

The Virginia Clubwoman



FEBRUARY 2025

We rise
by lifting
others



President's Message

Susie Mowry

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The President's Message—

As I sit here writing this article I cannot help but think about how topsy-turvy this world really is. Yesterday the weather was in the 60s, today it is in the 30s and tomorrow we are back to the 50s. How in the world do we know how to dress, do I or don't I take a coat... all of life's perplexing problems! Then I just take a step back and realize that there is nothing I can do about the weather except talk about it...Just go with it. Luckily the work we do, as evidenced by your reports, is one of the good constants in our lives. You are out in your communities, taking care of those less fortunate, providing help where it is needed. You recognize and know who needs you, regardless of who they are, where they live, or anything else. I am in awe of the work that you do every day. When there is a catastrophe like in the Southwestern part of the state, we work together, pooling resources to help. I hope you understand and recognize the impact that GFWC Virginia ladies have on the everyday lives of your friends and neighbors, even on strangers. You can be proud of the work that you do and the lives that you change. I for one, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Now on to business, the 2025 GFWC Virginia Convention is right around the corner, from May 1-4, 2025, at the Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian, Virginia. There is business we MUST do, but beyond that, we recognize the fact that people are taking their time to be there in person so we want to make it worthwhile and make you feel like you've had an experience you can't get from an email or a virtual event. With that said, thanks to your generosity, Nancy Vadersen, State Project Chairman, has planned 3 project kits to be taken back to your districts PLUS projects that you will make, complete with materials and instructions. The hope is that you can do these same projects with the target age group, those up to age 5.

I am excited that we will be having a panel discussion, From Idea to Reality: A Panel Discussion of Meaningful Projects. The panel will be comprised of club members throughout the state who have done exciting, meaningful projects that can be replicated in our own clubs. You can find out what worked, what did not work and how you can achieve the same success in your own community. It is always interesting to read about projects, but even more exciting to learn firsthand from those who have experienced the trials and tribulations of the projects.

We have a few other changes to the convention that I think you will enjoy. Please consider attending and learning from our speakers, our projects and more importantly, learning from each other. Take some time and get to know each other. Share phone numbers, e-mail addresses, meet someone new and learn what they are doing to make their portion of the world a better place to live, work or play. What I have always found amazing is that regardless of where you are in Virginia, the problems, concerns and joys are all essentially the same. We are GFWC Virginia, an extraordinary group of committed women working together to make our communities, our state and the world a much better place. Thank you for all you do to make this a reality.



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The Virginia Clubwoman

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 Send articles, photos and newsletters

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ON THE COVER

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Susie



Joanne Dixon
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I hope everyone is fairing well this winter with all the snow and rain. I know that a lot of our communities have been affected by flooding, especially those in the Southwestern District.

I am excited for the GFWC Virginia Convention in May! The theme for the Marjorie Branch banquet is “Race for the Roses” and we will have a few Derby inspired activities. The first I’m excited to share is a Derby hat or fascinator contest. The categories for the contest are best GFWC theme, Most Creative, Most Glamorous, and largest (that can still be worn). I encourage all of you to participate and look forward to seeing what everyone comes up with!

The Junior’s will also be hosting Junior Fun Night BINGO! There will be fabulous prizes and tons of fun!!! Cards will be available to purchase with your Convention registration or at Convention. Additional cards will be available for purchase.

Our Advocates for Children collection at Convention will support Alice Kyle and Lee Districts. We will be holding a gift card drive to support food insecurities in schools and the community. A list of stores will be shared prior to Convention. Please look for the list to come out in April.

By the time this is published, all of your reports will have been read! I’m excited to see the amazing work that the Virginia Juniors accomplished in 2024.

Joanne

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Greetings GFWC Virginia Club Members! It’s truly amazing how time flies when we stop to realize that we are almost to the end of the first year of this administration. As we write this article, all club reports have been completed and sent to the district presidents and chairmen. The district reports are starting to appear in the inboxes of the GFWC Virginia Chairmen and soon those reports will be composed and sent on to GFWC. We wish to thank everyone for your time and service putting these reports together and sending them in on time. As leaders, we thank you for giving and caring about the hours, service and commitment your club members do to support your communities.

In the Leadership newsletter from our GFWC Leadership Committee we learned about the pathway to being a leader. The path to GFWC Leadership consists of several parts:

1. Be Prepared: become informed, gather information, ask questions, follow the rules, read the bylaws and standing rules.
 2. Running for Office: What level? What are the duties and responsibilities? Are you qualified? Do you have endorsements? Don't forget about deadlines.
 3. Walk the Path: Encourage new members to join in on activities, Incorporate Federation information in club meetings, Mentor new leaders, Share the work, Show your appreciation.
 4. Building Leaders: Encourage new members to join in on activities by giving them beginning leadership roles such as co-chairmen, Take advantage of diversity – each member brings unique skills.
- “Empowering those around you to be heard and valued makes the difference between a leader who simply instructs and one who inspires.” Adena Friedman, Nasdaq CEO

Don't hesitate to reach out to us with any Leadership questions or concerns, we are always here to help you.

GFWC International LEADS and GFWC Virginia LEADS

Both GFWC International and GFWC Virginia offer leadership training through a program called LEADS. The purpose of LEADS is to identify GFWC members who have the potential to assume leadership positions beyond the club level and provide them with skills, confidence, and commitment to become future Federation Leaders.

Michelle Clary has been selected as GFWC Virginia's representative to GFWC LEADS. She will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the national seminar during the GFWC Convention June 6-9, 2025. You will have the opportunity to congratulate Michelle Clary at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Richmond in May.

Congratulations, Michelle Clary!

Enhance your leadership skills at the GFWC Virginia LEADS in August, during our GFWC Virginia Conference in Staunton, Virginia. The training covers parliamentary procedure, protocol, presentation skills, Federation history, and meeting management. Information on GFWC Virginia LEADS may be found on the GFWC Virginia website under Leaders and the forms may be found in the GFWC Virginia Yearbook on page 111 and the application on page 112. Each District may select up to five participants. Additional participants will be allowed from each District as space and supplies allow, this will be on a first come first serve basis. Applications are due to your district president by May 15, 2025. Let's have applications from every district!

Questions or concerns – contact your Leadership Team.

Carolyn Fellers

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Alaina Chaffee

GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman

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Just like stars in a galaxy, each member's contributions help to support and light up the whole organization of GFWC. Together, we create a vibrant, thriving community that has a lasting impact. When members work together, whether it's through recruiting, mentoring, or supporting each other's projects, it all contributes to something much larger than any single effort.

As members we want to be supportive of one another whether it is working together on a project, mentoring new members, or encouraging one another to grow into leadership in GFWC. During our spring district meetings and at convention we take time to recognize the accomplishments of our membership. It may be an award for the best overall project in one of our reporting areas or the best new website. It could be celebrating a milestone anniversary for a club or a member's

years of service in GFWC. There are many ways we recognize our membership.

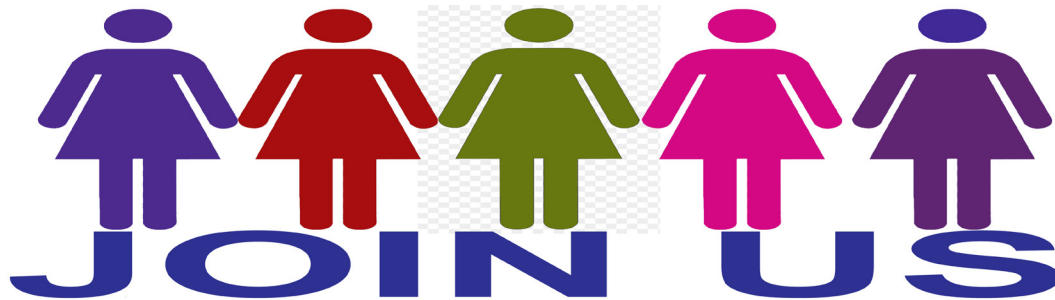
It is also about recognizing our “Star” recruiters that have helped our membership grow. The star recruiting program has 10 levels. Members receive a white star pin after recruiting five to nine new members. The levels go up in increments of five to award star pins in the colors of red, blue, silver and gold. Once a member reaches the goal of thirty-plus members, they then receive circle pins that can be placed behind their stars. The circles are in the colors white, red, blue, silver, and gold. Once a member has recruited sixty or more members, they receive certificates noting their accomplishment.

We keep a database that is cumulative and can cross administrations of which members recruit new members. You may recruit two new members this year and five more next year. They add up! This year at convention we are proud to announce we have several members we will recognize for their recruiting efforts. Thanks to your encouragement to attend District and State meetings, we hope to recognize first-time attendees at our spring convention.

You are the “stars” that help our clubs grow and do the work we do in our communities. We want to celebrate our members as they reach for the stars. On the club level, take time to recognize your members for their accomplishments. Pins for years of service or nominating members as “Club Member of the Month” or “Club Member of the Year”. Come up with a fun award for helping with a specific project. For example, a past club president gave members a pinwheel pin to thank them for helping with the pinwheel bucket project their club does each year. Instead of large pinwheel gardens, they place small sand buckets with pinwheels in each and a sign that shares the significance of the project. The buckets are placed at local libraries, businesses, and agencies in their community. They stay in place for the whole month of April which is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Think about how your club can show love and light for one another and share in the joy of reaching the goals you set for your clubs and your members. Let’s continue to light up our communities like stars in the sky.

We hope to see you at our 2025 GFWC Virginia Convention.



Amy Riggs

GFWC Virginia Secretary

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Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer

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Remember the following points in all motions:

1. Who will follow through on the action? (President, Board, Committee, Headquarters, etc)
2. If money is involved, are funds available and how will it be financed?
3. Should there be a deadline date for the completion of action?
4. If the action requires “reporting back”-to whom? And when?
5. Is the motion clear to you and others?

Some other quick secretary tips:

1. Motions should reflect the action that is taken by those present rather than what was said.

2. The names and subjects of a guest speaker can be given, but no effort should be made to summarize his or her remarks.
3. The name of a person who seconded the motion is not entered into the minutes unless ordered by the assembly.

Lynne Wherry

GFWC Virginia Treasurer

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Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Secretary/Treasurer

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This first year is flying by! With dues and contributions collected, we're now looking ahead to the Convention in April. Just a reminder—April 15th is the deadline to submit supplemental dues for members who joined after the initial January 25th deadline. The Supplemental Dues Form is on the GFWC Virginia website:

<https://gfwcvirginia.org/reporting%2C-dues%2C-%26-awards>.

As a club Treasurer, organization is key. Keeping up with financial records as you go makes things much more manageable than sorting everything out later in the year. Without proper documentation or precise details on checks, it can be tricky to maintain accurate records. Always use the memo line on checks to note what the payment covers and track where club funds are allocated. This will make year-end reporting much smoother when tracking spending across different areas.

Consider setting up a designated drop box or form where members can submit checks and payments. Another helpful idea is creating a simple log to use at meetings so members can check if they owe any money and attach their payment right then and there.

If you ever have questions or need guidance, whether at the district or club level, we're always here to help. Sometimes, reviewing your by-laws or standing rules can provide the answers you need.

We're your resource—don't hesitate to reach out!

Parliamentary Notes

Sarah Entsminger, PRP

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Time to talk about Bylaws again. You have read the GFWC VA Bylaws and participated in discussions about those Bylaws for the past few years. Hopefully, one of the main lessons learned is that bylaws need to reflect the current membership and the work your organization currently undertakes and that they should be reviewed and amended regularly.

This is the same lesson to apply to your club bylaws. A few clubs have asked questions about amending their bylaws as they can no longer conduct business as they would like under their current structure. As you have heard me say many times, you only have two choices when it comes to the bylaws, either follow them or change them, there are no other choices.

It is much easier than you may think to amend your bylaws, and I'm happy to work with you step by step to make that happen. You want to start by looking at specific sections - simplify the process for new members to join, make sure you are not trying to fill more offices than needed to operate your club, look at officer's duties to see if those are current or too burdensome, make sure you are not requiring a structure of committees that is more than needed to do your work, make sure your quorum for a meeting is not keeping you from conducting business, and in general try to look for anything that is keeping you from being successful in gaining new members and getting your work accomplished.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance!



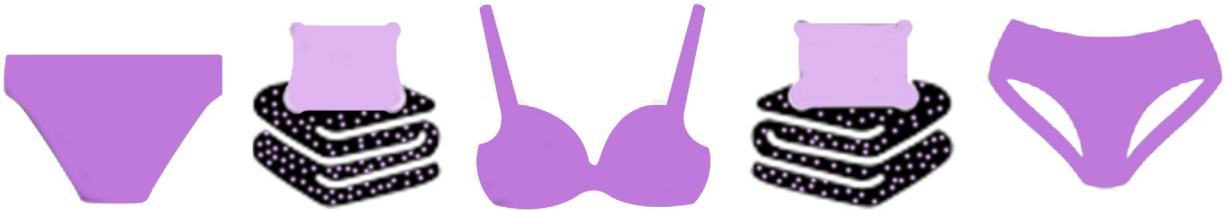
Joyce Jolly GFWC Signature Program Chairman
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The GFWC International Day of Service is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. GFWC has chosen to focus on its signature project, Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Awareness, for support from clubs across the world.

The GFWC Virginia district chairmen for the signature project have met and believe that a singular, statewide focus for that day by all clubs in the state would make the most significant impact. Clubs are asked to donate women's sweatpants, sweatshirts, and underwear of all sizes to their local Forensic Nurse Examiner Programs which are affiliated with local hospitals, or to their local domestic violence shelters. There is a need for these articles because when victims of domestic or sexual violence go to the hospital, their clothing and in some cases bed linens are taken to be used as evidence of the assault. The victims are given new clothing and bed linens to replace those that were confiscated to be used as evidence. If you are not aware, forensic nursing is the practice of nursing when the health and legal system intersect. A forensic nurse is a Registered or Advanced Practice Nurse who has received specific education and training. They provide specialized care for patients who are experiencing acute and long-term health consequences associated with victimization. In addition, they provide consultation and testimony for civil and criminal proceedings.

The Forensic Nurse Examiner Program is not offered in all hospitals. A directory of hospitals throughout the state that offer the program is online under Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Programs.

As always, participation in the program by clubs is voluntary. However, a coordinated effort by clubs across the state will certainly have a major impact in support of the victims of assault.



Jean Cobb

GFWC Virginia Community Impact Program Award

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It is NOT too late!! You still have time to come up with a Community Impact Project – my club came up with a project, not a huge project, but something needed in our community, in early February. People seem to think it must be a huge project that takes months to complete, but that is not true. Every project we complete has the potential to be a CIP. If you hear of another organization working on a project, ask to partner with them. Go to a local park or public space and see if it needs attention. If you have a historical site in your town, do they need something done? Ask people in your community if they have any ideas. Look at the GFWC Community Impact Program booklet – read it again because you might think of something after reading it. How can you raise funds for your project?

Now after you come up with a project, take good notes to help you with your entry for next year.

Take pictures before and after your project - post on Facebook or send an article to your local paper. Looking forward to receiving your reports next year.

Lynn Osborne

GFWC Virginia Communications and Public Relations Chairman

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By the time you get this publication reports will be on the way to the state chairmen. I'm looking forward to reading the accomplishments of each club throughout GFWC Virginia. Communication is important to keep members informed of club functions, district news as well as state and GFWC as a whole.

In my last article, I mentioned the GFWC Advancement and Programs Forum on Facebook. I hope you have taken the opportunity to search Facebook for the program to learn more about Leadership, Membership and Communication, and Public Relations.

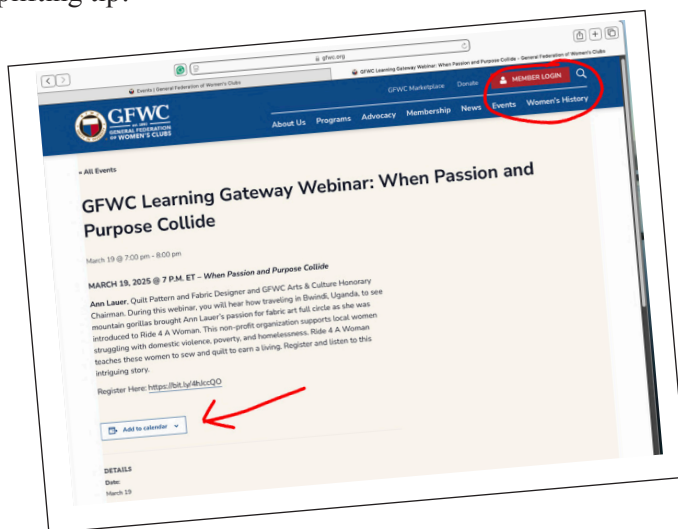
Have you registered for the upcoming Learning Gateway Webinars? These are incredible opportunities to learn from some outstanding speakers. It is free!! You can register at <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/events>. Login into the GFWC member portal and go to Events.

If you register and can't make the live webinar, the recording will be emailed to you so you can watch it at your convenience. Encourage all of your club members to sign up for these Learning Webinars today!



Remember to check the forum on Facebook each day for an uplifting tip!

- Membership/Motivational Monday
- Teach It Tuesday with a Live Broadcast
- Wellness/Wisdom/Wacky Wednesday
- Thumbs Up Thursday
- Friendship Friday



Carol Outten

GFWC Virginia HOBY Coordinator

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Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership

Teaching students how to think, not what to think, since 1958.

Again, this year, the annual HOBY Virginia Youth Leadership Seminar will be held on the campus of James Madison University from May 30–June 1, 2025. As of January 25th, there were 171 ambassadors registered to attend and several more on the waiting list. This is the largest class HOBY Virginia has hosted since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year the Ambassadors complete a Service Project. Last year they made blankets for “Project Linus”. Our GFWC ladies generously provided virtually all the fleece required to complete that project. This year the service project will be the production of blankets for a local hospital NICU. To support this effort HOBY Virginia is requesting Clubwomen donate the following:

Fleece (cut by the yard) - Soft baby colors, and pastels are best, avoid bright patterns or dark colors.

Scissors (regular size, not child size for cutting the fleece)

Additionally, we are also requesting that clubs consider donating the following items to support the Seminar:

- Individually packaged snacks for hungry teens – **(Please NO Nuts & check the expiration dates)**

- Gift Cards (Walmart) – To purchase material as needed.
- Forever stamps (to mail thank you notes)
- Printer Paper
- Hand Sanitizer (pumps)
- White foam boards (for making team signs).
- Plastic Tablecloths (any color)
- Pens/pencils
- Crafting supplies (stickers, pipe cleaners, ribbon, etc.)
- Legal-size White Envelopes



There will be a HOBY table at the State Convention to receive your donations. As always, HOBY Virginia is grateful to the ladies of GFWC Virginia for their generosity and support of the Leadership seminars and our ambassadors. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

HOBY Virginia is grateful to the ladies of GFWC Virginia for their generosity and support of the Leadership seminars and our ambassadors.

Sending HOBY HUGS!!!!

Dale Fisher

GFWC Virginia Scholarship Program Chairman

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Thank you to those clubs that included donations to our Scholarship Funds on their Annual Dues & Contributions submittal. Every little bit helps in ensuring that GFWC Virginia continues to make a difference in the education of rising Virginia academics. The committee also appreciates those clubs that promoted our scholarships in their communities and encouraged students to apply. We are looking forward to reviewing numerous applications and hope to announce and introduce our recipients at the convention.

Nancy Vadersen

GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 State Project Chairman

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During the last five months of 2024, GFWC Virginia clubwomen embraced the 2024-2026 State Project, Early Childhood Education. Twenty-five clubs reported 85 projects, 1326 volunteer hours, \$5692 donated, \$111 raised, and In-Kind donations of \$16,059. Special thanks to those clubs who donated to the State Project fund!

Highlighted in this issue are projects from clubs in Lee District. Lee District clubs supported Title 1 Preschool classrooms, Head Start Programs, pre-K students in the Virginia Preschool Initiative Program, local Health Department Book Nook programs, Back to School supply drives, Christmas Safe Place client families, school clinics, Story Time at libraries, Free Little Libraries, area children's hospitals, early childhood development centers, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and books for ESL families. GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club, Inc., donated 172 school supplies for several pre-K classrooms and gift cards for the teachers through Head Start. GFWC Capitol WC purchased consumable supplies for a local preschool class. Henry Clay WC of GFWC supplied clothing and snack items for the preschool children at the Ashland Elementary School clinic. They provided sixty Dr. Seuss-themed "treat bags" for use during Story Time for preschoolers at the local library. GFWC Kanawha WC donated \$230 toward the purchase of 63 preschool children's books at the Children's Hospital of Richmond. GFWC Regency WC collected 46 age-appropriate books for the Peter Paul

Development Center. JFWC of Chester donated books and money to the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother project and registered children for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at several community events.

Thank you for your amazing support of the State Project, Early Childhood Education!

At the Convention in May, the Service Project will include activities for Early Childhood Education that attendees can make and take back to their clubs, as well as kit-making projects that will go to each district. Please plan to join us and share projects that your clubs have found to be successful with children ages birth through five years.



Hope Royer

Women's History and Resource Center

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In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In 1987 Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women's History Month. Congress passed additional resolutions in subsequent years requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

Founded in 1980, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA), formerly the National Women's History Project, is a non-partisan, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the history of women's contributions to society. Its motto "Our History is Our Strength" speaks to NWHHA's mission to highlight the diverse experiences and achievements of women from all backgrounds, promoting gender equality and social justice.

The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the annual Women's History Month theme. The 2025 theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme "celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations — both past and present."

For more information about its programs, resources, and how to get involved, visit the website at nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org



Helen Hill

GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman

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As members of our local clubs, we often forget the Culture part of Arts & Culture. Or we find it difficult to include cultural ideas in our planning for the yearly objectives. We need help!

Here is a suggestion, Have you thought of the culture of where you live? Virginia is rich in history and culture. The following are ideas you may find interesting.

The Virginia State Capital has a long history dating back to Jefferson and Washington. Among the many interesting archives are the statue of George Washington, moon dust, and the room where a group of British soldiers fell through the roof during the War of 1812. Washington's statue is from life and represents the person very well. The more interesting point is that the General Assembly is the longest-sitting legislative body in the United States. The original name was the House of Burgesses. As a group visit the State Capital and the General Assembly.

The Arlington National Cemetery is another place to visit. It is the largest military cemetery in the country. The cemetery was established in 1864 as a burial ground for soldiers killed in combat. It is the home of the Unknown Soldiers Grave. Arlington House, the Lee-Custis Home, is also on the property. It is an awe-inspiring place to visit.

The 1929 Depression defined a generation of people and projects created to help the country remain. Here are just a few.

The Barter Theater in Abingdon was created in 1933 to help actors and actresses, writers and directors find work and continue their creativity. Few people could pay admission, so the people paid with produce, cakes and the like. The theater gave the people entertainment and the actors a place to live and food to eat. The theater remains as a working theater.

Country Music had its roots in the mountains of Virginia. To preserve this music, recording sessions were held in Bristol, Virginia beginning in the 1920's and 30's. That story is presented in the Country Music Museum in Bristol.

Seashore State Park in Virginia Beach was created in 1934 but not finished until 1942. The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) helped construct the park. Today it is the First Landing State Park with walking trails and a beach on the Chesapeake Bay.

Another interesting idea would be to explore the murals painted on Post Office walls across the United States. Virginia has a number of these, one located in Smithfield. These were painted during the Depression to give artists work through the WPA (Works Progress Administration).

Virginia Polytechnical Institute was created as a land grant school to teach Agriculture, Engineering, Mechanical, and military training. Today it is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and offers much more in its training of students.

Did you know we once had an outdoor drama called COMMON GLORY? It was performed in Williamsburg each summer from 1947 to 1976. What role did that play in our culture?

In the 1950's a trend started with Festivals and a queen and her court. There was the Azalea Festival in Norfolk, the Tobacco Festival in Richmond and the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester to name a few. The Azalea Festival is still active but is today the NATO Festival and part of the Virginia Music Festival. What did these play in our culture?

Virginia has any number of Indian Tribes, and most have a celebration each year. Visit one of these. Also, most tribes will give a talk to your club.

These are ideas you may want to consider and decide what part in our culture they play.



Sue Trussell

GFWC Virginia Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

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Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act was signed into law on January 5, 2025, by President Biden. Future location to be on the Mall. GFWC has signed on as a supporting organization. Clubwoman are encouraged to support the cause with financial donations. More importantly, we need to spread the word among our local communities to support the effort to establish a monument. As President Biden said, "In addition to commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Women's Suffrage National Monument will recognize the generations of women who fought to ensure an equal voice for women in our democracy and honor the leaders who fought for the enfranchisement of all women long after the 19th Amendment was ratified." GFWC has established a link on the homepage of the GFWC website. If you would like to contribute to this effort please go to the home page of the GFWC website and click twice to the right arrow and you should be on the banner about the Women's Suffrage



National Monument Foundation. It includes a picture of the Executive Committee. You will see the "Support Today" button. Anyone wanting to make a donation that counts in GFWC's total donation may do so here. This is a dedicated link for GFWC. If your club or you would like to donate go to <https://donorbox.org/womensmonument-gfwc>

Voter Registration The 47th President has taken the oath of office but this does not mean we can stop paying attention to issues and events that impact our lives. Now that the pressure of the national election is off, it is a great time to educate your community about the events and issues it faces in 2025. Invite members of your local government and committee chairmen to your meetings to speak about public safety issues, water quality, lead pipes, deteriorating sewer systems, and bridges. Now is the time to emphasize the local and state elections that will take place in the

spring and fall. Voter registration should always be a priority. Register voters at tables set up at spring soccer, baseball, and track and field events. Ask a local, state, or national representative to speak to members about the impact legislation has in your community. This allows members to bring their concerns directly to your representatives. Always remember that GFWC is nonpartisan and the session is not a time to be political.

Community Connection Initiative The emphasis for the Civic Engagement Chairman GFWC this administration is Emergency Preparedness. The Family Emergency Notebook is now available on the GFWC website for all Clubwomen to download. It can be found on the Member Portal and Digital Library in the Civic Engagement and Outreach folder. <https://tinyurl.com/CivicEngFamilyEmerg>. Winter is also a great time to take a CPR and/or First Aid Class.

Winter Project Ideas Winter is a great time to clean your linen closet. Donate the unwanted sheets, towels, and washcloths to a local animal shelter. They can be used for bedding and cut into rags for easy clean-up. Give extra blankets to your homeless shelters. Give your local shelters HUGS. Donate hats, underwear, gloves, and socks to them. Remember that all sizes and sexes are represented in our homeless communities so give items for men, women, and children. Consider assigning groups by last name initial, such as A-E women's items, F-J men's items, K-O teen items, P-T children's items, and U-Z pet items. This way you collect items for a variety of groups. Many stores are having sales on these items as they clear out to display spring merchandise.



Ilia Desjardins

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"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

- John F. Kennedy

Thank you! Two small words can make a large impact on our relationships, our community, and society in general. Spend some time appreciating your local public library and public schools! While reading over the club reports, I noticed that several clubs already support their Friends of the Library organizations and appreciate their local teachers! National Library Week is a time to highlight the importance of public libraries in communities. Libraries aren't just for books; they have programs for children and adults, they have free community information, and often provide respite for the unhoused population who need warmth and safety during the harsh winter months. National Library Workers Day is a great time to celebrate all of the workers, many of whom work behind the scenes repairing books, cataloging, developing programs, writing grants for funding, and of course shelving all of the items! Schools aren't just for kids, they include early childhood learning centers for babies and toddlers, high schools for older teens, community colleges for recent graduates or people going back to school after some time away, and even lifelong learning centers for seniors. All of those students need great teachers, and all of those teachers deserve to be appreciated! Be sure to ask your local library and school how you can help and what items would be acceptable to donate for National Library Week and Teacher Appreciation Week, maybe it's snacks or handwritten cards or gift cards, but maybe not homemade goodies (unless you have a prior relationship with them). And of course, thank you!

School Librarian Day: Friday, April 4

National Library Workers Day: Tuesday, April 8

National Library Week: April 6-12

Teacher Appreciation Day: Tuesday, May 6

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 5-9



Celeste Corrigan
GFWC Virginia Legislation and Public Policy Chairman
legislation@gfwcvirginia.org

There are many benefits to being a GFWC member but the one that carries the most weight is having your voice heard as advocates for important issues that matter to you and our organization. GFWC has a fabulous tool where we can learn more about various legislative actions. At the GFWC Legislative Action Center (LAC), you can track bills, contact representatives, and let them know where you stand on issues that are important to you. I have included the QR Code here for easy access to the LAC. With a few clicks you can register and once there, you can read about various issues that GFWC is supporting.



During 2024, we had many successes with our involvement in Food Insecurity, Pay Equity, the STEAM funding, and the reauthorization of the Alzheimer's and Dementia bill (NAPA). There are many other measures that need your help. Please consider going to the LAC, registering to gain access, and your input will make your voice heard. Lobbying our representatives is a freedom many citizens around the world wish they had. Use this gift to help others.

Terry Putman
GFWC Virginia Affiliates Coordinator
affiliates@gfwcvirginia.org

HELP WOMEN THRIVE; HAVE YOUR CLUB CHOOSE HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifers for Relief began in 1944 when a mid-west Indiana farmer sent 17 heifers to Puerto Rico. American farmers donated these animals to help impoverished communities in that country. The first cows were appropriately named: Faith, Hope, and Charity, and recipient families promised to donate the first female calf to another poor family. This idea of paying it forward became the mantra of Heifer: “not a cup of milk, but a cow.”

What we now know as Heifer International became a non-profit organization in the 1950s extending its reach to Asia, South America, and Africa. It also expanded its livestock to include chicks, goats, and pigs. Many Virginia clubs use symbols of these animals as clever fundraising gimmicks. Members may see a pig or cow-shaped bank passed at meetings for Heifer collections, skits with funny animal headwear that draw attention to the campaign, or a contest to name mating pairs of Alpaca the club has purchased. GFWC's decades-long support of Heifer comes from the desire both organizations share to make life better for our world neighbors. Funds have purchased livestock that enable families to move from poverty to sustainable living income. Part of this shared mission through gifts of livestock and training is the belief that women-led small farms are key to ending hunger and poverty. When women are given control of their assets and income, they reinvest in their families. These women become leaders in their communities, earn a steady income, become productive farmers, send their children to school, and provide a reliable source of nutritious food. They not only become successful; they thrive. Heifer serves 19 countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States, and Zambia. Many of these countries offer limited opportunities for women. Heifer began the “Empowering Women” strategy to transform the role of women farmers so they can provide better nutrition and clean water for their families, gain access

to health care, find transportation to markets for selling goods, provide schools and libraries for their community, and break the cycle of poverty. 67% of Heifer project participants in 2024 were Women!

Clubs can find more information about the partnership between GFWC and Heifer by going to the GFWC website and looking under Affiliates. They may also visit www.heifer.org/gfwc. All gifts made by clubs through June 2025 will be matched, doubling the clubs' impact. Whether you choose a flock of chickens, a hive of honeybees, or a "Gift Ark," your club will be creating smallholder farm leaders in their community. With each donation, your club becomes part of "passing on the gift."

District News

Blue Ridge District

Camilla Cabaniss, President

As I look out the window while beginning to write, it is snowing and the neighborhood is covered in a blanket of white! It is a beautiful day in Blue Ridge for sure!

Our Blue Ridge clubs have completed their reports and what has been accomplished by seven clubs is amazing to me. I am so proud of Blue Ridge and their "Helping Others, Help Others".

We have a new website chairman, Laura Huntley. She is working to get Blue Ridge connected in the social media world. Several clubs have set up FaceBook pages and this helps us to share our events and projects.

The reports from all the clubs in Blue Ridge were outstanding. I am still reading reports! Blue Ridge chairman have done their work. Projects to support Hurricane Helene victims, food pantries, homeless families, veterans, mental health, education, leadership, environment, and many other areas were reported.

Our Spring District meeting will be held on March 22 in Daleville and this is the time our clubs will be acknowledged for the work they accomplished in 2024.

Blue Ridge will continue to "Help Other, Help Others" as we move into 2025.

Lee District

Kelly Lane, President

Danielle Basham, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

The Christmas holiday season was celebrated in many fashions. Clubs shared meals and appetizers at club meetings or went out somewhere special as a club. Ornaments, White Elephant gifts, and filled socks were exchanged while enjoying the company of club members.

As club reporting was completed, District Chairmen are finalizing reports and selecting winners. The upcoming Annual Meeting will celebrate the accomplishments of clubs. A Puzzle Exchange will take place, and clubs are preparing commercials to advertise club projects and other facts. A photo backdrop will be available for club photos and many other photos will occur.

We are looking forward to learning what clubs have planned for the spring and how they will celebrate. Many clubs already have plans to plant pinwheels to recognize child abuse and celebrate Federation Day.

Lee District members have been planning and strategizing to host the upcoming GFWC Virginia Convention. We hope to see many members in attendance.

Northern District

Yvonne Sening, President

Jaclyn Francis, Third Vice-President/Director of Junior Clubs

Listen. Can you hear it? It sounds like THUNDER! Or is it drums? Thundering drums? No, listen carefully. It's a chorus, a chorus of THUNDERING APPLAUSE!! Yes, thundering applause for all the wonderful, selfless volunteer work performed by the GFWC Virginia Northern District during the 2024 reporting season! Congratulations ladies! Take a bow! Northern District Clubs completed 1,038 projects, volunteered 71,432.25 hours, donated \$160,127.5, and made in-kind donations totaling \$132,722.18. As if that isn't impressive enough, Club members also raised \$149,940.12 through fundraising activities! WOWZA!! Nice work ladies!!

Clubs supported activities across a wide spectrum of GFWC's special programs, including Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, GFWC Juniors' Advocates for Children, and GFWC Virginia's State Project "Early Childhood Education." Several clubs provided hygiene items to domestic violence shelters and collected non-perishable goods for shelters' food pantries. Clubs continued to support Boxes of Basics stocking boxes with items needed by their community's younger population, including clothing items. Our Juniors hit the ball out of the park by collaborating with a local non-profit to collect over 10,500 menstrual product items and over 500 maternal/personal hygiene items.

Club members also supported GFWC's community service programs across the board. Clubs hosted and supported art shows. Several Clubs taught arts and crafting classes regularly throughout their communities. Clubs also gave abundantly to local homeless shelters and food pantries and recognized their community first responders, including police, firemen, doctors, and nurses. Many members tutored at local schools, volunteered at their local libraries, and provided books to various organizations in need. Clubs remained committed to environmental causes by adopting parks and highways, recycling a variety of materials, and planting gardens for seniors. Within the Health and Wellness CSP, clubs supported mental health wellness awareness/suicide awareness, and heart health awareness, and provided comfort items for cancer and cardiac patients.

Clubs stay in contact with members and the community utilizing newsletters, social media, websites, and email. Northern District members continue to participate in leadership at every level of GFWC and encourage new members to take on leadership roles. Several Clubs gained new members and Mary Ball WC celebrated its 60th anniversary while WC of Loudoun celebrated its 80th anniversary!

What a year!! Well done!! It has been said "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Thank you Northern District for working to create a community where we can all thrive.

Southside District

Julie Johnson, President

Mary Katherine Steed, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

It's mid-February and it tried to snow today. It's dreary outside but the daffodils are coming up and there is plenty to cheer about. Every year when statistic totals for Virginia are reported at Convention, I'm impressed by the numbers—club projects, volunteer hours, money raised, and money donated. But this year I had the privilege of actually reading all the reports from my district and was blown away by what Southside Clubwomen accomplished in 2024. They volunteered in

countless ways. They have embraced our GFWC Virginia President's project of Early Childhood Education by reading to young children and donating money, books, and school supplies to preschools and elementary schools. All clubs awarded scholarships. They donated money and items to worthy causes such as Hurricane Helene victims, food banks, and homeless shelters, and supported our veterans with cards and sweatsuits. They held fun and imaginative fundraisers such as basket bingo, a princess tea for children, preparing and serving meals to local organizations, and holding vendor events. The bottom line, Southside clubs have truly enhanced the lives of so many in their communities, the state, and beyond. We're looking forward to welcoming GFWC Virginia President Susie Mowry and Director of Junior Clubs Joanne Dixon to our District meeting in March at Lake Prince Woods, Suffolk, as they make their official visit to Southside. Also, we will celebrate the award winners from reports as well as the winners in the Arts & Crafts show. What a great beginning to the year.

Southwestern District

Amy DeWilde, President

JoBeth Wampler, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

Southwestern District ladies are already going full force in 2025. The District has had its share of snow, Sleet, and freezing temperatures but it hasn't stopped these ladies from getting out and about. Many clubs have already started fundraising for upcoming projects.

As the District President, I had the honor of installing new board officers from the Hillsville Women's Club and Pearisburg Jr club and the pleasure of meeting with the Mattie Roundtree Stephenson ladies and those wild women from Hillsville Club. I happened to run into junior club members from Narrows and Pearisburg at the annual Scarecrow Festival in Pearisburg.

Richland Women's Club members have started working on "fidget aprons" for our district project. The aprons will be given to local nursing and assisted living homes for Alzheimer's and memory care patients.

Pearisburg Jrs are currently working on a big fundraiser for one of their police officers who is battling Stage 2 cancer that has spread. Members will sell t-shirts and help with food donations at the benefit meal being held in March.



Narrows Jr Women's Club members have been working on the District project as well, making "fidget aprons" and donating them to a local nursing home and their local police department. March is arts and crafts month and the members will be painting rocks and making cards for their senior citizens.



Wytheville ladies held a "score for students" clothing drive. Members set up collection boxes in local stores and factories collecting leggings, jogging pants, socks, and boy and girl underwear to be given to our local ele-

mentary schools to have on hand for unexpected accidents. Members held their first Empowering Women Awareness night during our local hockey game. They had women's health information tables set up throughout the building. The first 200 women received a small gift bag full of little empowering items and each female

entered for a door prize that was donated by a women-owned business and was given out all through the night. VA Tech Women's hockey team members were invited to watch the game and do the customary puck drop before the game.

Appalachian Leading Ladies have been busy collecting much-needed supplies for the people of Damascus, who have been hit hard by Hurricane Helene.

Thank you ladies for all your hard work throughout the year! I have read your reports and I am truly amazed at all the projects you all have done. Now you can sit back and relax reporting is done. I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Spring District meeting in April!

Tidewater District **Jane May, President**

March comes like a lion at Tidewater District. We start the month off with our District Arts and Crafts show on the 8th. Next comes our Spring District meeting and we will be honored to have Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President, and Joanne Dixon, GFWC Virginia 3rd Vice President as our guests. Our Spring District meeting tradition is to honor and recognize club and member achievements. We will present awards for outstanding club accomplishments, award Millie Brown Volunteer of the Year, and our Recruiter of the Year. We also hold a Memorial Service for those members who passed away in 2024. In support of our district project Feeding Families, Fidos, and Felines, attendees have been asked to bring non-perishable human and/or pet food to the meeting. The items collected will be donated to a local food bank and a pet pantry.

Tidewater District clubs continue their efforts in the spring with fashion shows, card parties, dinners, craft classes, and more to raise funds to support their projects for a better community.

JUNIOR FUN NIGHT

after the Marjorie Branch Banquet
3 Bingo cards \$25



CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia
(GFWC Virginia)
May 1- 4, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton, Richmond, VA

2024-2026 GFWC Virginia Theme: "We Rise by Lifting Others"
CONVENTION THEME: "Experiencing Lift Off"

Club Presidents are requested to read the Call to the members and elect delegates according to the bylaws of the GFWC Virginia, Article IX, Section 4. "Woman's Clubs and Junior Woman's Clubs shall be represented by the club President or her alternate, and one or more additional delegates as follows, these delegates are in addition to those entitled to representation by virtue of the position they hold as outlined further in this section of the Bylaws:

- 1-10 members – Club President, or her alternate and 1 additional delegate;
- 11-20 members – Club President, or her alternate and 2 additional delegates;
- 21-30 members – Club President, or her alternate and 3 additional delegates;
- 31-40 members – Club President, or her alternate and 4 additional delegates;
- 41-50 members – Club President, or her alternate and 5 additional delegates;
- 51-60 members – Club President, or her alternate and 6 additional delegates;
- 61-70 members – Club President, or her alternate and 7 additional delegates;
- 71-80 members – Club President, or her alternate and 8 additional delegates;
- 81-90 members – Club President, or her alternate and 9 additional delegates;
- 91-10 members – Club President, or her alternate and 10 additional delegates;
- 101- and more members – Club President, or her alternate and 11 additional delegates;

Advance registration for meals and attendance shall be made using the online form linked in this publication. Properly completed Registration Forms are to be done online, which will transmit to the GFWC Virginia Credentials Chairman or Junior Chairman. Registration fee is \$55 for attendees and must be submitted no later than **Friday April 4, 2025**. For registration submitted after April 4th, please add \$10 per attendee for a total registration fee of \$65. **Electronic registration with Zeffy.** Detailed instructions are at the end of the Call. Special Note: Meals may be purchased individually OR may be purchased as a group for the entire weekend, with a discount as noted in Zeffy.

Club Presidents and other attendees, please share the information on the speakers and workshops and encourage members to attend. Please indicate on the registration form which members are attending their first state meeting so they can receive special recognition.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations may be made by individual call-in no later than **Monday, March 31, 2025**. After that date, any additional reservation requests will be honored on a rate and space available basis only. Please call the hotel at (804) 379-3800, and ask for GFWC Virginia guestroom group block (code 908). Guest room rates are: single or double per room: \$139 (standard king or double full), per day, plus taxes. Parking fee \$5 per night. You can also use this link to reserve your room <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ricksdt-908-49f9f242-e7c8-411a-9c3a-5f41459af035/>

DoubleTree by Hilton – 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23235



GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIORS
The ride of a lifetime.

ADMISSION TO ALL SESSIONS WILL BE BY BADGE ONLY
GFWC VIRGINIA – CONVENTION 2025

May 1- 4, 2025

Doubletree by Hilton, Richmond, VA
1021 Koger Center Blvd, Richmond, VA

Theme: “Experiencing Lift Off”

PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

Thursday, May 1, 2025

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Executive Board/Junior Executive Board Meeting – Shenandoah A
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Executive Board/Junior Executive Board Dinner
9:45 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Junior Executive Board Meeting – Shenandoah A

Friday, May 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Executive Board/Junior Executive Board Meeting and “Grab & Go Brunch”

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Friday, May 2, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Convention Registration Open – 2nd Floor Shenandoah Ballroom Foyer
10:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Registration of Art and Crafts – Shenandoah A
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Exhibitors Open – Shenandoah B

1:15 p.m. Musical Prelude
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **OPENING SESSION - SHENANDOAH CD**
Procession of 2024 – 2026 District Presidents and District Directors of Junior Clubs,
GFWC Virginia Officers and Junior Officers
Announced by Heather Craven, GFWC Virginia Executive Secretary
Call to Order – Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President
Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of Colors
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
Thought for the Day – Marolyn Cash, GFWC Virginia Chaplain
Welcome – Hostess District – Kelly Lane, Lee District President
Danielle Basham, Lee District 3rd Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs
Preliminary Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Credentials Chairman
Presentation of Convention Rules – Amy Riggs, Secretary
Presentation of Convention Program – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman
Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes – President Mowry
Introductions – President Mowry
Greetings
Reports of GFWC Virginia Officers
Treasurer – Lynne Wherry
Secretary – Amy Riggs
Third Vice President and Director of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon
Second Vice President – Carolyn Fellers
First Vice President/President-elect – Cynthia Baroody
President – Susie Mowry
Report of Executive Board Action – Amy Riggs, Secretary
Report of Executive Secretary – Heather Craven
Reports of Standing Committees and Appointments
Budget and Finance – Lori Chevalier, Chairman
Endowment Committee – Gloria Worrell, Chairman
Bylaws Committee – Lori Rucker, Chairman
Resolutions Committee – Marlene Wine, Chairman
Report of Historian – Linda Beatty

Awards of GFWC Advancement Plans, Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody, First Vice President/President-elect, Lynn Chapman, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs
*Legislation and Public Policy – Celeste Corrigan, Chairman
*GFWC Women’s History and Resource Center – Hope Royer, Chairman
*Fundraising – Miranda Lester, Chairman
*Leadership Awards – Cynthia Baroody, Chairman, Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman
Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Convention Registration Open – 2nd Floor Ballroom Foyer

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **Reception Honoring GFWC Virginia Past Presidents**
ALL CLUBWOMEN INVITED~~~Cash Bar – Shenandoah CD Foyer

6:45 p.m. Musical Prelude

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **“The Places They Will Go” ALICE KYLE BANQUET – SHENANDOAH CD**
(Black & White After 5 Attire)

Procession of GFWC Virginia Past Presidents and 2024-2026 Executive Boards,
Announced by Heather Craven, Executive Secretary

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Dinner

Tribute to GFWC Virginia Past Presidents – President Mowry

Junior Special Awards honoring GFWC Virginia Past Presidents, Facilitated by

Lynn Chapman, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

*Corinne Murray Award – Blue Ridge District

*Shelby Paisley Hamlett Award – Blue Ridge District

*Phyllis V. Roberts Award – Northern District Juniors

Introduction of 2025 GFWC LEADS Participant – Cynthia Baroody,
First Vice President/President-elect

Invitation to 2025 GFWC Virginia LEADS – Jenny Hinegardner, LEADS Coordinator

Presentation of Anniversary Certificates, Facilitated by Carolyn Fellers, Chairman,
Alaina Chaffee, Junior Chairman

50/50 Drawing – Lynne Wherry, Treasurer

Announcements and Door Prizes– Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. View Arts and Crafts Exhibits – Shenandoah A

10:00 p.m. - ? Districts' Caucus

Saturday, May 3, 2025

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Convention Registration Open – 2nd Floor Ballroom Foyer

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitors Open – Shenandoah B

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **AFFILIATE AWARDS BREAKFAST – SHENANDOAH CD**

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Breakfast

*GFWC Affiliates Awards facilitated by Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President

8:45 a.m. Musical Prelude

9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION/AWARDS – SHENANDOAH CD**

Call to Order – President Mowry

Thought for the Day – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Speaker – Dr. Jennifer Parish, Executive Director – Peake Early Childhood Center

Community Service Program Awards, Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody, Lynn Chapman

*Arts and Culture – Helen Hill, Chairman

*Civic Engagement and Outreach – Sue Trussell, Chairman

*Education and Libraries – Ilia Desjardins, Chairman

ESO recognition – Ilia Desjardins, Chairman

*Environment – Emily Amick Chairman

*Health and Wellness – Suzanne Williams, Chairman
Report of Headquarters Committee – Judy Gough, Chairman
Report of Scholarships Committee – Dale Fisher, Chairman
Report of Community Impact Program Award – Jean Cobb, Chairman

10:00 a.m.

Platform Change

JUNIOR BUSINESS SESSION/AWARDS – SHENANDOAH CD

Introductions – Joanne Dixon, Director of Junior Clubs

Junior Credentials Report – Michelle Clary, Junior Credentials Committee

Reports of GFWC Virginia Junior Officers

Secretary/Treasurer – Jessica Thomas

Assistant Director of Junior Clubs – Lynn Chapman

Director of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon

Report of Junior Executive Board Action – Jessica Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer

Reports of Junior Standing and Special Committees

Budget and Finance – Jessica Thomas, Chairman

New Business

Junior Honor Society Awards – Lynn Chapman, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

Junior Pledge

Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Convention Registration Open – 2nd Floor Ballroom Foyer

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. View Arts and Crafts Exhibits – Shenandoah A

12:15 p.m.

Musical Prelude

All Dogwood Society members gather for photo at 12:00 p.m. – Location To Be Announced

12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **DOGWOOD LUNCHEON – SHENANDOAH CD**

Welcome – President Mowry

Update from Endowment Committee and recognition of Dogwood Society members –

Gloria Worrell, Chairman

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Lunch

From Idea to Reality: A Panel Discussion of Meaningful Projects

Awards of Special Appointments, Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody, Lynn Chapman

*State Project “Early Childhood Education”

– Nancy Vadersen, Chairman

*GFWC Signature Program – Joyce Jolly, Chairman

Reports of Districts – Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody, Lynn Chapman

Announcements/Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. View Arts and Crafts Exhibits – Shenandoah A

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. State Project Service Project

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pick-up Arts and Crafts Exhibits – Shenandoah A

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Reception Honoring GFWC Virginia Past Directors of Junior Clubs

ALL CLUBWOMEN INVITED ~Cash Bar – Shenandoah CD Foyer

6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Musical Prelude

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **“Race For The Roses” MARJORIE BRANCH BANQUET – SHENANDOAH CD**

(Derby Attire – there will be a Derby Hat Contest during the banquet)

Procession of GFWC Virginia Past Directors of Junior Clubs and 2024-2026

Executive Boards announced by Heather Dunn, Junior Courtesy Chairman

Welcome – Joanne Dixon, Director of Junior Clubs

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Dinner

Special Entertainment

Tribute to GFWC Virginia Past Directors of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon

Awards of Special Appointments, Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody, Lynn Chapman

*GFWC Junior Special Program Advocates for Children – Amanda Paez,
Chairman

Junior Special Awards – Introduced by Lynn Chapman, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

*Marjorie Branch Award – Tidewater District Juniors

*Shenandoah Award – Shenandoah District Juniors

*Southside District Award in Legislation – Southside District Juniors

Director of Junior Clubs Awards – Joanne Dixon

*Junior Club Outstanding Achievement Award

*Junior New Clubwoman Award

*Junior Lifetime Achievement Award

50/50 Drawing – Jessica Thomas, Junior Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements and Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

9:30 p.m. – 11:00p.m. **JUNIOR FUN NIGHT ~ BINGO ~ (ALL CLUBWOMEN INVITED) –
SHENANDOAH AB**

Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:15a.m.

Musical Prelude

9:30 a.m. - Noon

SUNDAY BRUNCH/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION – SHENANDOAH CD

(Federation Attire – wear your club, district, or any GFWC attire)

Call to Order – President Mowry

Sunday Devotion – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Brunch

HOBY update – Carol Outten, Coordinator

GFWC Advancement Plans and Special Appointments Awards, Facilitated by Cynthia
Baroody, Lynn Chapman

*Newsletter Awards – Pat Jeffress, *The Virginia Clubwoman* Editor

*Communications and Public Relations – Lynn Osborne, Chairman

*Website – Lynn Osborne, Chairman

*Membership Awards – Carolyn Fellers, Chairman,
Alaina Chaffee, Junior Chairman

Membership Recruitment Recognition – Carolyn Fellers, Membership Chairman,
Alaina Chaffee, Junior Chairman

Membership Cup Award and Extension Cup Award – Carolyn Fellers, Chairman

Recognition of Arts Contests' Winners – Carol Guilliams-Mills, Florence Powell

Arts Contests Co-Coordination

Dogwood Drawing – Gloria Worrell, Endowment Chairman

Final Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Chairman

Invitation to GFWC Virginia Conference 2025 – Laura Coburn, Shenandoah District
President

Announcements and Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

Junior Collect

Collect for Clubwomen

Adjournment

CONVENTION MENUS

Alice Kyle Banquet

Mixed garden salad with ranch and balsamic dressing

Herb crusted chicken

Seasonal vegetables and mashed potatoes

Rolls with butter

Chef's choice of Dessert

Iced Tea and Water

Saturday Plated Breakfast

Fluffy Scrambled Cage-free Eggs

Bacon

Home Fried Potatoes and a Basket of Biscuits

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaf Coffee

Assorted Herbal Tea and Orange Juice

Saturday Lunch Buffet

Tomato Bisque
Greek Salad with Feta Cheese Kalamata Olives and Pepperoncini Served with Greek Dressing
Marinated Mushroom and Artichoke Salad
A Variety of Sliced Luncheon Meats and Cheeses: Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey, Cheddar Cheese Provolone
Cheese, and Swiss Cheese Tomato, Lettuce, Pickles, Onions, and Olives
Chicken Salad
Selection of Bread and Rolls
Potato Chips
Gourmet Brownies and Blondies
Seasonal Fruit Platter
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaf Coffee
Herbal Tea and Iced Tea

Marjorie Branch Banquet

Spinach Salad with Strawberry and Oranges with
Balsamic Glaze
Grilled Bone-in Chicken
Goat Cheese and Sun-dried Tomatoes
Topped with White Wine Butter Sauce
Parmesan Risotto
Green Beans
Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee, Assorted Herbal
Teas and Iced Tea
Chocolate Mousse Cake

Sunday Brunch Buffet

Fluffy Scrambled Cage Free Eggs
Bacon and Sausage Links
Home Fried Potatoes
Southern Style Grits
Assorted Breakfast Breads
Preserves and Whipped Butter
Seasonal Fruit Platter
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaf Coffee
Assorted Herbal Tea
Orange, Cranberry and Apple Juices

Registration using Zeffy

We are continuing with full electronic registration that was rolled out at Conference. This will allow the credentials committee to fully utilize technology to enhance our members conference experience.

Use this link to register for Convention – <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-convention>

You may select as many "ticket" options as you need if you are registering multiple members within a club. You will be asked to complete the registration information for each "ticket" you purchase to register each member attending. Please list the highest CURRENT position (GFWC, state, district or club) held by each person registered. Please ensure ALL names and club names are spelled correctly as this will be used for the name tags. What you type is what will be printed.

You may pay with credit card or checking account.

(Upon checkout, you may choose to make a donation to Zeffy to cover processing fees they incur or you may choose to select "OTHER" from the pull down menu and change the amount to ZERO. Zeffy does not charge GFWC Virginia for processing payments, which is great!)

If you need to register with a paper form, please email gfwcvirginia@verizon.net to request one.

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia
PO Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226
Phone (804) 288-3724
E-mail gfwcvirginia@verizon.net
Website www.gfwcvirginia.org

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FEBRUARY 2025

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2024-2025 SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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