in your work when we all participated in new officer orientation. You should all be congratulated on understanding what your job is, that you did the job in a professional manner and that the minutes that you took are accurate and able to withstand any scrutiny. If you have decided to move onto another position, the skills that you have learned as a secretary will serve you well.

As far as our jobs go, minutes were taken at all GFWC Virginia Executive board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, Budget and Finance committee meetings, and endowment meetings. In addition to the regular meetings, there were several specially called meetings that required minutes. All minutes were transcribed and reviewed. After review, the minutes were forwarded to the appropriate parties. The GFWC Virginia Junior secretary took minutes at all Junior Board meetings and other meetings as required. These minutes have been filed at GFWC Virginia headquarters.

Though the job may have been a challenge at times, we would not exchange the experience for anything. Thank you for the trust and faith that you have placed in us to fulfill the obligation to these positions, it has been our privilege and honor to serve GFWC Virginia.

**GFWC VIRGINIA TREASURER
CYNTHIA BAROODY
JOANNE DIXON, JUNIOR TREASURER**



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”, a quote from Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, has real meaning for the past two years. As club women, we have done our best, met the challenges and risen to the occasion to make this administration one to be proud of and certainly one for the record books.

As your GFWC Virginia Treasurers, we have worked diligently to ensure that all expenses were paid and all monies kept in secure funds to ensure the growth and future of our Federation. All payments were pre-approved by our State President and our Budget and Finance Committee Chairman through our voucher system. Copies of the signed vouchers were forwarded to our GFWC Virginia Headquarters and our Executive Secretary. GFWC dues have been paid and GFWC Virginia Juniors have been reimbursed for their portion of the dues.

We enjoyed the in-person Conference in August as well as our Mid-Winter Board Meeting in February followed by Legislative Day in Richmond. In addition, all Budget and Finance, Endowment, Executive board meetings and special meetings were attended via Zoom. Treasurers reports were prepared for all meetings and articles were written for inclusion in each Virginia Clubwoman publication.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your GFWC Virginia Treasurer and GFWC Junior Treasurer for this 2020-2022 administration. As we move on to new positions we will continue to provide support and encouragement as needed to the incoming Treasurers.



ALICE KYLE DISTRICT

Carol Pridgen, President

168 Members

1,822 Volunteer Hours

Amanda Paez, Director of Junior Clubs 91 Projects

\$8,087 Donated & In-Kind

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention: South Boston-Halifax JWC members participated with the Tri-County Community Action Agency, has a program for Healthy Families Initiative, this program provides the tools, guidance and support that families need to build a healthy successful life. This program provides a domestic violence 24 HOUR HOT-LINE, shelter and advocates who will attend court with victims.

GFWC Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children: South Boston-Halifax JWC members made donations to St. Jude's and Operation Christmas Child, sent virtual Holiday cards to patients, members partnered with Tri-County community Action Agency and assisted in planting a pinwheel garden to represent children who experienced family abuse

Art and Culture: Club members support the Arts by volunteering as ushers for their local Theater productions, as well as providing meals for summer theatre cast, participated in the local Angel Tree by gifting children and families presents and food, by making Valentines and delivering them to local nursing homes, members held a literary contest for local students

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Several Clubs provided Christmas gifts, Easter Baskets for local families, participate with "Wreathes Across America", helped with a "Community Thanksgiving Day Boxed Meal". On September 11, Day of Remembrance Club members made gift baskets for both local Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad Departments. Participated with the GFWC Virginia program "Sweats for Vets" that provided sweat suites for Veterans in local Veteran hospitals

Education & Libraries: Clubs provided scholarships to high school seniors who were continuing their education, one club is renaming their scholarship after a club member lost her battle with cancer, the Dolly Pardon Imagination Library is supported by a club, members of a club sponsor a Girls Rock Book Club

Environment: South Boston-Halifax JWC members recycle glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard by separating them out and taking the items to the recycling bins at the dump, members adopted a park to help keep it clean and free of trash. Club members are encouraged to cut down on their use of plastic baggies in the daily lives, at their December meeting a prize was awarded to the member who has made the most progress.

Health and Wellness: Provide items for the Halifax County High School Care Closet, to assist students in need. Club members participated in the American Red Cross blood drives throughout the year, one member gave a \$1,000 donation to "Stamp Out Hunger" Wouldn't Fran Edwards be Happy! Club members learned there was a need for deodorant and hygiene products at their local high school, members donated items and money to the school's nurse (who is a club member) to have the necessary items on hand

Communications and Public Relations: Clubs have websites, Club newsletters and Facebook groups members keep these updated to promote club projects and programs in the community.

Leadership: Several clubs have members that not only hold an Officer position at club level, but hold an Officer position in either the District or State, 3-VP/ Director of Junior Clubs, Amanda Paez is also the GFWC Virginia's web designer for this administration. *Alice Kyle District is extremely proud that the GFWC Virginia President for the next administration will come from our district.*

Legislation and Public Policy: South Boston-Halifax JWC had members write their legislators letters from templates provided to support a bill concerning human trafficking. A member assisted in drafting a letter template for legislators at the 2022 Legislation Day in Richmond, VA

Membership: GFWC Woman's Club of Farmville, VA GFWC has changed their meetings to lunch time, this way members can come and eat lunch and enjoy the fellowship. South Boston-Halifax JWC held a "New Member" social at a local brewery after one of their monthly meetings, current members invited guests and gave presentations about the benefits of a club membership. Club Officers purchased snacks and bought a round of drinks. 5 new members joined from that event.

Women's History and Resource Center: WC of Farmville, VA, GFWC had one member volunteer at Hampden-Sydney College's Atkinson Museum, serving refreshments at events and helping students.

Fundraising and Development: Fundraising events, an annual Holiday Bazaar Fundraiser, helped at the local Arts and Crafts event by selling Funnel Cakes, and 2 clubs had members sell Rada knives, Terri Lynn Pecans were sold as a fundraiser, a beautiful Spring wreath made by a member was sold as a fundraiser, club members mailed a Solicitation letter to all local businesses and individuals in their community who had previously donated to their scholarship fund asking for donations.

GFWC VA State Project 2020-2022 "Support Military Families/Armed Services "YMCA": Club members continue to make monetary donations in support of GFWC VA President Fisher's project "Hop on the Bus"

GFWC VA Junior State Project; Camp Easter Seals: WC of Farmville, VA GFWC made a donation to Camp Easter Seal

GFWC VA Endowment – Dogwood Society – 1907 Society: One member from South Boston – Halifax JWC purchased her dogwood pin.

Alice Kyle District Project – Patrick Henry Family Services: Clubs continue to support the Patrick Henry Family Services

Blue Ridge District
Amber Holdren, President

179 Members 28,138 Volunteer Hours
426 Projects \$62,054 Donated & In-Kind



The Ladies of the Blue Ridge District stepped up in 2021 after a challenging 2020 to help their communities! The willingness and dedication to programs and their community was overwhelming by all the projects that were reported even with some of the restrictions that were still in effect.

Communities benefited by members volunteering at non-profit centers; participating in neighborhood watch meetings and providing treats/meals to first responder groups throughout the year. Vinton WC provided treats to their local Fire/EMS/Police on the 11th day of each month, this is the 10th year this club has supported their local Fire/EMS/Police; Botetourt Town and Country WC assisted with their Sheriff's Office fundraising; Comfort bags were donated to Virginia State Police. One member served as a docent at the Bedford Welcome Center. Flags were placed in the Bent Mountain Butterfly Garden on National Holidays. All clubs encouraged members to vote!

The GFWC Signature Project was promoted in Blue Ridge by clubs planting pinwheels. Bedford WC collected and donated items for redecorating the local Domestic Violence Shelter; Vinton WC planted pinwheels alongside the Police Department and Council members with one member reading the proclamation for child abuse at a town meeting. Botetourt Town & Country WC collected items and donated over 100 bags to the local Domestic Violence Shelter.

Three Clubs in the Blue Ridge District were able to gain new members in 2021. The Blacksburg JWC held a membership Open House at a local Brewery, which brought in a lot of local ladies and gained new membership for this club.

The Bedford WC started a new project this year, called the "Little Things Projects". The "Little Things" projects included Easter cards for residents at Bedford County Nursing Home, the cards were signed by club members at one of their monthly meetings. Goodie bags for Bedford County Social Services employees, snack bags for the Bedford National Guard troops preparing for deployment and stocking for seniors. Members filled handmade Christmas stockings delivered to seniors at local nursing homes. Also, the club held a "Sensory Night" for children in the Autism Spectrum so they could enjoy seeing the trees with their families in a quieter, more comfortable environment.

The Blacksburg JWC volunteered at a local non-profit theater and decorated a tree for the Inn at Virginia Tech; Bedford WC made donations for students to attend theater, art and music workshops and donations made from sponsoring and making ornaments for a Christmas tree, donations raised from the votes by visitors were given to Project Lifesaver. The Floyd WC donated money to a non-profit art gallery who sponsored art exhibits, visiting artists, and preserving local high school choral programs. Botetourt Town and Country WC members hosted their own art and craft "Show and Tell".

The Bent Mountain WC presented over 600 books to the Carilion Pediatric Unit and also donated books to the Roanoke County Jail library for inmates. 3 clubs helped sponsor a student to go to HOBY.

Bent Mountain WC maintained a community butterfly garden updating the garden and involving the community in the project. Both Roanoke County WC and Vinton WC collected plastics to support a "buddy bench" made for elementary schools.

Roanoke County WC donated \$500.00 to C.A.T.S. (Children's Assistive Technology Services) for annual Halloween event.

Bent Mountain WC partnered with their outside produce stand to have a fall plant and bake sale, including bird houses and garden accessories, locally made and donated to the club. Bedford WC took to Facebook, two outdoor festivals and collaborated with three local stores to sell their "Critters In The Kitchen - Third Helping" cookbooks for a total of \$2,010.00. Blacksburg JWC held their annual March of Ales virtually this year and still managed to raise over \$10640.00.

Twenty-three club members served in the Blue Ridge District, eleven served on the GFWC Virginia level, two served in the SER and three served on the GFWC level. Members attended outdoor meetings, meetings via Zoom and one club with very elderly ladies still keep in touch through phone calls and they have been able to meet 1 time in person and the club newsletter. Blue Ridge District hosted GFWC Virginia State President and 3rd Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs at our Fall District meeting and tour the Bedford Boys Tribute Center. The Vinton WC hosted a lovely dinner for the State guest and District on the Friday night before the meeting. A Zoom Meeting was held by the State Reporting Chairman on Reporting and fifteen ladies attended.

Ladies of the Blue Ridge ... staying busy and helping others, even when the world is throwing us lemons!!

LEE DISTRICT

Liz Sabbatini, President

580 Members 29,312 Volunteer Hours

Alaina Chaffee, Director of Junior Clubs 955 Projects \$170,991 Donated & In-kind

Affiliate Reports: Under Civic Engagement Ashcake WC donated \$310 for an Operation Smile surgery, Funds were donated to St. Jude Research Hospital, to HOBY and a \$225 scholarship and two clubs donated to Canine Companions.



GFWC Signature Project – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention: 7 Clubs in Lee District reported. 3 Clubs made a total donation \$400 to the GFWC Success for Survivor’s Scholarship Fund. Clubs donated funds and goods, ‘welcome baskets’, adopted a family at Christmas, 72 comfort bags to Safe Harbor. Pin wheel gardens were planted; purple ribbons worn at our Fall Meeting and snacks, drinks, diapers, books and cds were collected for child victims. Regency WC raised \$2,700 with a Clothes Exchange project. Kanawha WC addressed Teen Dating Violence and arranged speakers for our Fall Meeting. They continued to support Rosa, a quadriplegic victim, whom they have supported for 20 consecutive years.

GFWC Juniors’ Special Project – Advocates for Children: Only JFWC of Chester reported in this area: they collected water bottles and ear buds for Community in Schools and 78 assorted stuffed animals for 1st responders to give to children. Henry Clay WC donated to St. Jude Research Center and treat bags and a donation to the River City Stars (a special needs cheerleading squad). GFWC Goochland WC reported collecting 12 stuffed toys and \$100 for CASA.

Arts and Culture: 2 Junior and 8 General clubs reported. JFWC of Chester organized an 8th grade Cotillion for 39. Essex County JWC raffled a Spring themed basket and raised \$680 for a member’s daughter’s funeral. GFWC Ashcake WC donated art supplies to a rehab center, flower arrangements to a nursing home. GFWC Goochland WC held a workshop to decorate pumpkins. Tri Club held a harp recital. WC of Powhatan, Inc decorated holiday bags for seniors and sewed BEE BOP Pillows for children in distress.

Education and Libraries: 11 General and 3 Junior Clubs reported. 7 Clubs continued their scholarships (WC of Essex gave \$42,500) although some were dropped (lack of fundraising). School supplies, sanitizer, tissues, award stickers, hula hoops and clothing for children; cards and snacks for teachers were collected. GFWC Ashcake donated two Osmo Learning systems; Goochland donated 450 pairs of shoes for “Side Kicks”; JFWC of Chester created Virtual Readings for teachers’ use. WC of Powhatan donated 16 kits to the Doorways. Pamunkey WC supported the Little Free Library.

Environment: 12 General and 1 Junior reported. Clubs stressed recycling. Ashcake recycled electronic goods through Best Buy and encouraged reducing. Capitol WC collected mascara wands for Wands for Wildlife and others collected for Souls4Soles, pull tabs and trash. Goochland WC donated \$450 to shelters. JFWC of Chester set up Project Trashathon, collecting 30 bags of trash and donating \$1,470 to the Fire Department.

Civic Engagement: Clubs support the military and veterans by “Wreaths across America”, 76 Sweats for Vets, Comfort Care baskets for Women Veterans. 2 clubs wrote cards for Troops overseas. The GFWC Virginia State project was supported with donations and speakers. The Needy, Hungry and Homeless were supported by donations of money, clothing, coats, prepared meals and sandwiches. Local police departments, rescue squads and fire stations were recognized. Lee District Special Project was helped with gift bags for children receiving their REACHcycles, bags for Veterans and Gold Star families.

Health and Wellness: 12 General and 1 Junior Club reported. Members were educated on Covid concerns and breast cancer, Alzheimer’s, etc.; Goochland WC gave members a CPR course! Clubs walked, published healthy recipes, 2 clubs held a baby shower to collect for Little Hands of Virginia and a club supported nurses with meals.

Communications and Public Relations: 8 General Clubs reported. They have newsletters, Facebook pages, (public pages and private pages) and websites and have articles printed in local papers. Clubs used Zoom and email for communicating. Essex County, Inc has personalized shirts and aprons; Ashcake WC holds their Harvest Run with posters, flyers, signage, a banner and t-shirts all with the club name.

Leadership: 12 General and 2 Junior Clubs reported. Covid was a burden, making it difficult to organize meetings, installations etc. Zoom, email and social media were adopted. Yearbooks were comprehensive. Gradually clubs got back into file exchanges, stressing Federation and club work. Members attended Zoom GFWC Convention, the SER meeting, and our Zoom Annual Meeting but Lee District Fall Meeting was held in person.

Legislation and Public Policy: Only 4 General Clubs; no Juniors. These clubs were more active in keeping members advised on legislation. One club wrote letters /made phone calls to their US Senators and House of Representatives in support of the Victim of Crime, Violence against Women Reauthorization Act and Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Membership: 13 General and 2 Junior Clubs reported. Varina WC added 4 new members, Metropolitan 2, Goochland 2, two others 1. JFWC of Chester started by adding 13 potential new members! All clubs are trying to make meetings fun. Ashcake gave ‘Oscars’ Varina WC highlights a member and Kanawha WC gives a ‘Joy of Giving’ Award monthly. The Membership Chairman organized a successful bus trip to GFWC Headquarters Holiday Reception.

Fund Raising and Development: 12 General and 3 Junior Clubs reported. GFWC Ashcake WC raised \$13,550 with their 18th annual Ashland Harvest Run. Clubs held silent auctions, sponsored a Murder Mystery dinner theater, a craft sale and catered lunch for RAPC to raise funds. Others held a spaghetti dinner, a Paint Party and sold bean soup packets, peanuts, bake sales, books etc. JFWC of Chester organized a pumpkin decorating contest.

Women’s History and Resource Center: 3 General but no Junior Clubs reported. They updated their history and celebrated Women’s History Month. Kanawha WC members bought, read and discussed ‘The Strong Ones’ (Sara Hammel) book and donated to defray the cost of repairs to the frames of portraits of past GFWC International Presidents.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Mary Driver-Downs, President

745 Members

28,269 Volunteer Hours

432 Projects

\$226,533 Donations & In-Kind



GFWC Signature Project Domestic Violence and Sexual Awareness & Prevention: 14 projects, 273 hours, \$1,450 donated, in kind \$4,012 - Clubs supported Pinwheels for Prevention for PCA. Dominion WC promoted its "Purple Posy project. CASA and women's shelters received donations. Mary Ball WC made activity kits for Empowered House, a domestic violence program that supports victims. 1 club hosted a program with Bill Wolf from Anti-Trafficking International.

GFWC Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children: 9 projects, 199 hours, \$1,175 donated, in kind \$544, Proclamation to designate the last week of October as Advocates for Children's week was initiated by a local club. Members walked for St Jude's. Mary Ball WC project "Pay Forward/Shot@Life" challenged the Northern District members to "make a donation" to Shot at Life when they received COVID 19 vaccines. JWC of Loudoun participated in 4 projects which included Camp Easter Seals and Mobile Hope (dedicated to ending youth homelessness.) Donation/ CASA.

Arts and Culture: 51 projects, 1,440 hours, \$4,994 donated, \$2,940 in kind. GFWC Star WC created a virtual SHERO program for Black History Month. Clubs volunteered at local concert venues. Music supplies and art supplies were given by clubs. Dominion Juniorette Club learned how to crochet, made 22 Prayer Squares for cancer patients. Crafts were offered for kids at the Fairfax Holiday Market. New Dominion WC participated in MPA Artfest and Children's Art Walk, along with donating to Mclean Project for the Arts. WC of Arlington supports Opera Nova.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: 143 projects, 8,035 hours, \$41,757 Donated, \$61,282 in kind. Clubs helped with food insecurity within their communities. Food pantries and backpacks were filled, holiday baskets were distributed, holiday gift cards and gifts were given. WC of Arlington's "Green Bean Gleaning" project-12,000 pounds of beans were gleaned and donated to a local food bank. 4 clubs recognized community helpers for 9/11 day of service. WC of Springfield gave 900 hours and \$3K to the Layette program at INOVA Hospitals. For vets, sweat suits were donated, and wreaths were placed on graves. Herndon Fortnightly WC supported the Herndon WC WWA project with a \$700 donation, Virginia State project bus raffle tickets were sold. VFW boxes were sent. Project Mend a House received a donation. 2 clubs jointly supported COPS (concerns for police survivors) - kid/teen program.

Education and Libraries: 99 projects 4,312 hours, \$57,426 donated, \$9,941 in-kind - Clifton Community WC-started their CARES (Creative, Arts, Recording, Education, and Service) program. Offering an online community art creativity competition for prizes. JWC of Loudoun showered faculty/staff for five days with kindness and goodie bags during National Teacher Appreciation Week. Herndon Fortnightly WC provides used books annually to low income seniors. College scholarships given by a majority of clubs. Book club gatherings are popular among clubs.

Environment: 53 projects, 10,180 hours, \$7876 donated, \$1,565 in kind. Recycling, roadside & waterway litter cleanups, protecting local natural habitats, incorporating native plants in gardens and purchasing over 50 beehives from Heifer were our projects. 3 clubs participated in DMV- adopt-a-spot program. Several clubs collected plastics to recycle into TREX benches. Star WC supported Help Wild Birds (3,640 vol. hours)

Health & Wellness: 63 projects, 3,830 hours, \$20,325 donated, \$11,236 in kind. Clubs participated in 5k walk/races, worked at hospitals, gave blood JWC of Loudoun donated another mobile play cart #2 with toys to a local hospital. Dominion also had a meeting symposium on "The Symptoms of Depression". WC of Fairfax stuffed 14,343 masks into bags to support Fairfax County's omicron variant in December. WC of Fredericksburg gave over 1,000 valentine cards and a gratitude poster for the healthcare staff at a local hospital, made 71 Operation Smile bags and helped organize a blood mobile with a local church. Herndon WC held Toothbrush and Toothpaste Drive-for preschool children (low income). Donations to Affiliates Canine Companions, Shot@Life, St Jude's and Operation Smile.

Communications and Public Relations: 57 projects, volunteer hours 2,900, dollars spent \$2,174

Leadership: 64 projects volunteer hours 9,038, Dollars spent \$1,925

Legislation & Public Policy: no report

Membership: 69 projects volunteer hours 3,314, dollars spent 4265

Fundraising & Development: 77 projects, volunteer hours 9381, dollars raised \$106,288

WHRC: 14 projects, volunteer hours 295, Dollars \$123

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT

Tara Widener, President

268 Members 33,420 Volunteer Hours

Ilia Desjardins, Director of Junior Clubs

283 Projects

\$33,471 Donated



This district's clubs continue to support their local communities to the fullest extent even during what continue to be a year of uncertainty. Our General and Junior clubs continued to remain strong and pushed forward with unwavering commitment.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Wayland Women's Club participated with the Canines for Companions Independence and participated in Operation Smile including making hospital gowns, making 25 Smile Bags, and making a financial donation. The Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman's Club also donated the money raised at a dinner meeting to Heifer International. Many clubs continued projects addressing food insecurity. They contributed money to Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, as well as worked with local food banks and other area hunger relief organizations to collect and distribute food. During the holidays, several clubs donated clothing to clothes closets and homeless shelters. Covington Women's Club, Waynesboro / Augusta Women's Club along with several other clubs also provided toys, games, and gifts to families with children who could not have received Christmas presents. 46 Projects, 2,726 Volunteer Hours, \$17,333.45 – Dollars Donated.

Education and Libraries: Covington Woman's Club of GFWC and Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman's Club, who carried on the GFWC's project of "Read Across America." The Covington WC GFWC used Zoom by four of their members to read to elementary pupils and sent Dr. Seuss pencils and stickers for the littles. Scholarships for college were supported by SIX clubs with a total of \$25,652.26 for a total of 21 students. The Waynesboro/Augusta Woman's Club GFWC presented \$11,500 for scholarships to six students from three local public schools and three students already in college. The Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman's Club presented four students a total of \$4000 in Scholarships. The Woman's Club of Greene County presented a total of \$3000 to, two students. A \$1500 LPN Scholarship was given to one student by the Wayland Woman's Club. The Lexington Woman's Club presented three students a total of \$1000 in Scholarships. 30 Projects, 1,003 Volunteer Hours, \$25,652.26 – Dollars Donated

Environment: Five General Clubs reported thirteen projects/programs, from picking up trash along a river trail to making pillowcases for Easter Dresses for Southwest VA girls. Staunton/Augusta Juniors Woman's Club held 2 programs: picking up trash and recycling egg cartons and plastic bags. One hundred thirty-three members participated in these activities. Weyers Cave Woman's Club of GFWC had a meeting program on the impact of a brewery on Middle River and area agriculture. They had another program on Global Warming. Waynesboro/Augusta Woman's Club, GFWC donated a bench to a local museum as part of the Trex Film Recycling Challenge. The bench was made from approximately 40,000 shopping bags and other flexible plastics donated by Club members and the community. 15 Projects, 1,519 Volunteer Hours, \$2,627 In-Kind Donations

Health and Wellness: The Staunton/Augusta Junior Women's Club and Covington Women's Club participated in the St. Jude's Walk. Haviland Women's Club donated 48 fleece throws for Meals on Wheels during Christmas. Haviland Women's Club and Waynesboro Augusta both participated in gathering items for their local women's shelter. Many clubs worked with their local communities in gather clothing, and working in their food pantries. 37 Projects, 2,997 Volunteer Hours, \$3,995 Dollars Donated, \$31,489 In Kind Donations

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT

Angela Paez, President

394 Members 15,304 Volunteer Hours

Michelle Clary, Director of Junior Clubs

741 Projects \$76,204 Donated & In-Kind



As Southside District continues to balance the needs of the community with the global Covid evident that we are continuing to find unique ways to connect with those in their communities overwhelming for our members at times, we continue to embrace change and leave our MARK!

Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevent Child Abuse America: Clubs continued to collect and deliver toiletries to shelters, promote awareness at area businesses, wrote articles in local publications regarding awareness and signs of domestic violence so that help can be received. **GFWC Riparian Woman's Club** donated items to their local Children's Advocacy Center- a venue for children when they are removed from a dangerous situation.

Advocates For Children: Our Clubs have fantastic ideas on how to support our children, particularly as foster care is our District Project. Clubs donated items to local Departments of Social Services and assisted/ supported other local and international organizations in their projects involving children, such as Operation Christmas Child. Clubs participated in Night to Shine event, held reverse parades to celebrate graduations. **Riparian's WC** held a contactless Easter Egg Hunt.

Arts and Culture: Although clubs did not hold regular meetings, Southside is still creative. **GFWC Tararra WC** provided snacks from different cultures. And when being physically there is not an option, the **GFWC Swift Creek Woman's Club** held a virtual Fine Arts Festival. This unique experience reminded the community that GFWC members can be called on at any point.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Clubs are very supportive of the military, first responders in our district. Veterans, first responders, front-line and health care employees are thanked in person and virtually. Clubs participated Wreaths Across America; **GFWC James River JWC** made Christmas trees that are donated to a local nursing home, **GFWC Swift Creek WC** asked their mayor to do a special 9/11 "Proclamation of Remembrance" while the **WC of Smithfield** donated items for Project Bangladesh. **WC of Windsor** brought in a muralist to repaint the side of one of the oldest buildings in the community, preserving history of the original signs while making one unpainted section "fun". This new section now reads, "Made Possible by the Woman's Club of Windsor" and includes #WeAreGFWC. They definitely left a mark on their community!

Education and Libraries; HOBY: Scholarships given, libraries stocked and HOBY supported by SSD. Particularly in 2020, teachers, support/ custodial staff were recognized for their efforts, times and talents in preparing the next generation. **Riparian WC** donated coffee machines to local schools to "lift the spirits of our teachers"

Environment: Clubs have adopted local streets, parks or state roads to keep free of litter. **GFWC Junto WC** created metal mesh bags to restore the growth of the oysters and spoke to a local 7th grade class about this importance. Several clubs also took this opportunity to donate recycled items to their local animal shelters

Health and Wellness: For Heart month, members wore red and shared information on women's heart health. Clubs donated to and volunteered at local food pantries, gift cards donated to Operation Smile Bags and continued awareness of physical and mental well-being. **GFWC JWC of Hopewell** assembled March of Dime personal care bags for mothers with NICU babies. The blessings of Southside continue to spill over!

Communications & Public Relations: The age of digital is among Southside! While clubs are continuing to utilizing newsletters and local resources to disseminate and promote Club activities, Clubs are also embracing social media platforms for meeting options, finding creative ways to hold in-person meetings as well as creating new ways to promote GFWC.

Leadership: Many SSD women hold positions on the District level, State, Regional and International levels. The **WC of Windsor** held a Developing Leadership Skills and Team Building for their members, encouraging each other to use their talents. This allows members to not be fearful of taking that next step and they also have the Silver Dollar Handshake!

Membership: 2020 has been a challenge to our Southside District clubs. While one club dissolved and one defederated, that did not stop other clubs from celebrating their memberships. Club help members in both difficult and joyous times.

District Project: Clubs have embraced the need to show love to our foster care children, particularly those that are aging out of the program. A Silent Auction was held at our first in-person District meeting with proceeds going to the foster care program. This is simply a wonderful testament of how Southside District continues to leave their mark on our communities!

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

JoBeth Wampler, President 196 Members 17,286 Volunteer Hours
549 Project \$83,789 Donated & In-Kind



GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness: Clubs supported a domestic violence shelter program with donations and a community drive. A club compiled 'first night' bags for survivors, collected diapers and baby care items for new mothers at the shelter, and adopted the shelter's children for Christmas. One club participated in the 'No More' Campaign and wrote to Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. A club took the 'Cool, Not Cool' Quiz. A club provided snacks to the Child Abuse Reporting and Enforcement Center.

Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children: Clubs took part in St. Jude's online valentine program, participated in the Recycled Card Program for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, and recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. A club collected over 700 books for 8 different schools and sponsored a kids' night at Christmastime. Clubs supported the Court Appointed Special Advocates program. Two clubs had members volunteer at Camp Easter Seals UCP. Clubs participated in the District Special Project: Pick Up the Pen for Autism.

Arts and Culture: Two clubs expanded their palettes with an international luncheon and a tasting project. A club sponsored craft days at an annual festival. Clubs crafted gifts for one another and handcrafted 155 wreaths to decorate military graves on Memorial Day. A club offered face-painting at a fall festival and the National Night Out event and created Valentines for shut-ins. Clubs participated in holiday lights displays, donated to arts festivals, and attended and donated to local theatrical productions.

Civic Engagement: Clubs supported food pantries, backpack programs, projects that provided baby care items to those in need, and assistance programs. Clubs also supported families suffering from the coronavirus and donated disaster relief to a flooded community. One club contributed \$500 to Operation Smile. A club sponsored Wreaths Across America. A club constructed and stocked a blessing box and began work on another in their community and held a Tower Climb Challenge in honor of the 20th anniversary of September 11th. A club penned encouraging notes for every student at their school and created school Tub 'O Blessings box. A club held a shoe drive to benefit the local Girl Scouts, collecting shoes with the help of the community and multiple neighboring women's clubs.

Education and Libraries: Clubs offered scholarships and supported various educational programs through monetary and in-kind donations of books, pop lids, and backpacks. Clubs recognized school staff with gift baskets and food trays and contributed to local proms. Clubs volunteered at schools and libraries.

Environment: Clubs collected medicine bottles, egg cartons, and magazines for reuse, as well as pop tabs, plastic drink rings, plastic bags, electronics and more for recycling. A club recycled old Christmas lights; while another provided food, shelter, and assistance to spay and neuter feral cats in the community. A club played conservation bingo. One club gave away seed pots and wildflower seeds, as well as cleared away overgrowth and debris around a historic town landmark. A club collected litter around their school, as well as 380 dried out markers for the Crayola ColorCycle Project. A club participated in the Trex Community Recycling Program.

Health and Wellness: Many clubs in Southwestern recognized months set aside for special observances. One club penned over 100 Valentine's cards and gave them away to nursing home residents with various donations. A club provided lunch for Remote Area Medical volunteers and another donated thousands in in-kind donations to Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, a home for the homeless. A club supported the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project.

Communications and Public Relations: Clubs shared events and news on social media, have websites, and kept scrapbooks of the events of the year. Several clubs utilized the radio and bank marquees, as well as signage, to promote club events. One club established two new Facebook pages – one for members only and one public page, and one club was featured on the local news and designed and printed their own club shirts.

Leadership: Clubs attended GFWC Convention, GFWC Virginia Convention and Conference, and District meetings. Members serve in various club, district, and state leadership roles. Junior clubs held a joint virtual meeting. One club appealed to its town government for assistance through the CARES Act and received \$8,000.

Legislation and Public Policy: Several members subscribe to GFWC Legislation Alerts; write, email, and call their representatives; and serve as local government and town officials.

Membership: Clubs held a secret pal gift exchange, a membership tea, a combined Friendsgiving/Chinese Christmas gift exchange and dinner, and a holiday reception at a member's home. One club decorated flyers to promote the club and hosted a Little Sisters Project to adopt younger girls for fun activities.

Fundraising: Clubs held various fundraisers, including auctions, Christmas lights displays, beauty pageants, paint nights, and raffles. Clubs sold handmade items and canned goods. One club held an 'Egg Your Yard' fundraiser at Eastertime, another held its annual TV auction, and yet another club held a Ghost Walk.

Women's History & Resource Center: Clubs celebrated Women's History Month with programs and highlighted various women in history throughout the year.



TIDEWATER DISTRICT

Marilyn Banes, President

733 Members

462 Projects

Ann Schultz, Junior Liaison

23,640 Volunteer Hours

\$54,647 Dollars Donated

In early 2021, clubs used ZOOM to have meetings safely. With vaccinations, they were able to meet in person with restrictions. Cape Henry's "Christmas in the Country" and the Jr. WC of Hilton Village's stage play could not be held for the second year in a row.

The WC of Newport News, GFWC Cape Henry WC, and the GFWC WC of South Norfolk were among those who awarded scholarships. The WC of Hampton awarded 8 scholarships to Hampton H. S. Seniors, WC of Williamsburg, GFWC awarded \$8700.00 in scholarships, and the GFWC Yorktown WC awarded scholarships valued at \$11,400.00.

Clubs made significant donations to Food Banks in kind and in dollars and members volunteered their time. The GFWC Great Bridge WC gave books and teething toys to "Newborns in Need" and sent clothing to an orphanage in Haiti. The WC of Newport News joined forces with a peninsula craft group to knit hundreds of items for "Healthy Families". Coats were collected and given to Head Start. The GFWC WC of the Eastern Shore provided clothing, food, and toys for a homeless mother and her 6 children staying in a hotel room and paid for one week of their rent. The local school system asked the GFWC Yorktown WC for help because so many students were living without basic needs. Items valued at \$2000.00, were delivered at the start of the school year. The GFWC WC of South Norfolk filled two vans for a community project called "School Supplies Give Away".

Clubs had speakers on Alzheimer's, mental health, breast cancer awareness, stress relief strategies, skin care, and signs of heart attacks in women. One club covered a wellness topic at every meeting. GFWC WC of Hilton Village's Health and Wellness CSP initiated a virtual tea party giving members an opportunity to share their concerns. The Northampton WC donated 40 bags of dental supplies to the Lackey Free Clinic and the GFWC Yorktown WC provided meals for 30 volunteers three times in 2021.

Clubs supported Salvation Army projects. Members of the WC of Williamsburg-GFWC volunteered as bell ringers. Clubs donated cash, book bags, school supplies, and food for the S. A. food drive. Four clubs each filled 30 Salvation Army Christmas stockings.

Two-piece sweat sets were collected for VA Hospitals across Virginia. The GFWC WC of Hampton Roads donated 15 sets. Clubs also provided food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items for veterans. The GFWC WC of Tidewater continued support of the USO Airport Lounge, when one day just before Christmas, buses bring up to 1000 active duty travelers to board their flights home. Club members donated items from a "wish list" and filled stockings for overseas personnel.

The GFWC Great Bridge WC made "fidget" blankets for Alzheimer's patients and continued intense support for the Help and Emergency Response Shelter. This includes craft supplies, yardwork, planting flowers, a wreath for the door, Halloween treats, Christmas toys, food, and Thanksgiving turkeys. WC of Accomack County gave monetary and in-kind donations to the Council Against Domestic Violence. The same club has "Christmas Elves". Members donate money, a nursing home provides the residents' wish lists, and members shop for and wrap the gifts. The GFWC WC of South Norfolk made handcrafted ornaments for a children's shelter and provided Christmas tree cakes for all the children.

At least 3 clubs toured the Norfolk Botanical Garden's exhibit of supersized sea creatures produced from refuse found on beaches. The WC of Norfolk loaned clubhouse space weekly for 10 months making it possible for the Williams School to continue their music program for elementary and middle school students.

The WC of Newport News used their 110th anniversary celebration to hold an outdoor fundraiser specifically for the state project. They raised \$1262.00 for the Armed Services YMCA. Cape Henry WC set a goal of \$1000.00 for "Wheels on the Bus". Clubs also donated cash, gifts, food, school supplies, and items for an Easter Egg Hunt, and the GFWC WC of Tidewater helped preschoolers make a Mother's Day gift.

Operation Smile received monetary donations of \$1247.00. HOBY was the recipient of \$250.00 and Heifer International received \$625.00. One club raised \$130.00 for UNICEF by trick or treating virtually. One club supported GFWC Virginia's walk/run fundraiser for St. Jude. Club members crocheted 19 NICU caps and donated a quilt and 9 NICU blankets. Several clubs plant pinwheel gardens for the GFWC Signature Project.

A member of the GFWC Cape Henry WC has been raising and training a "Canine Companion" for several years. In mid-2021, the black Labrador named "Que" graduated from the member's care and went on to serve as a full-time service dog for a Veteran in Boston.

2021 AWARD WINNERS

ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM 256 Projects 5,996 Hours
Sharon Ewell Chairman \$10,442 Donated \$25,627 In-Kind



GFWC Virginia clubs demonstrated their creative skills through both virtual and in person Arts and Culture Activities. Clubs reached out to members through their newsletters, videos and through Zoom activities. Clubs hosted international dinners and learned how other countries celebrated holidays, created cards with handwritten notes for community outreach, held art contests and participated in local theater and concert events. In short, our clubs got the job done for 2021 club year.

Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Star Woman’s Club – Northern District

The members of the Star Woman’s Club created a video for Black History Month. The video centered around learning about and honoring Black SHEREOS both locally and nationally. Two local entrepreneurs were awarded a SHERO award and the video introduced the audience to other accomplished Black women in dance, music, art, educators, and an astronaut. The term SHERO was first used in 1836 during the Suffrage movement.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Riparian Woman’s Club – Southside District

The Riparian club was honored to receive a donation of a large number of original paintings. The artist had been a resident of their town but had passed away. The life works of this artist was now in the hands of her brother who decided to give the paintings to the Riparian club. The club hired professional art handlers to bring and store the art until decisions could be made to place the works of art in local public buildings. So far, forty-five works of art have been brought back and the club is working with venues such as, hospitals, community college, and retirement communities as locations for some of the art.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District

The Ashcake Woman’s Club overcame the COVID challenge by offering several ways club member could engage in the Arts and Culture program through articles in their club newsletter. Recipes, craft projects, art and culture events and information about other cultures and how they celebrate holidays were some of the inviting articles offered. In-person projects were held when possible, and art supplies were donated to daycare centers and nursing and rehabilitation centers.

Best Overall – Large Clubs – GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

The Great Bridge Woman’s Club supported the local woman’s shelter with musical instruments, art supplies and toys for the children living at the shelter. Handmade cards with handwritten messages were sent during the club year to patients and residents at local nursing, assisted living, and rehabilitation centers as well as the women’s homeless shelter. A total of 683 cards were created for this project. Additionally, the club gives art awards to one or more female high school students annually. The awards are for achievement in both academics and creative excellence.

ART CONTEST-MEMBER ENTRIES

WRITING CONTEST, Carol Guilliams-Mills & Florence Powell Co-Chairman

Member Short Story – Amateur

“Three Christmas Gifts” – Sylvia Auton
Clifton Community Woman’s Club – Northern District



Member Poetry – Amateur

“Happy, Healthy, Whole” – Jacqueline H. Ware
GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club – Northern District

ARTS CONTEST – STUDENT ENTRIES

Carol Williams-Mills & Florence Powell Co-Chairman

Student Poetry

Grades K-2

1st No Entries Received

Grades 3-5

1st No Entries Received

Grades 6-8

1st No Entries Received

Grades 9-12

1st No Entries Received



Student Short Story

Grades K-2

1st No Entries Received

Grades 3-5

1 st	“The Discovery”	Isabella Thompson	Woman’s Club of Farmville, Virginia GFWC	Alice Kyle
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Grades 6-8

1 st	“Hospital Run”	Page McWilliams	Woman’s Club of Farmville, Virginia GFWC	Alice Kyle
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Grades 9-12

1st No Entries Received

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH PROGRAM 631 Projects 22,322 Hours
Celeste Corrigan, Chairman \$102,917 Dollars Donated & \$127,643 In-Kind



Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District

This Club completely embraced the District Project: Veterans and Athletes United (VAU) and Reachcycles. They provided gift bags focused on the “Language of Flowers” to 6 Gold Star families. Each flower expressed a special meaning of comfort and acknowledge the lost of a loved one. They also assisted in hosting 3 Gold Star Mothers from South Carolina and 7 military families. They held many other projects to support our troops and our Veterans.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Herndon Woman’s Club – Northern District

When most people think about Wreaths Across America, they think of the December timeframe when the wreaths are made, shipped, and placed at the National Cemeteries across our country. However, for the Herndon Woman’s Club it is a year-long project that they have been doing for the last 8 years. Throughout the year they update the veteran’s database to ensure each veteran is accounted for and to capture their life story whenever possible. To obtain funding for the wreaths and raise community awareness for the event, they send information/sponsorship cards to potential donors, place cards in local places of interest, and attended community events such as the local Farmers Market. In addition to raising funds, the club is responsible for all aspects of planning, running the ceremony, and the laying of wreaths. This includes coordinating with community volunteers. This past Fall, the club took on the task of inspecting the condition of all the veteran’s gravesites to alert the cemetery of any needed maintenance. This project is not only a service project but also a fundraiser for the club. The funds cover the WAA expenses, and all remaining funds go directly to other Veteran’s charities.

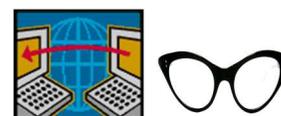
Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Roanoke – Blue Ridge District

This club of 6 members may be small but they are definitely mighty in their involvement in their community. Each month they had a different project for their outreach. They brought food to Senior Center. They donated bedding of sheets and blankets and ‘Birthday Bags’ for boys and girls at a shelter for abused and homeless women and children. The members collected women’s toiletries for another women’s shelter. They collected medical supplies and food for the local SPCA. They worked with the VA Hospital administration to have embroidered hats and 83 pairs of glasses to be disturbed to the patients.

Best Overall – Large Club – The Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc – Southside District

The primary goal for this club was the History of the Town of Windsor. They raised enough money to restore the old signage on the oldest building in town. Permits were needed, street closures were required, and the historical research was essential. Three members worked with the muralist to capture the original design. In addition, they helped plan for a small unpainted section that the muralist used to include a sign written “Made possible by the Woman’s Club of Windsor” along with the unofficial town mascot of a frog. The second part of this project was getting the Town of Windsor’s 100th Anniversary archived.

COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS 372 Projects
Stephanie Griffin, Chairman 10,529 Hours \$430 Donated & \$3,393 In-Kind



Clubs across GFWC Virginia. stepped up to the challenge of communicating with members and their community during the COVID Pandemic. Clubs communicated with members through newsletters, social media, telephone trees, handbooks and websites. They branded their Club, District, GFWC Virginia and GFWC by wearing apparel, pins and displayed signs during meetings, events and within their community.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District - “Harvest Walk / Run Event”

This club utilized their event website, advertised in local newspapers and magazines, distributed flyers, contacted previous participants through email, designed and gave away shirts and promoted through social media platforms like Facebook as well as posting a large banner to increase the awareness of this event. After the event was over the club sent handwritten Thank You Notes to all 40+ contributors. The 20 contributors that donated over \$300.00 were given special recognition certificates displaying their club name that were framed and ready for display.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Award

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Lexington Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District - “Rockbridge County Community Festival”

This club participated in their annual Community Festival. They had a booth to promote the work of the club instead of selling fundraisers. This club collected voluntary donations and wore their GFWC apparel and handed out fans on that warm summer day. The GFWC logo was on signage and the club’s banner was prominent on the front of the booth.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District - “TV Auction”

This club utilized social media, local newspaper, and cable channel to publicize information regarding their yearly TV Auction Fundraiser. They submitted 2 weekly articles, paid advertising spot and a full-page advertisement to acknowledge everyone that donated to their auction. Furthermore, they place 4x6 signs with the club’s name and auction information in each of their four towns in their county. This club also hung a 15’ x 4’ banner on side of the bridge that crosses over 460 to advertise with club name, dates and cable information. Auction letters were sent out on club stationary to merchants and contributors of the auction with the Federation Logo on them.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

This club utilized their club apparel and banner at all appropriate projects to brand their club and GFWC. They advertise all projects that are newsworthy along with photos in their local newspaper and are featured on their towns website for all projects that involve local events. This club is featured on the towns Facebook page and their forms for some of their fundraising efforts featured on their site for printing. This club maintains a Facebook page and post projects, pictures, and details of each project. This page is shared to GFWC Virginia and to their district page as well. They also maintain a building inside of their public park for meetings and some of their projects. They have large sign of their club’s name in front of the building so it can be visible to everyone visiting the park daily. This club is the top supporter for their Headstart students. They set up a Christmas Decorating Trees event and lot of pictures were made to be published in the local newspaper, on the schools’ websites and the clubs Facebook page.

Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District

This club utilizes their local newspaper and their website to keep the public informed of their projects. They also communicate with their members keeping them up to date with email and their club newsletter. This club continues to wear their club and GFWC apparel along with name tags at special events. This club designed a trifold brochure about their club entitled “The Woman’s Club of Smithfield: Improving Our Community Through Volunteer Service” This brochure gives the purpose and history of the club and describes the Community Service Projects along with special events. These brochures are available at all fundraising events.

COMMUNICATIONS - WEBSITE CONTEST

Stephanie Griffin, Chairman



Winner – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District

www.womansclubofsmithfieldva.com

The website includes Community Service Programs, fundraising items for purchase, links to GFWC, GFWC Virginia and Club Facebook. It also provides a wonderful photo gallery to show the different club meetings and events.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AWARD

Yolan Williams, Chairman

Winner GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club – Blue Ridge District

Working with the county sheriff's office Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club raised over \$20k dollars to help with local designated county projects.

Tied for Second Place:

GFWC Grundy Woman's Club – Southwestern District

The Grundy club worked on a rehabilitation project on the town Gazebo and then decorated for holidays. They also created a new town activity, a Christmas Drive throughout the town park where they provided beautiful decorations for all to enjoy.

The Woman's Club of Windsor Inc.- Southside District

The Windsor women addressed significant national negative publicity associated with the one traffic light in their town. These women restored historic signs that gave people waiting at the light something to enjoy looking at while waiting.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM 435 Projects 17,497 Hours

Wanda Alvis, Chairman \$177,403 Donated & In-Kind



All the clubs reporting in education gave scholarships in various amounts. Many of the clubs gave school supplies, backpacks to the students and some type of appreciation to the teachers and other faculty members. Many also donated books and time to both school and public libraries. In many cases, books were given to students, hospitals and placed in Free Little Libraries.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Bel Air Woman's Club – Northern District

Club holds an annual spelling for student winners from the area's schools. The overall winner, if they qualify, is sent to the National Bee.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Dominion Woman's Club – Northern District

Provides an incentive program for an area school. Students earn points for good behavior. Can use their points to "buy" prizes provided by the club. Club donates items for the Holiday Bonanza that students can use their points to "buy" Christmas gifts for family members.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club – Blue Ridge District

Members provide books for a local hospital's Pediatric Unit. Parents read to children to calm them during a procedure and while they remain in the hospital. The books then go home with the family.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC James River Junior Woman's Club – Southside District

Club created a project called "Lemons to Lemonade" to recognize service during the pandemic. Gift bags were made for 836 educational employees working in 10 locations.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM 286 Projects 22,896 Hours

Kathy Cain, Chairman \$13,051 Donated and \$39,991 In Kind



Best Single Project – Small Club – Covington Woman's Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District

Club members volunteered 50 hours organize a community clean up in the Spring and Fall. Each citizen in their community was encouraged to cleanup one bag of litter during April 11-17. The Alleghany Chamber of Commerce partnered with the club. Over 450 bags for trash clean up were distributed and many individuals, groups and organizations participated, including 8,060 lbs. of litter picked up by inmates.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Dominion Woman's Club – Northern District

Club members volunteered 230 hours to care for and help protect the Bull Run Mountains and Virginia Piedmont. The club partnered with Bull Run Mountain Conservancy and Leopold's Preserve to take hikes with a biologist, plant native plants and volunteer at a fundraiser for BRMC. Members improved signs along the trail, helped remove invasive plants at Leopold's Preserve. They had presentations from both organizations at their club and learned about water conservation too.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District

Club members support 8 environment projects with 420 volunteer hours. They maintained a butterfly garden and hosted four programs on pollinators and host plants. They also started a conservation book library, donated environment related books to the library, and printed/distributed a booklet with farmer’s markets, CSA’s and restaurants to encourage their community to ‘eat fresh, eat local’. They made \$411 worth of in-kind donations.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District

Club members supported a variety of 15 environment projects with 1,441 volunteer hours. Their members recycled glass, plastic, cardboard, made donations to Goodwill to reuse clothing, and collected plastics for a TREX bench. Members also planted native flowers, trees for Arbor Day, composted, participated in trash pickup and supported their local animal charity. They made \$6,013 worth of in-kind donations.

FUNDRAISING 294 Projects 30,174 Hours
Faye Bocoock, Chairman Dollars Raised \$321,599 In-Kind Donations \$56,191



The GFWC Virginia clubs went way beyond what most would do given the odds against them in 2021. They created fundraising projects by thinking outside the box and beat the odds with tremendous results. The monies raised funded scholarships, provided food for families, provided clothing for the poor, sponsored programs for the benefit of children and supported their police and first responders.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District

This small club sponsored the 18th annual Ashland Harvest Race. Members coordinated every aspect of this local race. They worked with local authorities, planning and marking the route, registering runners and calculating their running time. They engaged other clubs to aid in some of the aspects of the race. They raised \$17,962.00

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No winner

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – The Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc – Southside District

This club’s annual Boston Butt sale was successful in spite of roadblocks they faced with restrictions because of covid. They sold tickets, added Cole slaw and baked beans to the menu and raised \$8262.00. They also fed a needy family.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District

This small junior club of just 13 members held their annual TV auction. Members procure donated items for the auction, prepared the news releases, and manned the phones for the bidding. They raised \$13, 654.00 to support their projects.

Best Overall – Small Club – General – GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

This small club had 6 projects raising \$16,638.00 with 927 hours of work. They sponsored 3 area beauty pageants, operated a Christmas Display in their local park, with donations as admission, raised money for Wreaths Across America and was awarded a grant from a local foundation board to help fund their projects.

Best Overall – Large Club – General – GFWC Dominion Woman’s Club – Northern District

This club raised \$14,329 through 7 projects. They sponsored a Bunco with lunch and a raffle, members pledged donations to fund projects, had a 50/50 raffle at meetings, sold homemade cookies, dog treats, and partnered with a restaurant to offer pot pies for sale.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM 525 Projects 18,966 Hours
Carol Outten, Chairman \$60,627 Donated & \$112,719 In-Kind



The human body, mind, and spirit all converge to embrace Health and Wellness. Despite the continued impact of COVID, GFWC Virginia Clubs exemplified the overall GFWC CSP objective areas of Nutrition, Disease Prevention, Physical and Emotional Care. Their projects were innovative and resourceful, increasing both the number of projects and dollars donated over their 2020 totals.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District

Project: “Miles of Smiles – card Ministry”

Members of the Covington Woman’s Club spent the year sending cards and notes of encouragement to club members, community members, Veterans in hospitals and Nursing Home Residents. Twelve members sent a total number of 1,655 cards, resulting in \$4,270 of in-kind donations for the cards and postage.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Floyd County Woman’s Club, Inc.– Blue Ridge District

Project: Floyd Blood Mobile Canteen/American Red Cross

Members of the Floyd County Woman’s Club are sponsors of the American Red Cross Floyd Blood Mobile Canteen the first Friday in December. Members provided baked goods and sandwiches to serve to blood donors, members of the Red Cross staff, and other volunteers working the Blood Mobile. Six members volunteered to work the canteen, serving drinks, sandwiches, and monitoring their recovery time.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Mary Ball Woman’s Club – Northern District

Throughout the year, this Club supported **9 projects** including two GFWC affiliates. They supported a local Faith Based Free Medical Clinic, and created the homespun program called 'Mending Hearts' sending cards, notes of encouragement to their honorary and inactive members. They assisted four local food banks with donations of food and organized fitness efforts including a yoga program, Heart Health, and a walking program. The Club sent cards to health facilities to be used by nurses, doctors, staff members, counselors, parents, and volunteers.

Best Overall – Large Club – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District

This Club completed **22 projects** that spanned the full spectrum of the GFWC Health and Wellness Program Area. They supported health advocacy groups, raised awareness for suicide prevention, fed the hungry, provided diapers and other baby hygiene items for young families, fostered good nutrition programs and sponsored efforts advocating better health awareness for youth and seniors. Working with the local YMCA, they sponsored efforts to build social-emotional, leadership and academic achievement for youth, and sponsored swim lessons for disadvantaged children and adults teaching how to be safe around water without the fear of drowning.

LEADERSHIP

Bonnie Rosemond, Chairman

Denise Price, Junior Chairman

613 Projects 37,152 Hours

\$20,718 Spent and \$27,200 In-Kind



Club leaders were diligent in keeping members informed. Clubs continued traditional procedures but were also creative in sharing Leadership Tips or Federation facts. Leaders were dedicated in promoting the Jennie Award, GFWC LEADS, and LEADS Virginia. *“Keeping Their Sight on Leadership”* resulted in great success!

Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District

Club leaders were asked to join a planning meeting for their County’s 200 Plan. This group of leaders’ purpose, including representatives from Bent Mountain Center Board, Fire & Rescue and business owners was to identify needs and key issues for the future of Bent Mountain. Their club played an integral part in the success of this project.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell, Inc – Southside District

Their club’s By-laws were updated to include revisions to their leadership roles, duties of those roles and who can serve. Each member has a card that details their club history.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Varina Woman’s Club – Lee District

Club members had fun learning about federation & facts on all level of GFWC when they were divided into groups during a Zoom meeting and tried to answer quiz questions developed by their leadership chairman. At the end of the game the chairman delivered 10 prizes.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club GFWC – Alice Kyle District

Club leaders organized two “onboarding sessions”. These sessions for new members included a presentation about club leadership; goals of their local, state, national and international organizations.; and explanations of the projects and fundraisers their club routinely participates.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District

Many traditional practices continued such as agendas, newsletter articles, Budget & By-laws revisions but they also took on a new project. A leader researched an app called “Track it Forward”. Members recorded their hours and money for each CSP and Advancement on their Smartphones and/or their computers.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Dominion Woman’s Club – Northern District

This club’s focus was on communication and transparency. The leadership of the club made sure that members were informed and stayed involved in club activities as the pandemic continued. The President sent a personal note to each member to maintain connections.

LEGISLATION and PUBLIC POLICY 55 Projects 503 Hours
Tricia Duvall, Chairman \$122 In-Kind \$100 Spent



GFWC Virginia clubs focused on preparing to vote in the November 2021 election for the Commonwealth of Virginia. They were kept apprised of legislation that was being introduced and sending letters to their Senators and representatives. Clubs encouraged members to join the Legislative Action Center. Members served on juries and volunteered as Officer of Elections. Members were encouraged to sign up for GFWC News and Notes.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District

This club participated in two Candidate Forums. One was held at City Hall in Covington for City Treasurer. The second forum was held for the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Winner

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Accomack County – Tidewater District

This club planned and held a Meet the Candidate Forum for local, State and Federal elections. Two candidates attended the event. The chairman of the event was the moderator as well as planning the event, screening the questions, and guiding the discussion to relevant topics of concern,

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – No Winner

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club supported combat service legislation, Women in Military Service in America Foundation and Women in the Military Services in America Memorial. They supported legislation to prevent military sexual assault and the building of an American Women’s History Museum.

Best Overall – Large Club – The Tri Club Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club wrote letters to their Senators and Representatives asking for their support on various topics. They reported on all new laws that went into effect in 2021. They provided a site for members to view information on the old and new laws. They attended a seminar on Navigating Senior Services, presented slate of officers for Virginia’s election and then reported the outcome of the election.

MEMBERSHIP

Trina Behbahani, Chairman 459 projects 11,700 hours
Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman \$32,108 spent and in kind



GFWC Virginia clubs embraced the theme to *Envision Membership Growth* and focused on retention, recruitment, recognition and renewal. Clubs continued to navigate the pandemic, hosting virtual and hybrid meetings and events. They also embraced the opportunity to return to normalcy hosting in-person meetings and getting back to the business of recruiting events and socials.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club – Southside District

The 1st VP incorporated activities at meetings to help members get to know each other and learn about GFWC. They played a “Unity in Diversity” game where members were asked to find at least two things in common with a member they didn’t know well. They also regularly reviewed Federation facts and stressed that the club has a bigger impact as part of a large organization.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Dominion Juniette Club – Northern District

Members are different ages and from different schools and friend groups, so the club makes it a priority to have “get to know you” events. An event was held in the spring at a local ice cream shop. Prospective members were invited to enjoy ice cream and games, and then learned about the Club and its activities from current members. Eight of ten guests that attended joined the club!

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Lexington Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District

Held an informational meeting for new members and paired each with a mentor. Guidelines were established for mentors to help them fulfill their role. Mentors were encouraged to stay in touch with the new member, monitor her Club involvement, and explain club structure and programs. Member feedback has been positive, noting the advantage of having 1 person to guide them.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District

Each month this club recognizes a Clubwoman of the Month, via secret ballot voting, for going above and beyond the call of club. A sign with the JFWCC logo is placed in the member’s front yard for the month and a picture is posted on social media. This recognition spotlights a member, and publicizes the club on a local level, creating conversations about club opportunities.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club had a well-rounded approach to membership – focusing on recruitment, recognition and retention. Most notable was their focus on retention; they planned field trips, including a trip to GFWC HQ, and other fun socials. They also used their newsletter to spotlight members, share fun facts about each other, and also honor their parents with special edition articles.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Western Fairfax Woman’s Club – Northern District

This club strives to engage and retain members through a combination of interesting programs at monthly meetings, social activities and outreach efforts. They also use various methods to reach out to prospective members, including local print publications, social media and in 2021, a showcase at the local library highlighting club activities and impact.

GFWC VIRGINIA 2021 – 2022 TOP RECRUITERS

Our members Envisioned Membership Growth during the first year of the administration. 122 new member coupons were received from April 2021 – March 31, 2022.

Congratulations to our Top District Recruiters!

- Alice Kyle – *No coupons received*
- Blue Ridge – Two-way tie for recruiting two members each: Joan Earman and Tanya Cook, GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club Inc.
- Lee – Three-way tie for recruiting two members each: Jennifer Huff and Maria Marston, Women's Club of Essex Co.; Sally Temple, Ashcake Woman’s Club.
- Northern – Beverly Stoltz, Woman’s Club of Springfield, 4 members.
- Shenandoah – Five-way tie for recruiting one member each – Carolyn Still, Waynesboro/Augusta Woman’s Club; Cathy Comer, Janice Pence and Sara Ritchie, Wayland Woman’s Club; and Jenny Hinegardner, Staunton-Augusta Junior Woman’s Club.
- Southside – Two-way tie for recruiting two members each: Karen Beale, the Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc.; and June Dunlow, GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club.
- Southwestern – Faye Boccock, GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club, 5 members.
- Tidewater – Penny Petersen, The Woman’s Club of Hampton, 5 members.

Cheers to **Faye Boccock** (Southwestern District) and **Penny Petersen** (Tidewater District) for recruiting 5 members each! Faye and Penny will each receive a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Marketplace.

The winner of the recruiter coupon drawing also receives a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Virginia Marketplace. Congratulations to **Joan Earman**, GFWC Floyd County Woman’s Club, Inc.!

GFWC STAR RECRUITERS

White Star (5 – 9 Members) – **Carol Brown**, GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club; **Mary Driver-Downs**, GFWC Woman’s Club of Fairfax; **June Dunlow**, GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club; **Penny Petersen**, Woman’s Club of Hampton.

Red Star (10 – 14 Members) – **Lois Bates**, Yorktown Woman’s Club; **Faye Boccock**, GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club.

NEWSLETTERS

Pat Jeffress, Editor of *The Virginia Clubwoman*

GFWC Virginia Newsletters were judged based on the following criteria: Appearance and organization, readability, GFWC affiliation logos, name of the club on the front cover, reports of officers and chairmen, member recognition, minutes, treasurer's reports, federation information, and reminders.

The number of attractive, well organized newsletters made deciding the winners very difficult. Many clubs used colorful graphics or pictures of club activities to enhance their newsletters. The bottom line is, “Did the newsletter make me want to continue reading?”

Large Clubs

- 1st Place *The Scoop*
Woman's Club of Fredericksburg (Northern District)
- 2nd Place *The Bulletin*
GFWC Woman's Club of Hilton Village (Tidewater District)
- 3rd Place *County Crier*
Clifton Community Woman's Club (Northern District)
- Honorable Mention
Swiftly News 'n views
GFWC Swift Creek Woman's Club (Southside District)
- Echoes*
The Woman's Club of Windsor, Inc (Southside District)



Small Clubs

- 1st Place *Metro Media*
Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 2nd Place *The Bel Air Caroler*
Bel Air Woman's Club (Northern District)
- 3rd Place *Worthy News*
GFWC Worthington Woman's Club (Lee District)

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM ~ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Kelly Lane, Chairman **126 Projects 1,868 Hours**
\$11,090 Donated & \$35,011 In-Kind



GFWC Virginia Clubs focused on projects related to Teen Dating, Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Military families. Contributed to the Success for Survivor Scholarships and planted pinwheel gardens. Clubs adopted families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, assisted shelters for women and children. Invited speakers and supported local and statewide organizations.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Mary Ball Woman's Club – Northern District

Donated variety of Activity Kits items such as board games, puzzles, jewelry and bead kits and coloring books. The items were provided to a local shelter and disbursed to kids residing at home as an alternative of attending programs at the shelter.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman's Club – Southwestern District

Six members filled 20 first night bags for victims of domestic violence on their first night in a local shelter with snacks, toiletries and a copy of the GFWC Success for Survivor Scholarship.

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Henry Clay Woman's Club of GFWC – Lee District

Club participated in the "Fill the Cruiser" event by providing Welcome Basket items for client's transitioning to permanent housing. Items included kitchen supplies and laundry baskets.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun – Northern District

The club supported the Loudon Abused Woman's Shelter by providing 15 hygiene bags full of items including full size Shampoo/Conditioner, deodorant, face masks, menstrual pads and hairbrush.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club – Lee District

Club completed several projects throughout the year. Sponsored district annual GFWC Signature Program Award. Contributed to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship. For past twenty years the club continued support of quadriplegic and domestic violence survivor residing in a nursing home. Used creativity to deliver items this year to the front desk and verified delivery of holiday and birthday gifts.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club – Tidewater District

Multiple Projects were completed including planting pinwheels, and adopting families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Members created birthday bags for Help and Emergency Response Shelter and supported the local CASA program by providing "Cuddle and Snuggle" bags by providing a small blanket, book and a small toy. Purchased 3 dark purple mums to donate in recognition of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month along with a place card advertising the club.

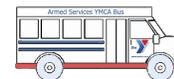
Honorable Mention – GFWC Cobra Juniores – Southwestern District

Each member discussed responses to online “Cool Not Cool” quiz relating to dating violence and unhealthy relationships.

STATE PROJECT: Support of Military Families/Armed Services YMCA

Joyce Jolly, Chairman

94 Projects 2,959 Volunteer Hours \$10,963 Donated 14,770 In-Kind



Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Regency Woman’s Club – Lee District

GFWC Regency Woman’s Club – The club adopted the program Leashes of Valor and have adopted several puppies which are trained to support veterans with PTSD. The puppies have attended club meetings.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District

The club held a fundraiser in celebration of their 110th anniversary. Members donated skills, a variety of items and sold “Seats on the Bus.” They raised \$1,442 for the state project.

Honorable Mention – Large Club – GFWC Junto Woman’s Club – Southside District

Eight members and one husband helped to sort and fluff up 12,000 wreaths which were placed on each grave at the G. Horton, Jr. Veterans Cemetery.

Best Overall – tie – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District

The club has connected with Mission Barbeque to enhance and support their projects. Members provided gift boxes for Gold Star Mothers, supported seven veteran families, purchased wreaths at Seven Pines National Cemetery and supported programs of the USO.

Best Overall – tie – Small Club – GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

Members took part in a military program at Veterans Memorial Wall, was a contributing sponsor of Wreaths Across America, identified 155 military grave sites dating back to the Spanish American and Civil Wars, held an Honor a Vet month and supported the “Soldiers Angels Campaign” and Tunnels to Towers.

Best Overall – tie – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District

Club members filled stockings for USO, provided food for servicemen and women who travel through the USO Airport Lounge, purchased books to help explain the events of 9/11 to children and held a Mother’s Day Tea for 50 moms at ASYMCA.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Cape Henry Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

A club member raised and trained a black Labrador puppy to be a service dog. Club members raised funds to purchase four tires (\$1,000) for the ASYMCA bus, purchased books for the children at ASYMCA, sold raffle tickets and supported Vets House Inc. and Fisher House.

GFWC WOMEN’S HISTORY and RESOURCE CENTER

Ingrid Sinclair-Day, Chairman 102 Projects 1,751 Hours

\$749 Donated \$964 In-Kind Donations



Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic during the year, GFWC Virginia Clubs found ways to continue with research about Women’s Suffrage, GFWC, and highlights of own club history.

Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Pennington Gap Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

A special display was developed by the club’s historian to honor women in history. It was displayed at the local library and captured the eyes of hundreds of visitors who would never have known anything about these women who shaped our country and culture.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Lexington Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District

In December the club celebrated its 110th Anniversary with presentations accompanied by several well-researched handouts: one with photos of the founders and minutes of the first meeting, the second handout and presentation focused on “facts of life in 1911” and traced 110 years of the club’s continuing impact in the community using club minutes, history, and newspaper articles.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District

Many projects throughout the year keep members engaged, starting with the promotion of GFWC’s Capital Campaign, followed in the newsletter with an “Armchair Tour” of GFWC headquarters. Club programs traced the history of women in the military and their role throughout the Civil War, World War I and II and their service in all branches of the Armed Services. Five wreaths were purchased from **Wreath across America** to be laid at Arlington Cemetery on “Wreath Day” on December 18.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club – Northern District

The Club had several projects throughout the year exploring GFWC and club history. At one meeting, the GFW Virginia president gave an overview of GFWC’s history and its accomplishments. During a second meeting, a representative of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial talked about its history and the suffering of women within its walls. Members are committed to writing annual club reports to preserve club history. A written history of the club is updated annually and included in the yearbook.

GFWC AFFILIATE AWARDS

Dale Fisher, GFWC Virginia President

Canine Companions – GFWC Cape Henry Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

A club member raised a puppy which was placed with a veteran coping with PTSD. The club assisted with numerous in-kind donations.

Heifer International – GFWC Junto Woman’s Club – Southside District

Club made a sizable donation to this GFWC Affiliate.

Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) – GFWC Dominion Woman’s Club – Northern District

Sponsored 2 students to attend the state HOBY seminar.

March of Dimes – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District

This club continues to support the MOD Supportive Care Program for premature babies and moms by collecting and donating items for the organization.

Operation Smile – Woman’s Club of Jonesville– Southwestern District

These club members believe strongly in the mission of Operation Smile and made a significant contribution to its efforts.

Prevent Child Abuse America – GFWC Worthington Woman’s Club – Lee District

With the assistance of representatives from Families First, the club planted a Pinwheel Garden in the Chesterfield County roundabout in recognition of Prevent Child Abuse Month.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – GFWC Roanoke County Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District

The club donated funds for one of St. Jude’s little red wagons, used to transport children and, maybe a favorite toy or backpack, around the hospital. The club also made quarterly contributions to St. Jude.

Shot@Life – GFWC Mary Ball Woman’s Club – Northern District

A club member challenged other members to show their appreciation for receiving their COVID vaccine by “paying forward” a vaccination for a global child served by Shot@Life. Members sold baked goods at the Northern District Mall Meeting Marketplace to raise funds for this Affiliate.

UNICEF – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club – Alice Kyle District

A generous donation was made.

JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM ~ ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Tammy McGurn, Chairman 44 Projects 3,157 Hours

\$1,631 Donated & \$5,105 In-Kind



Facing continued adversity to the norms in 2021, the clubwomen of GFWC Virginia worked hard to support and advocate for our children. Team GFWC Virginia once again participated in the virtual St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Annual Walk/Run, coming in fourth in the state for most monies raised by a team!

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Mary Ball Woman’s Club – Northern District

This club “got their bake on” in 2021. At their Fall District Marketplace, they held a bake sale and cake raffle, all proceeds of which were donated to Shot@Life. Thirteen members baked or bought their favorite goodies, including gluten-free selections.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hilton Village – Tidewater District

This club was popping in 2021! They collected a whopping 26.57 pounds of soda can pop tabs for delivery to the Ronald McDonald house in Richmond...that’s a lot of pop tabs!

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District

Continuing their support of “Healthy Families of the Peninsula”, this club put in thousands of volunteer hours and in conjunction with local crafters, were able to donate hundreds of hand knitted baby items.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District

This club got in the game by working with a local organization called “Community in Schools”. They donated ten reusable water bottles and a whopping sixty-eight sets of earbuds to the group.

Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell, Inc – Southside District

This small, but powerful club was busy in 2021. They collected and donated school supplies for local foster children, as well as monies for their “adopted” child through the Child Fund. They donated nineteen filled Christmas stockings, and contributed Christmas gifts for a local toy drive, in addition to their local VFW. They also contributed money to Camp Easter Seals, collected pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house, and recycled Christmas cards for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District

This club made a large impact in their area with their continued support of young families that have or are expecting a child. With a total of 2,834 volunteer hours and \$2,669 in-kind donations, these ladies truly stepped up to help keep “Healthy Families of the Peninsula” a powerful resource for their community.

JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECT – CAMP EASTER SEALS UCP VIRGINIA

Kathy Cain, Chairman 5 Projects 36 Hours \$700 Donated & \$20 In-Kind

Best Overall – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

Five club members participated in the volunteer day at Camp Easter Seals UCP in July 2021. Members drove 4 hours to visit camp and volunteer. Along with other generous donors from around the state, JWCL club members helped fill 45 staff appreciation bags with donated snacks, painted rocks, hand sanitizers, thank you cards and more. Club members enjoyed volunteering to welcome incoming campers, delivering their luggage to the cabins and helping to sell camp t-shirts.

Director of Junior Clubs Awards



Jenny Hinegardner, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs

GFWC VIRGINIA CLUB OF THE YEAR

Small Club – GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club’s reports showed new and innovative ideas. Their strongest categories are Membership and Leadership. They accomplished fewer projects, but these projects made an impact in their community.

Honorable Mention – GFWC Cobra Juniorettes – Southwestern District

This club has great drive and imagination for the projects they achieved. They do all of this with in their school year. They reported in nearly every category. These girls are phenomena! I can’t wait to see what they accomplish this year!

Large Club – Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District

This club participated in the categories of GFWC Signature Program as well Advocates for Children and participating in Advocates for Children week. This club also chose to “Support of Military Families/Armed Services YMCA” and volunteered at Camp Easter Seals.

Honorable mention – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club GFWC – Alice Kyle District

This club’s reports show reporting in nearly every category. This administration the Club stepped up into leadership roles and are a great example to future leaders in their club.

GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR CAREER LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

This recognition award is designed to stimulate the quality of club work, as well as recognize the dedicated, hard work of a special Junior in your club for her entire Junior career. It is also the vehicle through which the GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia

No entries received for 2021

GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This recognition award is designed to stimulate the quality of club work, as well as recognize the dedicated, hard work of a special Junior in your club for her club efforts in one calendar year. It is also the vehicle through which the GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia

No entries received for 2021

GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR ROOKIE AWARD

This recognition award is designed to stimulate and reinforce the quality of club work, as well as recognize the dedicated, hard work of a special Junior in your club for her club efforts as a new club woman. It is also the vehicle through which the GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia.

No entries received for 2021

GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The GFWC Virginia Junior Lifetime Achievement Award is new this administration. This award can be awarded to anyone who is nominated, is an active Junior Club member, and attaining at least 170 points on the form in the Junior Awards section of the Yearbook.

Lori Rocker –Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

This member was nominated for The Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been in club work for more than 20 years, is currently a member of both a Junior club and a general club and has helped form a new Junior Club. This member has helped form a new Juniorette or General Club and been personally responsible for bringing new members into her own Junior Club. She has served as a Chairman of a committee in her Junior Club, served as a Junior Club officer and also served as her Club President. She has served as a Junior District officer/chairman as well as the District Director of Junior Clubs. She has served as a District Director of Junior Clubs and been the GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs. She has attended numerous State and International Conventions as well as the Southeastern Region Conference and State Conferences. She is a wealth of GFWC knowledge.

GFWC Virginia Junior Honor Society

The Junior Honor Society is recognition of a club's high level of participation in Federation activities, particularly those that are directly sponsored by the Junior organization. In order to qualify, clubs must meet a minimum point level in the following sections: Federation activities, Federation Funding, Federation meetings and Special awards. There are three award categories (participation award for those who submit information but don't meet minimums): Gold, Silver and Bronze. Participation certificate given to clubs who do not meet the minimum criteria.

Silver

Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell
Southside District
Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman’s Club
Shenandoah District

Gold

Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun
Northern District

Highest Point Total

Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun
Northern District

SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

CORRINE MURRAY AWARD

Large Club – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun - This club collected approximately \$200 worth of books to donate to the Loudoun Literacy Council, which provides literacy resources to low-income adults and children.

Small Club – No Entries Received

MARGARET ALLEN THOMAS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Large Club – No Entries Received

Small Club – No Entries Received

MARJORIE BRANCH AWARD

Large Club – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

This club was selected for the Marjorie Branch award in promotion of GFWC and GFWC Virginia. This club promoted the motto of GFWC Unity in Diversity through a social media campaign and membership activities. They used their social media to celebrate and support various cultural holidays and days of recognition. They held a social at a local Indian restaurant to celebrate Diwali. This was a wonderful dinner and learning experience for members.

Small Club – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

This club was selected for the Marjorie Branch award in promotion of GFWC and GFWC Virginia. This club focused on working in partnership with the regional domestic violence program, as well as doing “dirty jobs” that show they are not above their raisin.

PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS AWARD

Large Club – No Entries Received

Small Club – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

The GFWC Appalachian Lead Ladies Junior Woman’s Club is a relatively new club formed in 2020, located in Southwestern Virginia. The club woman helped co-host the Spring District Meeting with decorations, giveaways, and they held a basket raffle. For the District Project, they worked with another club to assemble take-home bags with items to make sensory bottles. The bottles will be distributed to police and fire & rescue providers in the region to help calm someone during a stressful situation. In addition, this Junior club partnered with two Southwestern District general clubs to collect \$4,550 worth of in-kind donations for the regional domestic violence program. This hard-working group of women is off to a great start!

SHELBY PAISLEY HAMLETT AWARD

Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

This club was able to donate it's 2nd mobile playroom to Inova Loudoun Hospital. This mobile playroom is stocked with toys and activities for children to play with while in the hospital. The theme of the Board installation ceremony in the Summer of 2021 was TEAM, standing for Together Everyone Achieves More. During the installation ceremony, each new Board member was given toy or craft item to put into the "playroom" that was then donated to Inova Loudoun Hospital. This club raised over \$2000.00 to make this mobile playroom possible.

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT AWARD

Large Club – No Entries Received

Small Club – No Entries Received

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT JUNIOR AWARD IN LEGISLATION

No Entries Received