

The Virginia Clubwoman



June 2024



GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



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OF OTHERS THROUGH

Volunteer

SERVICE



- Advocates for Children
- Domestic Violence Awareness
- Art Appreciation
- Cultural Understanding
- Environment
- Civic Betterment
- Empowering Women



GFWC VIRGINIA
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Send articles, photos and newsletters

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Bonnie Rosemond
GFWC Virginia President
president@gfwcvirginia.org



President's Message

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory”, Anonymous. Thank you, for the many moments and I treasure each of those moments with you and hold these memories deep in my heart. I reflect on my many hopes that the theme for this administration, “Enlighten Our Cornerstone”, would bring values to guide, teach, inspire, and help serve us in creating value, growth in membership and leadership, opportunity and prosperity, sense of pride and preservation. Without any doubt I feel there were countless ways those hopes were fulfilled. Service Projects: GFWC Virginia Joint Board members collected items for the Lynchburg General Hospital Forensics Dept., for ages, infants to elderly and presented the nurses with a wonderful snack basket, brought ingredients and made Trail Mix for the Daily Bread in Lynchburg that is opened daily, feeding 600 plus each day. Snacks were collected for the patients at the Alan B Pearson Regional Cancer Center, supplies were collected for the JMU Student Pantry and filled snack bags with contributed items donated to ForKids for children living in hotels. We can’t forget also the service project raffle- Sweat4Vets and I can’t go without mentioning, quite possibly the grandest service project for Advocates for Children. The State Conferences Hostesses created table decorations- Blue Ridge District – school supplies and Southside District – can goods. Speakers: There was a large variety of speakers, from a Virginia State Delegate, a Recreation Therapist/ Life Coach, to an Author and Patrick Henry’s 5th generation grandson, and many more! We were proud and fortunate to have as our guest this administration, GFWC Secretary, Mary Beth Williams and GFWC International President, Deb Strahanoski. Color Guards: Oh, what an assortment! US Veterans, Sons of the American Revolution, Boys Scouts and Military High School JROTC. Activities: Many were offered and participated in like the interesting walk-up Jefferson Point or Edith J Carrier Arboretum or visit the Virginia Quilt Museum.

There were hopes to have Memorial Services for passed club members conducted at our conventions, and for a state physical fitness project. Thank you to our state chaplain, Linda Beatty for the very reverent memorial services held at each convention and thanks to our state Health and Wellness Chairman, Mary Driver Downs for creating “It’s All About Me in 2023” “Step in Time” program. I will only mention the word, Success!

There were so many goals fulfilled. Scholarship Chairman, Marlene Wine and committee members reached out and the maximum number of scholarships were awarded (Phyllis V. Roberts and Mary Macon McGuire).

Our Leadership Team, led by Susie Mowry and Joanne Dixon also did lots of reaching out. GFWC Virginia was well represented having GFWC LEADS candidate Amy Riggs, Southside District at the 2023 GFWC Convention and will be well represented at the 2024 convention, by candidate Lynn Clapman, Alice Kyle District. A very informative GFWC Virginia LEADS proved to be successful led by Coordinator Alaina Chafee. We were very happy to announce our Jennie June nominee, Pat Reidinger at SER Conference.

Continued



GFWC OFFICERS

President:

Deb Strahanoski
GFWC Illinois

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GFWC Alabama

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Wendy Carrier
GFWC North
Carolina

Second Vice President:

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Mary Beth Williams
GFWC Colorado

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Becky Wright
GFWC Mississippi

Director of Junior Clubs:

Katie Moydell
GFWC South Carolina

The Virginia Clubwoman

JUNE 2024

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Legislative Day at our State Capital Square was well organized and without question not a dull moment, by Chairman Liz Sabbatini and her committee members. What a treat to visit the recently opened renovated General Assembly Building, having two speakers, with an opportunity to visit your state delegates and senators, plus present them lots of information about our General Federation Women's Club Virginia, then visit the "Voices from the Garden", Governor's Mansion and received an outstanding welcome in the Virginia Senate and House.

Our Membership Team with Cynthia Baroody, Chairman and Michelle Clary, Junior Chairman leading, was constantly giving encouraging reports on our increase in new members. This year's membership showed no decrease in membership, my understanding, a first in nine administrations. Plus, three new clubs were organized and chartered (Lee, Tidewater and Shenandoah Districts)

Later in the administration an objective was added to bring attention to our GFWC Affiliate Programs. Again success, four affiliate organizations were represented at our 2023 conference plus a service project, making blankets for Operation Smile. Thank you to Terry Putnam, for coming on board as our Affiliate Coordinator and thank you all your help.

More attention was brought to our chartered ESO, led by appointed ESO Coordinator, Wanda Alvis and Education and Libraries, Marilyn Baines. Zoom meetings were held and there was an increase in ESO Pledges. Way to Go-Virginia ESO!

Due to the Revisions of GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing rules in the last administration, this surely brought on many questions and more revisions which in turn had to bring on getting better educated of our Bylaws and Standing Rules. Thank you for your patience and hard work to Bylaws Chairman, Hope Royer, committee members and Advisor, Sarah Entsminger.

Each and every GFWC Virginia CSP, GFWC Advancement Plans, Standing Committee, and Special Appointments Chairmen were over the top in all they did, from your special presentations in 2022, Marketplace in 2023, Virginia Clubwoman articles to reporting!

I'm to the point of tears of pride for the many accomplishments and work put forth by our Virginia State Project, "Education of Virginia's Natural Resources" Committee. The fundraising was innovative, and the activities were fun, with lots of members participation. Activities: Test tubes of native flower seeds and information assembled then distributed at the Virginia State Fair, Twenty-Five Bluebird houses built and plagued with GFWC Virginia 2022-2024 by members, then divided equally to our district presidents to be placed over our great state, assembling and filling 400 plus Watershed Explorer Learning Boxes provided by the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance and then made tail guards for fowl, donated to the Wildlife Center of Virginia. The Wildlife Center of Virginia and the Virginia Forestry Education Foundation will each be receiving \$6,000.00. Not only was this state project's goal to raise funds for these two organizations but to promote stewardship and educate children and adults of the importance of our Virginia's natural resources. Thank you to Chairman, Dale Fisher and committee members, Pattie Bickel and Cathy Cain, but also to the state project district chairmen and all club members for the grand efforts you played in the success of this GFWC Virginia 2022-2024 State Project, Education of Virginia's Natural Resources, namely our flora and fauna, waters, soil and woods.

Denise and I traveled to the Shenandoah District for their Annual Spring 2024 meeting. Such another beautiful part of our Virginia. Thank you, Judy Gough and members for your wonderful hospitality!

Thank you , Joyce Jolly, Barb Kiker and members of the Northern District for your gracious hospitality hosting our GFWC Virginia Convention 2024 held in Harrisonburg. Another moment in time to remember, as again, was a full agenda. There was lots of business beyond chairmen reports. There were amendments to our Standing Rules, adopted recommendations to our state resolutions, election of the GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 Officers, and the adoption of the proposed redesigned GFWC Virginia Emblem. Members were actively holding of their green cards. The Endowment fund was increased by \$7,108.36 at convention bringing the total to \$431,135.59. The financial status of GFWC Virginia is sound and we continue to receive positive reports of the financial investments. Thank you to these talented chairmen committee members, and our executive secretary for your loyal service to GFWC Virginia!

Throughout the convention, clubs and members were recognized for their many accomplishments. Please utilize the Annual Report/Awards Booklet for your club project ideas. You are all winners, and your hours of volunteering are appreciated I'm sure in your communities, our state and world. We are GFWC!

We heard from an assorted list of speakers, Dr. Dirron Allen, JMU Associate VP of Student Affairs, Amanda Nicholson, Vice President, Wildlife Center of Virginia, joined by Clover an American Kestrel, Author, Ally Shaw, Patrick Henry Jolly, decedent of Patrick Henry and Glenn Worrell, Board Member, Virginia Forestry Education Foundation.

We honored our GFWC Virginia Past President at the Alice Kyle/Installation Banquet. We thank them for their continued service to GFWC. Congratulations to Susie, Cynthia, Joanne, Carolyn and Lynne and the 2024-2026 Executive Boards. May you enjoy your time together soaring high to lift others.

GFWC Virginia members volunteered 35 plus years at the Virginia State Fair, but changes to the Virginia Education Schools visits to the fair have changed to a technology way with the event. But please see the photo in this newsletter of the tree planted at the Meadow Event Farm – state fairgrounds in honor of members volunteer services. To GFWC Virginia State Fair Coordinator, Linda Holsclaw and Assistant Coordinator, Pat Reinders thank you for your leadership!

It was an honor and privilege to serve with Denise and our committed board members, chairmen, committee members, appointees and staff. To all members, thank you for your support and friendship. Here is hoping you have been enlightened as much as I have.



Federation Hugs,
Bonnie

White Fringetree
(*Chionanthus virginicus*)

(l. to r.) Linda Holsclaw, Bonnie Rosemond,
Sarah Jane Thomsen, Pat Reinders, & Patti Bickel

Susie Mowry

GFWC Virginia 1st Vice President/President-Elect

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Joanne Dixon

GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

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It has been a privilege and honor to have been a part of the Leadership Team of GFWC Virginia during this past administration. It is obvious from the reports submitted that we have gotten across our theme for these past two years....LEADERSHIP IS AN ACTION, NOT A POSITION. However, we also know that the reports more than likely do not reflect all the leadership activities that have taken place. Thank you for making leadership training a priority this year. From using games to increase knowledge about GFWC and leadership to conducting leadership workshops to including articles on female leaders in newsletters, you have obviously stepped up.

It has been shown that great leaders have habits worthy of copying:

- Great communication skills
- Clear goals that they stick to
- They have a clear vision that leads them
- They set a great example
- They recognize achievements
- They have a team focus
- They know how and when to ask for support and when to give it as well
- They do more than what they ask of others

Your title does not make you a good leader, these do:



We have stressed throughout the articles we have written for The Clubwoman, that all of us possess some, if not all, of the traits necessary to be good leaders. Now it is up to all of us to reflect and see where we stand. We cannot wait to see what you are able to accomplish in the years to come to help the communities where you live and to make GFWC Virginia the best organization it can possibly be.



Cynthia Barody
GFWC Virginia Second Vice President
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Michelle Clary
GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman
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"New Members are...Cornerstones of Membership"

Greetings GFWC Virginia clubwomen! The past two years have certainly flown by – it's hard to believe that this administration is complete. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your GFWC Virginia Membership Chairs during this administration.

It was so nice to see many of you at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Harrisonburg in April. Be sure to check out the annual report booklet on the GFWC Virginia website for all the reports and awards. You have "Enlightened Our Membership Cornerstone" this administration and you have once again shown that membership is a top priority.

Some of our many accomplishments during this administration include: Almost 500 new membership coupons received and welcome letters sent to those new members. Three new clubs were chartered, and eight membership grants were given out. Once again, every district recruited new members. The importance of sending in those new membership coupons was clear by the number of star recruiters we have had this year and last. This year we had five top GFWC Virginia Recruiters who each recruited six new members. At GFWC Virginia Convention we honored those star recruiters: 13 ladies received white stars (for recruiting 5 to 9 members), 4 ladies received red stars (for recruiting 10 to 14 members), and 4 ladies received blue stars (for recruiting 15 to 19 members). In addition, we had one club member who received both a white and red star for recruiting 10 new members, unfortunately this lady has since moved from Virginia. This club year we are happy to report that our total membership has remained the same (our total membership stands at 3,068) – a zero net loss/gain. This is the first time we have had a zero net loss/gain since the 2009 dues year. Bravo everyone who worked to make this possible.

Many thanks to the 2022-2024 District Second Vice Presidents and Junior Membership Chairmen for all your efforts! It was a pleasure to work with you during this administration. Congratulations and thank you to Bonnie Rosemond and Denise Price for your guidance and support. Best wishes to Susie Mowry and Joanne Dixon going forward with the next administration.

Even though this term is complete, the job of membership is never done. We are all part of the membership team, and we will do our best to support Carolyn Fellers and Alaina Chaffee to grow our membership in the next administration. Please use the summer months to invite prospective new members to your club picnics, pool parties, cook outs and other events so that they have an opportunity to see all the wonderful things your clubs do and don't forget to send in your new member coupons! Enjoy the summer!

An update on our Mobile GFWC Virginia Headquarters, the building was completed with an addition of a sunroof. Mobile Heather is so excited, the building is complete!! At GFWC Virginia Convention, we presented the Mobile Headquarters to our Heather Craven as a keepsake. We also gave the GFWC Lego letters to Cynthia Barody to keep as a keepsake as well. I would like to thank Cynthia for all the work this administration to help with membership. It was great to work with you and look forward to what you can accomplish in leadership next administration. Thank you to Denise for allowing me to serve as the Junior Membership Chair this administration. And remember ladies to keep those new members coming!! If you make it fun, they will come!!



JoBeth Wampler
GFWC Virginia Secretary
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Lynn Chapman
GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/ Treasurer
secretaryjr@gfwcvirginia.org

We have finally arrived at the close of the 2022-2024 administration. What a ride it's been! We are delighted to report we have shared all state files and secretarial details with our successors. The final minutes of the term have been completed. All attachments have been scanned and placed on file at Headquarters. Hopefully, our district and club counterparts have had as smooth a transition as we have had.

It was fantastic to see so many familiar *and* new faces at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Harrisonburg. Each district that has hosted us during this term has gone above and beyond. Northern was no exception. We're truly grateful for all you've put into making our state meetings so memorable. And we're looking forward to later this summer when GFWC Virginia comes to Blacksburg. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a new member, let this – the first summer conference of a new administration – be a new beginning. Anyone remember the 1965 classic *Feeling Good* by Nina Simone? "It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me..." Let this be *your* "new day."

Consider this a fresh start for yourself *and* your club! Welcome new faces into your circle. Reinvigorate your playful side and be silly. Leave your project flops in the past. Set aside anxiety and timidity and be bold. Give yourself (and others) the freedom to make mistakes. Begin old friendships anew. Be kind to yourself and others. Relabel your past mistakes and heartbreaks as opportunities for growth. Experiment with ideas and projects you've never tried before. And before long, you'll be "Feeling Good," too! We know we are!

As we look forward, though, we can't help but look back. Of course, these moments are always filled to the brim with gratitude. Thank you all for the love and kindness you've shown to us during this administration. The friendships we've made and the lessons we've learned through this experience will not be forgotten.

It may be hard to believe, but the club year is ending. Hopefully, you've made it through your tenure as treasurer unscathed! Consider these questions: How well did you perform as treasurer? Did your members stay informed about the club or district's financial status? Are annual reviews required by your bylaws? Are your books in order? Now is the time to address any issues or changes needed.

If you're concluding your term, preparing your books and materials for your successor is essential. Take the time to meet with the new treasurer, share best practices, and pass on the insights you gained over the past two years. Offer guidance on what worked well and what didn't. Your support would be invaluable.

We all know the treasurer's role is a continuous responsibility, so this may be your only chance to take a breather. Use this time to relax, recharge, and prepare for an exciting new club year ahead. Have a wonderful and restful summer! We wish you a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you at the GFWC Summer Conference in August in Blacksburg!



Lynne Wherry
GFWC Virginia Treasurer
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Lynn Chapman
GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer
JRTreasurer@gfwcvirginia.org



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Dale Fisher
GFWC Virginia State Project Chairman
stateproject@gfwcvirginia.org



The GFWC Virginia Annual Convention was filled with the beauty and wonder of nature. Members had the opportunity to visit the Edith Carrier Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and a workshop was held to make tail guards for injured birds. We were honored to have Amanda Nicholson and a critter guest, an American Kestrel from the Wildlife Center of Virginia, and Glenn Worrell board member of the Virginia Forestry Education Foundation. Due to your generous contributions and support of our fundraisers each of these organizations will receive \$5,500 from GFWC Virginia to be used to rehabilitate injured wildlife and provide educational opportunities for students in the field of forestry.

It has been a busy and productive 2 years. In addition to the tail guard project, we worked with a Girl Scout troop to fill vials of wildflower seed mix that was then distributed at the State Fair. And we constructed bluebird houses for our communities and made educational learning boxes for the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.

Congratulations to our State Project award recipients. The GFWC Virginia Annual Report highlights clubs with descriptions of the winning projects. Please utilize this valuable publication for project and program ideas.

We hope that you and your clubs will continue to educate yourselves and your communities and enjoy the beauty and benefits of Virginia's natural resources.

It has been an enjoyable and educational experience to guide you through this project. Thank you for the opportunity.

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than one seeks." ~ John Muir



Amanda Paez
GFWC Virginia Juniors’ Special Program Chairman
Advocates for Children
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As we enter a new administration, I am excited about the future of the Advocates for Children program here in Virginia. As someone who is always looking for ways to make things bigger and better, I am HYPED for these next two years.

With the encouragement of the GFWC Virginia President and the GFWC Third Vice-President Director of Junior Clubs, the Advocates for Children program and the GFWC Virginia Project will join forces to maximize impact.

For the 2024-2026 Administration, there will be a special emphasis on children and the importance of early childhood development and education. Experiences during the early years can have lifelong physical, social, and emotional impacts. While positive experiences and environments can set up a young child on a stronger life-long path, traumatic experiences or environments during those formative years can have long-lasting, detrimental impact. Early childhood experiences through age 8 affect the development of the brain’s architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. A strong foundation helps children develop the skills they need to meet critical developmental milestones and more likely become well-functioning adults.

With this in mind, for the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference, we will be collecting items for Pre-K and other early education centers. Be sure to look out for more information on specific needs and priorities!



Pat Jeffress
GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman
art@gfwcvirginia.org



Another administration has come to an end. All of this chairman’s tasks have been finalized and put on a thumb drive for the next chair. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your chair these past two years. Clubs have completed some great projects and this chairman knows they will continue to find creative ways to bring the arts to their members and the community.

Take time this summer to design and plan one new and different way to bring the culture of another country or art to your club, small group, or community through a book, recipes, crafts or museum trip, the options are limitless--the one requirement--enjoy!

Camilla Cabaniss
GFWC Virginia Arts and Crafts Contest Chairman
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The Arts and Crafts display at GFWC Virginia Convention was amazing. Our space was filled with beautiful photographs, needlework, pottery, quilting, and other amazing talents! Thank you to everyone who entered the contest! And special thanks to the clubwomen who assisted us in setting up the room, arranging the displays, and keeping us on time and organized! Our judges were so complimentary to our crafters and

photographers. GFWC-Virginia clubwomen are filled with many talents!

The Writing Contest winners were also displayed in a notebook. GFWC-Virginia winners were sent to GFWC International on time! We have many thoughtful, entertaining authors among our members and in our communities. We will be waiting eagerly at GFWC International Convention in Chicago to hear if we have a national winner again this year!

Read the rules, use your tools and talents, and hopefully we will have another wonderful contest next spring.



Celeste Corrigan
Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

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It is hard to believe that this is my last news article as your Civic Engagement and Outreach State Chair. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this chairmanship over the past 4 years. I have loved reading about all the wonderful projects and programs your clubs have been involved in.

Over the summer many clubs take a break and resume their club activities when September comes around. However, many of the issues that we address as Clubwomen do not take a summer break. Every day many families, adults and children, are faced with where their next meal will come from. This is the second year GFWC will focus on food insecurity. I encourage all our GFWC Virginia Clubs to register and participate in the National Day of Service on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Help us to “End Hunger in the United States” by volunteering or organizing a community service project. Need ideas? Look in GFWC News & Notes, or GFWC’s Facebook page and website for information and updates. To participate, please complete the GFWC National Day of Service Registration form in the Member Portal. Great programs happen when we take the time, up-front, to make a plan...so start planning now! GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas won state recognition for their 2023 NDS project. While we do not volunteer for awards and accolades, it is always nice to be recognized for our efforts.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn’t extend my thanks to Bonnie Rosemond for allowing me to coordinate the Sweats 4 Virginia Vets (S4VV) Program during her administration. I’d also like to thank the Districts who invited me to their meetings, the Clubs that participated, and all my GFWC Sisters who donated time, talent and monies to help our veterans. I may be stepping down as Civic Engagement & Outreach chair, but the S4VV Program will continue with the blessings of our new state president, Susie Mowry.

I look forward to seeing you all at Conference in Blacksburg, August 9th-11th



Marilyn Baner
GFWC Virginia Education and Libraries Chairman

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Two years ago, this chairman was looking forward to working with club and district Education and Libraries chairmen, helping them if possible, and learning more about education and libraries in Virginia. You may have noticed that reporting was not listed among the most anticipated activities. It’s true, reporting can be a bit overwhelming but surprisingly, one aspect of reporting was enjoyable, gratifying, and maybe even fun.

It gives this chairman great pleasure to relate that reading 65 club reports was a delight. As you know, some

clubs report statistics only, which is very helpful, and some clubs do not report at all for many different reasons. Knowing how important students of all ages are to all clubwomen, there is a likelihood that even the clubs that did not report found a way to help a teacher, a classroom, or a library during the calendar year. This is mentioned only because the clubs that didn't report need to know that if you concluded you didn't do enough to report or not enough to win an award, please know that whatever you did helped someone or some place and what we do as Federation members has the greatest impact when we combine the efforts of us all. In other words, every project or activity under this Community Service Program makes a difference for good.

It is time to share the incredibly good news. In 2023, Virginia clubs reported **535** projects, volunteered **198,113** hours, and donated **\$254,944.00** and in-kind items valued at **\$63,065.00**. Congratulations to every General and Junior club and thank you to every clubwoman.

This chairman concludes this role on another high note. Your next Education and Libraries Chairman is Ilia Desjardins of the Staunton-Augusta Junior Woman's Club. She brings experience, enthusiasm, and a wealth of skills to this new administration. This chairman looks forward to hearing about the wonderful happenings coming to Virginia Education and Libraries.



Marilyn Banes
Epsilon Sigma Omicron—ESO, GFWC Virginia Chairman
eso@gfwcvirginia.org



Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is composed of “chapters“ across GFWC. Virginia’s Alpha Theta Chapter began in 1962 and was reactivated in GFWC Virginia’s 2020-2022 administration. . ESO promotes self-enrichment through reading. When a clubwoman first joins with a short application and \$1.50, they become an ESO “pledge”. To become a “member”, the pledge reads 4 books from 4 different categories. The categories come from the ESO Reading List found in the GFWC Club Manual. State chapters may add categories. For example, Virginia added a category of books by Virginia authors. It is important to know that reading is not limited to the ESO Reading list, as there are a multitude of books that fit in the 24 categories.

At this time, Alpha Theta has approximately 60 pledges and several members. As more books are read, a member can achieve a new ESO Membership Level. There are 4 additional levels culminating in “Diamond” level for the reader of a thousand (yes, 1000) books.

As we begin a new administration, it is my pleasure to report that Ilia Desjardins of the Staunton-Augusta Junior Woman’s Club is the new ESO Chairman. She is a perfect fit for many reasons and she’s also a librarian! We look forward to many new pledges in the coming year and seeing members achieve higher reading levels. Most of all, I want to encourage pledges and members to join us for the Virginia ESO Book Club via ZOOM held on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. We would love to have many join us regulars for a casual hour of interesting discussions. Our next ZOOM is July 16, 2024, at 7:30. We will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. For ZOOM details please email ESO member Dale Fisher at rndfish83@gmail.com.



Linda Holsclaw
GFWC Virginia State Fair Coordinator
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Pat Reinders
GFWC Virginia State Fair Co-Coordinator

Dedication in September celebrating GFWC VA’s 35 years of volunteer service to the State Fair Education Exposition. We will be dedicating the *Fringe Tree* donated by GFWC VA to the State Fair.

From the days we wore ballons attached to our hats to the day we wore aprons, GFWC VA volunteers have risen to the challengers and made the Education Expo experience memorable for the students.

Pat and I want to thank all of the volunteers for your support and participation over the 35 years, we couldn’t have done it without you.



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.

I have just returned from the annual HOBY Virginia Youth Leadership Seminar held on the campus of James Madison University May 31st to June 2nd and it was **O U T S T A N D I N G!!** The theme of this year’s seminar was **“Agents of Change”**. The Curriculum was based upon HOBY’s vision to motivate and empower individuals to make a positive difference within our global society. We welcomed **155 rising Juniors from across the Commonwealth representing all eight of our Districts**. From the moment of arrival, ambassadors were immersed in teambuilding activities, leadership presentations, a service project, and motivational addresses from keynote speakers who were experts in their fields. **Leadership through Service to others** was emphasized and each Ambassador was challenged to return to their community and perform at least 100 hours of Community Service in the upcoming year. **This year the Seminar Service Project was Project Linus, A service organization that provides handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.** The Ambassadors made over 155 blankets to donate to this project. **I am thrilled to report that through your generosity, almost ALL of the fleece needed to produce these blankets was DONATED by our GFWC Virginia Clubs!!** Additionally, as in years past, the “snacks” were a huge hit with ambassadors and staff alike. Your administrative material and office supplies were also put to good use.



Ambassadors cut and thread blankets for Project



Ambassadors display the finished product

I was thrilled to witness the enthusiasm with which these ambassadors pursued their objectives, and how impressed I was with the energy level and camaraderie they displayed. Nationwide over 8500 student ambassadors will attend one of 70 seminars and will be supported by over 3000 volunteers, many of whom are alumni of previous sessions. Planning has already begun for the 2025 Seminar. In October High School counselors in both public and private schools will receive registration information regarding next year's seminar. Did you know that a student can self-nominate to attend the seminar? Do you know a sophomore you might encourage to go to their counselor and apply, maybe even one of our Juniorette club members.

If your Club would like to sponsor an ambassador or provide financial support to HOBY Virginia, please see page 84 in the current GFWC Virginia Yearbook. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information. **As always, 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 and wishes for an OUTSTANDING Day!!!



Environment

Carol Pridgen, GFWC Virginia Chairman

environment@gfwcvirginia.org

I would like to Thank Past President Bonnie Rosemond, for asking me to serve as Environment Chairman for the 2022-2024 administration. I can't believe that my two years as Environment Chairman has come to an end. From a person who has watched the outside world mostly from the inside, reading the Environment Reports these last two years has been an eye opener. I didn't know that there were so many ways you could recycle. GFWC VA Club Members continue in their mission to help preserve the environment by reusing or recycling items, by planting trees and plants that are native to the area to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies and beetles.

This year club members reported 321 Projects, Volunteered 20,462 hours, had 3,079 Members participating, Donated \$22,257 and had \$26,134 In-Kind Donations.

Ladies, your club projects were amazing I had a hard time with awards.

By now, we all know the four target areas in the Environment CSP: 1. Preserve Resources, 2. Protect Wildlife and Domesticated Animals, 3. Live Sustainably, and 4. Beautify Communities and Enjoy Nature.

Best of Luck with your club's future Environment projects!

I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Take care and keep smiling!

Oh I almost forgot, check out the May GFWC Environment Newsletter from Tina Neese at: tinadaniell224@gmail.com or tinanneese@gmail.com (note two "n's"-middle name starts with "n")

We might not win any awards, but we did make the newsletter (well sort of).



Mary Driver-Downs
GFWC Virginia Health and Wellness Chairman

health@gfwcvirginia.org



It has been a great two years being the GFWC Virginia Chairman for the Health and Wellness CSP. Thank you to all the District Health and Wellness chairman who supported “It’s all about me in 2023- Step in Time Fitness Challenge.”

Thanks also to each club that donated so generously to the Top Ten gift baskets that went to the winners of the challenge.

On April 21, 2024 at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Harrisonburg, I had the privilege of announcing the top 10 winners of the challenge. They are listed below. The winner’s fitness hours ranged from 1320 to 800 for the time of the challenge.

Congratulations to the Top 10.

- #1. P. Walsh- WC of Smithfield
- #2. S. Patchell- WC of Smithfield
- #3. F. Frank-WC of Smithfield
- #4. N. Moga- Covington WC
- #5. L. Dalton- WC of Smithfield



- #6. B. Murray- Dominion WC
- #7. S. Rudy- Dominion WC
- #8. C. Bedregal -Western Fairfax WC
- #9. P. Christian- WC of Smithfield
- #10. J Burgold- WC of Smithfield

Each winner received a \$50 Amazon gift card with a basket of lovely treats generously donated by clubs throughout the 8 districts of the state. The winners were definitely pampered with the contents of these baskets.

A few statistics from the challenge;

171 members throughout all 8 Districts participated

Volunteer hours 52, 507 (supporting fitness health)

Southside District had the most members participate (51)

Northern District had the most clubs participate (8)

Each participant received a certificate along with some health and wellness stickers to help encourage them to keep “sticking” with healthy habits! (If you did not get yours, check with your District President or District Health and Wellness chairman).

Thanks to all who helped make this challenge a true success. GFWC Virginia continues to step up in healthful ways.

Thanks to President Rosemond, for the opportunity to lead GFWC Virginia in Health and Wellness and a huge thanks to the International Chairman of Health and Wellness, Dale Fisher who encouraged all of the Federation to stay motivated to bring healthy habits to our communities. Dale inspired all State chairman with an exciting Health and Wellness Happenings Newsletter and interesting meetings by zoom.

I hope moving forward, GFWC Virginia continues to embrace our new Health and Wellness chairman for the next administration 2024-26. I know that she will enjoy working with each of you as I have.

Bee Healthy and Happy,

Mary Driver-Downs, GFWC Virginia Health and Wellness Chairman (2022-2024)

June Calendar Highlights for Health and Wellness

Post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness month

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) offer a variety of resources designed to help people who suffer from PTSD, as well as aid their families and friends in better understanding and dealing with trauma's aftermath. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd>

Men's Health week- June 10-16

Men's Health Network www.menshealthmonth.org

National Eat Your Vegetables Day on June 17th falls in the middle of National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month.

International Yoga Day June 21st -The International Day of Yoga is a day in recognition of Yoga that is celebrated across the world annually on June 21, following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014.

Alzheimer's -The Longest Day June 21st

Help fight the darkness of Alzheimer's by participating in a Longest Day ® fundraising event on June 21st, the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. Or simply choose a day that works best for your club. The funds you raise for the Alzheimer's Association will be used for care, support, and research efforts. Have a bake sale, virtual silent auction, etc.

[Join Us for The Longest Day - Alzheimer's Association®](#)

National HIV Awareness Testing Day- June 27

<https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/hiv-aids-awareness-days/national-hiv-testing-day#:~:text=National%20HIV%20Testing%20Day%20takes,seek%20care%20and%20treatment%20services>



Hope Royer
GFWC Virginia Bylaws Chairman
bylaws@gfwcvirginia.org

Amendments to the GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules approved in April at the 2024 Annual Convention will be published in the 2024-2026 Yearbook.

It has been this Chairman's privilege to serve with the members of the 2022-2024 Bylaws Committee members Lori Chevalier, Southside District, Joy Matkowsky, Junior representative, Martha Matthews, Tidewater District and Sandy Stiltner, Southwestern District and to GFWC Virginia Parliamentarian Sarah Entsminger, who has served as Advisor.



Gloria Worrell
Endowment Fund/Dogwood Society Chairman
Endowment@gfwcvirginia.org

Ladies of GFWC Virginia I would like to thank President Bonnie for allowing me the honor of being her Endowment Chairman in the 2002-2024 Administration. I look forward to serving with President Susie in the upcoming administration with the same Chairmanship.

Congratulations to Trinia Behbahani who won the Dogwood Dollar Raffle of \$391.00. She can use it to upgrade her Dogwood Society Pin or to help other members towards their pin. Dogwood Dollars are a great gift for any club woman. Just reach out to Heather at the State office and she will be happy to help you.

I was blown away at your generosity toward the Dogwood Society during the Convention. You far exceeded my goal. Your dollars not only get you the beautiful Dogwood pins but goes to fund our Endowment. Your support shows the pride that you have for GFWC Va.

I look forward to seeing you in August at Conference and to giving you updates on the Endowment and Dogwood Society. Please show off your lovely pins at your District and local club level, there are members who never make it to the State meeting, and we want each member to know what the Dogwood pins are all about.

We also have new 1907, -2204-2205 pins for sale. Stop by my table and get your new pin for only \$20.00 or \$19.0., Look for the line item to order on the Conference Registration and you can pick it up at the Conference.

GFWC Va. Thanks you for supporting the Endowment, keeping our organization strong for the coming years!



Carolyn Fellers
GFWC Virginia Community Improvement Program Award Chairman
CIPA@gfwcvirginia.org

Community Impact Award

Congratulations to GFWC Botetourt Town and County Woman’s Club first place winner in the GFWC Virginia Community Impact Award. Their club received a \$100 prize to apply to their project. They helped restore the Botetourt County Museum. This project included not only preparing a new site to display the many artifacts collected over the years, but also landscaping and addressing any safety concerns for the property.

They are now in the running on the international level in Category 1 for a \$2500 prize to apply to their project. Let’s wish them well on their future endeavors with the museum.

I highly encourage clubs to build a CIP project. The benefits to your communities are far reaching. It is a two-year project so plenty of time to accomplish your goals.

I have enjoyed serving at GFWC Virginia CIP Chairman.



DISTRICT NEWS

Lee District
Sally Cary, President

Jessica Thomas, Third Vice President / Director of Junior Clubs

It is hard to believe that two years have passed so quickly. They were exciting, amazing, and fun+filled! There were some down moments, too, but they were short lived! As we reflect on the past two years, Jessica and I are so grateful to have been able to lead Lee District and all of our Club Women to so many creative projects and to support the Children’s Hospital of Richmond Foundation raising fund to help patients and their caregivers. Due to our friend ‘Covid’ we were not able to make personal visits, but that did not stop Lee District members donating money, gift cards and needed supplies.

Continued

Jessica visited the Junior Clubs where she advocated for membership and participation in Lee District activities. The Junior members responded with great presence! They raised funds for our Lee District project, attended our Lee District meetings, and brought some new visions. It was great to have their voices and ideas brought forward.

I, on the other hand, faced medical issues that made it difficult to visit clubs as I had wanted to do. As President of Lee District, I was able to attend Lee District meetings and participate in GFWC Virginia meetings with the help of “the Village” of members. It goes without saying, I have the best District of all!

Jessica and I want to thank the Lee District members and GFWC Virginia members for all of the experiences we were able to participate. Our new Lee District Executive Committee will be led by President, Kelly Lane, First Vice President, Gwen Darby, Second Vice-President, Cathy Pemberton, Third Vice-President, Director of Junior Clubs, Danielle Abbott, Secretary, Kathy Hicks, and Treasurer, Heather Craven. We are so excited for their leadership.



Northern District
Joyce Jolly, President

The Northern District held its Annual Meeting on April 6, 2024 at the Springfield Golf and Country Club with over ninety members and guests in attendance. The annual art show and the installation of officers for the 2024-2026 administration were the highlights of the event.

The “grand finale” of the current administration revolved around the activities relating to the GFWC Virginia Convention in Harrisonburg. Barbara Kiker and her committee members, Barbara Benton, Mary Driver Downs, Dale Fisher and Lori Rocker worked very closely with club presidents and club members to make goodie bags, table centerpieces, programs and menus for the daily activities. Needless to say, their effort helped to make the convention a success.

The end of my term as Northern District President is bittersweet. I have truly been honored to serve in this capacity but I’m also looking forward to more leisure time. Best wishes to all of you as you continue to serve GFWC in the future.

In Federation Service,
Joyce Jolly



Shenandoah District
Judy Gough, President

Ilia Desjardins, Third Vice President / Director of Junior Clubs

Tis the time for farewells and goodbyes – but not really – not moving my physical being – just saying goodbyes as District President and finishing up the things that need to get done before the next administration takes over. Thank you, Laura Coburn, the late Georgia Ahalt, Ilia Desjardins – best Junior Director ever, Maureen McCusty, Charlotte Williamson, Marolyn Cash – the best District Board ever.

Thanks for all the District Chairs – Lee Patterson, Pat Via, Wanda Kornicke, Suzanne Williams, Dottie Dollins, Carolyn Withers, Marjorie Dyer, Jenny Hinegardner, Cathy Comer, Cynthia Baroodly and Maura Rodriguez. You were great chairs.

Thanks to the Clubs, Ashby WC, Greene County WC, Haviland WC, Buena Vista WC, Buena Vista JWC, Covington WC, Covington JWC, Lexington WC, Waynesboro/Augusta WC, Wayland WC, Weyers Cave WC and Staunton/Augusta JWC for all your projects, programs and work in the community.

And Final thanks to the State Executive Board – I had a good time serving and hope that the new friends I

have made will continue and know that my previous friends are still there and are still willing to work with me. It's been fun...

Judy

I will echo Judy's sentiments and thank the State Executive Board, the District Clubs, and everyone who has answered my questions or helped me become a better clubwoman. And a special thanks to Judy for her leadership and mentorship, which were the Shenandoah District themes for 2022-2024.

I'm looking forward to being a part of the future of the Federation, with Juniors leading the way!

Ilia



Southwestern District
Eleanor Armes, President



Heather Dunn, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

April 6th found many members traveling to Pearisburg for the Southwestern District Spring Meeting. A huge Thank You to the Pearisburg, Narrows, and Pembroke clubs for hosting our meeting. The new slate of officers was presented, voted on, and installed. Our new officers for the 2024/2026 administration are as follows:

- President – Amy DeWilde GFWC Wytheville Woman's Club
- First Vice President – Eleanor Armes GFWC Richlands Woman's Club
- Second Vice President – Heather Dunn GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club
- Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs – JoBeth Wampler GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman's Club

- Secretary - Sandy Stiltner GFWC Grundy Woman's Club
 - Treasurer – Hope Harrell GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club
 - Ginger Robertson, GFWC Grundy Woman's Club, will continue as Parliamentarian.
- Thank you for your commitment, ladies!

Convention was quite an event! Listening to quality speakers, participating in several worthwhile service projects, enjoying delicious meals, taking part in organization business sessions, visiting with old friends and making new ones, and soaking up all the camaraderie was such a positive experience. It was also exciting watching the awards being presented! Congratulations to Southwestern District clubs for their State awards, AND congratulations to all the other state winners as well!!!

What an experience and an honor to have been part of this incredible journey! Please know how grateful we are for all the support, encouragement, and kindness we have been shown.



Tidewater District
Nancy Vandersen, President

During the 2022-2024 Administration, Tidewater District clubwomen have accomplished much! We awarded the first "Millie Brown Volunteer of the Year Award" in honor of Millie Brown's 75 years of service to Federation. We created the Tidewater District Facebook Page and began electronic sharing of information

distributed at district meetings. The Fannie Stearnes Scholarship was updated and made available electronically to eligible students, and we increased the amount of the scholarship to \$750 for 2024. A new district brochure was created. A monthly newsletter, "Tidewater Tidbits," was created and shared with club presidents to help them keep track of upcoming events and deadlines. Our District Project, "Sharing Because We Care about Food Insecurity," provided over 2200 food items for the Beach Bags program in Virginia Beach and 287 pounds of food for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank at district meetings. We donated hundreds of items to the CHKD Prize Closet in the summer of 2022 and donated feminine hygiene products in the summer of 2023 for Advocates for Children. In 2023, we welcomed a new club, Tidewater Past District Presidents Woman's Club, and through our recruitment efforts, we gained nearly 100 new members! A highlight of the 2024 Convention was the installation of our own Susie Mowry as GFWC Virginia President 2024-2026. Overall, it was a great two years! It has been an honor to serve as Tidewater District President. I know that with Jane May at the helm, Tidewater District GFWC Virginia will continue to thrive, and we wish the new Administration the best during the next two years!



HONORING 50 – 75 YEARS OF FEDERATION SERVICE

**Diamond and Jubilee Clubwomen who have served
50 and 75 years in Federation Service**

This shows a remarkable amount of time as well as a tremendous amount of talent! If you see these women don't hesitate to ask them about their work in Federation Service – they possess a wealth of knowledge.

By Cynthia Baroody Membership Chairman

Blue Ridge District



Patricia Honts

Patricia says that she was attracted to club work because she wanted to work with children in the community. At the time the Botetourt Junior Woman's Club was formed, she was pregnant. Over the years, she has enjoyed the camaraderie of the other club members and has made many lasting friendships. It has been a privilege working with the Botetourt Club to help others in a small way hoping to make a lasting effect.



Donna Henderson

Donna says that when she moved to Botetourt, she wanted to get acquainted with other women of a similar age which led her to the Botetourt Junior Woman's Club. She has enjoyed the many friendships that have developed while doing community service.

Northern District



Karen Attreed

Karen says that her Federation journey began in late 1972 soon after moving to a new community, Dale City, Virginia. After seeing an article printed on the front cover of the local newspaper regarding an organizational meeting for a new club, Karen asked a neighbor to go with her. They enjoyed the meeting and decided to join – the Bel Air Woman's Club was chartered in 1973 – Karen is the last founding member still active today. Karen has served in many capacities and says it has been a pleasure to enjoy the many facets of club work and the wonderful friendships.



Kathleen Harding

Kathleen said that she moved to Woodbridge, Virginia in 1968. She became involved in the schools as her two children were enrolled in the local Occoquan Elementary School. During that time, she met many women from the Woodbridge Woman's Club and was invited to join. She enjoyed participating in all the club projects especially the fashion show fundraisers for the club's scholarships. Later when she returned to work, she was not able to stay as active but continued to support the club due to its positive influence in the community. Now retired, she can fully participate in all club activities.



Shirley Boggs

Shirley has been a member of the Spotsylvania County Woman's Club for 50 years. In Shirley's words, "I enjoy working on club committees with club members. I feel that we can accomplish needed projects in the community. It opens the door to be a volunteer and also gets our club's name before the public."

Shenandoah District



Emma Jean Wise

Emma Jean has done it all – she truly exemplifies the motto “Living the Volunteer Spirit”. She has served her club and the Shenandoah District as well as served as GFWC Virginia President during the 2008-2010 administration. During Emma Jean’s administration an ambulance was purchased for Virginia Tech in response to the campus tragedy. She enjoys the friendships that come with volunteering.



Judy Gough

Judy says she started with the Charlottesville Juniors and only knew one person but made many friends throughout the club. She started the Haviland Woman’s Club after the Juniors dissolved due to age. She stayed active with the Haviland Club because of the friendships, fun and fellowship and started being active on the District and State levels. She loved the projects and programs which were all varied along the years but still fun. Thanks to Federation: she can pick up conversations that ended several months ago, keep in touch with friends who live 3 to 4 hours away, can count on friends to help whenever needed.

*Editor’s note – Judy just completed her 3rd term as Shenandoah District President!



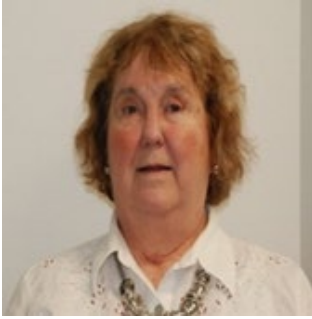
Barbara Marsh

Barbara is a charter member of the Wayland Woman’s Club. She started the club after securing enough women and then submitted the application to GFWC to become a club in 1970. Barbara was the first President and is still an active member today at the age of 90. She enjoys the many friendships she has made along the way.



Maxine Tolbert

Maxine began her journey as a club woman in 1963 when she joined the Clifton Forge Junior Woman’s Club. After moving to Waynesboro, she transferred to the Waynesboro Junior Club where she took on many responsibilities. Later after aging out she joined the Waynesboro/Augusta Woman’s Club. Maxine has served in many capacities in her club as well as Shenandoah District President. Maxine tells everyone that her 60 years as a GFWC Virginia Club Woman has been a wonderful experience. To new members, she says, “Get involved”!



Jo Ann Perkins

Jo Ann joined the Clifton Forge Junior Woman's Club in 1966. In 1968 she moved to Crozet and joined the Woman's Club of Crozet where she took on many roles including Club President of the evening division. She says that life has been quite a journey since originally, she wanted to be a nun. When asked why she volunteers she said, "We had three children in four years and the community helped raise them. We must pay back". She is still giving back today!



Sammy Burnett

Sammy is an active member of the Buena Vista Woman's Club. She has used her time and talents not only in her club work but also in other organizations in her community. She says that fellowship and giving back is so worth while and it gives you a great sense of pride as well. Helping others is truly "Living the Volunteer Spirit"!



Connie Campbell

Connie is still an active member of the Buena Vista Woman's Club. She says the best part of belonging is making new friends – especially after moving to Virginia from Tennessee. Connie enjoys all the projects and programs that her club does for the community. Giving back to the community is what volunteering is all about.



Marjorie Dyer

Marjorie is still an active member of the Buena Vista Woman's Club. She served as Shenandoah District President and continues to serve the district as Budget & Finance Chair. Marjorie says the best things about club work are the friends you meet and the great feeling you get helping others less fortunate in your community.



Carolyn Young

Carolyn says that she looks forward each year to supporting projects for the betterment of our community. It has been a pleasure over the years to make new friends, especially those new to the area.

Carolyn started her Federation service with the Covington Junior Woman's Club and after aging out, she joined the Covington Woman's Club and has been an active member ever since.

Southside District



Jean Harrell

Jean joined the Riparian Woman's Club in Emporia, Virginia in 1973. Jean's Mother was a charter member in 1942. Jean served as Club President 1982-1984 and during the second year of her administration the club pledged \$6000 to a campaign to save "Village View" a federal-style historical home in the community. Throughout her years in the club, Jean stated her most rewarding work involved the beautification of the community. In 2017, Jean became an Honorary member of the club and moved to Cedarfield, a retirement community in Richmond. She celebrated her 90th birthday on May 5th and was given her Gold Pin on May 6th by the current club president.

Tidewater District



Carol Rollins

Carol says that being a member of GFWC has been very rewarding and enjoyable experience. It has been a pleasure to contribute to projects that help the less fortunate. Carol has enjoyed the many friendships made over the years. She first joined the Junior Woman's Club of Hampton and later when she aged out she joined the Poquoson Woman's Club. She has served in many positions as well as Tidewater District President.



Cindy Ayers

Cindy says that at the invitation of her sister she joined the Junior Woman's Club of Hampton. Later when she aged out, they formed the evening division of the Hampton Woman's Club. Cindy said that she enjoys being a member and has made many friends. She enjoys giving back through many projects.



Mildred McCabe

Mildred first joined the Covington Junior Woman's Club and after aging out became a member of the Covington Woman's Club. She said that she has enjoyed the projects and programs that she has participated in over the years and especially the many people she has met and worked beside. Mildred received her 75th anniversary pin at the Covington Club's annual spring meeting in May. Mildred is an honorary member of the club and still gives back whenever she is able. Mildred will celebrate her 100th birthday in August.





GFWC VIRGINIA

Education of Virginia's Natural Resources



MANY THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION





CALL FOR THE ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia
(GFWC Virginia)
 August 9-11, 2024
 Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia



2024-2026 GFWC Virginia

CONFERENCE THEME: "PREPARATION FOR FLIGHT"

Club Presidents are requested to read the Call to the members and elected delegates according to the bylaws of the Federation, 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;
- 91-100 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. Package registration fee is \$200 (this includes dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning) for attendees and must be submitted no later than **Tuesday July 16, 2024**. For registration submitted after July 16, please add \$10 per attendee for a total registration fee of \$210. **Electronic registration with payment via Zeffy**. Please see below for detailed instructions.

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 **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**. After that date, any additional reservation requests will be honored on a rate and space available basis only. Please call the hotel directly at (540) 231-8000 or toll free at (877) 200-3360 and ask for GFWC Virginia Conference room block. Directions to the hotel are available from the hotel website www.innatvirginiatech.com. Room rates are \$132 per day for single or double occupancy and \$10 per day for each additional person plus applicable taxes. [Click here for the room link](#)

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center
 901 Prices Fork Road, Mail Code 0104
 Blacksburg, VA 24061
 540-231-8000 or 877-200-3360

From I-81: Exit 118B Blacksburg/460 West. Exit Prices Fork Rd/Downtown, Route 412 East, right at first Traffic light into hotel entrance.





ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

August 9-11, 2024

Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

“PREPARATION FOR FLIGHT”



Friday – August 9, 2024 – Pre-Conference Meetings

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Joint Executive Board Meeting
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner
9:00 pm – until Junior Executive Board Meeting

Saturday – August 10, 2024

9:00 am – 10:15 am Joint Executive Board Meeting & Brunch – President’s Suite
8:30 am – 1:30 pm Registration Open
10:30 am – 11:30 am Service Project
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Pre-Purchased Box Lunch Pickup

12:45 pm – Musical Prelude

1:00 – 2:30 pm – OPENING SESSION – Latham BC

Call to Order – Susie Mowry, President
Thought for the Day – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
Opening Ceremonies
 Pledge of Allegiance led by Suzanne Williams, Civic Engagement Chairman
 National Anthem
Introductions – Susie Mowry, President
Welcome – Amy DeWilde, President & JoBeth Wampler, Director of Junior Clubs
 Southwestern District
Preliminary Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Credentials Chairman
Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes
Officers Reports:
 Treasurer – Lynne Wherry
 Secretary – Amy Riggs
 3rd Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon
 2nd Vice President – Carolyn Fellers (first time attendee recognition)
 1st Vice President/President Elect – Cynthia Baroody
 President – Susie Mowry
State Project – Early Childhood Education – Nancy Vadersen, Chairman
GFWC Awards received in Chicago, IL – Bonnie Rosemond and Denise Price
Introduction of GFWC Virginia Chairmen – Cynthia Baroody, Leadership Chairman
 and Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman
Reports:
 Budget & Finance – Lori Chevalier, Chairman
 Bylaws – Lori Rocker
 Endowment – Gloria Worrell, Chairman
 Resolutions – Marlene Wine, Chairman

2:30- 2:45pm Parliamentary Information– Sarah Entsminger, Parliamentarian

2:45pm Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Committee

- 3:00 – 4:00 pm **WORKSHOPS**
 Arts & Culture – Helen Hill, Chairman
 Environment – Sally Cary, Chairman
 Education and Libraries – Ilia Desjardins, Chairman
 Civic Engagement and Outreach – Sue Trussell, Chairman
 GFWC Signature Program Domestic Violence Awareness – Joyce Jolly, Chairman
 Health and Wellness – Suzanne Williams, Chairman
- 4:15 - 5:15 pm **WORKSHOPS**
 GFWC Junior Special Program – Advocates for Children – Amanda Paez, Chairman
 Community Impact Program Award – Jean Cobb, Chairman
 Legislation and Public Policy – Celeste Corrigan
 Communications and Public Relations – Lynn Osborne
 WHRC – Hope Royer
 Fundraising – Miranda Lester
- 6:00 – 9:30 pm Cash Bar
- 6:30pm – 8:00 pm **Dinner – On the Lawn (If Rain, Latham BC)**
 Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
 50/50 Drawing conducted by Lynne Wherry, GFWC Virginia Treasurer
 Door Prizes – JoBeth Wampler, Southwestern District Conference Host Chairman
 Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Committee
- 8:30 pm ‘til Game Night – Latham BC
- Sunday, August 11, 2024**
- 7:30 am - 9:15 am Registration Open
- 8:00 am – 8:45 am Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
 Breakfast Buffet – Latham BC
- 9:00am – 10:20am **WORKSHOPS – Latham BC**
 Membership – Caroline Fellers, Chairman & Alaina Chaffee, Junior Chairman
 Leadership – Cynthia Baroody, Chairman & Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman
- 10:30 am **CLOSING SESSION – Latham BC**
 Call to Order, President Mowry
 Speaker – GFWC Virginia 2024 GFWC LEADS Participant, Lynn Chapman
 Reports:
 Scholarship Committee – Dale Fisher, Chairman
 Reporting – Stephanie Griffin, Chairman
 Headquarters – Judy Gough, Chairman
 Executive Secretary – Heather Craven
 Dogwood Opportunity Drawing – Gloria Worrell
 Final credentials report – Angela Paez, Credentials Chairman
 Invitation to 2025 GFWC Virginia Convention
 Announcements – Judy Middleton, Conference Meeting Committee
 Junior Pledge – led by Jessica Thomas, GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer
 Collect
- Noon Adjourn

CONFERENCE MENUS

Saturday Dinner Buffet (included in Conference

Package Pricing)

Torn Greens Salad
Southern Fried Chicken Breast with country gravy
Sirloin Beef Tips with mushroom gravy
Southern Succotash with lima beans, corn,
tomatoes and okra
Cole Slaw
Mac and Cheese
Southern Style Green Beans with Bacon
Cornbread
Chocolate Mousse, Pecan Pie, Banana Pudding
Freshly-brewed ice tea
Freshly-brewed coffee, decaf coffee and hot tea

Sunday Breakfast Bar (included in

Conference Package Pricing)

Fresh Sliced Fruit and Berries
Assorted Pastries and Muffins
Bagels, Breads and English Muffins
Yogurt with Granola
Fluffy Scrambled Eggs with Chives
Country Fried Potatoes with Sautéed Peppers
and Onions
Crispy bacon
Orange juice
Freshly-brewed coffee, decaf coffee and hot tea

Continuous Snack Refreshment Service (included in Conference Package Pricing)

Saturday—12:30 pm to 5:00 pm Sunday—7:30 am to 12:00 pm

Optional Box Lunch for Separate Purchase for Saturday

\$26 – please choose between:

All box lunches served with chips, an apple and drink

Roasted Turkey BLT

Roasted Turkey, Bacon
Crisp Romaine Lettuce, Tomato
Cheddar Cheese
Served on a Croissant
Mayo and Mustard on the side

Veggie Wrap (GF)

Grilled Zucchini, Bell Pepper
Portobello Mushroom, Onion
Crisp Romaine Lettuce, Tomato
Feta Cheese
Served in a Lettuce Wrap
Balsamic Dressing on the side

Registration using Zeffy

We are trying something new for Conference – full electronic registration. This will allow the credentials committee to fully utilize technology to enhance our members conference experience.

Use this link to register for Conference – <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/5458f679-7694-48b0-b111-26099a2e6f17>

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.

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.

**GFWC VIRGINIA
ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE
AUGUST 9-11, 2024**

**The Inn At Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia**



**The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center
901 Prices Fork Road, Mail Code 0104 Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-8000 or 877-200-3360**

