

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA

“Service, the Debt of Education”



Distributed after the 113th Annual Convention

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Virtual via Zoom

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL REPORT 2020



GFWC VIRGINIA PRESIDENT
Dale Fisher



“Envision the Future”

At the beginning of this administration no one *envisioned a future* of social distancing, stay-at-home orders, and mask mandates. In-person meetings on all levels of federation came to a halt in March but, as club women do, we adjusted our *lenses* and found ways to continue enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. A new *framework* of operating was adopted. The ways in which we served our communities *looked* a little different, but the result was just as impactful.

102 of our 140 clubs expended 196,200 hours in the completion of 4,323 projects. \$501,823 in monetary contributions and \$465,297 of in-kind donations were made to benefit those less fortunate in our communities, nation, and world. Through creative fundraising efforts, \$ 259,791 was raised to further our clubs' missions. Our numbers may have been down a bit, but our enthusiasm did not wane.

The year literally “zoomed” by. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Members and clubs embraced Zoom and other virtual platforms to conduct business, raise funds, and socialize. To keep our members engaged clubs held virtual meetings, outdoor meetings observing social distancing, and drive-thru meetings which offered opportunities to say “hi” and participate in club collections.

GFWC Virginia held its first remote Summer Conference providing a day of workshops as conducted by our State Chairmen from the comforts of their own homes. Though many of us did miss federation camaraderie, this new method of meeting remotely offered us more opportunities to complete business and exchange ideas. The Executive Committee, Executive Board, and our Standing Committees utilized the virtual platform to fulfill their administrative and fiduciary responsibilities, ensuring the continued well-being of our organization. Our GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee began a comprehensive review of our governing documents, preparing a proposed revision for approval at the 2021 convention.

Clubs assimilated to the restructured GFWC Community Service Programs. The Civic Engagement and Outreach Program and the Education Program saw the most activity as clubs focused their efforts addressing needs resulting from the effects of the pandemic. Clubs collected food for community food pantries, made masks for anyone and everyone, provided meals and treats for health care workers and first responders, and addressed the challenges of virtual learning – providing encouragement to teachers and books, educational materials, and arts supplies for children. Additional CSP and Advancement Plan activity is outlined in this publication. Enjoy culling ideas for your club.

After many years of dormancy, the GFWC Virginia ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) chapter was reactivated. We now have 34 members participating in this fun and educational reading program.

Clubs across the commonwealth celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote. Costumed presentations, proclamations, and informational displays educated our communities on this momentous occasion. GFWC Virginia became a donor to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial joining GFWC and many other State Federations on the naming wall.

GFWC Virginia members memorialized the passing of our own, Shelby Paisley Hamlett who served as GFWC Virginia President, 1980-1982 and GFWC International President, 2000-2002. We also celebrated the life and service of Millie Brown, GFWC Virginia Past President 1972-1974. Millie celebrated her 100th birthday and 75 years of federation service.

This officer had the privilege of representing GFWC Virginia at all GFWC Board of Directors meetings and the Southeastern Region Conference. She has also participated in GFWC State Presidents' informational and social remote get togethers. Zoom has afforded opportunities to visit club meetings, book club meetings and club socials.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and to boast on the success of the 2020 club year. I look forward to a *spec-tacular* second year of the administration.

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



Our amazing GFWC Virginia Junior Clubs found a way to “Pay it Forward” in 2020, regardless of a silly pandemic. Altogether, Juniors reported 900 total projects, clocked over 17,000 volunteer hours, donated more than \$65,389, gave \$63,404 of In-Kind donations, and raised \$22,509. We accomplished as much as we were *permitted* with the COVID-19 safety restrictions in place. WOW!

Virginia Juniors completed many projects for GFWC Signature Programs for Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention as well as GFWC Juniors Special Program, Advocated for Children. One club has a member that sits on the Legislative Committee for the State and drafted letters and communication with the committee regarding supporting legislation HB-1033. On the Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service, a club gathered to pack birthday boxed for women and children at a local women’s shelter. We walked virtually for St. Jude Children’s Research hospital, donated money to March of Dimes, and Prevent Child Abuse America as well as. State Junior Project, Camp Easter Seals. A Drive thru Santa and Mrs. Claus event was held, and a club donated to an organization which helped a child with PTSD and Autism by providing her a dog. Clubs also participated in A Night to Shine and had a Halloween parade for the community schools. One club participated in a program called “Books on Bikes”. We made blankets for Operation Smile, donated to HOBY, Heifer International, UNICEF, and Shot @ Life.

You completed Arts & Culture projects such as virtual art shows, scholarships to graduating high school seniors which would assist in continuing their visual or performing arts education at the college/university level, collected period products, bras, and underwear for woman who are homeless, have low or restricted income, or are incarcerated. Junioresettes made Tumblers with the club logo to give to outgoing seniors as well as created posters for their Bingo Arts Committee. Civic Engagement and Outreach projects included: GFWC Virginia representation on the HOBY Virginia Corporate Board, supporting Chippenham Hospital Radiography Department sanitation crew by providing snacks, participated in Mardi Bras which is put on by a local organization called “Into the Neighborhood”. You helped with Backpack Buddies, provided dinners for hospital staff as a “Thank you”, There are so many. Many more.

You really “Payed it Forward” in Education and Libraries. While many of the projects were similar, the impact on the communities did not go unnoticed. Donations were made to a High School Care Closet. Many scholarships were presented with one club able to give \$4,000 through fundraising and community donations. STEM Baskets were donated as well as items to a reading room, school supplies, teacher appreciation gifts, and stuffed Corona virus survival kits. Clubs also celebrated graduating Seniors through parades, donation of Graduation Cords and flowers, and gift cards. We had clubs that “Adopted a Park” “Adopted A Highway”, gave used, cleaned mascara wands for wildlife, donated pill bottles to enable medical supplies to be shipped overseas. Other clubs planted trees in their local park, participated in the TREX recycling program. Clubs donated grocery bags for recycle and egg cartons. Another club collects vases in order to “upcycle” them. One clubs grocery bag collection went to make mats for the homeless. Clubs showed their commitment to health and wellness by giving blood, educating members on the importance of mammograms, heart health, and become aware about the dangers of cervical cancer. Juniors walked to end Alzheimer’s, for Breast Cancer and for suicide prevention, wrote about Coronavirus symptoms in their newsletter, worked on their fitness goals, donated to Meals on Wheels, made donations to the Mental Health Association of Augusta to be used for their suicide prevention training, Clubs participated in the DC Wonder Woman Run, enlisting participation from other clubs in our State. Our clubs communicate through many platforms; Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, newsletters and email. New members were enticed with spring teas, fall happy hours, events at local restaurants, and new member swag. One club installs a display in the local park for their Celebration of Light, to highlight who they are. Another club’s name appears on signs in the community as well as a member of the local Chamber of

Commerce. Clubs wear their club apparel out and other GFWC swag. We have strong leadership on all levels of GFWC. The Junior Board has a line of girls waiting to serve. We have clubs with great leaders, but don't necessarily want to move up with in the District. We have two Junior members serving as District Presidents and we have Junior member serving as GFWC Virginia 2nd VP. These are the people that inspire our future leaders. A great highlight is 7 clubs experience membership increases. One of those clubs increased by 15 members. We had membership drives, encourage members to invite guests to the meetings, we socialized while social distancing, we celebrated members who inspire another member, we learned to get "together" via Zoom, and Facebook Rooms. Clubs were able to have holiday parties, and install new members, celebrated Friendsgiving with a mashed potato bar, celebrated Junior Month. We have installed new members who saw Facebook pages and websites. Our new Junior Club was Federated in February 2020. We sent delegates to all District, State and National Federation meetings. We encouraged members make themselves aware of any public Policy changes and sign up for the Legislative Action site for GFWC, and contact their congressmen for GFWC related issues. We had clubs celebrate Women's History Month, Women's Vote Centennial, handed out information cards with details on Women's Suffrage and delivered cards to members who couldn't attend meetings.

Juniors are resourceful at fundraising. We managed to raise more than \$21,000 with 22 projects and 1188 volunteer hours. Some recurring fundraising projects had to be tweaked. There were also a couple of new projects like selling "Santa Letters" to anyone to purchase for children and "Zoom with Santa"

While the beginning of this administration started out differently than those before. We have been challenged, but ended up growing and learning, which I believe is preparing us for the next chapter of how GFWC will/can operate. Virtual wasn't bad, we still managed to get about 50% of the projects completed and money raised than we did the year before. Imagine what we could be if we did in person and virtual. How many more people could we reach and bring into club work!!

Once again, I am in awe of the members I serve.



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

GFWC Virginia Clubs certainly “Keep Their Sight on Leadership”. 65 clubs reported many ways they carried out 589 projects, devoting 37,770 volunteer hours and spent \$26,212 carrying out their leadership objectives. Despite the imposed restrictions of a pandemic, clubs found creative ways to hold meetings, training workshops, fundraising and projects for their communities.

Luckily, we were able to hold an in person GFWC Virginia State Chairmen Orientation that was much needed due to the many changes in GFWC Community Service Programs and Affiliates. All state safety restrictions were followed such as distancing, masks and food preparation. State chairmen were attentive to the many topics covered on the agenda, left with an abundance of new information pertaining to their chairmanship and enjoyed the fellowship.

Club Leaders and Members tuned in to the GFWC Virginia Virtual Summer Conference that was held via ZOOM to embrace many interesting workshops. From their state leadership team, they watched a video of Comedian and Motivation Speaker, Sam Glenn, learned of excerpts from Peter Barron Stark’s writing, A Leader’s Attitude Is Contagious for Better or Worse (10 Tips), listened to a recited poem, “Attitude” by Charles Swindoll, and engaged a power point presentation on Delegating.

Trickle down communication was heavily promoted from state to club levels. The State Leadership Team carried out ZOOM chats among District 1st Vice Presidents, District Assistant Junior Directors and District Presidents to promote GFWC LEADS, GFWC Jennie Award, Communication, Reporting and also were great times of comradery. Leaders and members engaged in GFWC Leadership Webinars and utilized the GFWC Leadership Toolkit. GFWC Virginia Clubwoman articles were a chance to refresh our knowledge of the GFWC motto, “Unity in Diversity”, especially during our diverse time of a pandemic and learn the importance of, “The Power of Positive Leadership”. GFWC Virginia Leaders on all levels will continue communicating and promote keeping Leadership in Sight!

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



Cheers to GFWC Virginia Clubwomen for making time to Envision Membership Growth. We began 2020 with an orientation for our district chairmen challenging them to embrace the administration theme and add one new club per District. 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 workshop during the GFWC Virginia Virtual Summer Conference, a recording of which is available on the GFWC Virginia Website. Information was shared about each of the four focus areas, along with tips on how to use social media to promote clubs and members. The #IAmGFWC membership video was shared and members played GFWC Jeopardy highlighting facts about GFWC and GFWC Virginia. The Jeopardy template is available so clubs can customize it with their own club and district facts.

During the 2020 club year, 71 Clubs reported in the Membership Advancement Area, volunteering 10,107 hours and contributing \$24,928 through 397 projects in efforts across all areas of Membership. Recruiting efforts were not at their highest in 2020, but clubs did continue to make an effort to identify new members by hosting events and inviting others to join them in making a difference. We have received over 60 new member coupons, proving that members are still focused on growing our membership numbers. We have also shared the new club kit with individuals in a few districts that have expressed interest in forming a club and hope to add new clubs to our state Federation during this administration.

Clubs utilized Zoom, drive-by meetings, phone calls and handwritten notes to connect with members when in-person events weren’t possible. They were creative in developing themed events and games to engage their members and shared information from all levels of GFWC to inform them. They utilize surveys to inform decision making and offer member orientation and mentor/buddy programs to help acclimate new members to the organization. Clubs recognize members for years of service, celebrate individual milestones and life events, and support each other in times of need.

2020 was not without its challenges and it was inevitable that the pandemic would have an impact on our membership. We experienced an 11% decrease in membership and unfortunately had clubs defederate. The membership stats for GFWC Virginia, however, aren’t without some positives. Three out of eight districts retained all clubs during 2020, while seven out of eight districts had clubs that experienced an increase in membership, with 15 clubs reporting an increase. 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 unusual year, but a productive year for all of our clubs and for GFWC Virginia. From the first opportunity to meet at GFWC Virginia orientation in Charlottesville to now, these officers recognized the skill and adaptability of the district secretaries. This year has been one of challenges, but they were not challenges that were insurmountable. Minutes were taken over meeting platforms such as Zoom. This could have been daunting to many, but not to these ladies. These two officers congratulate you on your success in accomplishing a very difficult task.

From the post-Convention minutes to the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee minutes to the GFWC Executive Board minutes, these officers have been kept very busy. Budget and Finance and Endowment meetings were held, and minutes taken at these meetings. All of the minutes were transcribed, reviewed and filed. The GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer recorded and filed minutes for the GFWC Virginia Junior Board Meetings as well as other GFWC Virginia Junior Business Meetings. Articles were written for each Virginia Clubwoman publication and submitted in a timely manner.

It has been a pleasure to hold these positions during this trying time. It has resulted in sharpening our skills as note-takers, learning technical skills heretofore thought unnecessary and learning the knack of multi-tasking. Has it been an “unprecedented year? Yes. Has it been an unfulfilling year? No. Maybe this time has allowed each of us to take the time to learn new skills and be forced to develop patience. Let’s just hope that the upcoming year is filled with more chances to further develop our skills and increase our patience.

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



During these unrepresented times please know that your GFWC Virginia Treasurers are working to ensure that all financial responsibilities are met and dealt with in a timely matter.

All expenses were paid in a timely matter. Payments were pre-approved by our State President and our Budget and Finance Committee Chairman through our voucher system and copies forwarded to our GFWC Virginia Headquarters. GFWC dues have been submitted and GFWC Virginia Juniors have been reimbursed for their portion of state dues.

We conducted a training for incoming District Treasurers and Junior Treasurers at Orientation which was one of the only in-person trainings held due to the pandemic restrictions. The Budget and Finance Committee and Endowment Fund Committee meetings were attended via Zoom as well as Executive Board and Junior Executive Board meetings where financial reports were presented. Articles were written for inclusion in each *Virginia Clubwoman* publication.

Please know that our GFWC Virginia Funds are well protected and invested wisely in interest-bearing accounts with a reputable investment corporation.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve as guardians of our GFWC Virginia Treasury and look forward to the second year of this administration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.



ALICE KYLE DISTRICT

Carol Pridgen, President

Amanda Paez, Junior Director

218 Members

202 Projects

3,304 Volunteer Hours

\$31,142 Donated & In-Kind

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention: A member served on the Legislation committee for the state, drafted letters and communicated with the committee supporting state legislation HB-1033.

GFWC Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children: Members visited the new Patrick Henry Family Services Outreach facility located in Brookneal, VA. The SB- H Jr. WC members participated with the Tri-County Community Action Agency this agency helps provide guidance and support that families need to build a healthy and successful life in their community. The program the Jr. club participates in is the Mentor/Role Model program, which offers one-on-one and group mentoring to students in Halifax County.

Art and Culture: Held an Arts and Craft show, a literary contest for local school children, supported the area summer theater with a monetary donation, the Angel Tree, Salvation Army, supported the GFWC VA. Arts and Crafts fund, made monetary donations to a local chorale and a local art scholarship for art lessons for children.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Through emails and social distancing, members of our district clubs were still able to contribute by making monetary donations, making mask for family, friends and anyone in the community who needed one, help families by providing food, cooked meals, doing shopping for groceries during the onset of the pandemic, provide Christmas gifts, Easter Baskets for a local family, maintain and upkeep their town's local cemetery, participate with "Wreathes Across America", held a "Spirit of Giving" drive thru that helped support their area food bank and local medical center, participated with the GFWC VA program "Sweats for Vets" that provided sweat suites for Veterans in local Veteran hospitals, collected pill bottles for the Matthew's 25 Ministry, this ministry fulfills the needs of improving medical care in developing countries. A member of our South Boston-Halifax Jr. WC serves as a GFWC VA representative on the HOBY Virginia Corporate Board.

Affiliate Organizations for the GFWC Community Service Programs: Donations made to Affiliate Organizations – Canine Companions, Heifer International, HOBY, March of Dimes, Operation Smile, Prevent Child Abuse America, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, UNICEF, and UNF Shot at Life

Education and Libraries: Participated in the GFWC Dr. Seuss project by collecting Dr. Seuss books and donating them to the local library, donated school supplies to a local after school program, made a monetary donation to a local library, promoted the Girls Rock Book Club, delivered masks, snacks and water throughout schools, participated in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, provided Scholarships to raising High School Seniors who were continuing their education.

Environment: Members recycle glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard by separating them out and taking the items to the recycling bins at the dump, adopted a park to help keep it clean and free of trash, scheduled two clean up days to clean old flowers off the head stones, pick up dead limbs and any maintenance jobs needed at their local cemetery and amphitheater

Health and Wellness: Projects included providing items for the Halifax County High School Care Closet, non-perishable food, clothing and toiletries for the Care Closet to assist students in need, made and donated 25 Prayer Bears to their local nursing home to be distributed to the residents, collected 50 pair of eye glasses(readers) and sun glasses for a medical mission team to take to Kenya, Africa, made monetary donations to various health related organizations, held a Heart Health Awareness program at a local restaurant by distributing useful information and pins purchased from the American Heart Association, hosted an American Red Cross Blood drive, made a donation to Camp Loud and Clear, a Virginia camp for deaf children, Heart of Virginia Free Clinic and the Southside Pregnancy Support Center

Communications and Public Relations: Several clubs have websites, newsletters and Facebook groups that promote projects and programs in the community.

Leadership: Besides District Chairman, several clubs have members that not only hold an Officer position at club level, but hold and Officer position in either the District Level or on GFWC Virginia State level. The 2018-2020, Junior Membership Chair for GFWC VA is the Director of Junior Clubs for this administration. *Alice Kyle District is very proud that the GFWC Virginia President for the next administration will come from our district.*

Legislation and Public Policy: Brookneal Woman's Club, Member of GFWC recognized the Women's Suffrage Act by presenting a proclamation to the Brookneal Town Manager, the proclamation was displayed in the town office.

Membership: A club's Caring Committee sent cards to ailing members, flowers when a member died, and welcomed a new member

Women's History and Resource Center: Brookneal Woman's Club member of GFWC had a program in March to recognize and celebrate Women's History Month by having a dinner at a member's home and enjoyed a rendition of "Ain't I A Woman", - Sojourner Truth. Woman's Club of Farmville, VA GFWC celebrated their club's 100 Anniversary.

GFWC VA State Project 2020-2022 "Support Military Families/Armed Services "YMCA": Blackstone Woman's Club and Brookneal Woman's Club member of GFWC were ready to support this program by "Hopping on the Bus"

GFWC VA Endowment – Dogwood Society – 1907 Society: One member purchased her dogwood pin and joined the 1907 Society another member upgraded her Dogwood pin.

Alice Kyle District Project – Patrick Henry Family Services: Clubs continue to support the Patrick Henry Family Services with monetary donations. Patrick Henry Family Services' mission is to place at risk children in faith, based homes and communities.



Blue Ridge District
Amber Holdren, President

201 Members 22,481 Volunteer Hours
330 Projects \$63,163 Donated & In-Kind

The Ladies of the Blue Ridge District did not let all the changes of 2020 slow them down! The willingness and dedication to programs and their community did not suffer... the challenge was met overwhelmingly!

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

Communities benefited by members volunteering at non-profit centers; participating in neighborhood watch meetings and provided treats/meals to first responder groups throughout the year. Vinton provided treats to their local Fire/EMS/Police on the 11th day of each month; Botetourt Town and Country 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. Women's Suffrage Month was recognized by the Bent Mountain Club. Flags were placed in the Bent Mountain Butterfly Garden on National Holidays. All clubs encouraged members to vote!

Along with the Blue Ridge getting a new website, Bent Mountain boosted their social media presence this year by developing a website and a Facebook page in a very rural area. One of the biggest changes for clubs has been the use of "Zoom" to hold meetings, some in person and some on Zoom.

Botetourt Town & Country gained 2 new members hosting a table at the local "Women Rock" event by handing club brochures and providing door prizes. Members participated in a Breakfast in the Park event at a local park. Bent Mountain members distributed their updated brochures at local events, gaining 5 new members and Blacksburg Juniors held a "virtual open house" membership drive gaining several new members with this new concept.

Practicing by Zoom, Roanoke County Club sang in the Salem Choral Society and two members worked in the music library. The Blacksburg Juniors volunteered at a local non-profit theatre and decorated a tree for the Inn at VT; Bedford Club made donations for students to attend theatre, 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 the Bedford Christian Ministries. The Floyd club donated money to a non-profit art gallery who sponsored art exhibits, visiting artists, and preserving local high school choral program. Botetourt Town and Country members hosted their own art and craft "Show and Tell".

The Bent Mountain Woman's Club presented 654 books to the Carilion Pediatric Unit and also donated books to the Roanoke County Jail library for inmates. Vinton and Roanoke County Clubs donated Dr. Seuss books sets to six schools and 3 clubs helped sponsor a student to go to HOBY.

Bent Mountain Women's Club maintained a community butterfly garden updating the garden and involving the community in the project and used money from their Landscape Fund to purchase mulch for the garden; collected and cleaned used medicine bottles used for mission trips. Botetourt Town & Country recycled all recyclables including soft plastics for the TREC project provide a bench at Greenfield Preservation along with donating clothing to donation enters. Both Roanoke County and Vinton clubs collected plastics to support a "buddy bench" made for elementary schools.

Floyd County donated \$250 to the Empty Bowls Social Project in Floyd. Roanoke County WC's donation of \$1000.00 to C.A.T.S. (Children's Assistive Technology Services) for annual Halloween event declared them the "GREAT PUMPKIN" among all of the sponsors across the state!

Bent Mountain 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. Collaborating with the Bent Mountain Center Grab & Go Dinner to have a Pre-Holiday Sale, dressed in their club red aprons and Santa hats while selling items collected for a plant and cancelled yard sale. Bedford 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.

Twenty-three club members served in the Blue Ridge District, eleven served on the GFWCVA 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 kept in touch through phone calls and the club newsletter. Officers of the Blue Ridge District attended Officer Training in Charlottesville. One member attended the GFWCVA Chairman's training in Richmond. Thirty-four members attended a "socially distanced" Fall District Meeting. Each lady had their own table which was six feet from the next lady. A Zoom Meeting was held by the State Reporting Chairman on Reporting and fifteen ladies attended.



LEE DISTRICT

Liz Sabbatini, President

627 Members

50,817 Volunteer Hours

Alaina Chaffee, Junior Director

1,359 Projects

\$367,297 Donated & In-kind

GFWC Signature Project – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention: Clubs promoted the GFWC Signature Program/attended the webinar offered. October was recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness month; six clubs supported local shelters financially and with food/clothing donations and 20 ‘After Care Kits’ for abuse victims. Three clubs donated to the Success for Survivors Scholarship fund. Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes was acted on by five clubs, by donations to Richmond Justice Initiative and programs by speakers from RJI. Kanawha sponsors a District Special Award of \$50 for this area.

GFWC Juniors’ Special Project – Advocates for Children: Five clubs reported in this area. Treat bags, school supplies, children’s books and 7 Easter baskets were donated to various organizations. 110 lbs. of plastic bags was collected to help a Girl Scout Troop win an award. One club held a presentation on Stop Child Abuse Now. **Affiliates:** **Prevent Child Abuse America:** A club displayed an “April is Child Abuse Prevention Month” banner during April; another collected 642 diapers, 320 baby wipes packs, and donated 18 bags of groceries and \$30 in gift cards for Healthy Families Program. **St Jude’s:** two clubs donated

Arts and Culture: With the restrictions imposed, clubs suggested virtual museum listing and links to their members. Funds and art supplies were collected for various organizations. One member wrote cheerful messages on a chalkboard outside her home every day for 283 days and was on the local news! Clubs sewed baby/lap blankets, masks, scarves, scrub caps to donate and made 185 comfort pillows for post-operative breast cancer surgery patients. **Affiliate:** A club researched and printed coloring pages for young children, which they delivered to **Operation Smile.**

Education and Libraries: Many clubs supported libraries by volunteering, donating funds and a club funded a computer for public use. Members are to read, with lending libraries, book baskets and a book club. Many clubs between them donated almost \$50,000 in scholarships. Schools were supported with donations of necessities, stickers, snacks, gift cards, and volunteer time, \$307 supplies for STEAM baskets. St. Josephs’ Villa was supported and two clubs focused on vulnerable students. **Affiliate:** \$1,300 was donated to support **HOBY**

Environment: COVID hit this area hard so many projects were not completed. 1,500 wine corks were among the many items recycled. Local animal shelters were supported. The Doorways front entrance plants & the Rappahannock River were cleaned up.

Civic Engagement: Our veterans (Sweats for Vets etc.) and the USO were well supported. One club participated in Wreaths Across America Day and another donated \$1,000 to their National Guard Facility. Clubs donated clothing, food, toiletries, sanitizing wipes etc. to various organizations and helped Meals on Wheels, Thanksgiving Food bags, Blessing Bags and Christmas Mothers. Monetary Donations were made to a long list of philanthropic organizations. Clubs supported police departments, served as poll workers and encouraged voting. Two clubs supply docents at the Virginia Executive Mansion. **Affiliates:** Donations were made to **Canine Companions, UNICEF and St Jude’s.**

Health and Wellness: Despite the constraints of COVID, 13 General and 2 Junior clubs reported on their efforts to support the Health and Wellness CSP. Much information was shared in newsletters and walking, yoga, and healthy lifestyles were stressed. Masks were made and sent to hospitals and clothing to the needy: GFWC Kanawha donated over \$40,000 ‘in kind’ household goods to a cancer-support store. Ashcake WC made and sent 440 handmade cards to ‘Cards for Kindness’ for distribution by healthcare workers. WC of Powhatan supported their Free Clinic, with two members volunteering over 2,000 hours. **Affiliates:** **Operation Smile** received \$850 and \$300 In Kind, **Shot@Life** \$25 and 14 vaccinations and **St. Jude’s** \$300

Communications and Public Relations: Clubs report newsletters, either mailed or emailed. Seven clubs have Facebook pages and six have websites. Three rural clubs succeeded in getting information published in local papers; one had seven articles with photos. Three clubs reported using Zoom for meetings and one conducted business by email.

Leadership: This has been a struggle with meetings being almost none-existent; some met in parks/recreation centers, others distanced indoors. Clubs relied heavily on Yearbooks, newsletters and Zoom. Donations were made to the Endowment fund, Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship Fund, the Phyllis B. Roberts Fund, the State Project, Lee District Courtesy Fund and The Headquarters and Maintenance Fund.

Legislation and Public Policy: Only two clubs reported: they kept members informed and encouraged them to vote. One club celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Membership: Although membership overall has declined, clubs were creative in recruiting new members: Generals recruited 16 new members between them and JFWCC started with 17 new members and Powhatan Juniors added 9. Clubs tried hard to stay in touch - with Secret Sisters, Movie Days and Drive By socializing. Cards, phone calls and member anniversaries were important.

Fund Raising and Development: COVID 19 led to many activities being cancelled, but clubs managed to solicit donations anyway! (Ashcake’s Annual Harvest Run, Varina’s Tea and Fashion Show and Goochland’s Tea and Fashion Show). Powhatan WC raised \$4,000 January-March with their long-term clothes closet, now permanently closed. Clubs held bake sales, a drive thru spaghetti dinner, sold t-shirts, books, masks, and conducted various raffles/silent auctions to try to overcome the unusual problems.

Women’s History and Resource Center: Clubs focused on their history, the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage and GFWC history and Turning Point Memorial. Three Clubs became Friends of WHRC, donating a total of \$175.

District Special Projects: The first half of the year saw a successful conclusion to supporting St Joseph’s Villa with a donation of over \$4,000. ReachCYCLES/Veterans and Athletes United has been well supported with three programs offered by them, and 37 gift bags to go with the cycles were donated. Fundraising, however, has been difficult and hopefully will be stepped up for them and for Support of Military Families/Armed Services YMCA next year.

District President and Director of Junior Clubs Activities: These were severely curtailed but they did successfully organize and hold an ‘in person’ Fall Meeting and host the State President, which was rewarding. They have attended every possible ‘in person’ club event and many Zoom meetings. Club reports have certainly helped them keep up with all their clubs’ activities.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Mary Driver-Downs, President

842 Members
402 Projects

24,284 Volunteer Hours
\$235,216 Donations & In-Kind



GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention 22 total projects, 395 volunteer hours, \$3451 donated, In-Kind \$1476. Donation of \$676 to Sungate Foundation- a survivor led nonprofit organization helping survivors of human trafficking. One club coordinated MLK day with a panel discussion on human trafficking at local community college along with a red sand activity.

GFWC Junior Special Program Advocates for Children: 4 projects, 2 clubs participated. 45 hats were donated to Ellie's hats, donation to MOBILE HOPE and 20 Operation Smile no- sew blankets were made.

Arts & Culture: 45 total projects 2274 Volunteer hours, \$6485 Donated, \$2725 In Kind. A presentation musical CD of "Peter and the Wolf" given to elementary schools. A new kiln was bought for an art teacher. Sewn pillow cases given to Warrior Retreat Center. Opera Nova was given clubhouse to use for practice/performing. \$4000 donated to McLean Projects for the Arts.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: 143 Projects. 8834 volunteer hours, \$47,906 Donated. \$43,551 In Kind. Most clubs supported community food drives/distributions/ and dinners. \$21,282 given by 3 clubs in monetary community donations. The 15-year Layette project with INOVA Fairfax Hosp. continued. Sweats for Vets collected. 75 filled purses given to a local shelter. 200 face shields were made. 1st responders/ hospital staff received dinners. "Celebration of the 19th Amendment"- occurred in Fredericksburg. 6 Clubs supported Wreaths Across America.

Education and Libraries: 70 projects. 2545 Volunteer hours, \$82,805 donated.

HOBY scholarship -4 projects \$963. 12 Clubs in the Northern District gave educational scholarships, total contribution- \$44,540. 44 lap desks donated for virtual learning students. The 5 year "Buy a Kid a Book" program continued. 42nd annual Spelling Bee was sponsored.

Environment: 44 projects, 6,515 volunteer hours, \$7,714 Donated.

Heifer 4 projects, \$390. Clubs planted/ maintained gardens, purchased beehives, participated in highway clean-up programs, learned about local environmental issues with land development, donated to 3 Nature Centers, "Help Wild Birds"- 3500 hours given to bird rehab with a \$1570 donation. On Arbor Day- donation to ReLeaf was given.

Health: 58 projects 3631 volunteer hours, \$14,456 donated, \$12,954 In kind

Mask making was a highlight. One club made over 3000 masks! \$5020 donated to 10 different Health organizations. Clubs participated in 5k-runs, and Breast Cancer Awareness week. Lab robes and haircut money was donated for nursing home residents. Club Drive-bys happened.

Communication and Public Relations: 49 projects, Vol hour 2560, \$ 2570 Dollars spent, \$1493 In Kind

Leadership: 55 projects, 6829 Vol hours, \$1243 Dollars spent, \$853 In kind

Legislation and Public Policy: - 7 projects 228, Vol hours, \$200 Dollars Spent \$601 In-kind

Membership: 61 projects, 2087 Vol hours, \$945 Dollars spent, \$601 In-kind

Women's History and Resource Center: 7 projects, \$1000 Donated, \$384 Dollars Spent, 0 In Kind

Fundraising: 52 projects, 9542 Vol hours, \$86,863 dollars raised, \$7375 In kind

GFWC Virginia State Project: Support Military Families/Armed Services 12 projects, 1086 Vol hours, \$1132 Dollars Donated, \$868 In kind

GFWC VA Northern District Project: Beehives- Heifer 3 projects, \$390 Donated, \$90 In kind

District President's Report: 2020 A year like we've never seen before! Thank you to all the Clubs for hanging in there and keeping the hive buzzing, Bee Growing and Blooming always!



SHENANDOAH DISTRICT

Tara Widener, President

305 Members 16,035 Volunteer Hours

Jennie McNeal, Director of Junior Clubs 223 Projects \$54,933 Donated & \$16,623 In-Kind

GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention: Clubs participated in 10 Projects; 147 Volunteer Hours; \$664.61 Donated, and \$1674 In-Kind. The **Waynesboro Women's Club** reached out to 3 high schools in preparation for the showing of "Prevent Human Trafficking" in the schools. Many clubs continued to support their local battered women shelters by providing clothing and food.

Arts and Culture: Clubs participated in 12 Projects; 470 Volunteer Hours; \$375 Donated, and \$308 In-Kind Donations. Club activities involved student/member art shows, art supplies to local schools. **Covington Women's Club** held their visual arts and writing contest and held a reception for the winners. The **Lexington Women's Club** had members who participated in the First Friday Art walk downtown Lexington. Several other clubs held writing contests for members and students.

Environment: Clubs participated in 11 Projects; 1872 Volunteer Hours; \$1512 Donated, and \$1202 In-Kind Conservation activities included recycling, beautification projects and planting trees and gardens. **Covington Women's Club** collected 206 pairs of shoes for the Soles 4 Souls Project.

Education and Libraries: Clubs participated in 25 Projects; 862 Volunteer Hours; \$23,662 Donated, and \$2,392 In-Kind. 4 clubs reported being able to provide scholarships to high school seniors, students in Trade Schools and Community College. **Staunton Augusta Junior Women's Club** continued to volunteer time reading to kids and collecting supplies for the teachers. **Covington Women's Club** donated over a dozen Dr. Seuss books to their local school library. Many clubs were able to collect hand sanitizer and wipes due to the pandemic.

HOBY: 2 Projects; 1 Volunteer Hours; \$375 Donated. Clubs provide scholarships for students to attend the HOBY seminar at JMU.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Clubs participated in 24 Projects; 2649 Volunteer Hours; \$22,452 Donated, and \$5,088 In-Kind. Projects include operating clothes closets, donating food to their local food banks, volunteering with the Backpack program, collecting food and toys and other needed supplies at Christmas. Donations of toiletries to the homeless and art supplies to children's advocacy organizations. **Wayland's Women's Club** held "Free the Girls" Bra Drive was a huge success by one of our clubs by being able to donate 39 bras for survivors of Human trafficking in underdeveloped countries to sell and provide for their families.

Health: Clubs participated in 21 Projects; 4243 Volunteer Hours; \$2570 Donated, and \$4599 In-Kind. We had two clubs participate in Operation Smile. **Wayland Women's Club** had over 430 volunteer hours collecting and bagging the items for Operation Smile. Many clubs stepped up to make face masks for their communities, friends and families. Some clubs signed up and ran virtual runs to maintain their health during COVID.

Leadership: Clubs participated in 39 Projects; 2831 Volunteer Hours, spent \$1625 and \$605 in-Kind. Members serve in leadership positions on the club, district, and state level. Members attended the district and State convention virtually. Many of our club members serve on state committees.

Membership: Clubs participated in 13 Projects; 450 Volunteer Hours, spent \$926 and \$328 in Kind. Recruiting and retaining members are top priorities for all clubs reporting.

Women's History and Resource Center: Clubs participated in 3 Projects; 17 Volunteer Hours. **The Covington Woman's Club** commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Members of the club dressed in period garb and holding signs showing "Votes for Women" and met with local government officials for a proclamation signing.

Fundraising: Clubs participated in 17 Projects; 1302 Volunteer Hours; \$17593 Raised. Club fundraisers included craft and baked goods sales, ornaments, and yard sales.

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT

Angela Paez, President

480 Members 29,221 Volunteer Hours

Michelle Clary, Director of Junior Clubs

809 Projects \$95,064 Donated & In-Kind



Embrace change. This has been the unexpected motto of the 14 General, 3 Junior and 1 Juniorette clubs in Southside District during this unexpected #Covidyear. Members took this opportunity to continue to make memories and leave their marks in their communities, supporting all service programs, affiliates organizations and advancement areas. General and Junior Clubs work hand in hand in several areas and support each other overwhelmingly!

Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevent Child Abuse America: Clubs collected and delivered toiletries to shelters, placed purple bows at area businesses for Domestic Violence Awareness month, worked with classrooms to promote dating violence awareness and how to get help. Three members of **GFWC Junto Woman's Club** were featured on YouTube's Story Talks, as part of Richmond's Justice Initiative's Prevention Project.

Advocates for Children: Our Clubs have fantastic ideas on how to support our children- participating in Night to Shine event, holding reverse parades to celebrate graduations and Halloween. **GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Hopewell** held a Ride-by event with Santa at Christmastime while the **Riparian's Woman's Club** held a contactless Easter Egg Hunt.

Arts and Culture: Although clubs did not hold regular meetings, Southside is still creative. Clubs found ways around the restrictions on large gatherings by museums in smaller numbers or participated in virtual tours. To create interest in an upcoming raffle in memory of a former Club woman, **Woman's Club of Windsor** researched quilt history. One club repaired signs around town that they had installed years ago.

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; local and national agencies benefitting various charities received generous donations. The **GFWC Sedley Woman's Club** partnered with their local Ruritan Club to purchase and display patriotic banners in their community. Food pantries received lots of love from our Clubwomen and soldiers who were not able to go home for the holidays were given treats from the **GFWC Swift Creek Woman's Club**.

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. Coronavirus survival kits were created and shared with area teachers and donations of cleaning supplies, books and treats were shared with our educators. **GFWC James River Junior Woman's Club** supported local seniors with a reverse parade. The **GFWC JILTS Junioresettes** read to children at a local day care.

Environment: Clubs have adopted local streets, parks or state roads to keep free of litter. They collected over 1600 shoes for Soles4Souls., recycled enough plastic to donate benches to their communities and upcycled greeting cards for crafts at local nursing homes.

Health and Wellness: For Heart month, members wore red and shared information on women's heart health. Clubs made and donated masks, toilet paper, diapers, office supplies and funds to social services and local free clinics. Operation Smile Bags were donated, hospital gowns sent. Mental health is also a timely topic this year for Clubs.

Communications and 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. The **Woman's Club of Smithfield** designed a new trifold for their Club to promote themselves! What a great way to introduce others to GFWC.

Leadership: Many SSD women hold positions on the District level, State, Regional and International levels. An interesting project from **Woman's Club of Windsor** is the club T-shirts created with the logo WE ARE C-Continuing O-Our V-Volunteering I-Individually D-Daily STRONG. This sums up leadership and SSD District!

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

Legislation: Legislative Action Center and voting encouraged for the 2020 elections, and SSD were encouraged to contact their Congress representatives on matters close to the heart and GFWC concerns.

District Project: The District decided to change our direction for the 2020-2022 administration, however we are pleased that prior to the close of the 2018-2020 administration, with donation of \$200 to St. Francis Medical Center for the purchasing of lymphedema sleeves.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

JoBeth Wampler, President 197 Members 12,663 Volunteer Hours
319 Project \$45,906 Donated & In-Kind



GFWC Signature Program - Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention: Clubs supported domestic violence victims in a variety of ways. One club donated 60 purses filled with toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and other necessities to their local shelter. A club planted pinwheels throughout the community in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month and another donated to secure a room for a domestic violence victim.

GFWC Juniors' Special Program - Advocates for Children: Clubs called on their communities to aid them in advocating for children. One club solicited donations to provide 314 bags of food for children needing nourishment during the long holiday break from school and purchased Christmas gifts for children in need. Clubs donated to food security programs, hosted an autism awareness walk, and supported students who couldn't pay for their senior trips.

Arts & Culture: Clubs supported arts performances, attended classes at their local arts center, established funding for a youth category for an annual quilt challenge, hosted arts classes, crafted gifts for other clubwomen, and judged a Christmas parade. One club created a crocheting ministry to benefit various health organizations.

Civic Engagement & Outreach: With a whopping 71 projects and 10,370 donated, clubs devoted a lot of time and resources into this area. Clubs supported veterans, local businesses, essential staff, first responders, and healthcare workers. They sewed masks, aided families in need, made goodie bags, bought food trays, donated plaques and benches, painted rocks, held diaper drives, sponsored Christmas light displays, supported mission groups and animal shelters, made kids activity bags for emergency rooms, and gave thoughtful gifts to nursing and group homes. Clubs hosted special programs in honor of Women's Suffrage, exercised their right to vote, and were active in local government.

Education & Libraries: Clubs supported higher education through awarding scholarships of their own, totaling \$6,550, and supporting scholarship funds in their community. They advocated to lawmakers for and donated to public schools for school supplies, shoes, after-prom events, and food programs. They showed appreciation to school staff and school boards with food and candy trays. Two clubs collaborated on a video to show thanks during Teacher Appreciation Week. Clubs supported their public libraries in variety of ways and celebrated Read Across America Week with celebrations and donations. One club shared information with members about ESO.

Environment: One club collaborated with its local sheriff's department for National Drug Take Back Day, initiated a Battery Take Back, and collected used mascara wands to be recycled through the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge Wands for Wildlife program. Clubs made efforts to recycle/reuse by collecting plastic bags that were recycled into three benches for their communities, medicine bottles for veterinarian's offices and mission organizations, and Christmas cards for St. Jude. Clubs participated in beautification projects, purchasing trees and bushes for public organizations, decorating public gathering places, and rejuvenating flowerbeds.

Health & Wellness: Clubs made masks and donated cleaning supplies and assistance during the pandemic, supported their local Relay for Life organizations and individuals with cancer, and donated to St. Jude. Several clubs had a 'Heart Health' theme for their February meetings, wearing red, hosting speakers, promoting heart health in club newsletters, and donating to community heart health events. Clubs donated to food pantries and supported organizations that benefit children and health-related supports.

Communications & Public Relations: Clubs drafted press releases and staged photo opportunities to share with their community and regional newspapers. Several kept club scrapbooks to be shared during recruitment events and promote their clubs and events with yard signs and banners. Two clubs have websites and many more have a presence on social media. Club members wear GFWC clothing and accessories. Clubs use GFWC in their club names and utilize their local radio and bank marquee. One club donated to the Public Relations fund Campaign. And one club utilizes the local cable channel for its annual TV auction fundraiser.

Leadership: One club held 'hybrid meetings,' offering both in-person and virtual options, and created 'Zoom buddies' for those still uncomfortable using Zoom on their own. One club achieved 501c3 tax- exempt status; another holds weekly workshops. Members of several clubs attended the virtual meetings of the District, GFWC Virginia, and SER.

Legislation & Public Policy: Members of several clubs serve on community boards and in public positions, noting their affiliation with GFWC and their individual clubs, and write to their legislators regarding a variety of issues.

Membership: Clubs offered special recruitment incentives, showed appreciation to their members, and tied dues incentives and community service into one unique project.

Fundraising & Development: Clubs raised \$32,473 with auctions, raffles, yard sales, and Breakfast with Santa events. Two clubs took advantage of CARES Act funding, requesting assistance from their local governments. One club organized three online auctions and an online craft and vendor show.

Women's History & Resource Center: Clubs celebrated women during Black History Month and Women's History Month. One club learned about the resilient women of the Akashinga.

TIDEWATER DISTRICT

Marilyn Banes, President

792 Members

751 Projects

Ann Schultz, Junior Liaison

34,191 Volunteer Hours

\$141,319 Dollars Donated & In-Kind



When Tidewater Clubwomen began their journeys through 2020, ZOOM had a singular meaning---go really, really fast. By year's end, ZOOM was our lifeline to keep in contact with members, continue club work, organize projects, raise money, achieve goals, and serve our communities and the world beyond. In March, our Spring District meeting was canceled and clubs tried to assess what they should do next. That's where ZOOM came in.

Like all things, there was good and bad with ZOOM, with the good far outweighing the bad. When a club had a significant number of members accustomed to using computers, monthly General and Board meetings continued. There was a learning curve, of course, and a real concern that members not attending Zoom meetings were isolated and totally cut off from club activities. All clubs made an effort to contact those members by phone and newsletters were a vital link. Several clubs began featuring one or two members a month with photos and their very interesting life stories. We all hope those members will be active again when in person everything resumes.

Fundraising was a major concern especially for clubs that derive much of their income from a single event the public expects. WC of South Norfolk was able to produce and sell their annual calendar. When the pandemic struck, the Hilton Village Juniors were ready to put on their play with rehearsals complete and tickets sold. The play had to be postponed but still earned over \$5000.00. The GFWC Cape Henry WC is known for their "Christmas in the Country." Their venue is a home they've been given permission to decorate. The public buys tickets to tour the house and members make crafts and homemade food items to sell. The Covid restrictions ruled out this fundraiser but members decided to hold a "Marketplace" to sell their items. They found ways to display their products, accepted mailed payments, and identified pick up sites where social distancing could be maintained. Online fundraisers were popular and profitable for many clubs. Another original and clever fundraiser was "Change for Change". Members dropped off loose change at their clubhouse and asked for change from family and friends. This activity produced \$1607.25.

This year we needed to address major changes in CSP's and the introduction of "Affiliates". ZOOM was instrumental in training the District and when we held our Fall Meeting virtually we chose to focus on the changes and save workshops for 2021. Reporting revealed that the GFWC Signature Program and "Advocates for Children" were the focus of many projects, which was timely, as the pandemic affected everything. Incidents of domestic violence increased, families lost their incomes, and children could not attend school. Several clubs had their Arts and Crafts contest before the restrictions were imposed. Yorktown WC had an art show and reception with 85 student entries. All entries went on display and were enjoyed by 160 guests.

Reports for Civic Engagement and Outreach revealed a concentration on feeding the homeless, families with food shortages, and school age children who had been relying on two meals a day from schools closed to in person learning. Clubs found ways to set up mini libraries, improve those in existence, and donate books. Book clubs were started, reading encouraged, and most clubs found ways to award their scholarships.

Recycling and repurposing were emphasized and continued. Meetings held outside or by ZOOM were opportunities to educate members on environmental concerns such as restoring rivers and preserving our planet. Great Bridge WC took on the responsibility of landscaping two shelters for victims of domestic violence, clubs cleaned assigned areas, and shared their gardening knowledge with others. Animal shelters benefited from donations of pill bottles, blankets, towels, and shoe boxes.

Clubs supported "Health and Wellness" with knowledge from speakers safely shared at ZOOM meetings. Several clubs found organizations that relied on donations exclusively and donated dollars. Members of WC of Accomack County made and donated 700 masks to healthcare facilities.

Historically, 2020 will always be known as a terrible year. But bad things bring out the good in many. Tidewater members found talents they didn't know they had, found ways to use them, altered previous plans for the circumstances, and gave, gave, gave every possible way. For Tidewater District GFWC Virginia, it was a very good year. This District President is very, very proud.

2020 AWARD WINNERS

ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM 280 Projects 20385 Hours
Sharon Ewell Chairman \$18164 Donated \$12618 In-Kind



GFWC Virginia clubs were creative despite pandemic restrictions. Many clubs implemented virtual activities which included tours of museums as well as exhibits. Clubs researched and shared information about in-person events to attend and virtual classes or instructive websites. Clubs reported arts and culture activities in the community, member fun and educational activities, and outreach activities. It was clear that all who reported stepped-up to the challenge.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Pamunkey Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club collected art supplies for the MCV/VCU Cancer Center art therapy program. The therapist used pictures, art supplies and visual symbols to help patients cope with emotional conflicts and to express unspoken and often unconscious concerns about their illness. Items collected included acrylic paint, brushes, canvases, Solo cups, Styrofoam plates and plastic tablecloths.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc. – Northern District

This club sponsored the production of the musical version of *Peter and the Wolf* for third grade classes of two area elementary schools. Additionally, they followed-up with a musical instrument “petting zoo” which included the participation of local high school students in the community. This brought together the two age groups and created a wonderful learning experience for both groups. The high school students brought their instruments to one of the elementary schools and the young children from both elementary schools could move from station to station to view and listen to the high school students talk about and demonstrate each instrument that had been used in the musical version of the production.

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

This club had a variety of projects that were both interesting, fun, challenging, and community involved. From Art Fundays, to crayon recycling to supporting the state president’s theme by making felt eyeglass cases, to fidget sleeves for dementia patients at the Veteran’s Hospital, art supplies for Camp Easter Seals and several more. The projects were all creative and demonstrate collaborative efforts with membership and the community.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Goochland Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club did a great job of implementing both in person and virtual projects. The ‘Arts All Around Us’ theme was carried out by with articles ranging from information on local and state-wide exhibits, online art exhibits, needlework/stitching projects, and classes and events to visit. The club held a virtual photo contest with the theme “The Spring You See”. Member photos were uploaded to the club website for all club members to vote. Coloring sheets for Operation Smile were researched, printed, and submitted. An in-person field to the VMFA, a ‘thank community helpers’ collaborative project with a local preschool to send cards to the staff of at VCU, and a fun virtual scavenger hunt of historic and art spaces in and around Goochland all served to round out a good balance of Arts and Culture activities for this club’s membership.

ART CONTEST-MEMBER ENTRIES

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

Member Short Story – Amateur

No Entries Received

Member Poetry – Amateur

No Entries Received



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 Caden Viars “Wonderland” GFWC WC of Essex County Lee

Student Short Story

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

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH PROGRAM 762 Projects 25,399 Hours
Celeste Corrigan, Chairman \$138,462 Dollars Donated & \$146,518 In-Kind



Best Single Project – Small Club – Woman’s Club of Norfolk – Tidewater District

This club partnered with the ‘The Lasagna Lady’ to prepare, package, and assist in the delivery of over 700 freshly made pans of lasagna to needy individuals and groups in the Hampton Roads area. WCN donated the use of their large Club kitchen for this project twice a week for 4 months. 12 members, 425 hours, \$2,200 donated, and \$5,900 in kind donation.

Best Single Project – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Springfield, Inc. – Northern District

This program has been in place by WC of Springfield for 15 years. They provide gift bags for low-income families containing receiving blankets, burp clothes, onesies, sleepers, and a children’s book. If needed, they also provide a Pack-n-Play when there is no crib and a car seat. 38 members, 900 hours, \$1,060 donated, and \$2,200 in kind donations

Best Overall – Small Club – Blackstone Woman’s Club – Alice Kyle District

This club adopted a local family to assist for an entire year. They helped at their local food pantry, and with the community Thanksgiving meal delivery. They supported Veterans and they assisted Seniors. They had 12 projects that covered a wide scope of concerns. 20 members, 118 volunteer hours, donating \$600.00 and \$2,070 in-kind donations.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Greene County – Shenandoah District

This club’s *Stop Hunger in Green* program is an active year-round geared to the school age children. Their *Christmas Gift Project* involved purchasing gifts, coordinating with Social Services, wrapping, and delivering gifts for 327 children. 30 members, 987 volunteer hours \$18,799 donated

COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS 358 Projects
Stephanie Griffin, Chairman 9,917 Hours \$848 Donated & \$3,318 In-Kind



Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Woman’s Club of South Norfolk – Tidewater District

Due to the pandemic, this club had to cancel their ‘Holiday Christmas Tour’. The club opted to promote a ‘Feel Good’ Community Award for their Christmas decorated homes. Homeowners received a hand delivered gift which included a GFWC Pamphlet, Business card from their President and a thank you letter on club stationary. Additionally, eleven thank you letters to homeowners were sent out for their masterpieces bringing for the message of joy, peach, hope, and light for the holidays during a time of change.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Award

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

This club did a display in the entry case at their local Library. Unfortunately, the Library closed due to the Pandemic just after 4 days. This display focused “Through the Decades” during this club’s existence of 110 years. The display focused on members in period dress representing each decade and projects that included the clubs dead fly campaign of the 1910’s, hiring of the first public health nurse initiations of the public-school lunch program, creation of the public library to just name a few.

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

Members set up a club display in their local park as a part of a “Celebration of Lights”. The display included a decorated tree in the club colors with ornaments that represented all their partners and programs the club supports. The display stayed up through the holiday season and the community was encouraged to drive through the park to look at the display.

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

This club utilized Zoom, Club Newsletter, GFWC News and Notes, GFWC Club Manual, and The Virginia Clubwoman to keep members up to date with vital information regarding club, GFWC Virginia, and GFWC. The club also kept their website, social media accounts up to date to keep their community informed of what the club is doing. Members wore shirts, vests, and jackets branded with club name at their meeting which were held in public restaurants. Members handed out the club and GFWC Brochures, to recruit new members. Club banner was displayed at all community functions.

Best Overall – Large Club – Poquoson Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

This club utilized Sign Up Genius for invitations and information for members, promoted club activities on club website and Facebook page and set up a PayPal account for upcoming events and donations to name a few. Sponsored two banners with picture of Club, GFWC logo and contact information at two local baseball fields. Members wore Club apparel to meetings and activities and hand out club ink pens and cleaning cloths to guest and speakers.

COMMUNICATIONS - WEBSITE CONTEST

Stephanie Griffin, Chairman



1st Place Winner – GFWC Grundy Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

www.gfwcgrundywomansclub.com

The website showcases their club events with pictures and a calendar of events. The club programs along with partnerships (GFWC and local) are linked to GFWC, GFWC Virginia, Club Facebook, Instagram, and their Twitter accounts to name a few. The website is easy to navigate and really speaks to who they are as a club in GFWC.

2nd Place 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

Winners announced in 2022

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM 408 Projects 11,664 Hours
Wanda Alvis, Chairman \$204,405 Donated & \$126,519 In-Kind



The major interest of the award winners was encouraging and developing a love of reading in students and focusing on learning. For those clubs that reported, most all of them gave scholarships to either a high school graduate or a college student. Many clubs donated school supplies, books, money and art supplies to schools. Several clubs provided recognition to seniors during the pandemic and supported and encouraged teachers doing virtual teaching.

Best Single Project – Small Club – GFWC Dominion Juniorette Club – Northern District

Members spent three months collecting 221 used children's book and other learning materials to donate to a non-profit school in their community.

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

To encourage and develop a love of reading in children in grades 1-5 of a Title One school, members made it possible for each child to purchase a book of their own from the school's book fair.

Best Overall – Small Club – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club – Alice Kyle District

The members of this club formed a book club for middle school girls. The girls selected a specific book to be read and discussed at monthly book club meetings. The girls were encouraged to share their opinions and discuss how the book can relate to their real-world experiences. The girls planned for and conducted the club meetings themselves. The books were purchased through a grant.

Best Overall – Large Club – Woman's Club of Springfield, Inc. – Northern District

Members met with school staff to determine needs of students. Major problem was lack of suitable learning space in their homes. Members purchased 44 portable lap desks to donate to the school. The desks were designed to meet different learning styles and ages. Club members met with school staff to determine needs of students and teachers. Major problem for students was lack of a suitable learning space in their home. Club members purchased 44 portable lap desks to be donated to the school. The desks were designed to satisfy different learning styles and ages.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM 258 Projects 14,377 Hours
Kathy Cain, Chairman \$7,483 Donated and \$31,916 In Kind



Virginia Clubs did a fantastic job recycling various items 4,442 volunteer hours. Clubs also donated over 3,000 pairs of shoes and 5,000+ lbs. of soft plastic was kept out of landfills. Gardens were tended for 1,355 volunteer hours and 548 hours was spent picking up litter to keep waterways clean. Our four-legged friends received blankets/towels and 1,094 volunteer hrs.

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

Club members volunteered 450 hours to repair holiday light displays for their local park to support the Christmas Fantasy event. They stripped 250 sets of lights and recycled the copper wire, preventing it from going into the landfill.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Junto Woman's Club – Southside District

Nineteen club members volunteered two consecutive days to make oyster reef balls for 56 hours. They built molds then poured cement into the molds to make artificial oyster reefs. The oyster reefs will be placed in the Nansemond River to help oysters reestablish their population and reduce shoreline erosion for improved water quality.

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

Fourteen club members volunteered over 1,100 hours to support animal rescue organizations, maintain a flower garden at the local library, clean-up two overlooks along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and help maintain hiking trails along the Appalachian Trail. The club also donated \$2075 in-kind donations.

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

Club members supported a variety of 18 environmental projects with 546 volunteer hours. They recycled plastic for a TREX bench, promoted oyster gardening, worked with the mayor's Green Team, made wreaths for the historic district, collected blankets and towels for the animal shelter and more. They donated over \$1,000 in donations too.

FUNDRAISING
Faye Bocoock, Chairman

260 Projects 23,417 Hours
Dollars Raised \$261,901 Dollars Donated \$2,568
In-Kind Donations \$33,310 Dollars Spent \$46,853



Virginia club women were great in thinking outside the box with unique ways of raising funds for their many projects. The tenacity they possessed in approaching a difficult situation in their fundraising efforts reaped big rewards. Our Virginia communities will benefit greatly because of the commitment of these club members.

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

This club went to great efforts to hold on to a fund raiser they had been doing for years, and that was the art of fresh wreaths and floral arrangements for the holidays. They had to move their wreath making to the outdoors when weather permitted to meet guidelines. The club president opened her home when weather was bad.

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

This Small club of 9 members held their annual tv auction with some unique changes. They had to showcase the items for bidding by setting up a web site for viewing. The club members manned the phones as the bidders placed their bids. Even with the added expense of the extra advertising they netted over \$10,000.00.

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Cape Henry Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

This club created an on-line Holiday Marketplace, created a shopping catalog, and flooded social media with the items for sale. Handmade items, baked goods, stews and pickles were offered for pick-up or delivery. This very creative project netted the club over \$3,000.00.

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

The 35th year of this clubs annual Breakfast with Santa had to be done a little different this year. The food was prepared inside and club members served it in a drive thru setting with Santa on the sidelines waving to the children. They were able to practice social distancing, wore masks, and the project was a big success.

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

This club did a lot with 3 projects. They were creative in setting up a go fund me page which paid off. They were very successful in selling ‘BE KIND’ shirts in a shopping center parking lot. They also set up an on-line shopping outlet for face masks and flower bulbs. These 3 projects netted the club over \$9800.

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

This club had a variety of projects. they held raffles, sold jewelry, decorative flags, and sold car wash tickets. A unique bottle auction was held at a monthly meeting. The club also received a CIP award for one of their projects. They realized over \$13,200 for their fundraising efforts.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM 419 Projects 26,023 Hours
Carol Outten, Chairman \$53,122 Donated & \$113,023 In-Kind



The human body, mind, and spirit all converge to embrace health and wellness. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, GFWC Virginia Clubs rose to the challenge with innovative and resourceful projects that exemplified the overall GFWC CSP objective areas of Nutrition, Disease Prevention, Physical and Emotional Care.

Best Single Project – Small Club – Woman’s Club of Arlington – Northern District

Masks for COVID 19/Project Linus In addition to other sewing projects, this club supported their local hospitals by making 29 baby blankets, 35 baby hats, and 18 fleece blankets for patients (Project Linus) with one member continuing their volunteer hours throughout the year. Additionally, they rallied to meet new needs due to COVID -19 and members collectively made and distributed/donated **over 3000 masks** following the CDC guidelines for making them.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Junto Woman’s Club – Southside District

Suffolk Meals on Wheels (SMOWS) This Club delivered for SMOWS every Thursday throughout the year, assuming responsibility for an entire Route (Route A). In addition, several members delivered on other days on other routes. Deliveries were made using members’ personal vehicles. A total of 15 members participated in this activity with teams of 2 delivering meals on 109 days. The club also donated \$150.00 to Meals on Wheels.

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

Throughout the year, this Club published Newsletter articles highlighting the objectives for members. Additionally, the Club organized efforts including a yoga program, Heart Health, a walking program, and via their “Cards for Kindness” efforts; sending cards to health facilities to be used by nurses, doctors, staff members, counselors, parents, and volunteers via the cancer foundations, hospitals, shelters, retirement homes, children’s homes, and other organizations in need. They also supported a local Faith Based Free Medical Clinic with a large financial donation.

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

This Club faced Covid-19 head on and were successful in implementing or supporting **11 projects during 2020**. They did this through maintaining their ongoing projects and redirecting their efforts to address new needs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. They continued their Comfort Bear project, provided support through financial donations to several organizations addressing a multitude of health issues, and redirected efforts to support persons affected by Covid-19 including efforts to support/encourage the staff of two local hospitals.

LEADERSHIP

Bonnie Rosemond, Chairman
Denise Price, Junior Chairman

589 Projects 33,770 Hours
\$717,636 Spent and \$8,576 In-Kind



GFWC Virginia clubs were committed to focusing on the function of their clubs. Clubs found creative ways to hold meetings, training workshops, fundraisers and projects for their communities despite the imposed restrictions of a pandemic. Clubs added virtual ways to communicate but also continued with phone calls, texting, emails and USPS. GFWC Virginia Clubs surely did continue to, *“Keep Our Sight on Leadership”*.

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

Their board investigated avenues to keep their club active in their community and keep members engaged due to the pandemic. Research led to grant monies available to non-profit organizations in their area. Their application resulted in being awarded \$3000.00 from the Lee County Foundation Board to support their Leeman Christmas Fantasy Project.

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

Their club uploaded updated and new information to the Club’s Dropbox account for officers and members for their, “Leadership Notebook”. The notebook contains: List of officers, chairmen, and members; project summary sheets, parliamentary procedure guide; guidelines and tips for officers/chairmen; and information on leadership, communication and delegating skills.

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

Due to the pandemic this club realized that volunteering wouldn’t be done as a group. They had tee-shirts made that helped make them feel united, showed pride in their club and the GFWC brand. Tee-shirts were printed on Front: Club’s logo and #WeAreGFWC. Back: WE ARE with the following listed vertically- C-Continuing, O-Our, V-Volunteering, I-Individually, D-Daily, and below that in bold letters the word STRONG.

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

New and former board members met during the summer months to discuss their positions and turnover materials according to their positions. Three members left the Board with three new members joining the Board.

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

This club’s leadership prepares and electronically distributes agendas prior to meetings. Printed copies of agendas, minutes, treasurer’s report and other info are available at all meetings. Not only were their bylaws revised but they also created Club Guidelines that include provisions, procedures and descriptions.

Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Goochland Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club tallied 1,135 volunteer hours. Just to name a few programs/projects: Their board realized they would need to work even harder than usual due to the pandemic. Their board elected to purchase a ZOOM application to allow uninterrupted sessions and recorded for later viewing. Their Leadership team conducted a survey among its members to ascertain their comfort level to attend meetings during the pandemic. Their board and members modified existing bylaws to allow electronic board meetings and voting as an approved way of conducting business.

LEGISLATION and PUBLIC POLICY 61 Projects 1,486 Hours

Tricia Duvall, Chairman \$180 In-Kind \$260 Spent



GFWC Virginia clubs focused on preparing to vote in the November 2020 election. They were kept apprised of legislation that was being introduced and sending letters to their representatives. Clubs supported H.B. 1033, “Expungement of Convictions” for sexual exploitation survivors. A resolution was introduced to recognize November as Virginia Women’s Suffrage Month in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

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

One member volunteered to provide the defense to the SEC for a shareholder proposal holding Dominion Energy accountable for environmental justice. Her defense overcame the objection by a McGuire Woods partner.

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

Members were encouraged to make themselves aware of public policy changes that may affect them and to voice their concern/opinion to their appropriate legislator.

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Waynesboro/Augusta Woman’s Club GFWC – Shenandoah District

This club encouraged 100% participation in voting. They had a committee research the methods, locations and times for voter registration as well as in-person and mail-in balloting in their local cities. 50 out of 62 voted.

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

Club members celebrated the Women’s Vote Centennial at their October club meeting. They handed out an information card with details on women’s suffrage. They created a pin to wear honoring the centennial.

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

This club supported HR 5, HR 49, SB 32. They wrote letters to their congressional members asking them to vote or oppose the passage of these bills.

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

This club celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the 19th amendment. They reported on the General Assembly bills. Members joined the Legislative Action Center. They reported on local affairs in Richmond, VA such as taxes and the monuments on Monument Avenue. They reported on gun control, criminal justice, voting and abortion issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Trina Behbahani, Chairman 397 projects 10,107 hours

Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman \$24,928 (\$14,372 spent and \$10,556 in kind)



GFWC Virginia clubs embraced the theme to *Envision Membership Growth* and were not deterred in the face of adversity. Many clubs identified new ways to connect with their members, and in some cases, they reverted to tried and true methods including making phone calls and sending handwritten notes. Clubs focused on retaining and recognizing existing members, recruiting and welcoming new members and utilizing technology, creativity and persistence to enable their efforts in this advancement area.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Woman’s Club of the Eastern Shore – Tidewater District

This club held a “Trading Closets” event. Members cleaned out their closets and the items were organized into a boutique where members could “shop” for free. Items that weren’t selected were divided between two local agencies, one that supports abused women and another that helps young mothers seeking employment. Four guests/prospective members attended the event in 2020. The project is not only a fun membership event but also an opportunity to support community members.

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

This club continued to hold club meetings throughout the year, with a combination of virtual and in-person events. They welcomed 5 new members through their consistent efforts to bring people together and installed two virtually.

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club – Northern District

The club was not deterred by the inability to gather in person and continued to prioritize member engagement, getting creative with virtual activities. They held virtual lunch bunch dates, hosted a virtual Halloween party and a virtual “Eve Before Eve” social to close out the year. They also utilized Zoom to share recipes and taste cookies from a cookie exchange and to open presents from a Secret Santa exchange.

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

This club held a social at a local restaurant to meet potential members. They created a Facebook invite so members could share it and specifically invite women to the event. 21 prospects attended, along with 14 members. Leadership provided an overview and history of the club and members shared their favorite experiences as a clubwoman. The event resulted in 17 new members!

Best Overall – Small Club – Metropolitan Richmond 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 member engagement. The club doubled the number of socials they typically hold during the year and offered creative, themed events via Zoom and in person. The events were designed to be fun, informative and engaging, helping members get to know each other better and even learn about Federation. The club installed two new members in 2020.

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

This club embraced the need to offer an alternative to in-person meetings. They held monthly board, club, committee, and other meetings via Zoom and also had two drive-by meetings where information was disseminated and donations were collected. In addition, the club focuses on retention, recognizing members with the Member’s Choice Award and maintaining a Caring & Sharing Committee. Recruitment was also a focus, the club held a New Member Tea and welcomed six new members in 2020.

GFWC VIRGINIA 2020 – 2021 TOP RECRUITERS

Our members Envisioned Membership Growth during the first year of the administration. 85 new member coupons were received from April 2020 – March 31, 2021.

Congratulations to our Top District Recruiters!

- Alice Kyle – *No coupons received*
- Blue Ridge – Two-way tie for recruiting two members each: Kathleen Milward and Laura Reichenbaugh, GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club
- Lee – Leigh Ann Kiebler, Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester, 8 members
- Northern – Two-way tie for recruiting two members each: Carolina Saliba, Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun; Lorraine Surdham, Woodbridge Woman’s Club
- Shenandoah – Tammy McGurn, Staunton-Augusta Junior Woman’s Club, one member
- Southside – Three-way tie for recruiting one member each – Sherri Story, GFWC Junto Woman’s Club; Tricia Carden and Sodie Williams, GFWC James River Junior Woman’s Club
- Southwestern – *No coupons received*
- Tidewater – Martha Matthews, GFWC Woman’s Club of the Eastern Shore, two members

Cheers to **Leigh Ann Kiebler**, Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester in Lee District, for recruiting 8 members! Leigh Ann will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Virginia Marketplace.

The winner of the recruiter coupon drawing also receives a \$25 gift certificate to the GFWC Virginia Marketplace. Congratulations to **Jo Ann Stevens** of The Woman’s Club of Essex County!

GFWC STAR RECRUITERS

White Star (5 – 9 Members)

Brenda Jennette, GFWC Varina Woman’s Club

Leigh Ann Kiebler, Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester

Kim Kitchen, Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester

Martha Matthews, GFWC Woman’s Club of the Eastern Shore

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 *Echoes*
Woman's Club of Windsor (Southside District)
- Honorable Mention
The Beacon
Woman's Club of Newport News (Tidewater District)
County Crier
Clifton Community Woman's Club (Northern District)



Small Clubs

- 1st Place *The Villager*
GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Hilton Village (Tidewater District)
- 2nd Place *Metro Media*
Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 3rd Place *Kanawha Kibitzer*
GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club (Lee District)

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

~ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Kelly Lane, Chairman 112 Projects 2,107 Hours
\$11,810 Donated & \$25,254 In-Kind



GFWC Virginia Clubs focused on projects related to Teen Dating, Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Success for Survivors Scholarships. Clubs adopted families at Christmas, invited speakers, supported local and statewide organizations. Planted pinwheel gardens and assisted shelters for woman and children.

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

Club coordinated a "Day of Service" to bring human trafficking awareness. Along with Germanna Community College Education Foundation. The day included hands on projects. One project included packing items for students that are food and housing insecure. The second project included filling sidewalk cracks with red sand symbolizing human tracking victims who "fall through the cracks."

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

Club contributed two organizations through their annual fundraising budget – Center for Sexual Support Survivors and Menchville House – emergency housing facility.

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

Members repurposed their Annual Green's, Gifts and Goodies Sale (GG&G) of homemade soups, casseroles and desserts. The Council Center was contacted for use of the freshly prepared food. The Council Center provided clients housed in motels with little resources to cook food for family.

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

Members gathered of Martin Luther King Jr., Day to pack and wrap birthday boxes for woman and children at Loudoun Abused Shelter (LAWS). Each box contained birthday party themed items plus a small gift and toiletries. In total, 16 children's and 5 adult boxes were donated to LAWS.

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

This club completed several projects throughout the year. Contributed to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund and sponsored an annual Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention District Special Award. The club continued support of quadriplegic and domestic violence survivor by decorating her room for every holiday and her birthday.

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

Members distributed Human Trafficking Hotline cards to Newport News Public Schools for middle school students. Contributed the funds from their annual International meeting to the Prevention Program to continue supplying curriculum to sixth grade classes within the Newport News Public School System. They collected bras to contribute to the non-profit organization, Free the Girls to be used by formerly trafficked women in developing countries.

STATE PROJECT: Support of Military Families/Armed Services YMCA

Joyce Jolly, Chairman

51 Projects 2,358 Volunteer Hours

590 Members Participating \$4,107 Donated 3,484 In-Kind



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

The club donated a Little Free Library to Armed Services YMCA. In addition, they held a book drive to supply the library and purchased school supplies for the children attending the programs.

Best Single Project – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc – Northern District

Club members spent 960 hours knitting and crocheting baby blankets that were given to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at Marine Corps Base Quantico. The blankets were given to the babies of lower-level enlisted personnel.

Honorable Mention – Small Club – Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District

Club members made plastic buttons and created inserts showing an ASYMCA bus with words “Hop on the Bus.” Members are planning to sell the buttons and donate the proceeds to the project.

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

The club made monetary donations to ASYMCA, Wounded Warriors and Tunnels to Towers. In addition, they collected all types of clothing and donated the articles to the Mountain Branch National Home for disabled soldiers. Lastly, they purchased phone cards and distributed them to military personnel stationed abroad.

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

The club purchased a ceramic yellow bus for their Wheels on the Bus project. The bus rides across the Zoom screen in search of donations totaling \$1,000 to purchase four tires for the bus. They organized a “sock hop” in September and October and collected toiletries and beauty supplies which were given to VETHOUSE, INC, a non-profit organization serving homeless veterans in Hampton Roads. In addition, club members knitted baby afghans which were distributed in gift baskets by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and purchased tickets for the “Giving Tree Card Party” that is sponsored by Fisher House, an organization which helps military families.

GFWC WOMEN’S HISTORY and RESOURCE CENTER

Ingrid Sinclair-Day, Chairman 112 Projects 1,790 Hours

\$1,551 Donated \$1,920 In-Kind Donations



Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID Pandemic during the year, GFWC Virginia Clubs found ways to observe Women’s Suffrage, the 100-year anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment in August, as well as highlights of their own club history.

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

A special November club meeting was devoted to honoring members Federation History with “Our Footprint,” a 40-minute lecture highlighting club projects and programs throughout the years, interspersed with historic styles, trends, and trivia. A USB drive downloaded with the complete, updated 32-page history was given to each member.

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

During the month of August, club members commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by strolling through town, dressed in period garb, holding signs showing “Votes for Women,” and meeting with local government officials for the signing of a proclamation.

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

This club celebrated Virginia Historical Women. Each month, the club president gives a short biographical highlight of a Virginia historical woman from “Voices from the Garden” – the Virginia Women’s Monument found on the Capitol grounds in Richmond. It is the nation’s first monument, showcasing women in a variety of achievements.

Best Overall – Large Club – Henry Clay Woman’s Club of GFWC – Lee District

Throughout the year, members celebrated Women’s Suffrage, starting with a tea party wearing clothes from the 1920’s, sharing stories about early club history. In October, one member gave a presentation of 72 years of Women’s Suffrage that included the story of Truth Sojourner. In November, the GFWC Women’s History & Resource Center Chairman gave a presentation about Women’s Suffrage and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Quantico, VA.

GFWC AFFILIATE AWARDS

Dale Fisher, GFWC Virginia President

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

A Canine Companions puppy raiser (and fellow club member) presented a program on CCI. She brought the puppy to the meeting and demonstrated its training exercises.

Heifer International – Woman’s Club of Springfield, Inc. – Northern District

Purchased several beehives in support of the Northern District Project.

Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) – Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

Sponsored 2 students to attend the state HOBY seminar.

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

Collected items for the MOD Supportive Care Program for premature babies and moms.

Operation Smile – GFWC Wayland Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District

Made generous contribution and obtained donations from the community and members to complete numerous Smile Bags.

Prevent Child Abuse America – GFWC Woman’s Club of Vinton – Blue Ridge District

In conjunction with the police department and Town Council the club planted a garden of 500 pinwheels in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District

Participated with the GFWC Virginia team in the virtual Walk for St. Jude. Members also dressed in their black and gold swag to bring awareness to the mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Shot@Life – Woman’s Club of Fredericksburg – Northern District

Made generous donation to the organization.

UNICEF – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District

Participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM ~ ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Tammy McGurn, Chairman

47 Projects 1,469 Hours

\$4,869 Donated & \$10,243 In-Kind



Even with the challenges faced in 2020, the clubwomen of GFWC Virginia rallied to support and advocate for our most precious resource – our children. One of the highlights of 2020 was being third in the state for most monies raised by a team in the virtual St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Annual Walk/Run in September.

Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Woman’s Club of Hillsville – Southwestern District

The 2020 focus of this club was Autism Awareness. Throughout the summer months and following pandemic guidelines, these dedicated ladies held a walk to promote their focus, complete with handmade Autism Puzzle Pins. The fruits of their labor were distributed to Joy Ranch, a local Christian Home for Children with specially designed programs for children with autism.

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

This club helped support their local elementary school with their “Books on Bikes” program. The club donated 340 books and along with school staff, rode bikes and hand delivered to students a book, a snack, and a safely distanced greeting.

Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Poquoson Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

This club has for several years coordinated with the local primary school nurse to provide a little “Help with Christmas” for the families of their students. Members of the club sponsored 21 children this year, accommodating requests for clothing and toys and making a difference for those who requested assistance.

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

Through their annual “Home for the Holidays” food drive, this club was able to contribute bags of food to local children over the Christmas break. Many of these children rely on school-provided meals for sustenance, so with help from community volunteers they were able to distribute over 300 food bags to their local schools, as well as the local Head Start programs.

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

This small, but powerful club was busy in 2020. They filled backpacks of school supplies for their local YMCA “Bright Beginnings” program, in addition to collecting three boxes of books for children in rural areas who wouldn’t otherwise have access. Until gathering was restricted, club members and their children helped bag (backpack) donated food for their continued commitment to “Backpacks of Love”. They also donated 110 pounds of plastic bags to their local Girl Scout Troop to help them achieve their bronze award.

Best Overall – Large Club – Poquoson Woman’s Club – Tidewater District

This club made a large impact on their community over the holidays with continued sponsorship of their local Salvation Army stocking drive. They were able to fill stockings with toiletries, school supplies, and toys for 62 children. They were also instrumental in making Christmas wishes come true for 21 children and their families, who had requested assistance.

JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECT – CAMP EASTER SEALS UCP VIRGINIA

Kathy Cain, Chairman

No Winners in 2020

Director of Junior Clubs Awards



Jenny Hinegardner, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs

GFWC VIRGINIA CLUB OF THE YEAR

I did not realize how difficult it would be to pick the GFWC Virginia Junior Club of the Year. I read and re-read your reports and thought and thought and finally decided....

I want to talk about a club that thrived during the year which shall not be named. These ladies communicated through their incredible newsletter, keeping members up do date with all that is happening in the club and in their area. They adopted a nursing home, volunteered and raised funds for their local food bank, made Thanksgiving baskets for area Title 1 elementary school families, and STEM baskets for teachers.

When they couldn’t focus on their large-scale fundraiser, they found multiple projects to support throughout the year—including some new projects and organizations in need. They also supported the Richmond Justice Initiative, Education and Libraries, and Health and Wellness.

Because 2020 was challenging to meet in person, they wanted to focus on membership retention by holding socials when appropriate and Zoom meetings. They get their business done and then they play a game before the end of the meeting. AND They installed 15 new members in 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District

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 2020

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 2020

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.

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

The winner of this award was nominated by a member of her District Executive Board who is so proud of her. She is a single mother and a full-time essential employee whose dedication to the club didn’t falter, even in the mist of the pandemic. She rallied members, encouraging them to write cards to those in nursing homes, donate small gifts, letting them know they still cared when they were in isolation. She is a charter member of this Rookie Club, reminding other members why they formed the club and how far they had come. Completely new to the GFWC Club Work world, she agreed to assume a chairmanship at the District level.

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.

Joy Matkowsky – GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District

Congratulations to this amazing club woman. This member was nominated by a fellow club member. She obtained 185 points and scored in all but 6 categories. For 16 years, she has been a dedicated club woman. She has helped start new clubs and is a charter member of her club. She has also served on about every board. This member has rarely missed an opportunity to attend a State, Regional or International meeting. Other items on her resume include Junior Club officers, District Director of Junior Clubs, Director of Junior Clubs, Secretary/Treasurer of Junior Clubs, GFWC LEADS candidate, and GFWC Virginia LEADS Coordinator. Dedicated. That is a word I think of when I look at this submission.

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

Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC
Southwestern District
Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun
Northern District

Gold

GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell Inc
Southside District

Highest Point Total

GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell Inc
Southside District

SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

CORRINE MURRAY AWARD

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

This club started a new partnership to promote reading with Loudoun Serenity House by providing reading materials for this newly opened sober living facility for women.

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. The Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun members celebrated the Women’s Vote Centennial at the October Club meeting. They handed out an information card with details on women’s suffrage and 3 ways to vote in the upcoming general election. They also included a pin to wear honoring the centennial. Their Instagram account (the use of ‘hashtag’ GFWC, GFWC Virginia) and their Facebook account gives the club a great social media presence to help attract more members and keep our members involved.

Small Club – No Entries Received

PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS AWARD

Large Club – No Entries Received

Small Club – No Entries Received

SHELBY PAISLEY HAMLETT AWARD

Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

This club helped provide 2 backpack buddy programs with food during the school year by volunteering time and donating items. When schools closed down due to COVID, club members reached out to the local school to see where they could help and 1-2 members would go to the warehouse each week, pick up the bags and bring them back to the school. The members also made candy box treats for the staff at the schools.

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT AWARD

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

This club is doing a great job of envisioning leaders! They ensure that members not only understand the leadership positions that are available to them, but make sure that the incoming leaders are well equipped to handle their new position. They make sure that new members are encouraged to take on new leadership roles and help them see they are capable of leadership and show that it can be very enjoyable. Overall this club represents leadership from small roles to large roles.

Small Club – No Entries Received

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT JUNIOR AWARD IN LEGISLATION

No Entries Received